



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

19: FRIDAY 30th JANUARY 2026

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



Well done!

A message from
Bridget Phillipson



Dear Sally,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at St Stephen's Church of England Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with your region's RISE networks and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education

Last week we welcomed James Frith MP to school who spent time learning more about our school and the wonderful children in it. He visited some classes, engaged in thoughtful conversations with our children about what inclusion means at St Stephen's, and met with representatives from our Pupil Parliament and our dedicated Wellbeing Warriors team.

Our pupils spoke confidently about our school and trust values, as well as current topics affecting young people today – including recent discussions around social media use for under-16s and how we keep each other safe online.



We're growing....

Sycamore Trust
Grow together, Learn forever

On 1st February 2026 we welcome Christ Church Ainsworth CE Primary School to our Sycamore family.

Come and learn with us

- EYFS Monday 2nd February at 10.30am
- Year 1 Monday 2nd February at 9.30am
- Year 2 Thursday 5th February at 9:00am
- Year 3 Tuesday 3rd February at 9:00am
- Year 4 Friday 6th February at 10.45am
- Year 5 Wednesday 4th February at 9am
- Year 6 Wednesday 4th February at 9am

Number Day 2026

Pupils are invited to 'dress up' with any clothing that has a 'number' on Friday 6th February.

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'sCEPrimarySchoolBury)

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/



LOGIN

LOG INTO OUR
SCHOOL APPS:



Arbor 92%
Parent Portal usage



School Money

OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

EYFS Grayson-Lee and Asdaq

YEAR 1 Amelia and Halima

YEAR 2 Karter-John and Mercy

YEAR 3 Inaaya and Jawaria

YEAR 4 Fadil and Felix

YEAR 5 Heavenlyjoy and Ariana

YEAR 6 Inaaya and Noah



OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS

KEY STAGE 1

KEY STAGE 2

Arya (Rec)

Karter-John (Y2)

Eddie (Y5)

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| <u>NURSERY</u> | 88.0% | 0 lates | <u>YEAR 3</u> | 93.6% | 2 lates |
| <u>RECEPTION</u> | 91.92% | 2 lates | <u>YEAR 4</u> | 99.05% | 0 lates |
| <u>YEAR 1</u> | 95.0% | 0 lates | <u>YEAR 5</u> | 94.0% | 0 lates |
| <u>YEAR 2</u> | 100.0% | 1 late | <u>YEAR 6</u> | 94.48% | 0 lates |



Number of lates this week: 5



Improved from 20 last week!

Punctuality Champions: Nursery, Y1, Y4, Y5 & Y6

Attendance Heroes: Year 2



Parent information, support and signposting

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)



St. Stephen's is an Emotionally Friendly Setting

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!

Please see Padlet links below for further support:

[For children and young people](#)

[For parents and carers](#)

CLICK HERE



Mental Health Support Online

Who should young people trust for mental health advice online?

From TikTok to Instagram, children and young people are turning to social media for support, but not all content is accurate or helpful. This week's guide explores how mental health misinformation can mislead young people and shares practical ways adults can help them spot unreliable advice and build healthy, informed understanding.



The Local Offer helps SEND families access information about the services that are available to them.



BURY YOUTH CABINET



YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2026

Aged 11-18?
Then you can vote for your next member of Youth Parliament. Who do you want to represent young people in Bury?



Molly Levy

I would like to be Bury's MYP because I want to make a difference to Bury and the world I live in. I want to fight racism and inequality wherever I meet it but I also want to make Bury a safer and cleaner place, so that young people can be proud of it. I'm 13 but not as all shy and I'll always stand up for my beliefs and the people I represent.



Alexandro Ghanem

I am standing as Bury MYP to make youth voice impossible to ignore. I will push for a youth led website where every young person can demand change and help decide what gets fixed in Bury. I will push harder for more sports activities, full access to pitches for everyone, and proper fixing of factories. I will fight for cheaper youth bus prices, better mental health support, stronger youth services, and real opportunities for all.



