



ST STEPHEN'S CofE WEEKLY NEWS

Placing God at the centre of all we do, we will nurture, inspire and empower every child so they can live life in all its fullness.

Write a greater chapter

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7th September 2027

WELCOME BACK! I hope all our children, families and staff have had a wonderful summer break. What an impressive start! The children have come in looking smart and ready to learn! Over the summer holiday, there has been a range of improvements made to the school in order to bring our building up to spec and to make it a nicer, safer place to work and play. Further details can be found at the back of the newsletter. I feel invigorated and looking forward to the coming year!

Happy to be back!

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,
As we begin this
new academic year
at St Stephen's
School, we lift up
our community to
You.

Bless our children
with curious minds
and resilient hearts,
and grant our
educators patience
and wisdom.

May our classrooms
be places of
discovery, kindness,
and safety.

We place the
journey ahead into
Your hands.

Amen.

Calling, calling, all potential School Councillors & Faith Group Leaders!

Is your child in KS2 (Years 3-6), and has got what it takes to be a member of the School Council or a Faith Group Leader?

Then please encourage them to write a manifesto over the weekend explaining why they will make a good representative for their class. Children who have expressed an interest, have been given an application form.



*Voting will take place,
week commencing 14th September.*

YEAR GROUP PARENT MEETINGS

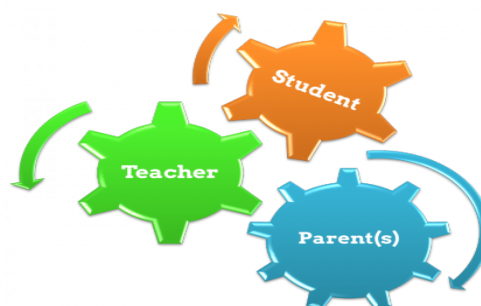
Please join us for our open mornings/afternoons and discover our vision for the academic year: Open mornings/afternoons will be held at the following times:

Friday 18th September
Reception & Nursery 2 - 8.45am

Tuesday 22nd September
Year 1 - 8.45am
Year 4 - 3.45pm

Wednesday 23rd September
Year 2 - 8.45am
Year 5 - 3.45pm

Thursday 24th September
Year 3 - 8.45am
Year 6 - 3.45pm



You are welcome to explore your child's classroom, meet the class teacher and other parents, discussing your child's learning, expectations, as well as addressing any questions you may have.

IN HARMONY RETURNS!

After a long break, the In Harmony team will return to St Stephen's to teach music to the Year 3 and 4 pupils. Lessons will begin on Wednesday afternoons from the 17th September 2025. In Harmony will be offering **After School lessons to Years 5 & 6 pupils**. If you are interested, please arrange (via the school office) to speak to Frank.



ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS

Please consider the benefits and consequences of missing a few days, over the school year.

Attendance	Missing days from school	
100%	Zero days off	Excellent! A child can take advantage of their progress and life in school.
98+%	1-4 days	Very Good - this will help all aspects of their progress and life in school.
97%-98%	5 days - a school week	Satisfactory Attendance. A child should reach his/her full potential, leading to the best possible start to their formal education.
93-96%	8-14 days or more	Below National average attendance nationally. If a child has more than 8 days away from school they may fail to make the expected progress.
Below 93%	15 days (three school weeks)	Unacceptable - A child will now be finding it extremely difficult to keep up and achieve their best.
Below 90% <i>Government guidelines for persistent absenteeism</i>	20 days (four school weeks)	Unacceptable persistent absenteeism - A child will now be finding it extremely difficult to keep up and achieve their best. Below 90% attendance is considered persistent absenteeism and the LA may be may become involved in taking action.
Below 82%	30 days (five school weeks)	Children with this attendance are missing a week every half term. Absence is causing SERIOUS CONCERN . It is seriously affecting attainment and progress and is disrupting the child's learning. The school will be supported by the LA to take action against parents/carers.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Arriving late can affect your child's attendance & progress!



Lateness = lost Learning figures below are calculated over a school year	
Minutes late each day	Days of lost learning
5	3 days
10	6.5 days
15	10 days
20	13 days
30	19 days

If your child arrives late for class;

- They miss out on important learning, which could effect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.
- It may influence a valuable life skill.

What can you do

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready the night before going to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

As an inclusive, Christian school, we will nurture, inspire, empower and expect every child to achieve their very best in life, work and the community.



