



St. Stephen's C.E. Primary School

Colville Drive, Bury, Lancashire. BL8 2DX

Tel: 0161 764 1132

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs J S Parsons

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs S J Denney



17th September 2023

Dear Families,

Happy new year! What a wonderful start back it has been. We want to say a big welcome to our new reception families as they join the St. Stephen's family, we are thrilled to have you as part of our community and we are looking forward to working in close partnership with you.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday 6th September, please note the PPT presentation is on your child's class page on the school website.

We have so much to look forward to this year as we continue:

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

Mrs Denney and the St Stephen's Team

Collective worship at St. Stephen's



Collective worship is an important part of life at St Stephen's. Each day your child partakes in either whole school worship or class worship. Each Friday, we end the week with celebration worship, this provides an opportunity to celebrate our superstar of the week (a child from each class will be awarded a certificate and wear the golden jumper the following week), birthdays, Dojos, attendance and walk to school winners. We also want to take the opportunity to celebrate out of school awards, such as swimming, football, karate, etc during this time. Parents and families are warmly invited to attend at 3pm each Friday and we look forward to seeing you there.

Expectations – uniform

At St Stephen's CE Primary School, we encourage all pupils to wear the school's uniform with pride. By wearing the St Stephen's school uniform children and parents are acknowledging that they belong to the school community and are abiding by the school rules. Research suggests that wearing a school uniform has a positive impact on behaviour and attainment in school and we believe that uniform has the following advantages:

- Fostering a sense of community and belonging at St Stephen's
- Ensuring that less fortunate pupils are not disadvantaged
- Ensuring all pupils are appropriately dressed for learning
- Instilling discipline



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- Making sure pupils are easily identifiable when in public places or out in the community (e.g. on school trips)

School uniform:	PE Kits:	Other aspects of dress and presentation:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey trousers, skirt or dress/pinafore • Pale blue polo shirt • Burgundy jumper, fleece, sweatshirt or cardigan • Black, white, grey or burgundy socks or tights • Black shoes (not boots or trainers) • Summer: blue checked dress/grey shorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings • White polo shirt – or the colour of your house: red/blue/green/yellow • Trainers or pumps <p>Children continue to wear their PE kit on PE days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long hair must be tied up for health and safety reasons. No lines or patterns shaved in to hair, no colours. • Hair accessories: plain and in school colours • Jewellery: stud earrings and wrist watches only are permitted • Make-up: no make-up or nail varnish is permitted

PE days

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Tuesday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Friday	Wednesday Friday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Thursday	Thursday Friday

St Stephen's Church, Elton

A new school year and new opportunities. St Stephen's school is part of the St Stephen's Church family and so we would like to invite you to our family and community Sundays and events. The second Sunday is always family worship and on 29th October we are having a special celebration for our patron saint St Stephen. Dress up as a character from the Nativity or an Angel and join us to explore the true meaning of Christmas on 24th Dec at 6pm and meet the 'whoopsie daisy' angel!

Keep an eye out for worship and fun for families this term. You are all very welcome to join us on any Sunday at 10am when we have an activity led junior church. We have a crèche area for preschool children. See you soon, Vicar Paul.

Family Services	Sunday 17 th September at 10am Sunday 8 th October at 10am Sunday 29 th October – special family service for St Stephen's at 10am Sunday 12 th November at 10:30am Sunday 10 th December at 10am
St Stephen's CE Primary Advent Service	Friday 1 st December at 2pm



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Angel Festival (An opportunity to visit church and see the beautiful artwork, including your child's)	Friday 1 st December 2-4pm Saturday 2 nd December 11am – 4pm Sunday 3 rd December 12-4pm Friday 8 th December 2-4pm Saturday 9 th December 11am – 4pm Sunday 10 th December 12-4pm
St Stephen's Songs of Praise	Sunday 10 th December at 4pm
St Stephen's Carol Service	Sunday 17 th December at 6pm
St Stephen's CE Primary Christingle Service	Wednesday 20 th December at 6pm
St Stephen's Crib Service Come dressed as your favourite nativity character and join in the fun!	Sunday 24 th December at 6pm

Attendance



As you know attendance continues to be a huge priority for us as a school. Achieving good attendance requires the school and home to work closely together.

Our attendance figures are monitored on a regular basis by the school and our Attendance Officer. At our monthly meetings, we look at attendance figures that have dipped. We are particularly concerned about individual pupils who are defined as 'persistently absent'. The government defines children whose attendance falls below 90% as 'persistent absentees'. If your child does fall under this category we will ask you to come in for a meeting, so we can discuss ways in which we can work together to improve your child's attendance. On some occasions we may also carry out a home visit after 3 days or more of absence.

