



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

We Model What We Value



School News February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic and eventful term it has been! Even with plenty of rainy playtimes and a few challenges along the way, our children have enjoyed a huge range of exciting opportunities and memorable experiences. One of the highlights has been our local Geography field trips, where pupils explored the community with curiosity and enthusiasm, proudly identifying key geographical features and discovering just how much there is to learn right on our doorstep!



It has also been a term packed with enrichment and achievement across the school. Year 5 pupils impressed us all during their Bikeability training, our teams represented the school brilliantly at football tournaments, and we were thrilled to welcome an incredible visit from the planetarium (more on this later!). We have enjoyed inspiring assemblies led by Year 6, seen pupils take part in Maths workshops at St Edmund's and Whitstable Junior School, and hosted valuable fire safety talks — just some of the many opportunities that have helped make this such a vibrant and successful term for our children.

Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney Headteachers

Some pupils in Year 5&6 were selected to take part in a collage art work shop with local artist Molly Hawkins. Molly is working with local schools and will be using the children's collages as inspiration for a mural in the local Hackington Place Tunnel. She is working with local schools in the area.



SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD

BE THE CHANGE



NO TO RACISM



We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Harmer after over 15 years at our school — she will be retiring at half term, and we would like to thank her for all the kindness and support she has given to our school. As a wonderful finale, along with Mrs Mann she took our choir to the Young Voices concert at the O2. What a brilliant way to celebrate your time here Mrs Harmer we will miss you!

In preparation for our *Show Racism the Red Card* workshops next term, children in Years 4 and 5 will be exploring some key themes ahead of their sessions. They have been learning about identity, culture, religion and immigration so that they are ready to engage thoughtfully in these important discussions.

As a school representing more than 40 nationalities and languages, as well as a wide range of religions and cultural backgrounds, we are committed to ensuring that every member of our community feels respected, valued and welcome. We do not tolerate any form of racism, and we continue to teach our pupils why it is important to stand up against discrimination in all its forms.

During our recent *No Outsiders* assembly, we talked about how the Equality Act protects groups from discrimination, while also recognising that this does not eliminate racism entirely. We looked at football as an example of an activity that can bring people together, celebrating diversity and shared belonging. We are asking all the children to wear red on Monday, the 23rd, to show racism the red card.

A trip to space!

This term for our Yr 5 children, a mobile planetarium visited the school. It was a large inflatable dome with fascinating views of space projected onto its 'sky'. The children were taken on a journey through our solar system and beyond. It made a wonderful conclusion to our science topic of space and was much enjoyed by all of the children.



Yr 5 Pupil voice about the experience

I loved the way the ceiling of the planetarium turned into the sky - but with extra-big stars and planets.

My favourite bit was when the special teacher told us all about [Jupiter's moon] Europa. She explained how there might be life in its oceans, which are underneath the surface.

It was so cool - just like looking up at the sky except that you could see all the planets and moons in detail. A bit like looking through a really powerful telescope. I loved it!

I was so excited when the show started. I've never been to a planetarium but now I want to go again! I learnt loads about all the planets and space.



Road Safety and Parking



We are working hard as a school to try and ensure that parents and children understand the importance of safe parking as well as the benefits of walking to school. We are working with KCC and have developed a new Travel Plan, which can be found on our website. As part of our renewed parking and safer streets focus we have:

- Met with local councillors to discuss the issues of safety and parking around the school.
- Surveyed all the children and staff in the school and set targets to improve walking/ scooting and biking initiatives to reduce parking congestion.
- Held an assembly led by KCC on Road Safety and how to use our senses to make safe decisions when crossing roads and making sure that you are visible as a pedestrian to oncoming cars.
- Met with local police and enforcement officers in terms of us understanding the issues and working with parents to prevent them from parking unsafely.
- Planning how we can increase our initiatives around walking/ biking to school and incentivising this – more on this next term!

Parking around **SSJS** is closely monitored to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, families, staff, and local residents. The “**School Keep Clear**” **zig-zag lines** outside the school must not be used for stopping or parking during the times shown on the signage, including for brief drop-offs or collections. Local authority parking enforcement officers may issue **Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)** where restrictions are not followed. In more serious cases — such as dangerous or obstructive parking — police involvement may occur and could result in **penalty points on a driving licence**. The SSJS community kindly asks all drivers to park considerately and use appropriate designated areas to help maintain a safe environment for everyone at the start and end of the school day. We have had incidents where pupils have come close to being injured and this is not acceptable. We also need to consider our local residents and park respectfully- ideally parking further away and walking into school.



