



St Stephen's  
CE Primary School

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

# NEWSLETTER

22: FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2026

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

**AWESOME!**



*Congratulations*



We are so proud of our pantomime stars, who shone brightly on stage this half term in a wonderful production of Snow White. With confidence, enthusiasm and talent, they brought their character to life and wowed the audience with their energy and smiles. It's fantastic to see some of our pupils embracing such a fantastic opportunity and representing themselves and our school so brilliantly. Well done – we can't wait to see where your performance journey takes you next!

**YEAR 6  
TRANSITION  
EVENT  
page 5**

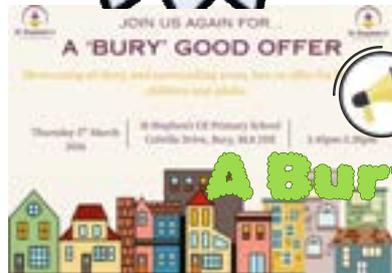


## Vocabulary Day

FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Wear a Word

Each World Book Day we celebrate the wonderful world of words by dressing up and wearing a word to describe our costume, e.g. triumphant, creative, ambivalent, fatigue. We can't wait to see the costumes!



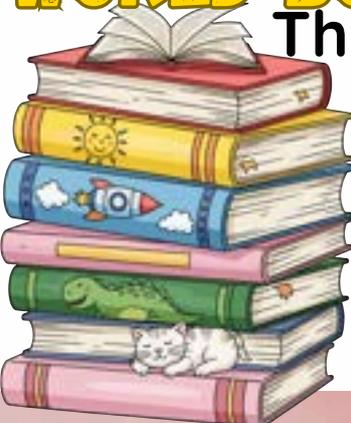
**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**A Bury Good Offer  
see page 4**

## WORLD BOOK DAY TREASURE HUNT

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 3.30pm

We would love to invite all parents and families to join us after school for our Reading Treasure Hunt Quiz in the Hall. Families will follow a trail of clues around the school, visiting classrooms to read an extract from Roald Dahl's The Twits and answer questions as a team. Each correct answer earns the next clue, leading all the way back to the Hall to discover the final "treasure"! We'll also have Bury Good Offer running for you to join. All completed quizzes handed in will be entered into a raffle for a special prize. We can't wait to see you there for an afternoon of fun, reading, and adventure!



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/StStephen'sCEPrimarySchoolBury)

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



LOGIN

LOG INTO OUR

SCHOOL APPS:



Arbor 94%  
Parent Portal usage



School Money

# OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

EYFS Sidney and Bodhi

YEAR 1 Ruby and Evie

YEAR 2 Wasi and Emma

YEAR 3 Josh and Tommy

YEAR 4 Amelie and Jacob

YEAR 5 Josh and Aria

YEAR 6 Skye-Louise and Tyler



# OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Amjad	Emma	Myla-Rose

# THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

<u>NURSERY</u>	86.67%	2 lates	<u>YEAR 3</u>	95.20%	1 late
<u>RECEPTION</u>	99.23%	4 lates	<u>YEAR 4</u>	94.23%	0 lates
<u>YEAR 1</u>	97.92%	1 late	<u>YEAR 5</u>	99.33%	0 lates
<u>YEAR 2</u>	93.75%	0 lates	<u>YEAR 6</u>	96.55%	0 lates

Number of lates this week: 8



improved from 29 last week!

Punctuality Champions: Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Attendance Heroes: Year 5



Appointments in term-time:

Appointments, where possible, should be booked in school holidays or after school. This includes routine dental and optician appointments.

# 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



Behind the Screen: How safe is YouTube Kids? This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide checks out the risks and shares tips to help kids stay safe while streaming videos. [#OnlineSafety](#)

Download your FREE copy here



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



# Bury Holiday Activities and Food Programme

## Bolton Community Grocery

Andy's Man Club Bury

SENDIASS

Citizens Advice Bury and Bolton

JOIN US AGAIN FOR...

## A 'BURY' GOOD OFFER

Bury Football Club

Showcasing all Bury, and surrounding areas, has on offer for families, children and adults.

Bury Libraries

Thursday 5th March  
2026

St Stephen's CE Primary School  
Colville Drive, Bury, BL8 2DX

3.45pm-5.30pm

Bury Family Help Service Early Help



Funtime Activities Sports for Kids

Bury Council

Early Break UK

Bury Children's Centres and Family Hub

CAP - Christians Against Poverty UK

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust - MHST

Bury Educational Psychology Team (CEPS)

# Year 6-7 Transition Event



Wed 11<sup>th</sup> March  
3-6pm  
Elizabethan Suite,  
Knowsley St,  
BL9 0SW

Come along to our free event and find support and advice to help make the transition into high school seamless and stress free

**Secondary schools**  
**Mentally healthy schools**

**Virtual school team**

**Kooth**

**GM travel**

**Free school meals**

**Youth Service**

**Educational Psychology**

**Early Help**

**Bury SENDIASS**

**NSPCC**

**Bury EHC team**



What's on the menu next week?

