

# St. Stephen's

Church of England Primary School

Hunters Chase, South Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8HR

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Website: [www.ststephens.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ststephens.surrey.sch.uk)

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## NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw the academic year to a close, it's a joy to look back on all that we've accomplished together this past month. There have been so many moments of learning, laughter, and shared experiences that have made St. Stephen's such a special place to be.

Our pupils have been involved in a wide range of trips and events that have enriched their learning. Year 5 had a brilliant day at Mercer's Lake, taking part in a variety of water sports that encouraged teamwork and resilience. Year R enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Brighton Sealife Centre and even squeezed in an ice cream by the beach, making lasting memories in the sunshine. Our Year 3 children ventured to Crawley to visit the Hindu Temple - a new trip for us and one that was full of learning and awe. Year 4 travelled back in time on their visit to the Bluebell Railway, experiencing what life might have been like for an evacuee during World War II. And our Year 5 and 6 children had the chance to visit Selhurst Park for an unforgettable Crystal Palace experience.

We've had a number of exciting in-school events too. The Oracy Amble was a standout moment, with every class performing a poem - some pupils even wrote their own masterpieces. The hall was filled with confidence, expression, and pride. We've also celebrated some brilliant class assemblies. Year 2 wowed us with their acting, singing, and learning, Year R shared their beautiful work in their final assembly of the year, and Year 4 rounded off their time on stage with a performance that was both heartfelt and memorable.

In sport, it's been a lively and active few weeks. Our children enjoyed learning new skills and playing alternative sports such as cricket, rounders, and even foot-golf. The swimming galas took place this week and were a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part, and it was fantastic to see so many of them cheering each other on.

Our Transition Morning on Tuesday gave all children the opportunity to spend time with their new class teacher and get excited about next year. The theme for the new academic year will be 'Birds', and the buzz of excitement around the school was palpable as pupils moved up for the morning.

Among all the celebrations, we must also say some heartfelt goodbyes. Gina Davison, who has been with us since January 2017, may not have had a forward-facing role, but her impact on our school's financial stability, systems, processes, and premises has been invaluable. Rebecca Hodges, who joined in September 2017, has worked tirelessly to support all our children, especially those with special educational needs. Her leadership has helped build the inclusive culture that is so often praised by external visitors. Finally, we say farewell to Fiona Ambroziak, who first joined the school in 2005. For nearly two decades, she has nurtured resilient, enthusiastic learners with her brilliant sense of humour, wonderful singing voice, and unmatched work ethic. Fiona, we all wish you a long, happy, and well-earned retirement doing all the things you enjoy. On behalf of every life you've touched - whether you know it or not - thank you.

As this is my final newsletter of the year, I want to take the opportunity to thank all of our families for their support, our brilliant PTA for all their hard work and generosity, and of course, the wonderful staff and children who make every day at St. Stephen's so special. Have a restful and joyful summer break.

Best wishes,

Niall McLaughlin

*'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13*



# Get to Know Our Governors

## What do you like most about our school?

I love that it has a sense of community.

## What do you do as a school Governor?

We have regular meetings. We look at SAT results. I check where the school is doing well and where they may need improvements.

## Do you have any advice for the children at our school?

Enjoy what you do and you will go far in life.

## What made you want to become a school Governor?

I became a Governor because I am linked to the parish.



**Name:** Rev. Peter O'Connell  
**Role:** Foundation Governor

## Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born in Weymouth, then lived in Kenya for 3 years. My dad was a teacher. I studied Maths at Oxford University. In 2009 I studied a Theology degree and became a reverend in 2016 in the Godstone and Blindley Health community.

# Get to Know Our Governors



**What was your favourite subject when you were at school?**

It has always been maths.

**If you could be any book character for a day, who would you be and why?**

Bilbo Baggins from The Hobbit because he has a really exciting story about his life.

**What would you say to pupils about being a Governor?**

It is important to be a Governor and I would encourage children to try it when they are older.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to the children and families reading the newsletter?**

It is important to have a good partnership between school and parents for the children to thrive.



**Have you enjoyed being interviewed?**

Yes, and some of your questions were a surprise.



# Get to Know Our Governors

*Thanks for 11 years of service  
to St. Stephen's!*



**Name: Eileen Perryer**

**Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

I was an English teacher at secondary school and I also taught Theatre History. I retired in 1997. I first became a governor at St Mary's in 1999 and left there in 2013 and became a governor at St Stephen's in 2014.

**What first inspired you to become involved in school governance, and what has kept you committed all these years?**

I retired in 1997 and wanted to still give something to education. I wanted to challenge myself becoming a governor and have enjoyed the role. I believe being a teacher has encouraged me and helped me to stay committed as I want to help and support children to achieve the best they can be.