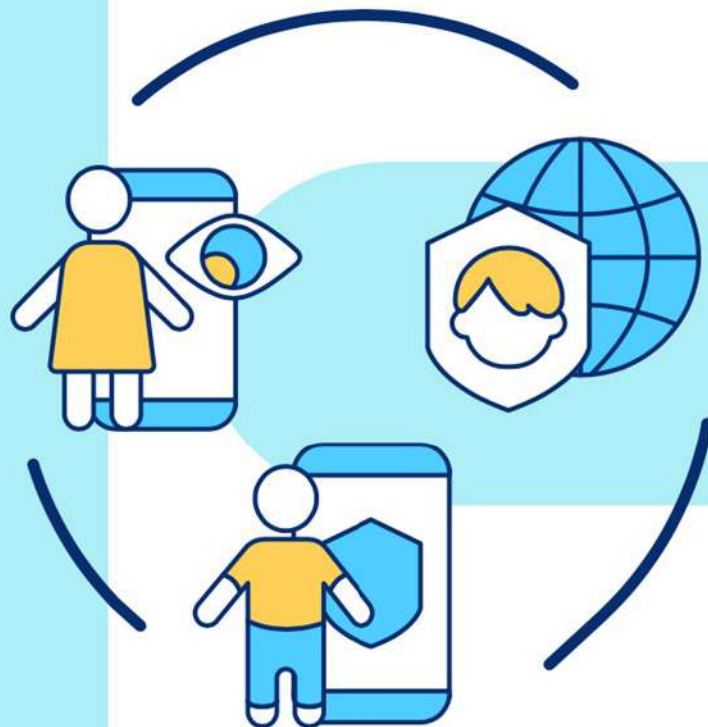
The session is via
Microsoft Teams.
Scan the QR Code to join
the meeting or email:
events@turnerschools.com
for the meeting link.



In partnership with
St Stephen's Junior School

IS YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE?

JOIN AN ONLINE PARENT SAFETY AWARENESS SESSION WITH PREVENT



MONDAY 9TH MARCH 5:00PM - 6:00PM

**Parent Online Safety Awareness
delivered by the Kent and Medway
Prevent team.**

In this one hour session a member from the Prevent team will look at how to keep your child safe in the online space, the importance of monitoring online use and how to teach children and young people skills of critical thinking, fact checking and reporting worrying online content.

