



# NEWSLETTER

16: FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

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

Welcome back to school! We hope our families enjoyed a restful break. As we step into this new term, we are excited for all that's ahead: new learning, renewed routines, and many moments of growth for our children. We are delighted to welcome 10 new children as our wonderful school continues to grow. Thank you - as always - for your continued partnership, positivity, and trust. It's seems a perfect time to share our new Trust prayer with you all:

## INCLUSION LOVE

These are our new values for this half term and today these amazing children led our whole school assembly celebrating the uniqueness of each individual in our school.

*you are*  
A·M·A·Z·I·N·G



So far this year, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 are our classes leading the way with good attendance. All classes are above National average (95.1%) AND ABOVE our school target of 96%!

**WELL DONE!**

**STAY CONNECTED WITH US:**

Phone: 0161 764 1132

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

Facebook: [St Stephen's CE Primary School, Bury](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCEPrimarySchoolBury)

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

**This is our trust**



**The Sycamore  
Church of England  
Trust**

Grow together, Learn forever

**Let it be full of  
love and respect.**

**Help us to flourish, unite,  
and inspire each other.**

**Bless our schools, for we  
are stronger together.**

**Thank you God for guiding  
us every day.**

**May kindness and positivity  
lead our hearts always.**

**Amen.**



## REMINDER

Deadline for all Reception September 2026 starters is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Apply [here](#).



**LOGIN**

**LOG INTO OUR**

**SCHOOL APPS:**

**Arbor**

**92%**

**Parent Portal usage**





**92%**

**School Money**



THIS WEEK'S ST. STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS ARE:

Reception

next week

Y 5

next week

Y

THIS WEEK'S CHARACTER SUPERSTARS ARE:

next week

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

N	95.45%	2	96.25%	5	95.81%
R	93.33%	3	97.78%	6	98.97%
1	95.42%	4	100%	 96%	

Number of lates this week: 41

Punctuality winners: Year 6



# Thank you for helping us Improving Attendance Together

As we begin this new term, we want to take a moment to thank all our families for their continued support in helping children arrive at school every day, on time and ready to learn.

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring pupils make strong progress, feel confident, and enjoy positive friendships.

This term, we'll be focusing on continuing to work in partnership with families to help every child achieve their best possible attendance.

Even a seemingly high percentage of attendance can result in missing a great deal of learning over time.

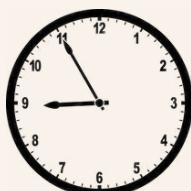
Attendance %	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100%	0 days missed	0 days missed
96%	8 days missed	$\frac{1}{4}$ year learning lost
90%	19 days missed	$\frac{1}{2}$ year learning lost
85%	28 days missed	$\frac{3}{4}$ year learning lost
80%	38 days missed	1 year learning lost
75%	47 days missed	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ years learning lost

Each half term, we send attendance updates to parents. These are designed to support you and your child in maintaining good attendance.



## THIS YEAR'S ATTENDANCE TO DATE:

	2	96.1% 	5	93.7%
R	3	96.1% 	6	92.9%
1	4	93.3%	Target:	<b>96%</b>



**Our Punctuality Winners  
(fewest late arrivals): Year 6!**

# Spring 2026 East Bury Community Educational Psychology Service (CEPS)

## Parent/Carer Bulletin



### Upcoming CEPS Events for Parents

#### Parent Drop In

- Tuesday 20th January | 9:00am-12:00pm
- B2E Hub

#### Parent Drop In

- Wednesday 25th February | 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

#### Parent Drop In

- Tuesday 17th March | 13:00pm-15:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

#### Parent Drop In

- Thursday 26th March | 16:00pm - 18:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Articles for parents in supporting children through grief, eating difficulties, and festive stress [here](#).  
To register for talks: [Kooth Talks Sign-Up](#) | Contact: [kel@kooth.com](mailto:kel@kooth.com)

### Contact

For general enquiries, please contact your Assistant Community Educational Psychologist: [r.lak@bury.gov.uk](mailto:r.lak@bury.gov.uk)

# STAYING SAFE

Keeping our children, and each other, safe is our number 1 priority at St Stephen's. Each week we will share key information we hope will be useful to our families.

[Link here to our school website for helpful information, links and downloads.](#)

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Denney (DSL), Mrs Garside or Mr Smith (DDSL)



[https://issuu.com/childrenscommissioner/docs/what\\_i\\_wish\\_my\\_parents\\_or\\_carers\\_knew...a\\_guide\\_on](https://issuu.com/childrenscommissioner/docs/what_i_wish_my_parents_or_carers_knew...a_guide_on)

Our EFS accreditation signifies that our school has implemented a whole-school approach to address emotional needs, including clear safeguarding and health and safety policies, demonstrating a strong focus on creating a safe and supportive learning environment for ALL. We are very proud to be the first primary in Bury to receive this!

