



St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School  
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**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

### **Attendance & Punctuality**



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 96.2% last week. This means that we are in the **Green zone** and we are meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.

We are continuing to drive good attendance and punctuality with some reward schemes being introduced this year:

- Weekly Individual Prize – Each week, all children whose weekly attendance is 100% will be entered in a draw to win cinema tickets. Our first winner was drawn this week from Year 6.
- Half Termly Individual Prize – As well as the individual draw each week, all children who receive 100% weekly attendance will have their name in a draw for a half term prize. The more weeks they have 100% attendance, the more chances they have to win!
- Half Termly Class Prize – Each week, we will celebrate the class who achieved the highest class attendance in assembly. Pupils can see their class move up the mountain in the race to achieve the best class attendance for the half term. There will be a class prize arranged for the following half term awarded to the winning class. So far Year 5 are in the lead but it's all to play for!

We appreciate your anticipated support in promoting good school attendance and punctuality with your child.

### **New Adventurelands Party**

We are very excited to be teaming up with New Adventurelands Soft Play Centre (Benton Road) who will be hosting an exclusive party for St Stephen's school community on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 5pm-7pm**. Tickets will cost just £5 per child (usually entry is £7.95) and accompanying adults go free. **Please note that children must be supervised by an appropriate adult throughout the event.** Tickets are available to buy from the school office by cash or card, with proceeds going to support our school funds for outdoor play provision. Feel free to buy tickets for family and friends too – all are welcome! There is no food or drink to be brought in from outside the centre, but the Cafe will be open for the duration of the visit, running a full menu as well as snacks and drinks.



*New Adventurelands - 0191 2599966*

*Rear of 24 Benton Road, Newcastle, NE7 7DT*

### **Asda Cashpot for Schools**

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose St Stephen's Catholic Primary School (search the name or NE12 8FA) and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024. Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to St Stephen's. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

## Harvest Festival – Family Fast Day 2024

On **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, at 9:15am**, please join us in celebrating CAFOD’s Family Fast Day. The children will lead you in a special prayer, followed by a soup kitchen, for a small donation. The vastness of global struggles can feel overwhelming. However, we are not asked to singlehandedly solve everything, but to simply respond to the needs we see before us. Pope Francis reminds us that, “In God, no act of love, no matter how small, will ever be lost.” This Harvest, we're inviting you to come together as community to raise vital funds that will help support families around the world facing poverty and injustice.



You won't need to book, but to ensure that we are catering appropriately, we would be grateful if you could indicate on this form how many people you anticipate to attend:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uzRSgt92Lr>



In addition to our Service and soup event, we will be collecting food donations for The People’s Kitchen and ask you to start thinking about the donations you can make. As always, we are grateful for any donation, great or small. However, due to the generosity of previous donors, The Peoples Kitchen has high volumes of some items such as pasta, tea and full-sized boxes of cereal. Therefore, have requested that the following items are donated this year:

Items Needed	Examples
Tinned Vegetables	Tomatoes Plum and Chopped, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes
Tinned Fruit	Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Mandarin Oranges
Soup	Tinned or Instant Vegetable, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek
Cooking/Baking Ingredients	Sugar, SR & Plain Flour, Jam, Coconut, Cocoa, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth Mix, Spices
Snacks	Pot Noodles, Pot Pasta, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Sweets
Drinks	UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash
Desserts	Rice Pudding, Jelly, Angel Delight, Instant & Tinned Custard, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup
Tinned Meat	Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Minced Beef, Bolognese, Stewing Steak
Cooking Sauces	Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk
Condiments	Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper
Pasta & Rice	Lasagne, Egg Noodles, Rice
Stock and Gravy	Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken and Onion
Toiletries	Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste and Brushes
Cleaning/Other	Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags
Pet Food	Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

As in previous years, our wonderful Agents for Change representatives will visit The People’s Kitchen and take along our donations. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to really appreciate how the efforts of our small school community can make a huge impact on those who are in need.

We thank you for your support.

### Admissions

Applications for Reception class and secondary school are now open.

Parents can apply online: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/219/online-school-applications>

Reception Class 2025	Secondary School 2025
Opening date: 9th September 2024	Opening date: 9th September 2024
Closing date: 13th of January 2025	Closing date: 31st October 2024
Offer Day: 16th April 2025	Offer Day: 3rd March 2025

In previous years, some families have experienced disappointment that could have been avoided by applying on time or providing the necessary evidence. We strongly urge parents to check the admissions policy for their preferred schools and ensure that they have any supporting evidence to hand e.g. baptism certificate.

Additionally, we would strongly urge parents to select more than just their first choice of school on the application. This is to ensure that if the first choice is not available, the second and third choice are prioritised. It has occurred in the past that pupils have been allocated a school a considerable distance away, because only one school was listed on the application form and they weren't allocated a place there.

If you have any queries or would like support applying, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or School Admissions - [school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk)

### Data Collection and Consent

We require parents to confirm the data we hold for their child is accurate and update their consent preferences on at least an annual basis. This is done through the SIMS Parent App which parents need to register for. We have sent further invites to all parents who haven't accessed their account and encourage those who haven't registered to follow the instructions in the attached guidance to register your account. We will also be sending paper copies of data collection forms and consent forms if you have not updated this via the app recently in the coming weeks. If you receive a paper copy, we would still encourage you to access the app to update the necessary information there.

### Scholastic Book Fair

We are delighted to be hosting our Book Fair in school next month. The Book Fair will be arriving in school with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. Every book bought can help to get FREE books for our school library.

The Book Fair will be open on the following days:

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – pupils can visit the book fair with their class during the school day.
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 3.15pm-4.00pm – parents can attend with pupils.

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. You can explore the range of titles here: [The Book Fair selection - Scholastic Book Fairs](#)

Ways to buy books:

- At the book fair with cash, book fair vouchers or online. Vouchers can be purchased from [Book Fair Gift Vouchers - Scholastic Book Fairs](#).
- Online – please complete the attached 'Wish List' form noting your payment reference details and return to school.

Once payment has been received by one of the above formats, pupils can take home their new books to enjoy!



**Dates for the Diary (as always, dates are subject to change!):**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Bible Stories 9am  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Year 3 Pedestrian Training 1pm  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Year 4 and Year 5 Pedestrian Training 9.15am  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Boys football at Cochrane Park  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Year 3 Pedestrian Training 1pm  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Pedestrian Training sessions for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Girls football at Cochrane Park  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Year 4 Fire Safety Session 9.30am  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival and Soup Service  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Book Fair – classes visit in school day  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Book Fair 3.15pm-4pm  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Flu Immunisations (Reception – Year 6)  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – HALF TERM  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – New Adventurelands Party 5pm – 7pm