

February 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our February newsletter. It's been another busy half term at St Silas CE Primary School, and I hope you've enjoyed keeping up-to-date with everything that your children have been getting up to via our Instagram. This is the best place to get all the latest news, pics and videos, so please follow us @stsilasschool. I hope you and your family have a restful half term, and I look forward welcoming you all back to school on Monday 24th February. Next half term will be full of excitement as we prepare for Easter and Eid. We really hope you will join us to celebrate these exciting and special times.

Richard Morris, Headteacher

SIAMS INSPECTION

You will probably be aware that we had our SIAMS Church School inspection earlier this week. We are still waiting for the official report to be published, but I can tell you that the inspector was overwhelmingly positive about our school. Listening to her feedback made me feel extremely proud to be the headteacher of such a fantastic school. I will share the final report with you once it is published after half term.

PARENT GOVERNORS

We are currently looking for two new parent governors to be part of our Local Academy Council. Parents have an important role and a unique insight, and we would love to hear from you if you are interested in the role. Our Local Academy Council meets 4 times each year, so the commitment is not too much. Details have been sent on Parent App. Nomination forms are also available from the school office. The closing date for nominations is Friday 28th February 2025.

THE BIG 5

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our Big 5 Parent Survey. The results are now in! Your views are really important to us, so I will look closely at the results over the coming weeks.

PARKING

The safety of our children is extremely important. I am concerned that our children can not always cross the road safely on their way to and from school due to cars that are parked illegally on zig zag markings and double yellow lines. We are working with local Police Community Support Officers to ensure that the streets around school are safe for our children, but I would ask that all of you who drive to school think about your parking and whether it is putting someone else's child at risk. Please do not park on zig zag markings or double yellow lines - this is selfish and illegal. This may mean setting off a few minutes earlier and parking slightly further away from school. Thank you for your support.

INSTAGRAM



For the very latest news and loads of pictures, follow us on social media. Find us [@stsilasschool](https://www.instagram.com/stsilasschool).

ATTENDANCE

Our current attendance is 94.8%. This has dropped by 1.6% this half term, and is below the government's target of 97%. 15% of pupils are currently classed as persistently absent - this means that their attendance is below 90%. Every day of school that is missed makes a huge difference to your child's education, so please make sure that your child is in school and on-time unless there is a valid reason. Please note that medical evidence may be requested in the case of absence due to illness. This is standard procedure. Please also avoid making any routine or non-urgent appointments for your child during school time. Thank you for your support.

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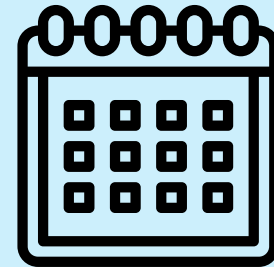
GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK

It's always sad to say goodbye, and today we are saying good bye to two members of the team who have been part of the St Silas family for a number of years. Muna Ali currently works in Class 3. Before that, she was part of the team in Early Years, and before that (between 2004 and 2011), she was a pupil here at St Silas. It has been great to see her flourish as she has gone from being a pupil to a valued member of staff, and we wish Muna all the very best as she starts a new chapter of her life. We're also very sad to be saying goodbye to one of our Year 6 teachers, Hannah Adams. Hannah joined St Silas almost three years ago and she has been a fantastic member of our family. Her new school are very lucky to be getting her. We'd like to say a huge thank you to both of them, and we wish them all the best for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to Noor Saleh and Nicole Campbell from our Early Years team who have both recently given birth to beautiful baby girls. We hope you're managing to get some sleep, and we can't wait to meet your little ones!

DIARY DATES



Here is a list of diary dates to help you plan ahead. Please look out for more details about these events on the school website, ParentApp and Instagram.

14.02.25	End of spring term 1
24.02.25	Start of spring term 2
12.03.25	Parliament trip
14.03.25	Parent / carer coffee morning
19.03.25	Book Fair week (until 25.03.25)
26.03.25	Iftar celebration
03.04.25	Easter service (9:00am)
04.04.25	End of spring term 2 (school closes at 1:00pm)
22.04.25	Start of summer term 1
05.05.25	Bank Holiday - school closed
12.05.25	KS2 SATs week (Year 6)
22.05.25	Parliament trip
23.05.25	End of summer term 1
02.06.25	INSET day - school closed
03.06.25	Start of summer term 2
22.07.25	End of summer term 2 (school closes at 1:00pm)

TERM TIME ABSENCE

Please plan your family holidays around the school term dates. These are published on our website. We cannot authorise any absence from school during term time. If your child is absent from school for 5 days, you will receive a fine from the local authority. If your child is absent from school for an extended period of time, they may also lose their place at school. Please do not expect school to authorise any absences during term time. We have to follow new statutory guidance from the Department for Education. Thank you for your support.

STAFFING UPDATE

Mr Reid and Miss Seaward will be moving from Year 5 to Year 6 after half term, and Mrs Lovett will be joining us to teach Year 5. Mrs Lovett has worked at school before; you will remember her as Miss Perkins. Mrs Lovett is returning to work after her maternity leave, and she is very excited to be coming back to St Silas.

GO GREEN



Sustainability is one of the Rainbow Trust's strategic priorities. As part of this, we are trying to reduce food waste and the use of single-use plastic in our kitchen and dinner hall. You can help! Please don't send your child to school with single-use bottles of water. Please use a refillable water bottle instead. Little changes can make a big difference. Please help us to look after our planet.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Website:

stsilasprimaryschool.co.uk

E-mail:

stsilasoffice@remat.org.uk

Phone:

0151 727 6067



[@stsilasschool](https://www.instagram.com/stsilasschool)

St Silas CE Primary School is part of the Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust.
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