We are committed to working together to help our children learn well, every day.

Holidays

Family holidays will not be authorised during term time. Government legislation does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. If you do take your child on holiday during term time this may result in a Penalty Notice Fine. Penalty Notice Fines for holidays in term time are £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 22 and 28 days.

School Improvement Priorities



Our SLT and staff team continue to work closely with The Sycamore Trust to continue our school improvement journey this year. We remain committed to ensuring St Stephen's provides the very best learning environment

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and is a place where all children and staff flourish. All our work this year will fall under one of the following 3 key priorities:

1. To improve attainment outcomes through high quality teaching and effective use of assessment.
2. To develop consistent approaches to teaching and learning to ensure that all children succeed.
3. To use wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to learning.

Uniform Shop

Our pre-loved uniform shop continues this year. This has been set up with the donated uniform, which has been freshly laundered, bagged and labelled with correct sizes. Suggested prices are:

- t-shirts £1
- skirts, trousers, pinafores and dresses £2
- fleeces, sweatshirts and cardigans £3



If you are interested in purchasing anything from the uniform shop, please contact the school office, in person or by email ststephens@bury.gov.uk

WOW – Walk to School Campaign

If you are new to school, you may not know about our WOW badge incentive system. Each day your child records the way they travel to school on an online database. They may have travelled by car, on foot, park and stride, scooter or bike. If your child has ONE active journey each week, at the end of the month they will receive a WOW badge to wear on their uniform with pride. The scheme promotes looking after the planet whilst staying active, it also helps prevent congestion around school and helps keep everyone safe from traffic. Each week we celebrate the highest class engagement and most active class in our Friday celebration worship. For more information, please visit <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/parents-info>



You are invited to park at Bolton Road Methodist Church as a park and stride location or The Wellington. We are currently trying to secure more park and stride locations local to school. If you have any ideas, please share them – via email – with Mrs Denney.



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Parking

As you know, we have a long-standing arrangement for parents to have access to the Methodist Church carpark at the beginning and end of the school day – this is known as a 'park and stride' location. Please consider parking there and walking over to school via the pedestrian crossing to avoid parking on the streets immediately surrounding the school. We would like to avoid any unnecessary inconvenience for the residents of Colville Drive, Bolton Road, Kenmor Avenue and be courteous to our neighbours. Our ongoing OPEN DOOR system (from 8:45am each morning) also helps to reduce congestion considerably.



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.

Key Dates

Celebration worship – every Friday – all families welcome!	Fridays at 3pm.
Ethos Club – starting 21.09.23	Every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm
KS2 enrichment starts	Friday 15 th September
Family worship at St Stephen's	Sunday 17 th September at 10am
Flu vaccinations	Wednesday 4 th October
Family worship at St Stephen's	Sunday 8 th October at 10am
Poetry Day with special visitor, poet Matt Goodfellow	Tuesday 17 th October
Year 4 Harvest Class Assembly – parents warmly welcome	Thursday 19 th October at 9am
Half term	Monday 23 – Friday 27 October
Family worship at St Stephen's Church	Sunday 29 October at 10am
Training day – school closed	Monday 30 th October
School reopens for Autumn 2	Tuesday 1 st November
Year 5 Remembrance Class Assembly - parents warmly welcome	
Family worship at St Stephen's Church – Remembrance	Sunday 12 th November at 10:30am



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Parent and Teacher meetings	Wednesday 15 th November 2023
Anti-Bullying Week	13-17 November 2023
Inter Faith Week	12 - 19 November.
Children in Need day – SPOTacular theme! (suggested donation of £1)	Friday 17 th November
Y2-Y6 Assessment week	27 November – 1 st December
KS2 Advent Service lead by Year 6 at St Stephen's Church	Friday 1 st December at 1pm
Family worship at St Stephen's	Sunday 10 th December at 10am
Pantomime Visit to Bury College – there will be a separate letter	Tuesday 12 th December
Christmas Dinner Day	Date TBC
Christmas Fair at St. Stephen's CE Primary School	Date TBC
EYFS Nativity	Tuesday 19 th December
KS1 Nativity	Wednesday 20 th December
Christingle at St Stephen's Church	Wednesday 20 th December at 6pm
EYFS / KS1 Christmas Party Day	Thursday 21 st December
KS2 Christmas Party Day	Friday 22 nd December
Finish for Christmas Break	Friday 22 nd December at 2:30pm
Start of Spring Term 2022	Monday 8 th January 2024



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