# Get to Know Our Governors



**Looking back over your time as a governor, what achievement are you most proud of?**

Before COVID, I supported year 4 which I really enjoyed, but after COVID, I concentrated on supporting children in Reception and Year 1 with one-to-one reading to help support their progress in their reading and comprehension.



*Thanks for 11 years of service to St. Stephen's!*

**What advice would you give to someone just beginning their journey in education and as a school governor?**

Always listen to the children and what they need to support them through their learning journey.

**How have you seen education - and schools - change over the course of your career and governance?**

I feel over my years of teaching, handwriting through the years has changed for example: I used to use an ink pen which you had to dip in ink to use. Now you are very lucky and have pens which you don't need to do this and it is less mess, making handwriting so much neater.

ICT has also been introduced and has expanded over the years. When I was teaching it was a blackboard and chalk.



# Get to Know Our Governors



*Thanks for 11 years of service to St. Stephen's!*

**If you could implement one lasting change in education, what would it be and why?**

Parents should be free to choose their children's education and what they learn. I would like to see the people who are in charge of education in the government to show they care and have the best interests of the children in their hearts.

**What values or principles have guided you throughout your time in education and governance?**

You should always be honest with your pupils and always encourage them to be honest. This is a great value to have in life. Always listen and support the children you are teaching and working with, they will always respect you and be thankful for your support.

**What are your hopes for the future of the school, and what would you most like to see it achieve next?**

I wish for St Stephen's to continue to flourish and be the amazing school it has become.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## July

- 4<sup>th</sup> - PTA Event - Quiz Night
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 Trip to Chartwell
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Leavers' Service at Southwark Cathedral
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Spread Some Sunshine Mufti Day & Cake Sale
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Production 2pm & 6pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Production 6pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Graduation 9:15am
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Celebration Evening
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Church Service & Prize Giving
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> - PTA Event - Summer Fair
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Prize Giving for YR-5, 1:45pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 10am
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Term

## September

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - INSET Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - INSET Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> - First Day of Autumn Term

## Activities Timetable

Summer			
	PE	Swim	Library
N	Tu		M
YR	W	Th	M
Y1	M & Th		Th
Y2	F	M	W
Y3	M & W		M
Y4	F	W	Tu
Y5	M & W		Th
Y6	W	F	Th
Forest School	Year 3: 29/04, 06/05, 13/05, 20/05 Year 6: 03/06, 10/06, 17/06, 24/06 Year R: 01/07, 08/07, 15/07, 22/07		

# REMINDERS

- **Reporting absence** - please report all absence to the school office by 9am either by telephone (we have a voicemail facility) or send an email to: [info@ststephens.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@ststephens.surrey.sch.uk)
- **Dogs** - dogs are not allowed on the school site unless prearranged and risk-assessed by our Senior Leadership Team. Parents are also requested not to wait directly outside the pedestrian gate entrances with dogs as this can be frightening/unsafe for children. Many thanks for your cooperation.
- **Trip consent forms** - please can you return any outstanding consent forms for upcoming trips to the office as soon as possible.
- **Swimming** - payments for Summer term can be made on Arbor as well as any outstanding payments for previous terms.

Please can ALL parents log in to their Arbor account to ensure their contact details are up to date, as well as any medical or dietary needs.

Please also check all consents are completed.

*Payments can be made on Arbor*

*Please click here to login*

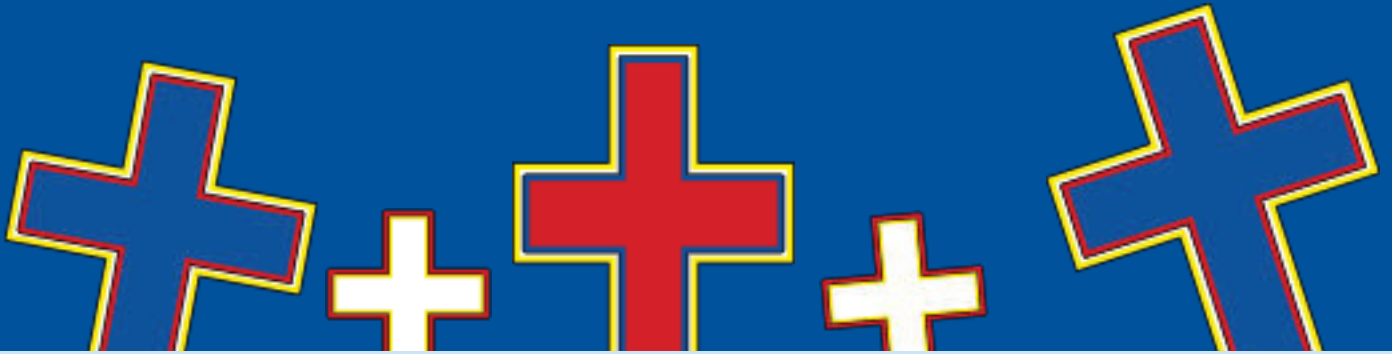
*Click on 'Accounts' and then 'Meals' to pay for school dinners.*



