Date: Friday 16th October 2026

ST ELPHEGE'S RC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



With God, all things are possible...

UPCOMING EVENTS

The month of October is the month of Our Lady.

Children will be praying the rosary each morning focussing on the different special times in the lives of Jesus and Mary.

Infant parents are welcome to join their children in the Mother Teresa Hall to pray and a timetable will be sent out to you from the school office.

Rosary beads are available from the school office for 50p.

ATTENDANCE

If you are in any doubt about whether to send your child to school because of sickness, the school office are always happy to discuss this with you. Every child must aim to have a **minimum of 96%.**
You can keep track of your child's attendance through the Arbor Parent Portal.

Infants	Attendance	Juniors	Attendance
Nursery	98.1% ★	Year 3	95.6%
Reception	97.1%	Year 4	97.3% ★
Year 1	95.5%	Year 5	94.6%
Year 2	96.7%	Year 6	95.1%

ATTENDANCE

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Elphege's, we know that regular school attendance is essential for your child's academic progress, social development, and overall well-being. Every day in school counts, and we want to ensure every pupil has the best possible opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our School Attendance Target: **96% and Above**

Our target for every pupil across the school is an attendance rate of 96% or above. While an attendance figure like 90% might sound high at first glance, it actually equates to missing around 19 days of education across the academic year—which is nearly **four full weeks of lost learning**.

To help you track your child's attendance profile throughout the year, we will be sending regular attendance emails to all parents. This will provide you with clear, up-to-date visibility of your child's attendance percentage. You can also track this live on the Arbor App.

100%	Perfect school attendance
98%-99.9%	Excellent attendance - keep up the good work
96%-97.9%	If attendance falls into this category, the child is near to falling below the schools' minimum expected standard for attendance
95%-95.9%	The child has fallen below the schools' minimum expected standard for attendance and needs to ensure that future attendance enables them to rise above 96%
93%-94.9%	Children who fall into this category are at risk of becoming Persistently Absent. (See 90%)
90.1%-92.9%	A recent DfE-linked study shows that if a child misses around **10 days of school in a year**, their chances of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths at the end of primary school **drop by about a quarter** compared to children who attend almost every day. Children who attend **95–100% of the time** are much more likely to succeed than those who miss a few weeks.
90% PERSISTENT ABSENTEE	The child is classed as **Persistently Absent.** Research suggests that a child who falls into this category has a much slimmer chance of meeting the expected standard in line with their peers. The DfE research states that **60% of pupils who fell into the Persistently Absent category did not reach their end of year targets**. This created a learning gap which grew year on year if no action was taken.
Below 90% PERSISTENT ABSENTEE	Children who miss more than 1 in 10 days of school are at much higher risk of falling behind at primary school (KS2) and secondary school (GCSEs), and this can affect their future opportunities. The earlier it starts, the worse it gets. Missing school regularly from a young age adds up over time, creating gaps that are hard to close. It's not "just a few days." Missing more than 10% of school means losing critical lessons, peer learning, and practise — every absence matters. Poor attendance is a major barrier to success. **Act early and improve attendance**. Research from the Department for Education shows that pupils with attendance above 95% are significantly more likely to reach expected standards at KS2 and GCSEs compared with pupils below 90% — even small improvements in attendance make a real difference. (DfE 2025) *'The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year';DfE; Research Report; March 2025* Children can feel isolated as they fall behind their peers, finding learning more difficult, leading to a dislike of school and further low attendance. This is a cycle which is difficult to stop.
Below 80% SEVERELY ABSENT	Children who miss more than 1 in 5 days of school will almost certainly fall behind at primary school (KS2) and secondary school (GCSEs), and this can have long-term consequences for future education and work. The earlier it starts, the greater the damage. Persistent absence from a young age creates large gaps in learning that are extremely difficult to close. It's much more than a few days. Missing over 20% of school means losing critical lessons, peer learning, and opportunities to practise new skills — the impact accumulates exceptionally quickly. Other factors matter, but attendance is key. Even with strong home support, missing this much school is a major barrier to success. Immediate action is essential. DfE research shows pupils with attendance below 80% are far less likely to reach expected standards at KS2 and GCSEs compared to pupils with 95%+ attendance. Severe absence dramatically reduces a child's chances of success. (DfE 2025)

Year 6 Admissions Reminder

The application portal to apply for secondary school is now **OPEN**.
The deadline for applications is **31st October 2026.**
Applications **MUST** be submitted by this date otherwise your child will not be allocated a High School. Please log into your **E-ADMISSIONS account** and submit your application ASAP.
If you have any queries please contact the school office.

CHANGE OF LUNCH MENU - THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER

OPTION 1 - SAUSAGE ROLL (HALAL OPTION AVAILABLE)

OPTION 2 - MEXICAN BEAN ROLL



AS THE WEATHER CHANGES PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A COAT IN SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES.

Poppy Appeal

You can buy a Poppy from the school office in the run up to Remembrance Day.



LOST PROPERTY - LOST PROPERTY

New lost property boxes are now in place around the school grounds.

Infant playground - Gazebo
Junior playground - End of the large modular building

Any named items will be on hooks, all other items will be in the black boxes.

All remaining items will be disposed of at the end of term.

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

THE Wednesday WORD
Good News for Families

SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL
WITH SCHOOLS,
PARENTS & FAMILIES

The Pharisees devised a plan to trap Jesus. They sent some of their followers who said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are an honest man and teach God's way with honesty. We also know that you are not afraid of anybody; someone's rank means nothing to you. Tell us, then, what you think about this question. Is it right to pay tax to the Emperor Caesar or not?" Knowing what they were up to, Jesus said, Why do you set this trap for me? Show me the money you pay the tax with." They handed him a coin. He said to them, "Whose head is on this coin and whose name?" "Caesar's," they replied. "So then", he said to the them, "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

Adapted from Matthew 22:15-21

FLYERS


MISS MCKENNA'S FUNDRAISER FOR THE ROYAL MARSDEN
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY MUM AND DAD, I'M TAKING ON A 5-DAY TREK THROUGH THE JORDANIAN DESERT (18TH OCTOBER - 25TH OCTOBER 2026) TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE ROYAL MARSDEN CANCER CHARITY, SUPPORTING LIFE-SAVING CANCER CARE AND RESEARCH.
YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP THE ROYAL MARSDEN CONTINUE THEIR LIFE-SAVING WORK


WILSON'S SCHOOL
JUNIOR PARKRUN
Celebrate our 2nd Birthday!
1st November 2026, 9:00 am
Wilson's School, Mollison Drive, SM6 9JW
junior parkrun is a FREE, 2k run, walk or jog for children aged 4 - 14
Bring your friends and family for a morning of fun, fitness, and community spirit!
parkrun.org.uk/wilsonsschool-juniors/
Please register with parkrun before attending (details on website)


GAELIC FOOTBALL
OPEN SESSIONS
BOYS & GIRLS 5YRS – 14YR


THE LITTLE RECYCLERS
SCHOOL FUNDRAISING
YOUR COLLECTION IS ARRANGED ON:
6 NOVEMBER
FRIDAY
FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM
WE ACCEPT
Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
Shoes (paired)
Bags
Hats & scarves
Belts
Fashion accessories
Swimwear, lingerie
Jewellery
Perfumes
WE DONT ACCEPT
Uniforms
Traditional clothing
Duvets & pillows
Single shoes
Toys, stationery
Bric-a-brac & electrical item
Books, CDs, DVDs
Workwear
Carpets, rugs, mats, curtain
Hygiene items, diapers
Linen & towels
PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!
RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES
hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk · 0330 043 0550 · thelittlerecyclers.c