*Keep an eye out for **coffee morning** dates and discussion letters.*

Christian Values for schools stands for a distinctively Christian understanding of values to shape all aspects of leading and learning. It never deviates from setting high expectations and raising aspirations.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Reception to Y6 pupils are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

However, if you think you may be entitled for Free School Meals, please come to the school office to complete an application form.

Even if your child is on packed lunch, he/she might be entitled to Free School Meals.

It also increases funding to the school.

For further information please speak to the School Office.



Christian values

Over the year we will be learning about the following

Christian values :

Autumn - Koinonia & Thankfulness

Spring - Peace & Compassion

Summer - Endurance & Hope

KS1 & 2 pupils Wednesday Worship Assembly will focus on learning a memory verse linked to each of our values.

An information sheet with ideas and activities on how to teach your child about each of our values will be available (by October) on the school website. Further details will be given nearer the time.



A warm welcome to our Nursery children,
new parents and pupils

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new parents. We are delighted to have you and look forward to you working with us in partnership to make sure that your child's experience is a joyous one.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Clubs letters went out yesterday. Parents will be able to book the activities online via **School Getaway from today and will close by the end Tuesday 15th September.**

To secure your child's place, payments must be made at the time of booking.

Many thanks.

PE KIT



Children are expected to wear full school uniform, even on PE days. Pupils will be given enough time to change into/out of their kits. **Except Reception and Y2** who can wear their PE Kit to school and bring their school uniform to change into.

PACKED LUNCH

If you decide that you want your child to have a pack lunch, please note, as a healthy school, staff monitor the pupils packed lunch to ensure they are getting the recommended nutrients.

For further advice, visit:

www.healthylunch.org.uk/government

Coffee time

Over the autumn term we will be hosting four Coffee mornings. It will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and also meet other parents.

No need to book just come along!

Venue: School hall
Time: 9.00am start

Save the date

- 16th September - International Evening
- 7th October - Open Coffee morning
- 12th November - Handwriting
- 2nd December - Meet the school council - topic tbc



Write a greater chapter

Upcoming events

Faith Group elections
School Council elections
Resource Library
Class Exhibitions
Cultural Evening
Harvest Festivals
Coffee Mornings
Class Trips
Outstanding Achievement Assembly
Christmas Carol
KS1 Nativity performance

SECONDARY TRANSFER 2026/2027

Secondary Transfer Meeting
will be held on

**Monday 21st September
at 5.00 pm.**

It will be beneficial to attend, particularly if this is the first time you are going through the process.

...more important reminders!

School Dress Code

Thank you to parents/carers for your continued support. Our pupils have returned in full dress code this year, many with our smart new blazers – what an impressive start.

May I remind you that trainers are not allowed. Earrings need to be plain gold or silver studs. We must work together to maintain high standards.



**Please remember to label/
mark every item of your
child's uniform.**

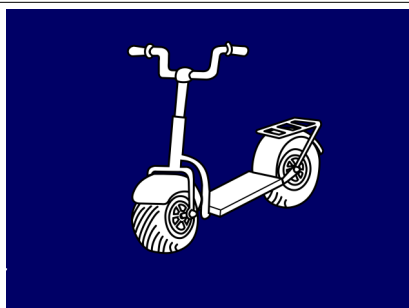


HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES

**WE ARE
A WATER
ONLY
SCHOOL**



*Please remember
to pack a healthy
packed lunch
with a bottle of
water NO juice
or dilute drink
please!*



Scooters and Bikes

To avoid accidents and collisions, please can parents and carers ensure that children push their bikes or scooters, and not ride them in the school playgrounds before or after school.

HELP!!

*If you would like help
with applying online
and /or advice with
your child's secondary
school application, then
please pop in and book
an appointment with a
member of the School
Office.*

EXCITING UPGRADES AT SCHOOL

Over the summer break, Wilby & Burnett and Associated Installations Ltd worked incredibly hard to complete several major refurbishment projects designed to enhance your child's daily school experience.

Inside the main building, you will notice a bright transformation. New ceilings and energy-efficient LED lighting have been installed across all classrooms (excluding Nursery). This upgrade significantly brightens our indoor spaces, reducing eye strain and creating a much calmer, more focused learning environment for our pupils.

The improvements continue outdoors, too. We are delighted to share that both the main playground and our Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) have been completely resurfaced. I hope you would agree that these fresh, smooth surfaces have created a much more pleasant and safer playing experience for our children to enjoy during break times and physical education classes.

