



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

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance & Punctuality

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 94.58% last week. This means that we are in the **Amber Zone** and we are not meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.



Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week commencing 23 rd February 2026	96.43%	97.04%	94.00%	91.38%	95.48%	99.30%
Spring Half Term 2	96.43%	97.04%	94.00%	91.38%	95.48%	99.30%

Book Raffle

We are pleased to announce that a School Book Raffle that will be drawn on **Friday 13th March**. There are a number of fantastic book bundles and reading-themed prizes to be won, offering something to inspire and delight readers of all ages. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading while supporting our school community. All proceeds will go directly to our school PTA fund, supporting initiatives that have a direct and positive impact on our pupils. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase from **Monday 2nd March** at a cost of **£1.00 per ticket**. Tickets can be obtained from the school office. We greatly appreciate your continued support and look forward to announcing the winners on Friday 13th March.

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 11th March** – pupils can visit the book fair with their class during the school day.
- **Thursday 12th March 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 '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!

Prayer, Song and Soup

On Fridays throughout Lent, we welcome parents and carers into school for a morning of prayer, song and soup. As the title suggests, the children will lead you in a prayer service, there will be time to reflect and pray and the session will end with a cup of homemade delicious soup. This is an opportunity to prepare for Easter and an opportunity to 'give back' as in return for the cup of soup we ask for a small donation. All proceeds will support our Lenten appeal for CAFOD. We would love to see as many of there as possible to help support us in our Lenten appeal and prepare for the coming of Easter.

- Friday 27th February 9.00am – Year 6
- Friday 6th March 9.00am – Year 4
- Friday 13th March 9.00am – Year 3
- Friday 20th March 9.00am – Year 5
- Friday 27th March 9.00am – Year 2

Lenten Soup

Lenten soup will be served at breaktime every Friday of Lent that pupils are in school. All proceeds will go to support CAFOD. We suggest a donation of 50p per cup, which can be paid in cash at the school office or directly to CAFOD via the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-stephens-primary-school-4>

Parking

Please find enclosed with this newsletter the guidance that has already been issued about use of the school car park. Unfortunately, despite repeated reminders, we are continuing to receive complaints about the use of the school car park and particularly, reports of parking in disabled bays without displaying a blue badge. **This is not acceptable under any circumstances.**

Lost Property

We are continuing to receive items of lost property that remains unclaimed. Please ensure that you check the box at the school office for your child's belongings. Any items not claimed by **Wednesday 11th April** will be donated.

Personal Belongings

We kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that children do not bring personal belongings to school, such as toys, key chains, collectibles, or other special items from home. While we understand that these items can be meaningful and exciting to share, they can quickly become a distraction during learning time and may cause disagreements between pupils. In addition, personal items can easily become lost or damaged, which can lead to unnecessary upset. To help us maintain a focused and positive learning environment for all children, we ask that personal belongings are kept at home unless specifically requested for a special activity or event.

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

Week Commencing 2nd March – World Book Week
Monday 2nd March – Friday 13th March – Year 4 Swimming Lessons
Wednesday 4th March 9.00am – Awards Assembly
Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
Friday 6th March 9.00am – Year 4 Prayer, Song and Soup
Monday 9th March – Dance Festival
Tuesday 10th March – Lego League at Village Hotel
Tuesday 10th March 9.00am – Connect Parent Coffee Morning
Wednesday 11th March – Classes to visit Book Fair during school day
Thursday 12th March 3.15pm-4.00pm – Book Fair open after school for parents
Friday 13th March 9.00am – Year 3 Prayer, Song and Soup
Monday 16th March – Friday 27th March – Year 5 Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March – Parents Evenings (Reception – Year 6)
Friday 20th March 9.00am – Year 5 Prayer, Song and Soup
Tuesday 24th March 1.00pm-3.00pm – Spring Disco
Wednesday 25th March 9.00am – Awards Assembly
Friday 27th March 9.00am – Year 2 Prayer, Song and Soup
Monday 30th March 3.15pm – Parent Meeting for Year 4 Newby Wiske Hall Residential
Wednesday 1st April – Reception Stay and Play
Thursday 2nd April – Nursery Stay and Play
Thursday 2nd April – Last day of Spring Term
Friday 3rd April – Good Friday (School Closed)
Monday 20th April – INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 21st April – Pupils return to school after Easter Holidays