# SCHOOL MENU

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>Main</b>	Chilli Con Carne, Long Grain Rice	Sausage Casserole	Roast Chicken Dinner With Gravy	Southern Style Texan Beef Burger	Caribbean Jerk Chicken
	Halal Chilli Con Carne, Long Grain Rice	Quorn Sausage Casserole	Halal Roast Chicken Dinner With Gravy	Halal Southern Style Texan Burger	Quorn Caribbean Jerk Chicken
	Creamy Mushroom & Chickpea Pasta Bake		Roast Quorn Fillet Dinner With Gravy	Southern Style Quorn Texan Burger	Breaded Fish Fingers
	Bean Jacket Potato	Cheese Jacket Potato	Tuna Jacket Potato	Bean Jacket Potato	Cheese Jacket Potato
	Cheese Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich	Egg Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Tuna Sandwich
<b>Accompaniments</b>	Steamed Mixed Vegetables Potato Salad	Sweet Potato Mash Green Beans	Herb Roasted Potatoes Fresh Broccoli Fresh Carrots	Garlic & Basil Potato Wedges Sweetcorn	Oven Chips Garden Peas
<b>Dessert</b>	Cocoa Brownies Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Iced Finger Bun Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Baked Peach Tartlets Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Pineapple & Coconut Sponge Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Raspberry Fruit Smoothie Pot Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



St Stephen's  
CE Primary School



The Sycamore  
Church of England  
Trust

## VOCABULARY PARADE

### FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

For the past few years, Vocabulary Day has been a huge success here at St Stephen's, and we're excited to continue this wonderful tradition! As part of our ongoing efforts to develop children's vocabulary, we've been working hard to introduce new and engaging ways to expand their word knowledge.

This year, we continue to invite all children to dress up as a word of their choice, with the word clearly displayed on their outfit.

To celebrate, we'll have a whole-school vocabulary parade on Friday morning where everyone can show off their creative word-inspired costumes!

## HOME CHALLENGE

### Great Book Cover Glow-Up Competition!

We are excited to invite all children to take part in our Great Book Cover Glow-Up competition!

Simply choose your favourite book and redesign the front cover in your own creative style. You could create a modern version, add new illustrations, reimagine the characters, or design a completely new artistic interpretation of the story.

We will be looking for:

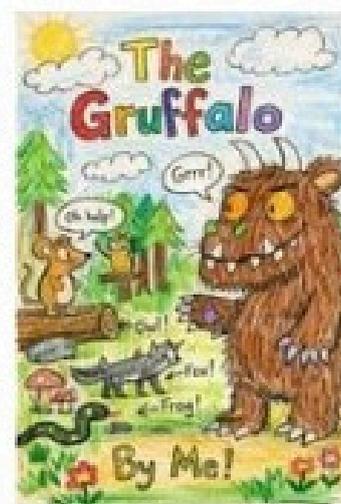
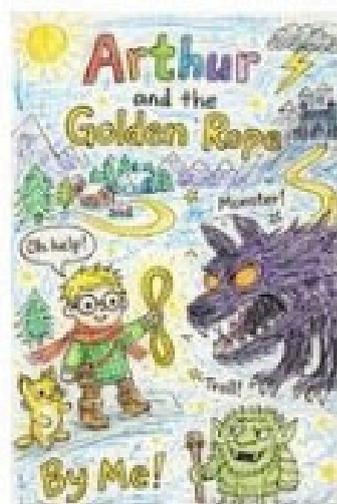
- Creativity and originality
- Care and presentation
- How well the design reflects the story

All entries must be given to Miss Dunbar on or before Thursday, 5th March. The designs will be displayed in the hall for everyone to see, and the winners will be announced on Friday, 6th March.

We can't wait to see your amazing entries!

## IN SCHOOL

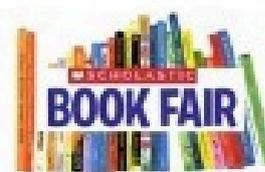
As always, we're thrilled to be celebrating World Book Day at St Stephen's with a variety of fun activities to inspire a love of reading! Throughout the week our children will take part in exciting book-themed quizzes, challenges, and interactive reading sessions. It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the joy of books and explore new stories together.



## BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to school on Tuesday 17th March – Thursday 19th March! This is a great chance to explore a wide selection of books, including some of the best-selling authors and popular book series that are on sale. You'll find something for everyone, from thrilling adventures to magical tales.

Books will be available for purchase on each of these days. More information about our exciting book sale will be shared with you in the near future, so keep an eye out for all the details!



