

St. Stephen's

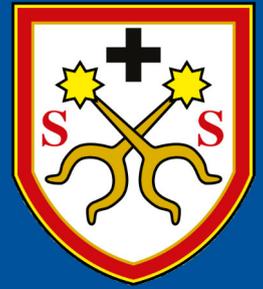
Church of England Primary School

Hunters Chase, South Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8HR

Tel: 01342 892 219

Website: www.ststephens.surrey.sch.uk

Email: info@ststephens.surrey.sch.uk



NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to warmly welcome all of our new families to St Stephen's and to welcome back all of our existing families. It has been lovely to see how excited and enthusiastic the children have returned to school – as one child told me, 'It feels like it's been 10,000 days since I've seen my friends!'

With all of the learning opportunities ahead of them this year, they are right to be enthusiastic. This year, we have tweaked our curriculum to ensure that children get the most out of each and every subject area and we have sourced some great texts to support our Literacy learning this year. Class Teachers will share the learning for the term ahead as well as homework and year group expectations in the upcoming Coffee Afternoons next week.

The start of the year is a good chance to remind families of the ways that we communicate and keep families up to date with all that is going on at school. All children have a home-school communication book that is used to record reading and is checked every day; messages from home can be written in the home-school communication book. You are also welcome to email teachers with queries and concerns (these emails will be read and responded to within standard working hours). Teachers are available for chats at the end of day after the class has been dismissed (please try and avoid morning chats as this takes the focus away from the children in class). In terms of us communicating with families, our school website has a 'calendar' tab that links to the school calendar where you can see all that is planned for so far in the school diary (<https://www.ststephens.surrey.sch.uk/calendar-1>). Our Parent Reps also send regular reminders of events to class WhatsApp groups. We send out a monthly newsletter with whole-school updates and Tapestry is updated regularly with individual and class-specific updates. We hold two formal Parents Evenings (in November and March) where families receive individual feedback on their child's progress and achievement and an informal Parent Evening in July to celebrate children's learning following their written report. Our Parent Reps support communication through the year and there are termly meetings with the Senior Leadership Team to address queries as needed.

Two further start of the year reminders:

- If children have pierced ears, they need to wear small studs. I have seen some very large earrings this week which are not in line with our uniform policy. Please also ensure that earrings are removed for PE lessons.
- Good attendance supports children to thrive academically and socially. Please avoid booking holidays during term time – as a school we are not allowed to authorise them and we hope that you are able to find a time to holiday together within the 12 weeks of holidays during the school year.

This morning we congratulated our Year 6s who have taken on the responsibilities of being Prefects and House Captains. Well done to Sidney and Mila who have been named as our Head Boy and Head Girl for the year. We are looking forward to seeing our Year 6s' leadership skills develop as they serve our community.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable weekend of late summer sun,

Mrs Amanda Blackburn

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

- 11th - PTA General Meeting 6pm
- 13th - KS1 Coffee Afternoon 3:15pm
- 14th - KS2 Coffee Afternoon 3:15pm
- 18th - Cross Country
- 21st - Reception Coffee Afternoon 3:15pm
- 22nd - Jeans for Genes Day - £1 donation
- 28th - Flu Vaccination YR-6

October

- 6th - Y6 Class Assembly
- 11th - Individual Pupil Photos
- 13th - Y4 Class Assembly
- 20th - INSET Day
- 23rd to 27th - Half Term

Activities Timetable

Autumn				
	PE	Swim	Forest School	Library
N	Tu			M
YR	M & Th			M
Y1	M & F			Th
Y2	M & W			Th
Y3	W	M		W
Y4	Tu	F	Tu A1	W
Y5	W	Th	Tu A2	Th
Y6	Th	W		W

REMINDERS

- **Reporting absence** - please report all absence to the school office by 10am either by telephone (we have a voicemail facility) or send an email to: info@ststephens.surrey.sch.uk
- **School Packed Lunch** - these are continuing while the weather permits. Should you wish to make any changes to your child's current meal preference, please email the school office.
- **Dogs** - dogs are not allowed on the school site unless pre-arranged 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 Autumn 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.