Max Kenyon

I would be an MP for the people, not the parties, and all I want to do is engage with the public and find their voice. I am a diligent, fair and sincere person and my policies involve potentially expanding the DurrPass to the Metrolink and implementing more nurses in schools to support and aid the mental health of Bury children. Remember! A wide smile is a vote for you!



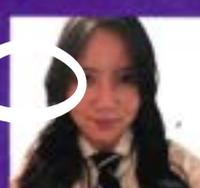
Ted Powditch

I, Ted Powditch want to be Bury's MYP so I can improve Bury's safety for the young people of Bury and improve student's mental health training so that teachers can help students who may need help or someone to listen.



Tobias Dickson

I believe I should be the youth MP because I have 3 years experience in Youth Cabinet and other organisations gaining valuable experience for the well as demonstrating my commitment and dedication. I am also an advocate of trust equality and believe everyone should have the same chances and opportunities to succeed as well as having the freedom to be whoever they want.



Hannah Clark

Young people in Bury don't need more empty promises. We need change and that change starts with a happier youth. I will fight for there to be safe inclusion spaces, like clubs, for young people to socialise and express themselves. I will work with existing mental health services to improve education on emotional health. I aim to represent all young people and create a safer, more supportive community. Vote for happiness, vote for Hannah.



Ailsa Khan

Voting for me would be a vote for a proactive leader who cares about making positive change in our borough and helping children and teenagers in Bury feel safe. By listening to the experiences and ideas of those in our area, my priorities would be to take action to improve safety, prevent hate crimes and violence in and around schools and work with our community to use power to make a positive difference.



Emily Dafter

Secondary school student in Bury and I want to help improve Bury that will positively affect all of you. My goals are simple but important. Firstly I want to make sure every young person in Bury is able to access Health Services. Also, I will help make Bee Network Services and stops safer. I encourage you to reflect carefully as your vote matters. Thank you.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOTE NOW

We are incredibly proud of this superstar!

We are delighted to celebrate Emily, one of our former St. Stephen's superstars, who is currently in the running for the 2026 Youth Parliament for Bury.

During her time with us, Emily consistently used her voice and energy for positive change. She was not only an outstanding learner, known for her focus and determination, but also a true role model for her character and behaviour. Emily embraced every opportunity available to her and demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout her time at school.

She served as a prefect and was an active member of our School Ethos Team, School Council, Eco Team, and Choir, alongside many other contributions. Whatever she committed to, Emily always approached it with enthusiasm, focus, and excellence. We are absolutely thrilled to see the continued positive impact Emily is having on the world around her. Voting will take place over the coming weeks in our local high schools and colleges – and we encourage everyone eligible to vote for Emily!

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

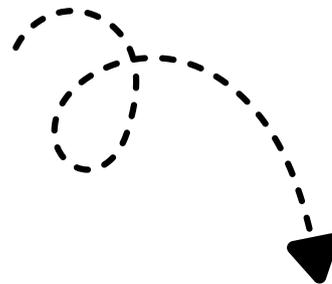
- Wednesday 25th February | 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Microsoft Teams

Parent Drop In

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

Parent Drop In

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



SEE NEXT PAGE...

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

BURY COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE (CEPS)



Book a 30 minute slot with a Trainee
Community Educational Psychologist.
Get practical advice on:

1. Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities.
2. Guidance around child development.
3. Strategies to improve learning and engagement in education.

Discussions available in English or Urdu.
With three members of our CEPS team:
Lauren Smith, Rafia Safdar & Romessa Lak.



WEDS, 25TH FEBRUARY
9:00 AM - 12.00 PM



TEAMS MEETING
ONLINE

Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/e/maianKtwQd>



THE YEAR OF READING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

ST. STEPHEN'S HAVE BEEN CAUGHT READING...



NEVER STOP READING

We are delighted that Miss Young is now volunteering each week in KS1 to help promote a love of reading. We are very thankful for her support.

