



St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School  
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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### School Photography

Our school photographers will be visiting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Family shots and photographs of pupils with siblings who don't attend our school will take place between 8am and 8.45am, should you be interested. Individual pupil photographs and photographs of siblings within school will be taken in school hours throughout the day. Please can we ask that you do not attend before school for photographs that can be taken in school hours.

### Car Parking

After several reminders, there are still instances of irresponsible and selfish parking at school, which is causing risk to all users of the car park. It is very fortunate that a serious accident hasn't already happened, but we fear this may become the case if the way some parents are choosing to use the car park continues. Therefore, we would like to make it abundantly clear how the car park should be used:

- **Drop-off bays are for drop-off only** (blue areas on below map) – the driver should not leave the vehicle when parked in a drop-off bay and should leave immediately after dropping off children. We ask you to indicate accordingly when arriving/leaving.
- We recommend that parents use **available parking bays** (green areas on below map) when dropping off/collecting children. This allows drivers the opportunity to leave their vehicle and escort their child to the school gate, which is the safest option.
- **Drivers should not under any circumstances park their car, or drop off children in any area that isn't an allocated parking bay or drop off bay.** This is outright dangerous, and we will not tolerate the risk to the children that this poses.
- We are very fortunate to have such ample parking opportunities for a primary school, however **if there are not any available bays, we ask that you find an alternative off-site parking space** rather than causing congestion in the car park by waiting in the road, and risking the safety of our school pupils.

Please be mindful that greater caution should be exercised in a school car park where effectively over 400 children are in the vicinity each day. We understand that it is a minority of users contributing to the problem and will consider banning those users from the car park if they are seen parking irresponsibly. We urge families to consider avoiding the use of the car park altogether by walking to school, car sharing or taking public transport, if possible. We thank you for your anticipated support in eradicating the problems in the car park.



## **Feeding Families**

We would like to point our families in the direction of Feeding Families, a charity based in North East England that offers support, hope and security to those experiencing food poverty. Working closely with other organisations and agencies, they ensure that thousands of families in desperate need have access to Emergency Food Boxes and support packages. School can make referrals on your behalf so please talk to us if you feel this could benefit you.

## **Online Safety Workshop**

We would like to invite parents and carers in to school on Tuesday 6th February 3.30pm to participate in an online safety workshop.

This session is aimed to support and educate parents around online safety. It equips parents with the tools to effectively support their children when it comes to the online world. It prepares parents for what their child may be subject to / accessing as they get older and provides them with the skills and understanding to reduce the risks around this. The session is interactive; parents will have the opportunity to ask question and the session includes videos to support the delivery of the key messages.

This session is suitable for:

- Parents
- Carers
- Grandparents / relatives

This session is NOT suitable for children.

### Course Content:

What parents will take away from the session:

- Knowledge and understanding around the online world
- Information and guidance around parental controls
- Knowledge around social media, and gaming. Thinking around age recommendations and why these are in place
- An understanding of cyberbullying
- Knowledge and understanding around the online risk children may face as they get older
- Where parents can gain support and guidance from if they have any worries regarding the online world
- Resources they can access following the session

We would be grateful if you could complete the online form to confirm attendance:

<https://forms.office.com/e/idfc2Msggr>

## **Apprenticeship Opportunities**

We are delighted to be able to offer two apprenticeship opportunities at St Stephen's commencing this year. If you know anyone who might be interested in either of the roles, they can find out more and apply online by following the links below:

Apprentice Teaching Assistant Role:

[Apprentice Teaching Assistant - Find an apprenticeship \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Early Years Educator Role:

[Apprentice Early Years Educator - Find an apprenticeship \(findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk\)](#)

## **INSET Days**

Please see dates for INSET days where school will be closed to pupils:

### 2023/2024:

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

### 2024/2025:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## 0-19 Children's Public Health Service North Tyneside

A FREE online course for parents, relatives or friends of children with additional needs designed to support you to better understand their world and how the important relationship you share can enable them to thrive.

Access the course, which can be done at your leisure, using the access code 'QUADRANT' here:

<http://bit.ly/solihull-3b>

## Hand in Hand Parent Carer Network



Chat & a  
cupper



We can help with:

DLA forms

EHCP's

Benefits

Money management

Support letters

Access funding

Toilet training

School transitions

Family support

Sleep

Behaviour

Blue badges

Communication

Mental Health challenges

We can help you advocate for your child & with any other help you need!

Friday's 10am - 12noon @ Briardale House (NE24 5AN)

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

Each Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January - 13<sup>th</sup> February - Year 6 Ski Lessons (Group 1)

Each Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February - 26<sup>th</sup> March - Year 6 Ski Lessons (Group 2)

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January - School Photography Day

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Girls Football at NUcastle

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 9am - Nursery Stay and Play

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 3.30pm - Online Safety Parent Workshop

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 9am - Reception Stay and Play

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Last day of half term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - School Closed for Half Term