



**St Stephen's**  
CE Primary School

**Head Teacher:** Mrs J S Parsons

**Deputy Head Teacher:** Mrs S J Denney

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Families,

Happy new year! We hope you've had a lovely break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. We want to say a big thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout the Autumn term and for the lovely cards and gifts we received for Christmas, thank you so much.

We had a brilliant Autumn term and we were particularly delighted with the outcome of our SIAMS inspection in November 2023. This would not have been achieved without the steadfast commitment of our staff, your wonderful children and the invaluable support from our families. We are excited for all that 2024 will bring for our school as we continue to learn, love and grow; together as God's children.

Mrs Denney and the St Stephen's Team

### Our School Vision

*Learning, loving and growing; together as God's children*

Our vision is about celebrating the **uniqueness of every individual, inspiring a lifelong love of learning and experiencing life in all its fullness**. It is rooted in John 13:34:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."



### Mental Health Support Team



We are so blessed to have this provision in our school and this half term, Katie will be leading workshops in all KS2 classes as well as continuing to work with our families and with children for 1:1 support.

This provision tries to meet the emerging mental health/ well-being needs of our children. As adults, we all know that we all have 'mental health', albeit good, bad or OK. The aim is to normalise mental health, as much as we would with our physical health.

If you have any concerns with regards your child's well-being/mental health, and feel they may benefit from the MHST, please either come to speak to Mrs Taylor in school or drop her an email - [e.taylor@thesycamoretrust.co.uk](mailto:e.taylor@thesycamoretrust.co.uk). (This service is a referral consultation service and will go to panel to see what can be offered as per referral. Please note - Not all cases are guaranteed to be accepted - they need to meet criteria).

Colville Drive, Bury, Lancashire, BL8 2DX

0161 764 1132

[ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk](mailto:ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk)

[www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk](http://www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk)





## Triple P

Aim of the presentations is to show parents / careers how they can use positive parenting to encourage children to learn and promote skills needed for health, development, and wellbeing. The series is made up of 3 different presentation which can be accessed individually but do work best when accessed all together, as some themes run throughout each of the 3 different sessions. Each presentation will last 1hr 30mins with approximately 1hr of content delivery and 30minutes for questions and answers at the end of each session. Our Triple P programme will run on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, followed by 15<sup>th</sup> February and 29<sup>th</sup> February. We believe in the value of this resource and want to encourage as many of our families as possible to join us, therefore we are providing a free crèche on these dates.

### **Session 1 – Power of Positive Parenting – Thursday 25th January 2024**

The aim is to help children develop and manage their behaviour and emotions in positive and non-hurtful way.

Looks at 5 key areas:

Creating a loving, safe and interesting environment, having a positive learning environment, using assertive discipline, having realistic expectations, taking care of yourself as a parent.

### **Session 2 – Raising Confident, Competent Children – Thursday 15th February 2024**

The aim is to look at ways to encourage social and emotional skills in your children to develop their confidence, encourage co-operation with others and reach their potential.

Looks at 6 areas;

Encouraging respect, being considerate, having good communication and social skills, having healthy self-esteem, being able to problem solve, being independent.

### **Session 3 – Raising Resilient Children – Thursday 29th February 2024**

The aim is to help increase emotional resilience by helping children to manage their emotions.

Looks at doing this through developing skills in:

Recognising and accepting feelings, expressing feeling appropriately, developing a positive outlook, develop coping skills, dealing with negative feelings, dealing with stressful life events.

If you are interested in one or more of the sessions, or for more information, please let Mrs Taylor know by calling her – 01617641132 or by email [e.taylor@thesycamoretrust.co.uk](mailto:e.taylor@thesycamoretrust.co.uk) or complete the link on the school Jotter.

### **NSPCC Staying Safe Online**

It's hard to navigate online risks as a parent or carer. **You're not alone.** The NSPCC are here to help—visit their website for lots of information and advice on how to keep your child safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



### **Nut Allergy Awareness for Packed Lunches, Snacks and Treats**

As we have a number of children in school with nut allergies, we would like to remind you that food items that contain nuts must not be brought into school. The risk of cross-contamination from nuts is too high to allow any of these foods in school. Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening reaction that impairs breathing and can send the body into shock. Given this information, we ask that you carefully check the labels of any food in packed lunches, snacks or treats to ensure that they do not contain nuts. With this in mind, we know that some parents like to send in a class treat to celebrate their child's birthday, we respectfully ask that you choose a small item that can be shared by all of our children e.g. a class book, pencils or a piece of fruit. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.