St. Stephen's School Term Dates 2023-2024

September Autumn Term 2023						
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 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	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	29			

March						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
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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 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	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
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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	31	

 School Holidays

 Public Holidays

 INSET Days

Bank and Public Holidays

Christmas Day - 25th December 2023

Boxing Day - 26th December 2023

New Year's Day - 1st January 2024

Good Friday - 29th March 2024

Easter Monday - 1st April 2024

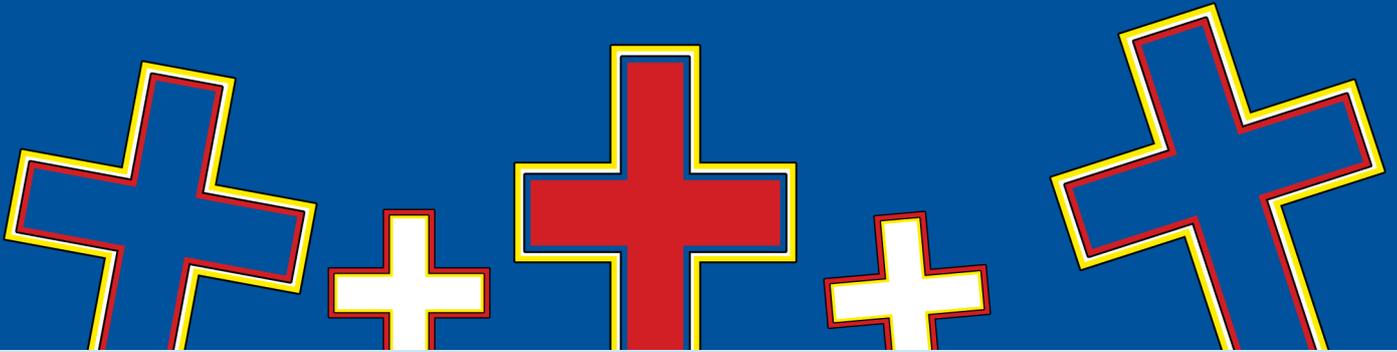
Early May Bank Holiday - 6th May 2024

Spring Bank Holiday - 27th May

Summer Bank Holiday - 26th August

Our value of the month is:

Endurance



St. Stephen's Church Events

Mondays
9am-11am

St Stephen's Infant School Mums

Have a coffee and a natter with toys available to entertain your small companions. Pre-loved school uniform available.

Contact: Carol Cryer
01342 892191

Tuesdays
10am-12am

St. Stephen's Warm Space

Coffee from 10am

Soup from noon

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

£20 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

1st 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

2nd Tuesday of month
8pm-9pm

South Godstone WI

Contact: Maria
07485 014479

3rd Tuesday of month
7pm-10pm

South Godstone WI Crafters

Come for a natter and bring your own project.

Contact: Anne
01883 743361

3rd 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>

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

1. Pupils identified by police and Inclusion Officers (formerly Education Welfare Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.

2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).

• **Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

• **The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.**

• In such cases the Headteacher/Governing Body must decide whether there are exceptional circumstances. They may request that the Local Authority issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 7 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 6 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Inclusion Officer.

Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the ***first five days of each exclusion***. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice

The amount payable for a Penalty Notice issued in any of the above circumstances is currently £60 if paid within **21** days of receipt of the Notice, rising to £120 if paid after **21** days but within **28** days.

If the Penalty Notice is not paid, the local Authority must consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court for the offence for which the Notice was originally issued.

Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.

If there are two parents, and two children incur unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

Advice and support is available from an Inclusion Officer by contacting your local Education Office as follows :-

North West - Tel: 01483 518130 South West - Tel: 01483 517179
North East - Tel: 01372 833588 South East - Tel: 01737 737777