THANK YOU

AUTHOR WORDS OF THE WEEK

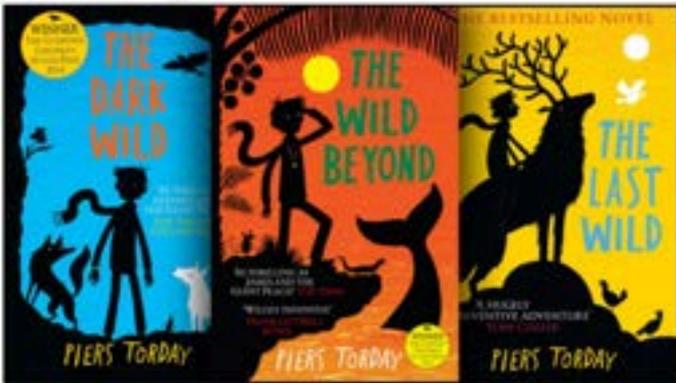
Another wonderful author, who needs no introduction, Mr Piers Torday!

@PiersTorday and @vocabularyninja

Piers Torday



I was born in 1974, in Northumberland, which is possibly the one part of England where more animals live than people. My father Paul worked for the family engineering business in Newcastle, while my mother Jane ran a children's bookshop in Hexham called Toad Hall Books. Alongside my younger brother Nick, I spent my very early years crawling around on the floor of that shop, surrounded by piles of books right from the start. I was extremely lucky to come from a writing background.



stridulate - shrill sound that an insect makes by rubbing its legs or wings.

incontrovertible - not able to deny or dispute.



@VocabularyNinja



'Words unlock the doors to a world of understanding...'

Words for Life

READING MILESTONES BY AGE

Your child's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills will develop massively as they grow older. Find out more about what to spot at each age plus brilliant activities to try at home!

"I will defend the importance of bedtime stories to my last gasp."
—JK Rowling

A place I love to read is in bed with a cup of tea!

Miss Almond



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.BURY.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES & RESERVE ITEM & E-MAGAZINE



WELCOME BACK

WEEK DAYS (ALL LOCATIONS)
 Tuesday 10AM - 4.30PM
 Wednesday 10AM - 4.30PM
 Thursday 12:30PM - 7PM
 Friday 10AM - 4.30PM

WEEKENDS
 Saturday 9:30AM - 1PM (BURY, RADCLIFFE & RAMSBOTTOM)
 SUNDAY 9.30AM - 1PM (PRESTWICH)
 VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.BURY.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES

Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026.



YOU are in the spotlight:

Deborah Year 1

Favourite food: Jam doughnuts
Favourite film/programme: Garby
Favourite subject: Science
What is the best thing about St Stephen's? We do lots of painting
What would make St Stephen's better?
 Nothing
What is your greatest achievement in school? Painting!
What is your greatest achievement out of school? When mummy bought me some paints
Anything else? No

you are
A·M·A·Z·I·N·G

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: How do you throw a space party?

A: You plan-et!



REMEMBER! You're awesome
to prioritise your
Wellbeing

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

TAKE NOTICE
Notice the changing seasons on a walk.

WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING

- CONNECT**
TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED
- Give**
Your time, your words, your presence
- TAKE NOTICE**
REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY
- KEEP LEARNING**
EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF
- BE ACTIVE**
NO MATTER HOW SMALL, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR BODY

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

[NHS 5 ways to wellbeing.](#)

Thought of the week:
WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times. Romans 12:12

KID TIP

You can make it right ... if you think you can! If you've made a mistake, apologise. If you've broken something, fix it. If you've hurt someone's feelings, apologise. If you failed at something, try again. There is always something you can do to make things better ... so do it!

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear Lord, sometimes life is so hard, but with You, there is always home. Keep me mindful that there is nothing that will happen today that You and I can't handle together. Amen.

