



St. Stephen's School
and Children's Centre
Learning for life

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4

23rd February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break.

At St Stephen's, we are incredibly proud of our wonderfully diverse school, where many cultures, religions, traditions and languages come together. This diversity is a strength we actively protect and celebrate. By respecting and learning about our differences, we build understanding, unity and mutual respect.

Learning about different faiths is a statutory part of the Religious Education curriculum and visits to many places of worship bring this learning to life in a meaningful and respectful way. These experiences are about knowledge, understanding and respect.

Most recently, our Year 6 children had the privilege of visiting a beautiful Buddhist temple. The visit was calm, reflective and deeply enriching, offering pupils first hand insight into Buddhist values and practices and prompting thoughtful discussion back in school.

Our curriculum celebration continues beyond visits. Last half term, the Year 3 Parent Assembly provided a wonderful example of this, as children put on a fantastic showcase for Lunar (Chinese) New Year. Through music, drama, dance and art, they brought the celebration to life and demonstrated the richness of our broad and balanced curriculum.

During this Holy month of Ramadan, we send our warmest wishes to all families observing this special time. May it bring peace, reflection and spiritual growth.

Thank you for working in partnership with us and for the powerful message you give your children about acceptance, respect for others and the value of a well rounded education for every child. Your openness and trust reflect the very best of our St Stephen's community.

As always, we are here to support you. Members of the Leadership team are at the front and back gates every day, so do come and speak to us if you need anything.

Thank you for your ongoing support—we truly value our partnership in helping your children thrive.

Warmest wishes,

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

2nd September - 5th February 2026

Year	Nursery	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
%	82%	93.5%	95.8%	94.9%	96%	95.4%	96.4%

Well done to Year 6 for having the best attendance so far!

Please note that 100% attendance is the school target for every pupil.

ANNUAL REPORTS TO PARENTS, REPORT CARDS AND CONSULTATION DAY

At the end of this term on Friday 13th March, children in years 1-6 will be bringing home their annual report. This will explain the progress your child has made, their attitude to learning and the areas they need to develop. Please share the report with your child, so that they can also celebrate their hard work and know their targets.

Children in Reception and those with EHCPs will bring home their report card at the end of this term and their annual report in the summer term.

Parent consultation day will be taking place on Monday 16th March for all children. If for any reason you are unable to attend at that time please inform the class teacher who will be able to rearrange with you. On this day all pupils will be learning from home.

SAFEGUARDING

Here at St Stephen's we understand that parenting comes with real challenges. In moments of frustration it can be tempting to use physical punishment to correct a child's behaviour. However, research and experience consistently show that hitting children is not an effective or healthy way to teach discipline.

Children need to feel safe with their parents and when they are hit it can create fear instead of respect. This can make communication in the family much harder to achieve.

Children learn much more from what we do than what we say. When adults use physical punishment, children may come to believe that hitting is an acceptable way to solve problems. Encouragement, patience and clear communication leads to much better relationships between children and their carers. When children feel respected and valued they are more likely to listen, cooperate and thrive - at home in school.

If you are struggling in any way with your child's behaviour at home, please do not hesitate to ask for help and support.

St Stephen's Safer Internet Day 2026

On Tuesday 10th February, we joined over 170 countries worldwide in marking Safer Internet Day 2026, exploring this year's theme: "Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI." In class, pupils discussed where they might come across AI online and how to make safe choices, including checking information, thinking before clicking or sharing, and asking a trusted adult for help if something doesn't feel right.



We know the online world is a big part of children's lives now. UK evidence shows children aged 8-14 spend nearly 3 hours online a day on average. Research links higher screen time in young children with smaller spoken vocabularies.

Please keep talking with your child about what they do online, who they chat to, and what to do if they're worried. Agree clear rules (time limits/approved apps), use privacy settings and parental controls, and remind children never to share personal information or passwords. If anything upsets them, they should stop, close the screen, and tell an adult straight away. For more guidance, visit www.internetmatters.org and check their Age Guides.

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Now that the children are settled in Nursery and we are moving towards Spring we would like to stress the importance of good attendance. There is an expectation that all nursery children's attendance is at least 90% and hopefully 100%.

Attending Nursery every day supports your child's overall learning and development. Your children are at an age where the brain is developing rapidly and being at school helps your child build social skills such as sharing, taking turns and communicating with others, whilst also developing independence and confidence in a safe, structured environment. Regular attendance also helps children establish routines, preparing them for the transition to school and promoting positive long-term outcomes in learning, behaviour, and wellbeing.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Children's Centre Team if you need advice or support on any issue:

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.