*Click on 'Activities' and then 'Trips' for all other payments.*

*Our value of the month is:*

# Compassion



## *St. Stephen's Church Events*

**Tuesdays  
10am-12am**

**St. Stephen's Warm Space**  
Coffee from 10am  
Books and jigsaws to buy or exchange  
Games to play

**Wednesdays  
2pm**

**Paracise**

Low intensity exercise involving stretching and balance exercises to music. A very friendly group who stay afterwards for a cup of tea and a natter. £4 per class.

Contact: Suzy  
07710 413409

**Thursdays  
9am-12pm**

**Mums United**

Weekly baby and toddler group. A chance to share and chat with other mums. Refreshments provided.

Contact: Cathy  
07708 104214

**Saturdays  
10:30am**

**Zera Avraham Messianic  
Synagogue**

Shabbat services held in the Hall and broadcast online.

Contact: Rabbi  
07919 043179

**St. Stephen's Church  
Hall Hire**

£25 a session  
(morning, afternoon or evening)

No bouncy castles but toys are available. Small kitchen and toilets, wifi, sound system and projection facilities are available.

Contact: Karen Jackson  
01342 894669 / 07713 207397

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month  
2pm-5pm**

**Crafters**

Learn a new craft, need crafting advice or bring your own project. Enjoy a chat and refreshments.

Contact: Carol  
01342 893189

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month  
8pm-9pm**

**South Godstone WI**

Contact: Maria  
07485 014479

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month**

**Surrey Scale Model Club**

All types of models made.

Contact: Clive  
07949 127841

**For more information: <https://www.godstonebenefice.org.uk/ststephens>**



# ***June Merit Awards***

Congratulations to all pupils who received a merit award in May.

## ***Reception***

Oliver  
Connie  
Willow  
Benjamin  
Freya  
Ellie Rose  
Amiya  
Elliot

## ***Year 1***

Nancy  
Isla  
Luca  
TJ  
Winnie E.  
Louie M.  
Bonnie  
Rowan

## ***Year 2***

Chester  
Rory  
Dexter  
Olivia  
Charlie  
Rhys  
Elizabeth  
Freddie T.

## ***Year 3***

Sebastian  
Lucy  
Eva  
Joseph  
Max  
Oliver W.

## ***Year 4***

Betsy-Belle  
Braiden  
Lauren  
Matilda  
Amy  
Tyler  
Anthony  
Dudley  
Farley  
Isabella

## ***Year 5***

Ava  
Brent  
Tristan  
David  
Skyler  
Alicia  
Vanessa  
Travis

## ***Year 6***

Olivia  
Lanna  
Alfie  
Momina  
Finley  
Noah  
Logan

## ***St. Stephen's Way Awards***

Ivy Y1  
Oliver D. Y2  
Albie Y  
Oliver Y6  
Seren Y6



# St. Stephen's School Term Dates 2024-2025

September Autumn Term 2024						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January Spring Term 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May Summer Term 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



**School Holidays**



**Public Holidays**



**INSET Days**

## Bank and Public Holidays

Christmas Day - 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Boxing Day - 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024

New Year's Day - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Good Friday - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Easter Monday - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Early May Bank Holiday - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Spring Bank Holiday - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Summer Bank Holiday - 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025



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## Helping parents to understand the changes to Penalty Notices

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines that may be issued for term time leave and recorded by schools **after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

### Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms.

**Unauthorised Absence:** We may apply to the local authority for a penalty notice if there are **10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period**.

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

### Third Offence

**(and any further offences within 3 years)**

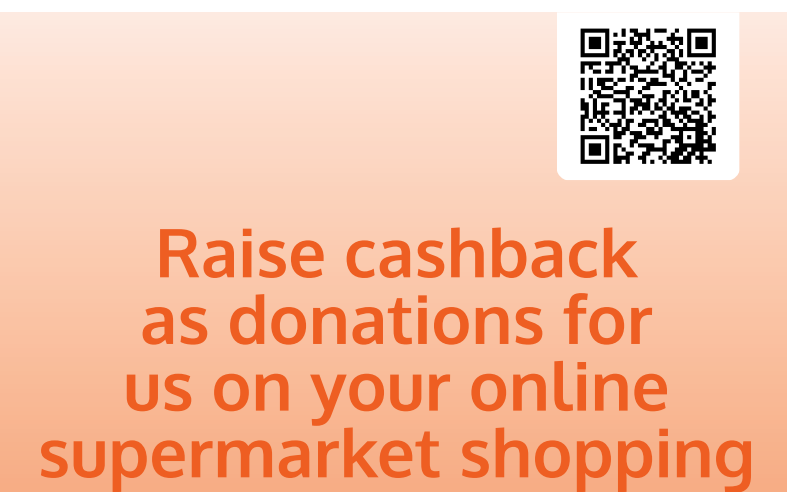
The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.



