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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Volume: 2026 - Issue 6 **12th October 2026**

ST STEPHEN'S PLAYGROUND OPENING CEREMONY



We were delighted to welcome Dean Ashton, former professional footballer, to St Stephen's to officially open our fantastic new playground! Pupils from Years 2, 3, 4 and 6 had the exciting opportunity to meet Dean, ask him questions and find out more about his football career, family life and the people who have inspired him. The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing about his experiences and learning more about life as a professional footballer. It was a memorable opportunity to meet someone who has achieved so much in the world of sport! Following the question-and-answer sessions, Dean joined us for the official opening ceremony, helping us celebrate our wonderful new play space. Our new playground provides the children with a safer, more enjoyable environment in which to play, exercise and spend time with their friends.

A huge thank you to the playground company for organising such a fantastic event and for creating our wonderful new playground. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work and support in making this special addition to our school a reality.

The children are already enjoying their new playground, and we look forward to seeing it bring lots of fun, laughter and happy memories for years to come.



Drone footage of the opening

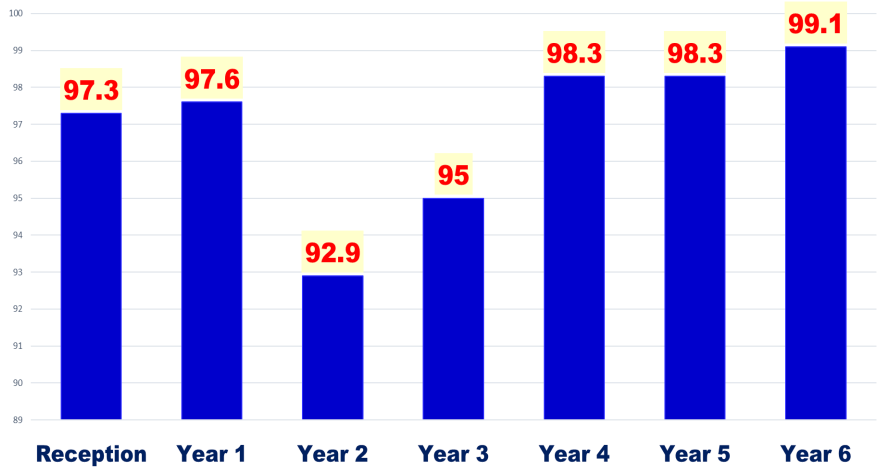
CHESS CLUB IN ACTION

It was wonderful to drop-in and witness the children sharing my passion for chess.



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Attendance Chart Week Beginning 28th September '26



Congratulations to Year 6 Class for their highest attendance!

Year 2 Meet a History Hero: Discovering Mary Seacole.



Year 2 had a wonderful time visiting the National Portrait Gallery as part of our learning about Significant Figures. During our visit, the children took part in an engaging Mary Seacole workshop, where they discovered more about her remarkable life, achievements and the important contribution she made to history. The children enjoyed exploring the gallery, looking closely at portraits and bringing their classroom learning to life. It was a fantastic and memorable day of learning!

Year 3 Travel Back in Time: Stone Age Detectives.



Year 3 had a fantastic day at the Horniman Museum! The day began by recapping everything we have learned about the Stone Age, and the children showed incredible long-term memory, confidently recalling key historical terms and concepts. We then had the exciting opportunity to look at and handle real Stone Age artefacts, including one that is an astonishing 300,000 years old! The children made thoughtful predictions about what these artefacts may have been used for and enjoyed becoming history detectives.

We finished our trip with a visit to the Horniman Garden Farm, where we got to meet some real live animals that would have been kept by early farmers during the Stone Age. It was a brilliant day of exploring, questioning and bringing our history learning to life.

School Council in Action: Making Our Voices Heard.



Last Friday, our School Council had a very productive session. The children voted for their key roles, including Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, taking an important step in developing their leadership skills.

They also practised feeding back to their classes, ensuring everyone's ideas and opinions are heard. Their biggest challenge was preparing for an upcoming meeting with Harrison Caterers (on the 16th October) to discuss how school lunches could be improved.

Children are encouraged to share their ideas about school lunches with a member of the School Council so that their views can be included in the discussion.

We are proud of our School Councillors for taking their responsibilities seriously and working together to make St Stephen's an even better place for everyone.

NOTICES & REMINDERS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Art Exhibition



Date: Monday 12th October 2026
Time: 3:15pm – 4:00pm
Venue: School Hall

On **Monday 12th October**, we are delighted to open our school hall to parents and carers for our Children's Learning Gallery.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the fantastic learning and creativity taking place across our school during the first half of the term. The gallery will showcase a selection of work from Nursery through to Year 6, highlighting the progress, effort and achievements of our children.

We warmly invite parents and carers to come along, explore the children's work and celebrate their achievements with us.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our children's learning with you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



INTERNATIONAL EVENING



Autumn Term 1 - Key Dates

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Harvest Festival	Wednesday 14th October
International Evening	Thursday 15th October
Autumn half term break	Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October
Children return to school	Monday 2nd November
Individual/Siblings photos	Wednesday 11th November
Anti-Bullying week	Monday 9th - Friday 13th November
Handwriting Coffee morning	Thursday 12th November
Year 5 Anne Frank Workshop	Monday 16th November
Year 2 trip - Brockwell Park	Tuesday 17th November
Year 6 trip - RAF Museum	Monday 23rd November
Year 1 trip - National Portrait Gallery	Tuesday 24th November
Year 3 trip - Natural History Museum	Friday 27th November
Year 4 trip - National Army Museum	Tuesday 1st December
Winter Fair	Friday 5th December
Parents Evening Day 1 & 2	Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th December
KS1 Nativity Performance	Wednesday 16th December
Choir performance to parents	Thursday 17th December
Autumn term break	Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January
Inset Day - school closed	Monday 4th January

A Quick Reminder:

Thank you to all the many parents and carers who ensure their children arrive at school on time each day. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If your child arrives late, please remember to sign them in at the school office (Inventry) before they go into their class.

We will be monitoring lateness, as arriving late can disrupt children's learning and cause them to miss valuable teaching time. Please help your child develop the important life skill of punctuality by ensuring they arrive at school on time every day, ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every child make the most of their learning opportunities