Bury

Young People's
Mental Health
Support Team
Thrive in Education

Hello, my name is Katie



NHS

Pennine Care
NHS Foundation Trust

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

In partnership with:

& Early Break



For the year's overview, please view school calendar

| Event | Date |
|--|---|
| Celebration Worship | Friday 3pm |
| Maths Week - see page 1 including parent stay and learn sessions | 2nd February - 6th February |
| FAMILY BREAKFAST | Monday 9th February at 8:15am |
| Y3 Ancient Egyptian Dress-Up Day Y3 Stay and Learn session | Wednesday 11th February Wednesday 11th February @ 3:00pm |
| Ramadan Experience Day - by invitation only | Thursday 12th February |
| February half-term | Monday 16th - Friday 20th February |
| BEE Proud Sports Event - by invitation only | Wednesday 25th February |
| Reception & Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme | Thursday 26th February |
| A Bury Good Offer | Thursday 5th March |
| Vocabulary Day | Friday 6th March |
| Spring Assessment Week | Monday 9th - Friday 13th March |
| Spring Wellbeing Walk around Elton Reservoir | Saturday 14th March |
| Parents' Consultation Evening | Wednesday 18th March |
| Easter Bingo! | Friday 27th March |
| Year 5 Easter Service | Thursday 2nd April @ 2pm |
| Easter Holidays | Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April |
| Y4 Viking & Anglo-Saxon workshop (in school) | Thursday 23rd April |

THIS WEEK



Picture News

Respect in Action: Does how we behave matter as much as how well we play?

TAKEHOME

25th January
1st February



Does how we behave matter as much as how well we play?

In the news this week

The Football Association (FA) has published a review looking at behaviour in football across England. It wants to ensure football practice and matches are safe, fair, and enjoyable for everyone, including players, referees, and fans. The review encourages all involved in the sport to play their part in supporting and following values of positive behaviour.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your experiences of sporting or other competitive events with someone at home. Have you ever felt strong feelings when watching or taking part?
- Do you believe players and fans should have the same rules about respect?
- Discuss what you think might happen if winning becomes more important than respect.

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?

“Yes! You should always respect others and play fair because you might end up not being liked or people thinking you’re rude.” - Arish, Y5

Tickets on sale in school
Sunday afternoons 2pm-4pm



Snow White



tickets £7 children £3

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th,
Saturday 21st February 2026
Curtain up at 7:15pm

St Stephen's School, Colville Drive BL9 2DX
Contact Gill on 07872 389561 for further details
In association with St Stephen's Church



Greater Manchester

NEED URGENT DENTAL CARE AND DONT HAVE A DENTIST OR DENTIST CLOSED? WE CAN HELP!



WHAT WE DO

We support people with **urgent dental conditions** to:

- Help find urgent appointments locally
- Support you with urgent care if you don't have a dentist or if your dentist is closed
- Provide same-day advice and help you manage your urgent dental problem where appropriate



WHEN TO USE THIS SERVICE

In Hours (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)

If you have a dentist, you should contact them first. If you don't have a dentist, we can triage your problem and help, providing you meet the eligibility criteria.

Out of hours (Mon-Fri 6pm-10pm, wknds & bank holidays 8am-10pm)

We can help all patients with urgent dental issues

After 10pm

Call NHS 111 for urgent dental advice



FOR URGENT DENTAL ISSUES

Urgent dental problems include the following conditions, which should receive self-help advice and treatment (where appropriate) within 24 hours:

- Dental and soft tissue infections
- Severe dental and facial pain; that is, pain that cannot be controlled by the patient following self-help advice
- Fractured teeth or tooth

Please note: This is an appointment-only service and carries a fee (currently £27.40 as of April 2025), which may increase annually with inflation. If you would like help finding an NHS dentist for routine care, please visit: www.nhs.uk



Greater Manchester
Urgent Primary Care Alliance

GM Urgent Dental Care Telephony Service

CALL NOW 0333 332 3800

Open 8am-10pm, 7 days a week (including weekends & bank holidays)