



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

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

NEWSLETTER

08: FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER 2025

Learning, loving and growing together as God's children

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Can you help?

Calling all Parents and

Carers!!

Poppy Appeal



From Tuesday 4th November we will be selling poppies and poppy memorabilia in support of the Royal British Legion. These will be available during playtimes and following Friday Celebration Worship (for parents/guardians who wish to purchase). Prices start at 50p.

School Parking



We kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring considerate parking around the school and nearby residential streets. Please be mindful not to block driveways or restrict access for our local residents, particularly on Back Bolton Road, Colville Drive, and Kenmoor Avenue.

HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Applications deadline: **31st October 2025**. Apply here:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/secondary-school>

STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

Phone: 0161 764 1132

Email: ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk

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

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/



Have you or do you work in a job that puts sustainability at the heart of what you do?

Do you work for an electricity company or fit smart meters?

Do you work in waste management?

Do you work in grounds maintenance?

We are looking for adults who work in 'green' jobs to come and talk to our Eco Team about the different jobs and career paths available to them.

If you would like to share your job and how it supports a sustainable community, please email F.A.O Mrs Garside ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk

THANK YOU!

LOGIN

LOG INTO OUR
SCHOOL APPS:



Arbor
Parent Portal

90%
usage



School Money

Half Term Reading Challenge: Read with Your Family!



We want to celebrate the joy of reading and the wellbeing that comes from spending time together. Inspired by a beautiful photo of siblings reading side by side, we invite all our families to take part in our



“Read with Your Family” Challenge!

Here’s how to join in:



1. Choose a reading buddy – it could be a sibling, a parent, a grandparent, a pet, or even a favourite cuddly toy!
2. Read together – share a story, a comic, a recipe, or anything you love to read.
3. Capture the moment – take a photo of your special reading time.
4. Send it in – share your photo with us* so we can celebrate the joy of reading and togetherness across our school community. (You can share to our Facebook Post by adding in the comments section or email your photo to ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk.)



We’ll be showcasing your lovely reading moments to spread smiles and inspire others. It’s all about enjoying stories, connecting with loved ones, and boosting our wellbeing.



PUMPKIN **COMPETITION**

✿ A huge thank you to all our children who took part in the 'Decorate a Pumpkin' competition! The creativity and effort put into the designs was absolutely incredible. Well done to everyone who joined in.

OUR OVERALL WINNER IS:

NOAH D - YEAR 5

AND OUR RUNNERS UP ARE...

BENJAMIN - NURSERY

BODHI - RECEPTION

FINN - RECEPTION

AYAT - YEAR 1

MELISSA - YEAR 4

CHLOE - YEAR 5

FATIMA - YEAR 5



funtime activities

Sports for kids

Stars of Autumn 1

Well done!

Year 1

Ruby

Bam Bam

Year 3

Jawaria

Suzie

Year 5

Amelia

Joshua

Year 2

Oyin

Wasi

Year 4

Sonny

Jacob

Year 6

Monty

Afan

After school
Football club

Max T

Well done

WELL DONE

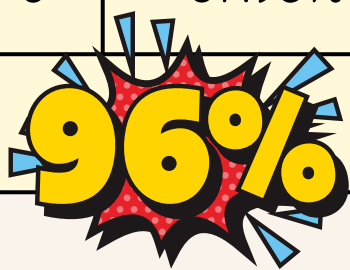
THIS WEEK'S ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS ARE:

Reception	Tanaka	Nataliyah
Year 1	Dominion	Grace
Year 2	Oliver	Emma
Year 3	Freddie	Paige
Year 4	Zayn	Lydia
Year 5	Aleena	Daniel
Year 6	Whole class	

THIS WEEK'S CHARACTER SUPERSTARS ARE:

EYFS	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Anaya - R	Karter-John - Y2	Anoshka - Y5

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

N	73.08%	2	89.38%	5	89.33%
R	90.58%	3	93.33%	6	87.93%
1	95.83%	4	90%		



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)

at The National College, our developmentally guided approach engages and equips parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. A summary delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address these topics and themes. For further guides, links and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

With over 550 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ALWAYS ONLINE**
There's no single player, offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Streamers can sometimes be on hand when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or sleep away - such as sleep still and holidays - than you might expect.
- IN-GAME COSTS**
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases - limited-time cosmetics, skins, music tracks, V-Bucks, and battle passes. Children can be persuaded to spend money on V-Bucks - the in-game currency - to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".
- VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**
There's no doubt that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent cartoon touches to lighten the mood, such as rain, games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Post sections have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Walking Dead.
- CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT**
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to stronger, inappropriate language and cyberbullying.
- FREQUENT UPDATES**
Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for distraction as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular rewards help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep playing back. Seasons often change dramatically.
- POP CULTURE REFERENCES**
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar. The end of Season 8 saw iconic characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION**
Talk with children about what they're playing with online. Consider giving time with the child's friends for interaction and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and avoid them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.
- SET SPENDING LIMITS**
Fortnite's in-game store is a real ex-spend mechanism for spending money and buying virtual items that some believe they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents should consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.
- ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER**
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a great option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Why choose? You might even reach them at night or last.
- BE WARY OF SCAMS**
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences - that we generally miss hearing - means there's a prevalence of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the app store to try out new titles, he's often a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published in sites including iD, TechRadar, and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025.



