



Headteacher: Mr C Lavin

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Tuesday 1st September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back to a New School Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and have enjoyed spending time together as families. As we prepare to open our doors for another school year, I wanted to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to St Stephen's and extend a very warm welcome to all the children and families joining our school community for the first time.

There is always something incredibly special about the beginning of a new school year. New classrooms, new teachers, new friendships and new opportunities lie ahead, and we are really looking forward to welcoming the children back into school.

Looking Ahead to 2026–2027 - Last year was another incredibly busy and successful year for St Stephen's, and I remain extremely proud of everything our children and staff achieved together. However, as a school, we are never satisfied with standing still.

Throughout the summer, the leadership team has been working hard to review our priorities and plans for the year ahead. Our focus remains firmly on ensuring that every child receives the very best possible education and has every opportunity to succeed.

Our school vision continues to sit at the heart of everything we do: **Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.**

This year, we will continue to have high expectations for achievement across the curriculum, with a particularly strong focus on reading and developing confident, fluent readers. We will also continue our work to ensure that our curriculum is ambitious, inclusive and provides children with a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom.

Alongside academic achievement, we remain committed to developing happy, confident and respectful young people who demonstrate our **CARES values of Compassion, Ambition, Rejoice, Excellence and Service** in everything they do.

Attendance – Every Day Matters - One of our most important priorities this year will continue to be improving attendance.

Quite simply, children cannot benefit fully from everything St Stephen's has to offer if they are not in school. Even relatively small amounts of absence accumulate quickly and can have a significant impact on children's learning and progress.

Our expectation is that children attend school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so. We ask all parents and carers to work closely with us to ensure that children arrive at school every day and on time.

Where attendance begins to become a concern, we will contact families early so that we can work together and provide support where needed.



St Stephen's RC Primary School, A Voluntary Academy

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Our three school rules remain simple and consistent: **Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe.**

We want St Stephen's to be a calm, happy and purposeful place where every child feels safe and can learn.

We will continue to place a strong emphasis on positive relationships, kindness, respect and taking responsibility for our actions. We ask parents and carers to support us by reinforcing these expectations at home and by working positively with school whenever difficulties arise.

Working Together - One of the greatest strengths of St Stephen's is our community.

The relationship between home and school is incredibly important, and we want parents and carers to feel that they are partners in their child's education. There will be lots of opportunities throughout the year for you to come into school, celebrate children's achievements and take part in the wider life of St Stephen's.

If you have a concern, please speak to us. In most cases, your child's class teacher should always be the first point of contact. Our pastoral and leadership team are also available when additional support is needed.

All we ask is that conversations between home and school remain respectful and focused on achieving the best possible outcome for our children.

Our Mission - As a Catholic school, our mission continues to guide everything we do:

"Love one another as I have loved you." – John 13:34

We want every child who walks through the doors of St Stephen's to know that they are valued, cared for and capable of achieving great things.

There is so much to look forward to this year. There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way, but there will also be countless moments of achievement, celebration, laughter and joy.

To our returning families, welcome back. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

To those joining St Stephen's for the first time, welcome to our school family. We hope that you and your children will very quickly feel at home.

And most importantly, to our children: we cannot wait to see you again and hear all about your summer adventures. Come back ready to work hard, be kind, aim high and make 2026–2027 our best year yet!

I look forward to seeing you all on the gate in the morning.

Mr Connor Lavin
Headteacher

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