# 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*

*Telephone: 0207 735 1023* *website: www.st-stephens.lambeth.sch.UK*

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## WELCOME BACK TO THE NEW TERM

***Dear Parents and Carers,*** *We are delighted to welcome you all back to what promises to be another exciting term at St Stephen's. I hope you enjoyed a peaceful half-term break and spent some quality time with your loved ones.*

*I would like to thank you for your generosity, energy and continued support throughout the first half of the term. Your generous Harvest donations and the delicious dishes you contributed to our International Evening helped make these events a great success and celebrated the wonderful diversity of our school community.*

*Thank you also for your support in improving attendance and punctuality. Working together, we can ensure that every child makes the most of their learning opportunities.*

*The school office has been busy sending out letters about upcoming events. For a gentle reminder of important dates, please refer to the back of this newsletter. We look forward to another successful term, continuing to work in partnership with you to nurture, inspire and empower every child to live life in all its fullness.*

## This term's Christian value is THANKFULNESS




### *We appreciate all that we have*

The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD.
Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: 'He is good; his love endures forever.'

2 Chronicles 5:13

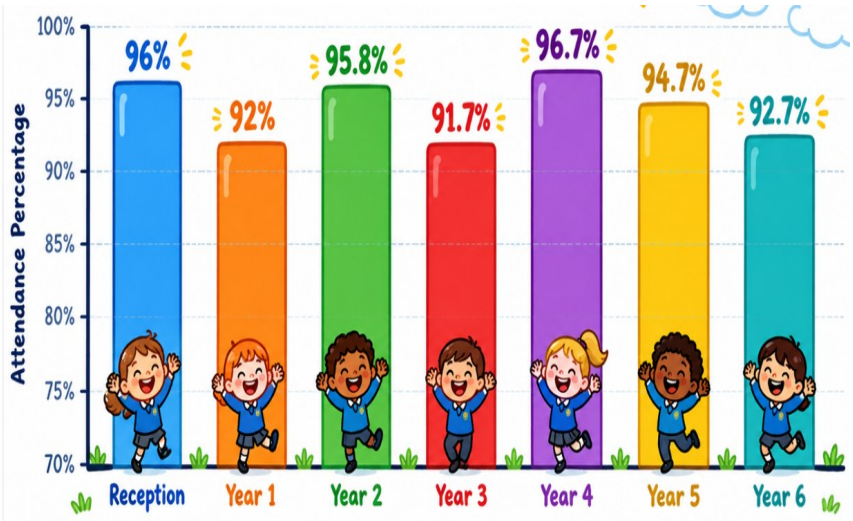
## INTERVIEW WITH HARRISON



On Friday 16th October, our School Council met with Jeffrey Harrison and Yetunde Adeyemi from Harrison Catering to share their classmates' questions about the quality, quantity and variety of school lunches. The children gained valuable insight into the challenges of food production, budgets and time constraints, as well as how Harrison Catering strives to provide an enjoyable menu for all children, including those with special dietary requirements. Well done to our School Council for confidently representing their classmates!

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

**Attendance Chart Week Beginning 12th October '26**




**Congratulations to Year 4 Class for their highest attendance!**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH Snap Shot





























## PARENTS' OPEN COFFEE MORNING: YOUR VIEWS MATTER

# You Said - We'll do!

Last term's Parents' Open Coffee Morning, facilitated by Mr Hamilton, provided a valuable opportunity for parents to share their views on the school's strengths and areas for development. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this positive and meaningful discussion.

**You said – What we do well**

Parents praised our friendly and supportive school community, dedicated teachers, affordable after-school clubs, and fantastic curriculum, including French. Our weekly community prayer meeting was also highlighted as a valued part of school life.

**You said – What we could improve**

Parents shared ideas for strengthening PTA involvement, extending after-school clubs, improving school dinners, organising more events and celebrations, and communicating how school funds are spent. Other suggestions included regular PTA-led coffee mornings, celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day each year, and teaching Makaton or British Sign Language across the school. Parents also highlighted the importance of ensuring that accident slips reach families of children in EYFS and KS1.

**What happens next?**

We are committed to building on our strengths and acting on your feedback. A coffee morning with Harrison Catering has been arranged for **Wednesday 18 November**, giving parents an opportunity to discuss school meals. Staff have also been reminded to provide accident slips to parents of children in EYFS and KS1, and we will begin retraining staff who support pupils with SEND.

We will continue to explore ways to strengthen parental involvement, improve communication and create more opportunities for families to engage with school life.

## SHOE BOX APPEAL

We are delighted to be supporting Blythswood Care's annual **Shoebox Appeal**, bringing joy to less fortunate families overseas this Christmas. Please fill a shoebox with small, practical gifts and bring it to the School Office by **Monday 11 November**.
If you cannot find a shoebox, a drawstring bag (not plastic), such as a gym bag, is a suitable alternative (maximum size 400mm x 300mm).



Thank you in advance for your generosity and support in helping us make someone smile this Christmas!

## HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS




It's touching to see our families still manage to dig deep and donate to those in need. Thank you for your generous donation, all of which will be collected by Brixton Food bank.

# Autumn Term 2 - Key Dates

| EVENT | DATE/TIME |
|---|---|
| **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 |
| **Children return to school** | Tuesday 5th January 2027 |

## 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**