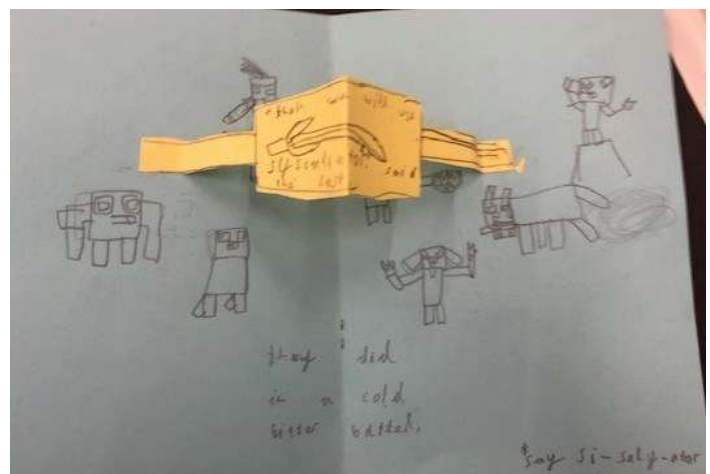
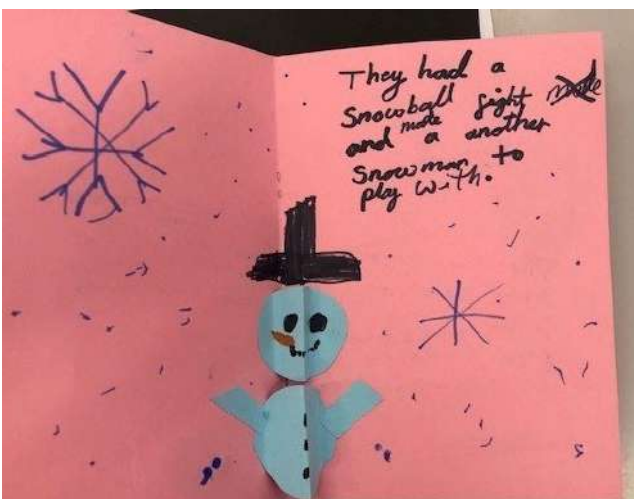
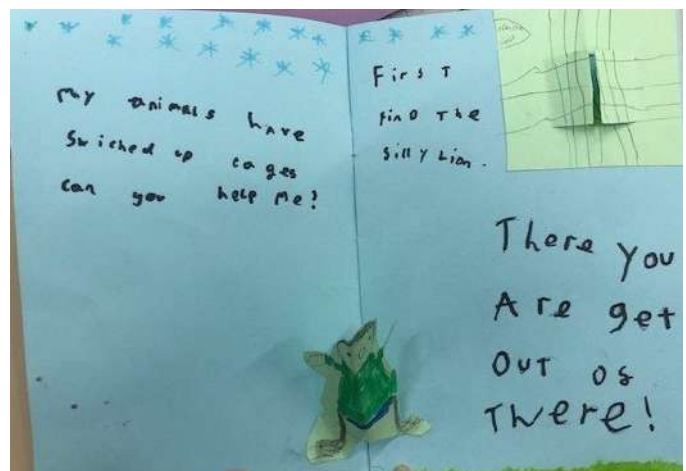
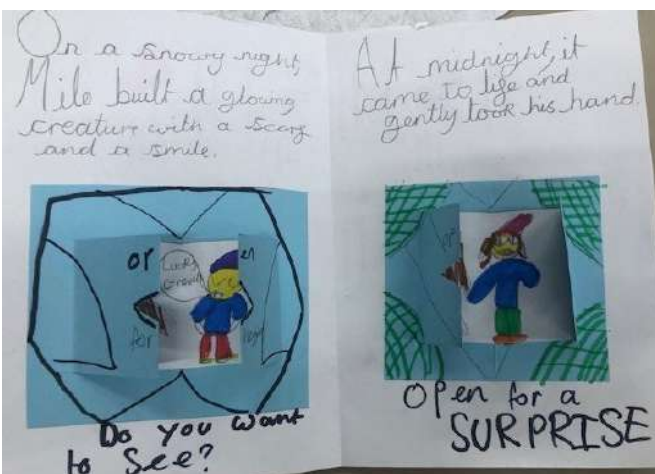
GOOD WORK

