



St. Stephen's Catholic Primary School
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Friday 4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance & Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 96.28% this week. This means that we are in the **Green zone** and we are meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.

It's a very close contest between the classes to who will win the half term class prize – Year 4 have been in the lead but have just been overtaken by Year 5!

Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week commencing 30 th September	94.80%	99.00%	97.20%	92.30%	97.70%	97.70%
Autumn Half Term 1	94.40%	96.02%	94.84%	96.46%	96.82%	92.76%

Staffing - Year 1 and Year 6

You may be aware that Miss Tawse and Miss Ballabanaj are absent from school at the moment. Miss Tawse has been very poorly and is currently following medical advice in order to make a swift recovery. I am glad to say she is most certainly making good progress, and we expect her to return to work by Tuesday 15th October, or possibly a bit sooner if possible. In the meantime, we have arranged cover with Mrs Orrock who will work alongside Mrs Callaghan in leading pupils' learning.

There is no set date for Miss Ballabanaj to return to work as she is currently on emergency compassionate leave. Therefore, Mr Smith, along with other members of key stage 2 staff will lead learning in Year 6.

Both members of staff are very much in our thoughts, and I ask that you treat this information with a degree of sensitivity.

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 29th 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*

Operation Christmas Child

Pupils will be bringing home leaflets for the Operation Christmas Child appeal which our school will be supporting again this year. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian international relief organisation. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own



communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. These simple gifts are shipped outside the United Kingdom to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

Please return shoeboxes to school by **Friday 8th November**.

More information can be found here: [Operation Christmas Child | Samaritans Purse \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](http://Operation Christmas Child | Samaritans Purse (samaritans-purse.org.uk))

Maths Parental Workshops

We are very pleased to invite you into school for interactive Maths Parental Workshops. The sessions will last approximately 1 hour. During this time, our experienced staff will provide you the opportunity to learn how we teach maths, here at St. Stephen's, as well as a chance to gain a more informed understanding about age-related expectations for your child. It is an opportunity to experience maths through the eyes of your child, and what better way to do it, than to come along to our Parental workshop! In the latter part of the session, your child will be invited along to the hall, where you will work through a series of mathematical challenges! There will be opportunities for you to ask any questions, too. Our staff will be on hand to help, support and guide you! It will be lovely to see as many of you there as possible!



Years 3-5 – Tuesday 22nd October 9.15am

KS1 – Wednesday 23rd October 9.15am

A separate maths workshop for Year 6 parents will be held in the Spring term and will focus on KS2 SATs.

St Stephen's Book Swaps

At St Stephen's, we are passionate about supporting enjoyment of reading and would love to facilitate more opportunities to share books with our school community. In this spirit, we will be introducing some new initiatives this academic year:

'Book Swap' Coffee Morning

Once a term, we would like to host a book swap event where families can choose books to take home that have been donated by our school community. If you have unwanted books to donate, we will gladly receive these to support the scheme.

During the event, there will be some fun activities for families to take part in including reading cafes and a raffle.

Our first event has been scheduled for:

Wednesday 20th November 3.30pm

We hope that you can make it!

Grown-Up Book Swap

Whilst our book swap coffee mornings will give pupils an opportunity to get new books to take home and enjoy, we would also like to facilitate a book swap for grown-up readers i.e. parents/guardians, grandparents and members of our school community. There is now a bookshelf in our school reception area filled with books for grown-ups and we would love to see the adults among our school community swapping books too!

We hope that these initiatives support our school's vision to promote reading for pleasure in our pupils. We thank you for your anticipated support.

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 9th October – pupils can visit the book fair with their class during the school day.
- Thursday 10th 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!):

Wednesday 9th October – Book Fair – classes visit in school day

Thursday 10th October – Book Fair 3.15pm-4pm

Wednesday 16th October – Flu Immunisations (Reception – Year 6)

Tuesday 22nd October Maths Parental Workshop (Year 3-5) 9.15am

Wednesday 23rd October Maths Parental Workshop (Year 1 and Year 2) 9.15am

Monday 27th October – Friday 1st November – HALF TERM

Tuesday 29th October – New Adventurelands Party 5pm – 7pm