### **Parking**

Parents are only permitted to use the school car park between 7.30am and 8.00am and after 4.00 pm. Outside of these times, the car park is only to be used by staff and Blue Badge holders. If you are dropping off or collecting children outside of the above times, please park safely and courteously on the road and do not obstruct the entrance to school. These restrictions are in place to ensure the safety of the children coming in and out of the school, and to ensure staff can park within the school grounds and not impact on our neighbours by parking all day outside local homes.

We also kindly ask that there is no parking/drop offs on the zig zag lines at the front of school, in front of either of the gates and no blocking the drives of any of our neighbours. Thank you, as always, for your cooperation.

### **Attendance**

This term we continue our big push on attendance. At St Stephen's we believe that ALL our pupils should be given the best chance to do well in life and there is a clear link between good attendance and good results for children. Thank YOU for continuing to support this mission.

### **Attendance**



#### **Attendance percentages across the academic year to date are:**

Reception - 94.04%	Year 1 - 94.36%
Year 2 – 95.39%	Year 3 – 95.08%
Year 4 – 94.09%	Year 5 – 95.07%
Year 6 – 95.55%	Whole school – 94.86%

Department for Education data shows average attendance across all primary schools is 94.9%. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-attendance-in-schools>

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Denney will continue to work closely with our families to support and promote good attendance for our children at St Stephen's. This may include letters, phone calls, meetings and the help of outside agencies to continue to provide help and support where it is needed.



Attendance Matters



## Enrichment at St Stephen's

Our curriculum at St Stephen's extends beyond the National Curriculum and includes a wide range of enriching experiences and opportunities both within and beyond the school day. This includes our programme of after-school clubs including:

badminton, choir, Ethos, girls' football. In addition, we are committed to our KS2 enrichment programme which enables children to develop talents and learn new skills in activities including: sewing, craft, badminton, computing, young leaders, fundraising, origami, coding and much more!

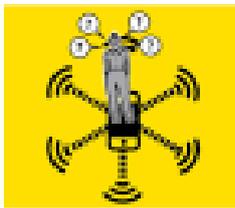


## School Improvement – Teaching and Learning

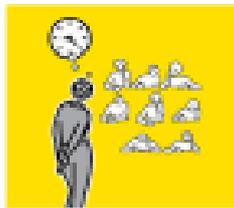
Our focus this term is ....cold calling

### COLD CALLING

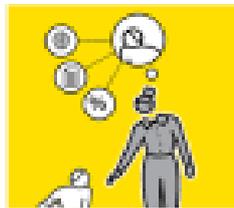
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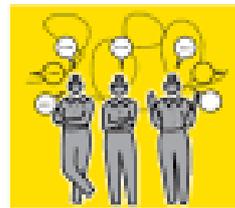
ASK THE CLASS THE QUESTION



GIVE THINKING TIME



SELECT SOMEONE TO RESPOND



RESPOND TO THE ANSWERS



SELECT ANOTHER STUDENT AND RESPOND AGAIN

You may have heard your children talking about this from their lessons. For more information, please visit <https://teacherhead.com/2021/02/07/cold-calling-the-1-strategy-for-inclusive-classrooms-remote-and-in-person/>

We all want our children to be the very best learners they can be, in fact our school vision is that all will develop a lifelong love of learning.

Cold calling is:

- **inclusive and invitational**; it's never a 'gotcha': The key is that students do not feel caught out or exposed. It's the opposite. Asking students to answer is a warm invitation to participate. David, what were you thinking? Yusuf, did you have an answer? Yasmin, which three did you pick?



- Shows that **everyone's contributions matter**. The teacher conspicuously always reaches into the corners of the class; there are no no-go areas; no silent tables. The message is simple and explicit. I need to know what you are thinking if I'm going to help you the best I can. And you all matter to me. All of you, no exceptions.