St. Stephen's is an Emotionally Friendly Setting

Please see Padlet links below for further support:

[For children and young people](#)

[For parents and carers](#)



# Bury's Essential Parent App



Scan QR code and download for free



Apple



Android



**Expert Health and Parenting Advice  
Anytime, Anywhere**

- ✓ 2000+ articles and videos
- ✓ Health information from pregnancy to teenage years for you and your family
- ✓ Available in over 75 languages
- ✓ Receive the latest local health and parenting advice



**essential parent**

# YOU are in the spotlight: Year 6

Grace

Favourite food: Gnocchi

you are  
A·M·A·Z·I·N·G

Favourite film/programme: The Grinch

Favourite subject: English

What is the best thing about St

Stephen's? My friends

What would make St Stephen's

better?

More playground equipment

What is your greatest achievement

in school? Getting star of the week

What is your greatest achievement

out of school? My running

Anything else? No

If you need support with  
your wellbeing, speak to  
one of our Wellbeing  
Warriors, Mrs Cooney or  
Katie. YOU matter!



Wellbeing Club with  
Katie every:

**MONDAY**

12.30-1.00pm in HUB Connect

**Joke of the week:**

Q: Why didn't the  
nose want to go to  
school?

A: It got picked on!

# REMEMBER! You're awesome to prioritise your Wellbeing

This week, the Wellbeing Warriors have chosen to focus on:

“

## CONNECT

Ask someone about  
their day and really  
listen

”

## WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING



INTRODUCE THESE FIVE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.

[NHS 5 ways to wellbeing](#)

## Thought of the week: DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER

And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

### KID TIP

No more temper tantrums! If you think you're about to throw a tantrum, slow down, catch your breath, and walk away if you must. It's better to walk away than it is to strike out in anger.

### A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, when I become angry, help me to remember that You offer me peace. Let me turn to You for wisdom, for patience, and for the peace that only You can give. Amen.

Hello, my name is Katie



### Who are Bury Mental Health Support Team (MHST)?

We are a service who works with Bury schools and colleges to support children and young people who struggle with their mental health.

Our goals are:

- To work with children, young people or parents on their own or in a group.
- To work with teachers to make school an emotionally friendly place for all.
- To give advice to school staff to help children and young people get the right support.



My allocated day with your school is:

**MONDAY**  
From 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November 2025

I work all year round so, I can support you during the school holidays.

### How to ask for help?

If you are struggling with your emotions, please speak to;

- Your teacher
- Mrs Denney
- Mrs Cooney
- Parents/Carers
- Any trusted adult



### A bit about me:

Some fun facts about me:

- I really enjoy reading
- My favourite animal is a Lion
- I don't like spiders!



**Katie is in school every**  
**MONDAY**



I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner



### How can I help?

I am trained to help children and young people, who may start to struggle with emotions such as;

#### **Worry, sadness or fear**



### What do I do?

- Work closely with school staff to help make school a happy and emotionally friendly place for everyone.
- Deliver workshops and teaching for school staff, pupils and parents.
- Offer advice about other services that are available within Bury so that you get the right support.



I look forward to working within your school and meeting you all.





For the year's overview, please view school calendar

Event	Date
Celebration Worship	Friday 3pm
Family Language ESOL Phonics Course - see page 11 for more details	14th January - 11th February 9am-11am Once a week on a Wednesday
Deadline for Reception 2026 applications	Thursday 15th January
February half-term	Monday 16th - Friday 20th February
Vocabulary Parade	Friday 6th March
Spring Assessment Week	Monday 9th - Friday 13th March
Easter Holidays	Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April
Year 4 to Tatton Park	Thursday 23rd April
May Bank Holiday - School closed to pupils	Monday 4 May
Local Elections - School closed to pupils	Thursday 7th May

## Primary assessments: Key dates

### Key stage 2 tests (Year 6)

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026

### Multiplication tables check (Year 4)

Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 1 June 2026.

### Phonics screening check (Year 1 & 2)

Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 8 June 2026.



# Year of Reading: What role will reading play in our future?

## TAKEHOME



What role will reading play in our future?



## In the news this week

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a special year, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites, and even audiobooks, with the theme 'Go All In'. Throughout the year, schools, libraries, and communities will run fun events and challenges to help everyone find a type of reading they love.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the types of books or other materials you enjoy reading.
- Ask an adult to describe their reading journey, e.g., what they liked reading as a child, what they read now.
- Why do you think fewer people read in today's world? What do you think of the initiative – is it a good idea in your view?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



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## What do you think?

“You read more, you learn more.” - Mae, Year 5

Would you like to:

- Learn about **phonics** and **basic spelling**?
- Build your **confidence** with **basic English**?
- Learn to say the **sounds** of the **English language**?
- Practise **speaking** and **listening** and improve your **reading** and **writing** **skills**?
- Gain the **skills** and **knowledge** to support your **children** with their **reading** at **home**?

Come along to our **free** 5-week course

**FAMILY LANGUAGE – ESOL PHONICS**

for parents and carers whose first language is not English

**Starting on Wednesday 14th January, 9-11am**



**Please return this slip to the office to book your place.**

**I would like to join the above Family Learning course.**

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_