



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

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

NEWSLETTER

21: FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2026

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

SEND appointments with Mr Smith

As part of our school's ongoing commitment to inclusion and high-quality SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision, Mr Smith is offering families to book a 10-minute appointment to discuss any SEND-related matters concerning your child. If you feel a conversation would be helpful, please do book an appointment. Meetings will be available to book on the Arbor Parent App from Monday 16th Feb.



Ramadan

As we approach the beginning of Ramadan, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all families in our school community who will be observing this special month.

Ramadan is a time of reflection, kindness, generosity, and togetherness. To those who are observing, we wish you a peaceful and blessed Ramadan.



Half Term Challenge

What will you do to spread love throughout our community this half term?

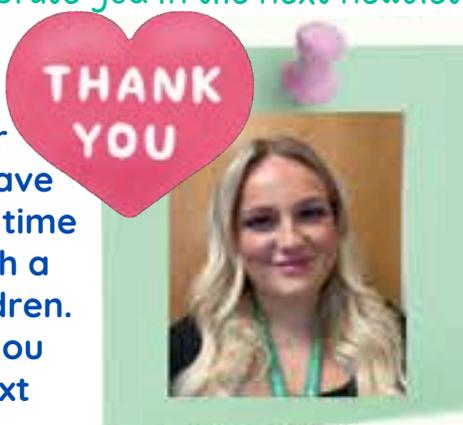
- Litter picking,
- Thank you notes,
- Donation to a food bank or charity shop,
- Smile or compliment challenge

Keep us updated so we can celebrate you in the next newsletter!



Miss Welch

Thank you, Miss Welch, for the love, care and joy you have poured into EYFS during your time with us. You have made such a special difference to our children. We will miss you and wish you every happiness in your next chapter.



A big thank you to Lancashire Cricket Foundation, Elton Cricket Club and Woodhey High School for making Thursday's event so successful, please see Facebook for more details!

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/



LOGIN

LOG INTO OUR
SCHOOL APPS:



Arbor 94%
Parent Portal usage



School Money

OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

EYFS Jayden A and Rayyan

YEAR 1 Rhema and Zayan

YEAR 2 Daniel and Quamariyah

YEAR 3 Aleena and Suzie

YEAR 4 Myla-Rose and Maisie-Reign

YEAR 5 Amber, Fatima and Henry

YEAR 6 Fatima and Afan



OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Lama	Deborah	Thomas

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

NURSERY 87.23% 1 late YEAR 3 98.0% 7 lates

RECEPTION 98.85% 3 lates YEAR 4 94.29% 1 late

YEAR 1 98.75% 2 lates YEAR 5 98.0% 7 lates

YEAR 2 96.88% 5 lates YEAR 6 94.48% 1 late

Number of lates this week: 27  from 6 last week!

Punctuality Champions: Nursery, Year 4 and Year 6

Attendance Heroes: Reception



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

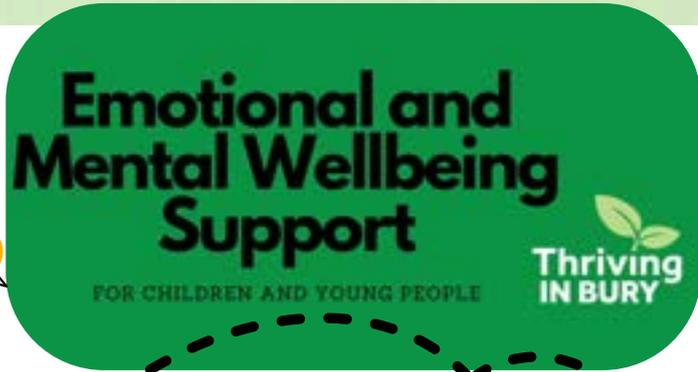
Our EFS accreditation signifies that our school has implemented a whole-school approach to address emotional needs, including clear safeguarding and health and safety policies, demonstrating a strong focus on creating a safe and supportive learning environment for ALL. We are very proud to be the first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

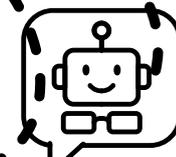
Please see Padlet links below for further support:

[For children and young people](#)

[For parents and carers](#)

CLICK HERE 



Fostering a sense of belonging 

Feeling a sense of belonging plays a vital role in children's wellbeing, confidence and gives them the ability to thrive, both academically and emotionally. This week's guide explores why belonging matters and how small, everyday interactions can make a meaningful difference in helping children feel accepted and included.

Download your FREE copy here >> [guide](#).



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



What's on the menu after half term?