Would you like to learn how to:

- Build your **confidence** in the kitchen?
- Rustle up **quick** and **easy** meals from scratch?
- Cook **cheap** and **simple** meals for the whole family on a limited **budget**?
- Use **fresh** and **nutritious** ingredients to prepare a **healthy** and tasty meal for all the family?

Come along to our **free** 4-week course

**WHAT'S COOKING? HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET**  
for parents, grandparents and carers of children under 17

**Starting on Friday 6th March, 12.30-2.30pm**



Please call **0161 253 5772**

to book a place on the course at

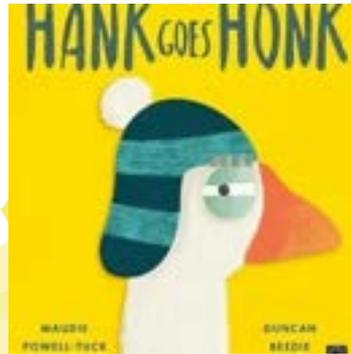
**Bury Adult Learning Centre**

18 Haymarket Street, Bury, BL9 0AQ

# THE YEAR OF READING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

## WHY I LOVE READING...

Reading to me is leaving the real world and entering another world.



Great Books Guide 2025-26: for 4 to 5-year-olds  
[CLICK](#)



Reading with your child at home is the single most important thing you can do to support their learning—just a few minutes each day makes a huge difference. As Dr Seuss said, ‘The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.’

## ATTENTION

### 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018).  
Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
Available online: [eef.org.uk/eef-research/preparing-for-literacy](https://eef.org.uk/eef-research/preparing-for-literacy)

Education Endowment Foundation (2018).  
Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
Available online: [eef.org.uk/eef-research/improving-literacy-in-secondary-schools](https://eef.org.uk/eef-research/improving-literacy-in-secondary-schools)

Breadman, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kook, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2018).  
Literacy Development: Evidence Review. Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
Available online: [educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy\\_Development\\_Evidence\\_Review.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf)

YOU are in the spotlight:

Archie Year 5

Favourite food: Fries

Favourite film/programme: The 1% Club

Favourite subject: Science

What is the best thing about St

Stephen's? The lessons

What would make St Stephen's better?

Left-handed classes

What is your greatest achievement

in school? Being a part of the site team

What is your greatest achievement out

of school? Having a job

Anything else? No

you are  
A·M·A·Z·I·N·G

Kindness

spotlight

CHOOSE  
kindness

Max Y6

Your kindness makes our school shine!

Wellbeing WISDOM from the warriors:

“  
**CONNECT**  
Share stories from  
your childhood with  
your children.  
”

## WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING

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



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

NHS 5 ways to wellbeing.



Wellbeing Club with Katie every:

**MONDAY**

12.30-1.00pm in HUB Connect

Joke of the week:

Q: What do you call a donkey with 4 legs?

A: Stable

REMEMBER!

You're awesome

Reflection of the week:

**CHEERFULNESS NOW**

A happy heart is like a continual feast.

Proverbs 15:15

KID TIP

Cheer up somebody else. Find somebody else who needs cheering up, too. Then, do your best to brighten that person's day.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear Lord, make me a cheerful Christian. Today, let me celebrate my blessings and my life; let me be quick to smile and slow to become angry. And, let Your love shine in me and through me. 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 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



### 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
A Bury Good Offer and Family World Book Day Treasure Hunt	Thursday 5th March 3.30-4.30pm
Vocabulary Day - wear a word day	Friday 6th March
Spring Assessment Week	Monday 9th - Friday 13th March
Y6-7 Transition Event at Elizabethan Suite, Bury	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 3-6pm
Spring Wellbeing Walk around Elton Reservoir	Saturday 14th March at 2pm
Parents' Consultation Evening	Wednesday 18th March
Easter Bingo!	Friday 27th March
Y6 Crucial Crew	Wednesday 1st April
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
Bank Holiday - school closed to pupils	Monday 4th May
Local Elections - school closed to pupils	Thursday 7th May
Y6 KS2 SATs	Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May
Break the Rules Day	Friday 15th May
May half-term	Monday 25 May - Friday 29th May
Y6 Residential	Wednesday 10th - Friday 12th June

# THIS WEEK



## Picture News

# Space Travel: Why do people explore space?

## TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

Scientists at NASA are preparing to send astronauts back to the Moon, as part of a new space programme running over the coming years. The series of missions aims to test new technology, learn more about the Moon, and help humans prepare for future journeys deeper into space. The next mission is Artemis II. The plans have sparked discussions about why people explore space and how they could help life on Earth.

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

- > What do you already know about space or the Moon? What would you like to find out?
- > Why do you believe people choose to explore space, even though it can be difficult and risky?
- > If you could explore anywhere beyond Earth, where would you go and why?

### Why do people explore space?



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)



## USE your VOICE

# What do you think?

“To find new life, to find something new that could help us.” - Teddy, Year 6