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Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance & Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 94.46% this week. This means that we are in the **Amber Zone** and we are not meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.

Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week commencing 2nd November	94.07%	99.26%	94.44%	92.67%	94.00%	95.81%
Autumn Half Term 2	**94.07%**	**99.26%**	**94.44%**	**92.67%**	**94.00%**	**95.81%**

Personalised Christmas Cards and Gifts

Your child should have now brought home their Christmas artwork along with an instruction sheet explaining how to place your order online for personalised Christmas gifts.
If you haven't already and would like to, you can order simply here, using your child's design:
https://www.fundraisingcreations.co.uk/office-6?campaign=61439d4f-0ff8-4658-883b-66da81701512

To ensure your items are delivered in time for Christmas, please place your order by **13th November 2026**.
All orders will be delivered to school, and we will send them home with your child as soon as they arrive.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Poppies and other Royal British Legion merchandise including wristbands and snap bands will be on sale at breaktimes. Items range from 50p to £2.00 and can be paid for with cash.

Children in Need Appeal 2026

St Stephen's will be supporting BBC Children in Need this year and we would love our pupils to be involved and help raise funds for such a worthy cause. National Children in Need Day is **Friday 13th November**. To fundraise, we will be hosting our annual online duck race - for a suggested donation of £2.00, pupils will be able to name a duck and enter the race. During the school day, each class will have an opportunity to decorate their own biscuit then enjoy their creations while we eagerly watch and await the results of the duck race! There will be a special prize for the best named duck as well as for the race winner!

To enter the duck race, please follow the link or scan the QR code and hand in your donation at the school office or online on our JustGiving page:



Duck Race Entry: Children in Need 2026 - Duck Race – Fill out form

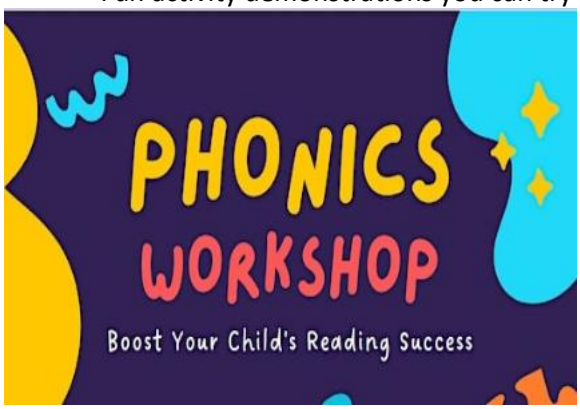
JustGiving Page: St Stephen's Primary School is fundraising for BBC Children in Need

Road Safety
Keeping our children safe is a responsibility we all share. North Tyneside Council has a range of helpful road safety information and resources for families, covering topics such as safe walking routes, crossing roads safely, cycle safety, and travelling to and from school.
We encourage parents and carers to take a look at the guidance and discuss road safety with their children, helping them to develop safe habits both on the journey to school and beyond.
For more information, please visit the Road Safety page: Road safety | North Tyneside Council

Christmas Events
See enclosed our Christmas Events newsletter for details of Christmas events happening throughout December.

Phonics Workshops
Calling all KS1 Parents!
Wednesday, 18th November
🕘 **9:00 AM**
📍 **School Hub**
Come along and discover how we teach phonics and how you can support your child at home! During the session, we'll cover:

- An introduction to the **Rocket Phonics Programme**
- How to use the **Phonics Tracker homework sheet**
- Exploring the **Ed Shed website**
- Fun activity demonstrations you can try with your child



You'll also have the chance to work alongside your child and chat with their class teacher about phonics and reading.

Head Lice Reminder
Head lice are a common childhood occurrence and can affect anyone, regardless of hair type or personal hygiene. As part of our commitment to supporting children's health and wellbeing, we would like to remind families of the importance of carrying out regular checks at home.
To help reduce the spread of head lice, we encourage parents and carers to:

- Check your child's hair regularly using a detection comb.
- Use the wet-combing method to identify and remove head lice where necessary.
- Check and wet comb the hair of all household members, including siblings and adults, if head lice are found.
- Keep long hair tied back or plaited where possible, as this may help reduce opportunities for head-to-head contact.
- Remind children not to share personal items such as hairbrushes, combs, hats or hair accessories.

If head lice are identified, prompt treatment and regular wet combing are the most effective ways to prevent reinfestation. Your local pharmacist can also provide advice on treatment options and the correct use of products where needed.
For further information, please see the NHS guidance on head lice and nits and a helpful video demonstrating the wet-combing technique:

- NHS: Head lice and nits: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/
- Community Hygiene Concern (including wet-combing demonstration): https://www.chc.org/for-parents-2/

Thank you for your support. By working together and carrying out regular checks at home, we can help minimise the impact of head lice within our school community.

Toy Swap

We're excited to announce our upcoming Toy Swap Event on **Tuesday 10th November 3.15pm-3.45pm**. In the spirit of sharing and sustainability, we're inviting families to donate any gently used toys or books that are no longer needed. Donations can be dropped off at the school office from now until **Friday 6th November** and can be exchanged for vouchers to use on the day.

On **Tuesday 10th November**, pupils will have the chance to choose toys and books to take home using their vouchers or for a suggested donation of £1.00 per item.

We hope that this will a fun way to give pre-loved items a new life to be enjoyed by our school community. All proceeds will support school's PTA fundraising.

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

Tuesday 10th November 3.15pm-3.45pm – Toy Swap/Sale Event
Friday 13th November – Children in Need
w/c 16th November – Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day
Monday 16th November 3.15pm – Year 3 The Sill Residential Parent Meeting
Wednesday 18th November – KS1 Phonics Workshop
Tuesday 1st – Wednesday 2nd December – Year 3 Residential Visit to The Sill
Wednesday 2nd December – Reception Christmas Songs and Crafts 8.45am
Thursday 3rd December – KS1 Nativity 10am and 1.30pm
Friday 4th December – Year 5/6 Advent Service
Monday 7th December – Santa Visit
Tuesday 8th December – KS1 Santa's Grotto Visit at Rising Sun
Tuesday 8th December 3.15pm – Salvation Army Christmas Carols
Wednesday 9th December – Nursery Christmas Songs and Crafts
Thursday 10th December – KS2 Carol Service
Friday 11th December – Year 3/4 Advent Service
Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Disco 1pm-3pm
Thursday 17th December – Christmas Pantomime (in school)
Thursday 17th December – Tuck Shop
Friday 18th December – Last day before Christmas Holidays
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January – Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January – Pupils return to school for Spring Term