- a classroom routine where **everyone is made to think** that when a question is asked, all children need to listen, engage and think. The teacher will ask people they choose; they always do. It's not a big deal; it happens all the time. The effect is that students always feel involved; they can't opt out. That routine level of accountability helps them to focus their attention and also communicates a sense that they belong; they are included; they matter.



We are looking forward to the impact of this strategy and welcome your feedback,

### School Money

A BIG thank you for your patience as we transfer to our new systems. Mrs Mason is meeting again next week with the team at School Money and we will soon be ready to launch this with you all. In the meantime, please continue to make school dinner, nursery and club payments in cash in an envelope at the school office. Thank you.



**schoolmoney**



### Updates

Connect the classroom is a government-funded programme to improve internet speed in schools. This is done by upgrading wifi access points and network switches and we are delighted to share that St Stephen's benefitted from this upgrade during the Christmas holidays. In addition, your children in Year 3, 4 and 5 are now learning with a brand new interactive whiteboard after recent installation.

### Coming soon – watch this space!

We are busy – behind the scenes – working on our new school website and cannot wait to share it with you. You'll also soon see new signage around school of our new logo. Finally, in the coming weeks, our new logo uniform will be available to purchase through our uniform provider, Touchline Embroidery. Please remember, there is NO expectation to purchase new uniform.



### Important dates

Important dates	
Celebration Worship – all parents welcome	Every Friday at 3pm
Family Lending Library	Every Tuesday 3.20pm-4pm
KS2 Enrichment	Every Friday at 2.15pm
Year 3 and 4 FunTime Club – letter to go out	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30pm (starting 16.01.24)
Year 5 and 6 Girls' Football – letter to go out	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30pm (starting 18.01.24)
Year 2 Badminton Club – letter to go out	Friday 3.30 - 4.30pm (starting 19.01.24)
Year 4 MHST workshop	Thursday 11 January at 1:15pm
Ethos Club	Every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm (restarts 11.01.24)
Family Service at St Stephen's Church	Sunday 14 January
Year 6 Parent Meeting - Whitehough Residential	Tuesday 16 January at 3.45pm and 5.15pm
Triple P – crèche provided	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January at 3:45pm – 5.15pm Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February

Year 3 MHST workshop	Thursday 18 January at 1:15pm
Year 5 MHST workshop	Thursday 25 January at 1:15pm
Year 6 Assessment Week – mock SATs week	12.02.24-16.02.24
Family Service at St Stephen's Church	Sunday 11 February
FOSS Valentine's Disco – letter to follow	Wednesday 14 February – time TBC
Half term	19.02.24 – 23.02.24
School reopens for Spring 2	Monday 26 February
Year 2 Road Safety	Monday 26 February
Assessment week for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	11.03.24 – 15.03.24
Easter egg own clothes – please bring in an Easter egg donation	Friday 22 March
FOSS Easter Bingo – letter to follow	Friday 22 March – time TBC
Year 5 and KS2 Easter Service at St Stephen's Church	Thursday 28 March at 2pm
Finish for Easter Break	Thursday 28 March at 3.30pm
School reopens for Summer 1	Monday 15 April
Brilliant Bury Day – more information to follow	Friday 26 April
Bank Holiday – school closed	Monday 6 May
KS2 SATs Week	13.05.24 – 17.05.24
Finish for half term	Friday 24 May at 3.30pm
School reopens for Summer 2	Monday 3 June
Year 6 swimming – more information to follow	03.06.24 – 14.06.24
Assessment week for EYFS, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	17.06.24 – 21.06.24
Year 6 Leavers' Service at Manchester Cathedral – more details to follow	Thursday 20 June
Year 6 Residential at Whitehough	24.06.24 – 26.06.24
FOSS Summer Fair and Car Boot Sale – provisional date	Saturday 29 June
Year 6 Bikeability	01.07.24 – 04.07.24
Year 2 Road Safety	Tuesday 16 July
End of Year Church Service – time TBC	Thursday 18 July
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – time TBC	Thursday 18 July
Finish for summer	Thursday 18 July at 2:30pm
Reopen for Autumn term	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024