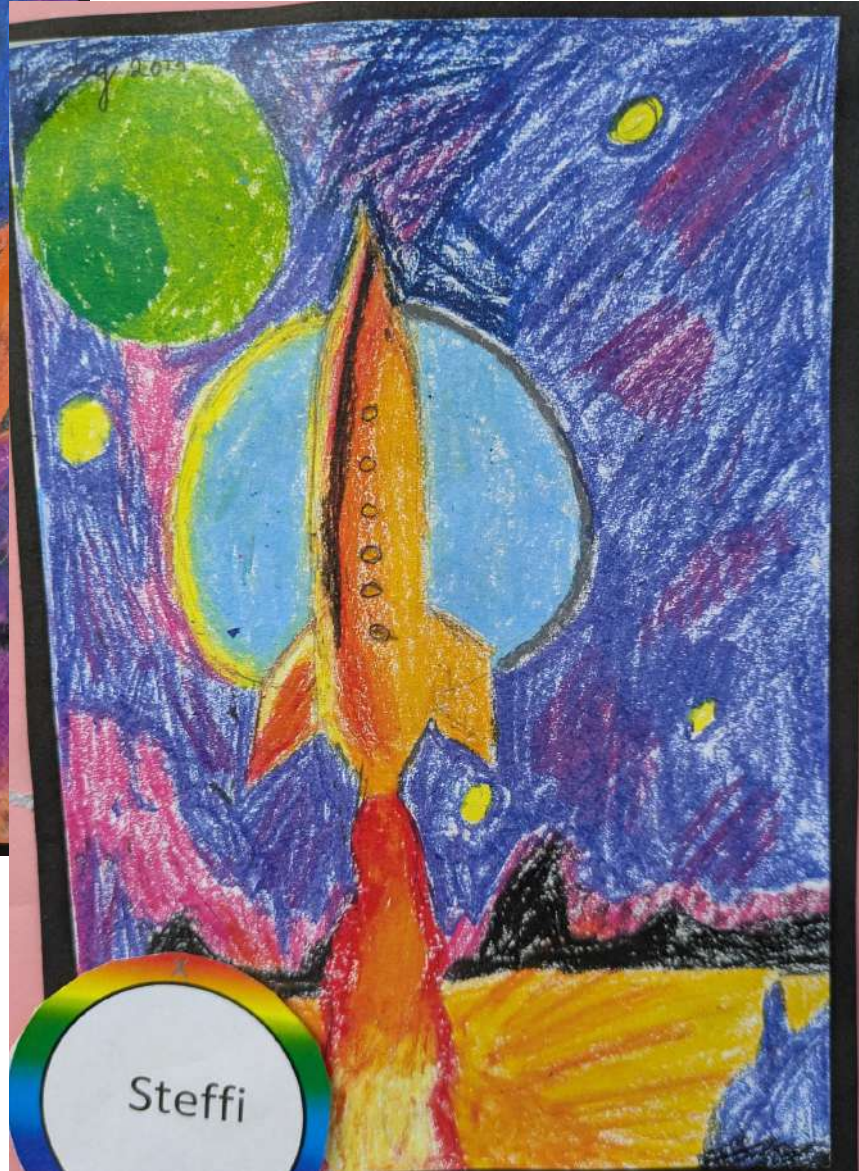
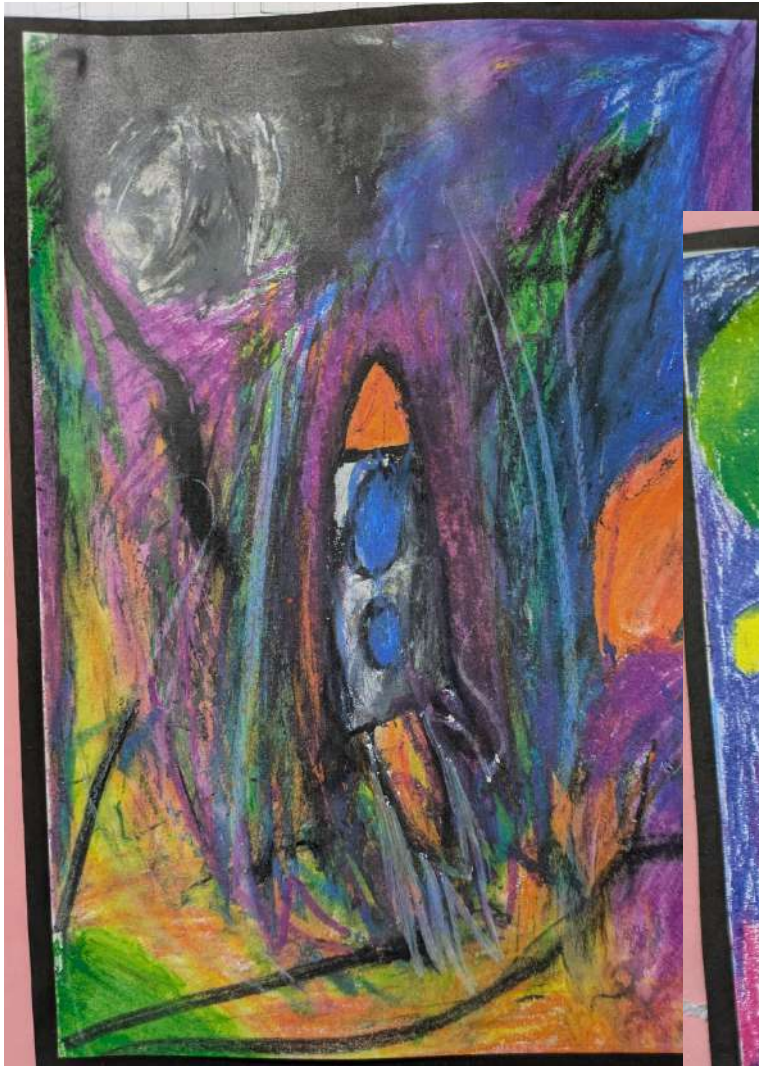
A hand-drawn diagram on lined paper. It depicts a person with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark jacket and green pants. To the left of the person is a green snake with a yellow underbelly. An arrow points from the text "a curly old snake" to the snake. Another arrow points from the text "Ronald Atkinson" to the person.



Ruhma's beautifully presented and very well written story about finding and rehoming an odd, lost thing. This story was written based on a short animation that we shared as a class. Ruhma is an able writer who enjoys sharing her creative ideas in her writing. Great work, Ruhma!

Possum Class





Two beautiful pastel rocket pictures and a passage of our biography writing by Ruby

Tenzing worked as a porter in his youth, carrying heavy supplies up mountains to help less experienced climbers. He escorted many unsuccessful attempts to venture mount Everest. His private life was miserable. His wife unfortunately passed away young, and he lost his second wife to an illness.