# Generate FREE donations for us when you shop your favourite retailers online

[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school)

Simply visit the above link to get started



# Raise cashback as donations for us on your online supermarket shopping



[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school)

Simply visit the above link to get started



# Generate FREE donations for us when you book your next getaway

[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school)

Simply visit the above link to get started



# Raise a free donation for us on your next tasty treat

[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-stephens-primary-school)

Simply visit the above link to find out more







# SPORTS DAY

**FREE ENTRY!** OPEN TO EVERYONE - FRIENDS, FAMILY & NEIGHBOURS FROM **3.30PM**

**Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**FOLLOWING  
SPORTS DAY**

BE AWARE SOME "INFLATABLES" MAY MAKE A SURPRISE EARLY ENTRY DURING SPORTS DAY ...

SPORTS DAY SURPRISE EVENT  
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY

FORBES  
&  
LOMAX

**FAIRGROUND RIDES FULL BAR**  
**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES STALLS**  
**GIANT INFLATABLES**  
**FOOD ICE-CREAM & MORE**



**£1 a ticket  
£10 for x15 tickets**



# RAFFLE

**Click here to buy tickets in advance**

## LOADS OF PRIZES TO BE WON!!

PRIZES INCLUDE THE BELOW ... with more to come!

**CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES** = x4 tickets for 25th July

[courtesy of Sam's Travel Page]

**BRITISH WILDLIFE CENTRE** = family ticket

**GODSTONE FARM** = x2 adult x2 child tickets

**PRIORY FARM** = Discovery Farm family ticket

**LITTLE FLOWER GIRL** = £30 voucher

**LES DELICES DE PAMELA** = £50 voucher

**WACKY KINGDOM** = £20 voucher

**SUPREME SPORTS CAMPS** = £40 voucher

**BEAUTY TREATMENT** = Beauty by Hannah F

**CUT & BLOW-DRY** = by Emma Cosh

**THE ENTERTAINER** = £15 voucher

**EMERALD SCHOOL OF DANCE** = free half term of lessons

**TRAIN WITH KENDRA** = free workout class or PT session

**MUM & BABY TOILETRY HAMPER** = from Lydia House

**Winners will be drawn at Summer Fair on Friday 18th July and contacted thereafter**





SGSCA INVITES YOU TO

# SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER

24 JULY

FROM 3.30PM

FREE ENTRY FOR THE BELOW IN  
THE HALL

- BOUNCY CASTLE
- SWEET STALL
- TOMBOLA
- DISCO
- ICE POLES

DJ ON THE TERRACE

PICNICS WELCOME



[www.yourspacetherapies.org](http://www.yourspacetherapies.org)



## Summer Holiday Mindfulness Pony Day's for Kids!

**Explore Calm, Connection, and Confidence with Our Gentle Ponies!**

**Dates:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Time:** 9am- 2pm

**Location:** Ponies 'n' Kids, Eaton Thorne Stables, Woodmancote, Nr Henfield, W.Sussex, BN5 9BH

*Join us for a magical day designed especially for children ages 5-11! Dive into a world of peace, friendship, and mindfulness, all while experiencing the calming presence of our adorable ponies.*

### Your Child's Special Day with the Ponies will include:



Mindfulness Time with Ponies, Pony Care, Riding and Mounted Games and Mindful Nature Art.

**Spaces are limited to 15 children per session! Please visit the Eventbrite links below now to ensure your spot. *Once your booking is confirmed we will contact you to gather further information.***

**[Friday 8th August Mindfulness Pony Day. Book now!](#)**

**[Monday 11th August Mindfulness Pony Day. Book now!](#)**

**[Monday 18th August Mindfulness pony Day. Book now!](#)**

**[Monday 1st September Mindfulness Pony Day. Book now!](#)**

**Contact:** [bookings@yourspacetherapies.org](mailto:bookings@yourspacetherapies.org)

**Cost:** £140

*Join us for an unforgettable experience that combines mindfulness and pony magic!*

