



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 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Food Waste Project

Our Agents for Change will be leading a Food Waste Project across school after February half term. The introductory assembly will be held next Friday, with workshops and initiatives planned throughout the next half term designed to raise awareness of food waste and how to make improvements. Watch this space!

School Lunch Menus

New school lunch menus will be introduced after half term. These are available to view on our school website and will be loaded to Appetite, for parents to place orders, in the next week.

www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk/school-meals/

Packed Lunch Guidance

As a school, we understand the importance of developing healthy food habits in children. The beneficial effects these habits have on concentration, overall school performance and prevention of obesity, are examples of why a guidance on a healthy packed lunch should be adhered to. Meals that are provided by school comply with the Food Standards Agency requirements and menus are designed to ensure that children get the nutrients that are needed for their health and development. If you choose to provide a packed lunch from home for your child, we urge you to familiarise yourself with the guidance on providing a healthy packed lunch which is available on our school website: [School Meals | St. Stephens Roman Catholic Primary School Aided \(ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk\)](http://www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk/school-meals/)

Please note that chocolate/sweet treats should not be included and nut products, including Nutella, are not allowed in school.

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. Formal invitation to follow.



Prayer, Song and Soup Sessions:

- **Friday 1st March 9.15am – Year 6**
- **Friday 8th March – Year 3**
- **Friday 15th March – Year 4**
- **Friday 22nd March – Year 5**

EAT SMART

OVERVIEW

Eat Smart is a primary school food waste project delivered by Bind. We are a Newcastle based Community Interest Company delivering various initiatives that raise awareness on food waste, as well as helping individuals and organisations to reduce their own food waste levels - improving their environmental impact and saving them money.

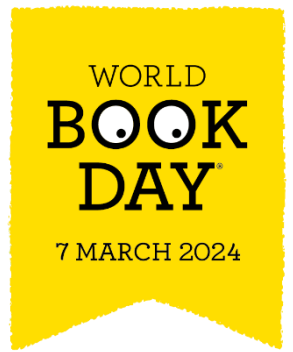
WHAT IS IT?

Eat Smart is an educational programme which looks at food waste created on a primary school site, and helps the children to understand the importance of reducing food waste from a young age. The Eat Smart scheme gets pupils involved in reducing waste in their school by carrying out a food waste audit across the whole site, and involving them in designing solutions to tackle the problem.

The four-step programme is designed to fit into a half-term. Throughout the programme we integrate key curriculum skills from Maths, English, Science and Technology.

World Book Day Celebrations

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 7th March and, in true St. Stephen's style, we will be celebrating our love of reading for the whole week! World Book Week will run from 4-8th March and the theme in our school this year is 'Magic and Mystery'. We will have a range of visitors coming into school to develop our vocabulary and imagination, including a theatre company, a magician and scientists! Each class will be looking at a focus text for the week, which will be revealed to the children nearer to the time. We will have the Scholastic Book Fair in school again during this week and there will be a fun filled day planned for the children on 7th March. In line with our school poverty proofing agenda, we will not be asking the children to dress up for World Book Day or bring anything in from home. We will provide the opportunities, resources and texts for the children and we are certain they will all have a fantastic week! We are in the process of finalising the arrangements and we look forward to updating you with further plans in due course.



Book Fair

We are delighted to be hosting our Book Fair in school during the week of World Book Day. Our last book fair in the Autumn term was a huge success and we look forward to hosting this again next month.

The Book Fair will be delivered to 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 6th March** – pupils can visit the book fair with their class during the school day.
- **Thursday 7th 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](#)

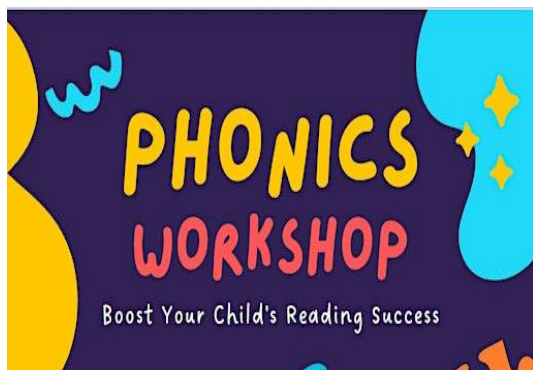
Ways to buy books:

- 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 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!

A colorful advertisement for a Scholastic Travelling Books Book Fair. At the top, the Scholastic and Travelling Books logos are displayed. Below them, the text 'COME TO the BOOK FAIR!' is written in large, stylized letters. Underneath, it says 'AND EARN FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL'. The advertisement features four book covers: 'Tom Gates Five Star Stories' by Liz Pichon, 'Zombie Season' by Justin Weinberger, 'Oh Maya Gods!' by Maz Evans, and 'Speak Up!' by Dav Pilkey. On the right side, there is a cartoon illustration of a sad-looking cookie character. At the bottom right, there is a small vertical text: 'Illustration from Dog Man © Dav Pilkey. When Cookie Crumbled © Tom Knight, 2023'.