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Main	Chicken Korma Curry, 50/50 Rice, Naan Bread	Minced Beef Pie	Pork Sausage Dinner With Gravy	Pizza Margherita	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons
	Halal Chicken Korma Curry, 50/50 Rice, Naan Bread	Halal Minced Beef Pie	Halal Chicken Sausage Dinner With Gravy	Pizza Margherita	Halal Southern Fried Chicken Goujons
	Sweet Potato & Coconut Curry, 50/50 Rice, Naan Bread	Broccoli & Cream Cheese Pasta Bake	Quorn Sausage Dinner With Gravy	Asian Noodles	Salmon & Sweet Potato Fishcake
	Bean Jacket Potato	Cheese Jacket Potato	Tuna Jacket Potato	Bean Jacket Potato	Cheese Jacket Potato
	Cheese Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Egg Sandwich	Egg Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich
Accompaniments	Roasted Cauliflower Potato Salad	Garlic New Potatoes Steamed Mixed Vegetables	Mashed Potatoes Fresh Broccoli Fresh Carrots	Oven Baked Sweet Potato Wedges Roasted Vegetables	Oven Chips Sweetcorn
Dessert	Chocolate Cookie Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Banana Muffins Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Carrot Cake Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Eves Pudding & Custard Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Wibble Orange Jelly Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter



well done!



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1 teacher
St Stephen's Church of England Primary School
Colville Drive
Bury
BL8 2DX



Dear Sally,

I am writing to thank you for the warm welcome and hospitality I received during my recent visit.

It was brilliant to tour your school and to see the inclusive and engaging environment you provide for your pupils. I also thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of the children and speaking with them about key issues currently being debated in Parliament, including social media and mobile phone use. Their curiosity and enthusiasm for current affairs and government was clear, and this was reflected again in Zayn's kind letter, which my team have shared with me.

I was very pleased to hear about the email you received from The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, congratulating the school on the excellent outcomes achieved by your most disadvantaged pupils. Recognition at a national, Government level is something to be extremely proud of, and stands as a testament to the dedication and commitment of you and your colleagues.

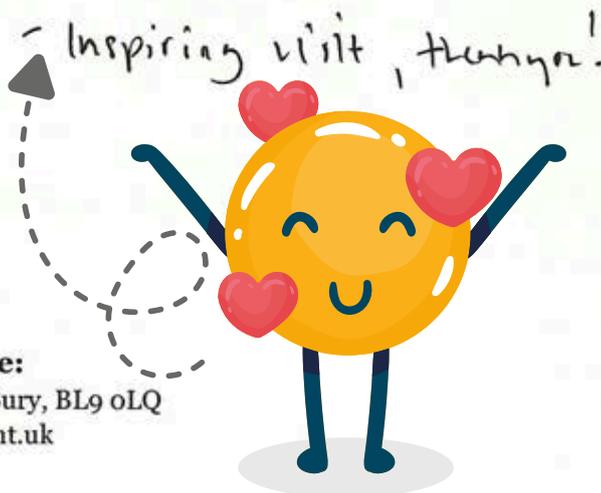
This work, alongside your school's recent Asthma Accreditation from the Northern Care Alliance, does not go unnoticed. It highlights the breadth of care, leadership, and ambition that defines your school community.

Thank you once again for welcoming me. If there is anything further I can do to support you and your school, including in a casework capacity for pupils and parents, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to seeing your school continue to grow from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely,

James Frith MP
Member of Parliament for Bury North

Constituency Office:
James Frith MP, 18 Bolton Street, Bury, BL9 0LQ
james.frith.mp@parliament.uk





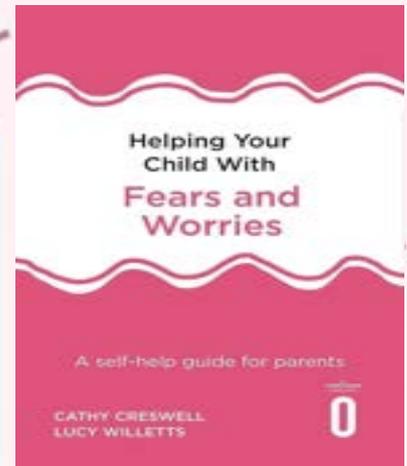
The Overcoming Programme

Group sessions to help parents support children experiencing anxiety.

What is the overcoming programme?

The Overcoming Programme involves **6 sessions** aimed at **parents/carers of children aged between 5 and 12 years old** where the main concern is **anxiety**. The programme uses a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) based approach to focus on changing the way adults around the child respond to anxious feelings by problem solving and creating shared goals and rewards.

8-10 other parents will be in the group with you. There will be **five 2 hour sessions** over the six weeks.



