



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

John 13:34 'Love one another, as I have loved you'

NEWSLETTER

16: FRIDAY 9th 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



Attendance Superstars!

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

Facebook: [St Stephen's CE Primary School, Bury.](#)

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/

This is our trust

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 ♥



The Sycamore
Church of England
Trust
Grow together, Learn forever



REMINDER

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



LOGIN

LOG INTO OUR
SCHOOL APPS:



Arbor **92%**
Parent Portal usage



School Money

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

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Reception | | |
| next week | | |
| Year 5 | | |
| next week | | |
| Year 6 | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| THIS WEEK'S CHARACTER SUPERSTARS ARE: | | |
| next week | | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---|--------|-----|--------|
| 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 | 93.8% | 3 | 96.1%  | 6 | 92.9% |
| 1 | 96.8%  | 4 | 93.3% | Target:  | |



**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

Contact

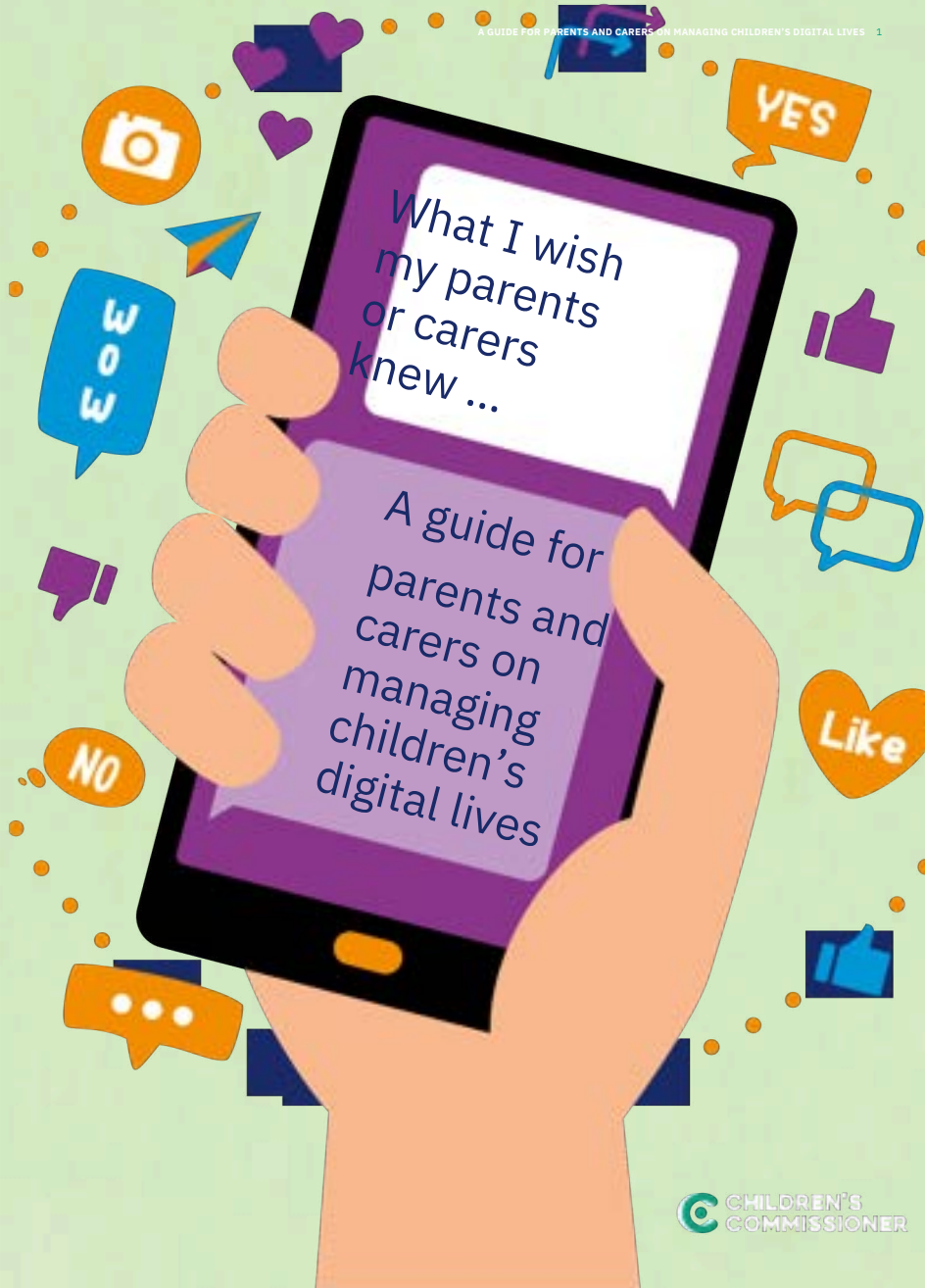
For general enquiries, please contact your Assistant Community Educational Psychologist: r.lak@bury.gov.uk

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)



A new guide
from the
Children's
Commissioner

CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER

https://issuu.com/childrenscommissioner/docs/what_i_wish_h_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

**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



Scan QR code and
download for free



Apple



Android

 **YOU are in the spotlight:**

Grace Year 6

Favourite food: Gnocchi

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!

you are
A·M·A·Z·I·N·G

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.

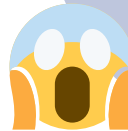


I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner

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



My allocated day with your school is:

MONDAY

From 3rd

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



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.



A bit about me:

Some fun facts about me:

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



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

Katie is in school every
MONDAY



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.

THIS WEEK



Picture News

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

TAKEHOME



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?

What role will reading play in our future?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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USE
your
VOICE

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 _____