Year 1 Phonics Parental Workshop – Thursday 29th February at 9:15am



We are hosting a Phonics Parental Workshop on **Thursday 29th February, at 9:15am** in the school hall. During the session, information regarding the Phonics Screening Check will be shared, demonstration of activities to share with your child as well as an opportunity to work with your child too! There'll also be a chance to chat to your child's class teacher too and ask any questions that you may have regarding Phonics and Reading. Come along and have a cup of tea, whilst you learn all about Phonics in Year 1! We'd love to see as many of you there as

possible! Please register your attendance by completing the MS form

<https://forms.office.com/e/hxqLZ4zY9u>



Late Collection

We have noticed that the frequency of late collections from school is increasing. We understand that there may be instances where lateness to collect a child is unavoidable, however we urge parents to notify school at the first possible opportunity if they believe they will be late to collect their child and explore alternative options, if possible, to ensure that their child is collected on time. Repeated instances of parents collecting their children late from school, or after school club, is not acceptable. Please be mindful that when children are collected late, it can be a time of great stress and anxiety for them.

Our collection times are below:

- School day – 3.15pm (3.30pm for Nursery)
- After School Extra-Curricular Clubs – 4.15pm
- After School Club – Before 5.20pm

If your child is on an educational visit that impacts home time, the time of collection will be communicated on the letter.

The out of hours school mobile number used for after school club is 07464895220, should you need it.

School Photography Orders

Please be reminded that school photography orders need to be returned to school by **Tuesday 13th February**.

Free Parent Workshop – Addictive Behaviour

Addictive Behaviour



The Face Family Advice Team are leading an online parent workshop with a focus on understanding addictive behaviour, including screen time as well as being able to spot traits and behaviour and how best to support your children. There will be a chance to ask questions that you may have. Book your space via the website: facefamilyadvice.co.uk and click on the Parent page.

Online Safety Parental Workshop

This week we invited Dan Tolan, from Clennell Educations Solutions, to lead parents in a workshop around Online Safety. It was shame to see so few parents and carers attend the session, given the enormity of online safety and the challenges it presents. We are hoping to host a repeat session, however online this time. Please look out for further information in the coming weeks.

Dan's session was extremely informative and highlighted the dangers of the internet, even for our children as young as 5 and 6. He shared very useful hints and tips to safeguard our children. If you were unable to attend the session, we will make the resources available upon request. **Please note that these resources are not to be shared with children as some content is not age appropriate.** Please drop the school office an email if this is something you wish to explore further.

www.internetmatters.org

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

Each Tuesday, 9th January – 13th February - Year 6 Ski Lessons (Group 1)
Each Tuesday, 6th February – 26th March - Year 6 Ski Lessons (Group 2)
Tuesday 13th February – Year 5 to see St Mary's production of Grease
Friday 16th February 9am – Awards Assembly
Friday 16th February 9.45am – Food Waste Project Introductory Assembly
Friday 16th February – Last day of half term
Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February – School Closed for Half Term
Thursday 29th February 9.15am – Year 1 Phonics Workshop
Friday 1st March – Prayer, Song and Soup (Year 6)
Friday 1st March – Monday 4th March – Year 4 Residential to High Borrans
Monday 4th March – Friday 15th March – Year 5 Swimming Lessons Hadrian Leisure Centre
Wednesday 6th March – Classes visit Book Fair in school day
Thursday 7th March – World Book Day
Thursday 7th March 3.15pm-4pm – Book Fair open for parents
Friday 8th March 9am – Awards Assembly
Friday 8th March – Prayer, Song and Soup (Year 3) pm
Tuesday 12th March/Wednesday 13th March 2pm-5.30pm – Parent Consultations
Wednesday 13th March – Vision Screening for Reception Class
Friday 15th March – Prayer, Song and Soup (Year 4)
Monday 18th March – Thursday 28th March – Year 4 Swimming Lessons Hadrian Leisure Centre
Tuesday 19th March – KS2 Dance Festival at Whitley Bay Playhouse
Friday 22nd March – Prayer, Song and Soup (Year 5)
Week commencing 25th March – Holy Week Services
Thursday 28th March 9am – Awards Assembly
Thursday 28th March – Last day of Spring Term
Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April – Easter Holidays
Monday 15th April – School closed to pupils for INSET Day
Tuesday 16th April – Pupils return to school