



St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School  
Goathland Avenue  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne  
Tyne and Wear  
NE12 8FA  
T: 0191 6250900  
E: [office@ststephensrc.org.uk](mailto:office@ststephensrc.org.uk)  
W: [www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk)  
T: @ststephensrc

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Attendance & Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 has been 90.5% this week. This means that we are in the **Red zone** and we are not meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.

### Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

That moment they found a new best friend queuing up for pudding.  
That time fractions suddenly clicked.  
That day cavemen came to live in the playground.  
That science lesson when a mento and cola 'rocket' sprayed everywhere.  
Breaking a school record on sports day.  
When they helped catch the escaped rabbit.  
Helping to build props for the school play.  
When they baked cupcakes that were actually edible (just).  
Performing that encore at the school concert.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

From the first day of term to the last, each moment, big or small, makes a big difference to a child's wellbeing. There are many moments in our school each day; positive, real, life-changing moments. And in a school year there are hundreds of them. What a difference a school day makes!

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- Research has shown that just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children, that is those pupils with less than 90% attendance, in KS2, achieve expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.
- Only 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.<sup>2</sup>

1. [The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)
2. [Mental Health and Attendance at School \(Chapter 1\) - Mental Health and Attendance at School \(cambridge.org\)](https://www.cambridge.org/core)

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DO ALL YOU CAN TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL.**

## Mass Times

Please see Easter mass times for our Parish:

- Good Friday (29th March): Celebration of the Passion, 3pm at St Mary's
- Good Friday: Celebration of the Passion, 3pm at St Aidan's led by Alison Rebello
- Holy Saturday (30th March), 5.30pm at St Mary's
- Easter Sunday (31st March), 9.15am at St Aidan's
- Easter Sunday, 11am at St Mary's
- Easter Monday (1st April): Eucharistic Adoration, 6pm at St Aidan's



## School Magazine

Our termly school magazine will be uploaded to the school website shortly and hard copies will be issued after the Easter break. We hope you enjoy reading about all of the exciting things packed into this busy Spring term!

## Healthy4Life

**FREE**

**Do you want to improve your child's health?**

Our 10 week programme supports you and your family to make healthy lifestyle changes together.

Interactive sessions are delivered by an expert and friendly team and focus on nutrition and physical activity to give you and your family a real boost.

The team delivers family programmes for two different age groups:

Ages 4-7 years old  
Ages 8-14 years old

Register:



**Sessions take place once a week, after school**

**In 10 weeks we cover:**

- Simple food swaps to reduce fat and sugar intake
- The right size portions for children and adults
- How to understand food labels and afford healthy options
- Opportunities to add run and play into your daily routine

Eligibility criteria applies, please ask for more details.

**0191 643 7454**  
**CHAT@northtyneside.gov.uk**  
**www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk**



## Extra- Curricular Clubs

The timetable for extra-Curricular clubs has been shared today and is available on our school website. Please register your interest via the online form. Places will be allocated, and you will receive confirmation on 15/04/24 for clubs starting that week.

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

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – School closed to pupils for INSET Day
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Pupils return to school
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Year 4 Parent Consultations
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 7pm – Sports and Fun Night Fundraiser – Innisfree Club
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Nursery Stay and Play
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Reception Stay and Play
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 Residential Newby Wiske Hall
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 Assessments
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 3.30pm – Managing Behaviour Parent Workshop
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Last day of Half term
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - School closed to pupils for INSET Day