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](#)



 YOU are in the spotlight:

Grace

Year 6

Favourite food: Gnocchi

Favourite film/programme:

Pitch Perfect

Favourite subject: English

What is the best thing about St

Stephen's? The people

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? Getting a personal best in a park run



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:

THURSDAY

12.30-1.00pm in HUB Connect

Joke of the week:

Q: Why can't a nose be 12 inches?

A: Because then it would be a foot!



REMEMBER! You're awesome
to prioritise your Wellbeing

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

CONNECT

Eat meals together without screens.

WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING



NHS 5 ways to wellbeing

Thought of the week:
IT'S BETTER TO BE PATIENT

Patience is better than strength. Proverbs 16:32

KID TIP

Take a deep breath, a very deep breath: if you think you're about to say or do something you'll regret later, slow down and take a deep breath, or two deep breaths, or ten, or ... well, you get the point.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear Lord, the Bible tells me that it's better to be patient than impulsive. Help me to slow myself down so I can make better decisions today and every day. Amen.

Hello, my name is Katie



I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner

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:

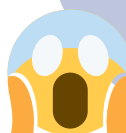
- To work with children, young people or parents on their own or in a group.
- To work with teachers to make school an emotionally friendly place for all.
- To give advice to school staff to help children and young people get the right support.



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.



For the year's overview,
please view school calendar



SAVE THE DATE

Event	Date
Celebration Worship	Fridays 3pm
October half term	Monday 27th - Friday 31st October
INSET Day - Pupils NOT in school	Monday 3rd November
Individual & sibling photographs	Wednesday 5th November
Parents Evening	Wednesday 5th November
KS2 Remembrance Service in Church - families welcome	Tuesday 11th November 2.30pm
Family Wellbeing Walk	Saturday 15th November at 2pm
Autumn Assessment Week	w.b. 24.11.2025
Pupil flu vaccines (Rec to Year 6)	Wednesday 3rd December
EY & KS1 Panto Trip - see School Money for payment	Thursday 4th December
Family Breakfast	Monday 8th December at 8:15am
Parent Workshop - worries and anxiety	Monday 8th December at 9:15am
Christmas Fair	Wednesday 10th December at 3.30pm
KS2 Panto Trip - see School Money for payment	Wednesday 17th December
Christmas holidays - 2:30pm finish	Friday 19th December 2025



DON'T FORGET the clocks go back 1 hour on
Sunday 26th October at 2am. British Summer Time
officially ends when the clocks go back an hour and
days become shorter.

THIS WEEK



Picture News

ID: Should everyone have an identity card?

TAKEHOME

2016 - 2018
October



In the news this week

The UK government is planning to bring in digital identity cards, which people could keep on their phones or have as a physical card. The idea is that these new IDs would make it easier to prove who you are for things like work, travel, or applying for services. Supporters say they could improve safety and convenience, while others worry about privacy, fairness, and people without access to smartphones.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Can you make a list of some of the pros and cons of identity cards? Discuss these with someone at home.
- > Do you think a digital card is better than having an actual card? Why?
- > What do you think makes up your identity? Ask and share your response with someone at home.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Should everyone have an identity card?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



© Picture News 2025

USE
your
VOICE

What do you think?

"They would prevent cases of mistaken identity." - Dexter, Year 6



Upcoming events

Sensory Processing Seminar

Tuesday 4th November 2025 – 10:00am-11:30am

Fishpool Liberal Club, 79 Nelson Street, Bury, BL9 9HX



All events are for Bury parents/ carers only. Booking is essential due to limited places.

Please call or email to book on.

0161 762 1440 –

admin@firstpointsupport.org.uk



Upcoming events

Anxiety & Autism Seminar Delivered by Dr Jamie Barsky & Dr Kurt Armstrong-CAMHS

Tuesday 25th November 2025 – 9:30am – 12:00pm

Fishpool Liberal Club, 79 Nelson Street, Bury, BL9 9HX



Sensory Processing Seminar

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 – 10:00am-11:30am

Fishpool Liberal Club, 79 Nelson Street, Bury, BL9 9HX



Zones or Regulation workshop

Tuesday 9th December 2025 – 12:30pm-2:30pm

Phoenix House, 100 Brierley Street, Bury, BL9 9HN



Sensory Processing Seminar

Tuesday 13th January 2026 – 10:00am-11:30am

Fishpool Liberal Club, 79 Nelson Street, Bury, BL9 9HX



Zones or Regulation workshop

Tuesday 20th January 2026 – 10:00am-12:00pm

Phoenix House, 100 Brierley Street, Bury, BL9 9HN



Sensory Processing Seminar

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 – 10:00am-11:30am

Fishpool Liberal Club, 79 Nelson Street, Bury, BL9 9HX



Sensory Processing Seminar

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 – 10:00am-11:30am

Fishpool Liberal Club, 79 Nelson Street, Bury, BL9 9HX



Zones or Regulation workshop

Thursday 12th March 2026 – 12:30pm-2:30pm

Phoenix House, 100 Brierley Street, Bury, BL9 9HN



All events are for Bury parents/ carers only. Booking is essential due to limited places.

Please call or email to book on.

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