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Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance & Punctuality



Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 96.49% this week. This means that we are in the **Green Zone** and we are meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.

Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week commencing 9th November	96.67%	94.07%	97.04%	97.00%	98.67%	98.71%
Autumn Half Term 2	**95.37%**	**96.67%**	**95.74%**	**94.84%**	**96.34%**	**97.26%**

World Day of the Poor – Coin Donations

At St Stephen's, we will be marking World Day of the Poor by supporting CAFOD World Gifts, a programme that provides practical gifts and resources to families and communities around the world.

We are inviting every child to bring in a coin donation during the week. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help. Children may choose to donate anything from 1p to £2, and all donations will be pooled together.

Please send any donations into school by **Tuesday 17th November** so that we can calculate the total amount raised and begin our follow-up activities.

Once we have collected the donations, the children will take part in discussions and debates about how the money should be spent. They will learn about the different gifts available through CAFOD and decide which items they feel will make the greatest difference to those in need. Examples include providing farm animals, clean water, emergency supplies, tools and other resources that help communities to thrive.

This initiative gives children the opportunity not only to support others through charitable giving, but also to develop their understanding of global poverty, stewardship and the importance of making thoughtful choices for the common good.

We look forward to seeing our children work together to make a positive difference.

Thank you, as always, for your support and generosity.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Bottle Tombola

During the Christmas nativity events, there will be a bottle tombola to take part in. We would really appreciate donations of bottled drinks to help fill the stall. This could be wine, spirits, soft drinks, fizzy drinks, and other unopened, in-date beverages.

If you're able to donate, please send bottles into school over the next couple of weeks and by Friday 27th November. Every donation helps, and your support makes a big difference to our fundraising efforts.

Faith in Action - Winter Clothing Appeal

With the rising cost of living continuing to put pressure on families, community support is more important than ever. As part of our Faith in Action mission to show love and kindness to others, we are inviting families to donate any good-quality, clean winter clothing they no longer need.

Coats, hats, scarves, gloves and other warm clothing will be collected and made available to those in our school community who may need a little extra support this winter.

We would be very grateful for your support with this project and know that these donations will make a real difference to many families in our school and local community.

Winter clothing bundles will be made available to request through our Uniformed platform: Uniformd

Families will be able to request a bundle or select specific items from the list of available clothing.

Connect
Mental Health Support Team

PARENT/CARER VIRTUAL MONTHLY SUPPORT SESSION
'Screen Time and Sleep'



Connect MHST invites Parents and Carers supporting children and young people with social, emotional, and mental health needs to a virtual support session.
The monthly session is held on Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month at 5.30pm.
November's support session topic will be 'Screen Time and Sleep'
on
Wednesday 25th November 2026 - 5.30pm

The virtual session is a place for parents and carers to get information and support from Connect on wellbeing topics identified by parents, share their experiences if they choose to, help and support each other and get information and advice to support them.

Please click on the link below to register your interest and to receive the Zoom invite.

Connect Virtual Support Group - November Group Registration

Please register in advance of the Zoom meeting time as our emails are only accessible during office hours 08.30-16.30

Advent Celebration of the Word
In the weeks leading up to Christmas, our Key Stage 2 students will be planning and leading special *Celebration of The Word* services. These services will be held in school and will explore the key themes and messages of Advent. We are pleased to be able to invite parents and carers to join us in this special time of reflection and celebration.
After each service, we will be hosting a coffee morning in support of Mary's Place, a community support group based in Newcastle. All proceeds from the coffee morning will go towards supporting their vital work.

Friday 4th December 9:00am - Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 11th December 9:00am – Year 3 and Year 4

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.





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

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 5.30pm – 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