Evidence behind the programme

The Overcoming Programme has strong evidence behind it and is based on the book *Helping Your Child with Fears and Worries* (Creswell & Willetts, 2019). You will be able to read (or listen to) this book to help you as you work through the programme

When & Where?

There are 5 separate overcoming programmes running in Bury throughout the spring and summer terms (the duration of all programmes will be 6 weeks):

Group 1: Morning, in-person sessions, commencing in March 2026.

Group 2: Morning, online sessions, commencing in April 2026.

Group 3: Morning, featuring a combination of in-person and online sessions, commencing in April 2026.

Group 4: Late afternoon, Online sessions commencing in May 2026.

Group 5: Late afternoon sessions, featuring a combination of online and in-person sessions, commencing in May 2026.

What to expect:

An opportunity to meet other parents/ carers who are experiencing a similar situation and support from the group, as well as the Community Educational Psychology Service.

Time to think about how you can best support your child at home and the strategies you can use to do this.

'Homework' between sessions (reading/ listening to part of the book, trying out new strategies with your child).

Attendance at all sessions is really important. Both parents are welcome to attend, but it is important that one parent attends consistently

How to book on?

To book your place, please fill out the booking form using the link or QR code below:

[CLICK HERE](#)



The sessions will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any further questions, please email ceps@bury.gov.uk, indicating your child's school, so your query can be directed to an appropriate member of the team.



THE YEAR OF READING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

“ WHY WE LOVE READING... ”

Reading to me is an escape to a different time and place. It relaxes me and helps my mind switch off and focus on one thing.

Mrs Cooney



My top tip for reading and comprehension is to SET THE SCENE in your mind.

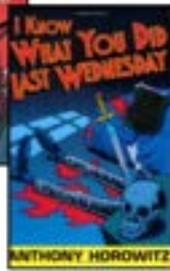
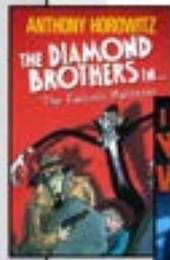
Afan, Year 6



AUTHOR WORDS OF THE WEEK

Anthony Horowitz

Anthony Horowitz is one of the most prolific and successful writers working in the UK – and is unique for working across so many media. Anthony is a born polymath; juggling writing books, TV series, films, plays and journalism. Anthony has written over 40 books including the bestselling teen spy series Alex Rider, which he adapted into a movie that was released worldwide in 2006. The Alex Rider series is estimated to have sold 19 million copies worldwide.



withy - a tough or flexible branch, used for weaving.

fret - a mist or fog coming off the sea.



@VocabularyNinja

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



SAVE THE DATE

VOCABULARY DAY

...a day to 'wear a word' and celebrate vocabulary and reading!

LET'S LOOK AT SOME PREVIOUS VOCABULARY CELEBRATION DAYS...

Friday 6TH March **CAN'T WAIT**



YOU are in the spotlight:

Anaya Reception

- Favourite food:** Noodles
- Favourite film/programme:** Bluey
- Favourite subject:** Maths
- What is the best thing about St Stephen's?** The home corner
- What would make St Stephen's better?** More letters
- What is your greatest achievement in school?** Singing on 'Number Day'
- What is your greatest achievement out of school?** Reading all my books
- Anything else?** I want everyone to be friends

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: Did you hear about the moody dentist?
A: He was always looking down in the mouth!

REMEMBER! You're awesome
to prioritise your

Wellbeing

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

“ **TAKE NOTICE**
Create a 'calm corner' at home with soft lights and cushions ”

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**
DO WHAT YOU CAN, 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.

Reflection of the week:

THINK FIRST, SPEAK LATER

The wise accumulate knowledge - a true treasure; know-it-alls talk too much - a sheer waste. Proverbs 10:14

KID TIP

When talking to other people, ask yourself this question: "How helpful can I be?"

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear Lord, I want my words to help other people. Let me choose my words carefully so that when I speak, the world is a better place because of the things I have said. 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
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 at 2:00pm
Easter Holidays	Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April
Y4 Viking & Anglo-Saxon workshop (in school)	Thursday 23rd April



Social Media: Should children have social media?

TAKEHOME

9th - 15th February



Should children have social media?



In the news this week

Adults in the UK are talking about whether children under 16 should be allowed to use social media, as the government is considering new rules to help keep children safe online. Some people believe social media helps children stay connected, while others worry it can affect wellbeing and mental health. During Children's Mental Health Week, the story reminds us how important it is to look after our mental health both online and offline.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What rules or agreements can help us feel safe when using technology at home?
- > Can you think of ideas for families to help balance screen time and other activities?
- > What are some of the activities that you do online? Do you do different things online to others at home?

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?

I think social media should be restricted because there might be some inappropriate material.” - Kyle, Year 6



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)