

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



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

28: Friday 24th April 2026

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



Successful Summer Term

A BIG welcome to our new Nursery children. We are so excited to have you join our St Stephen's family!

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

On 27 March 2026, the Government published advice on screen use for children aged 0-5 on the Best Start in Life website. The early years are a critical period for children's development. The advice offers practical, non-judgemental support to help families balance screen use with other activities. Click [here](#) for more information.



As we begin the summer term, we are looking forward to all the learning, events and opportunities ahead. You can really help your child to succeed each day by ensuring they arrive at school ready to learn with everything they need.

Please support your child by:

- Reading 3x weekly at home and recording this in their book,
- Ensuring online learning and fluency tasks are completed,
- Bringing the correct equipment into school each day, e.g water bottle,
- And, of course, arriving with their very best St Stephen's attitudes and behaviours, ready to learn and be kind!

We appreciate all that you do

Our St Stephen's family is growing...

We would like to share that Miss Almond will be going on maternity leave in May 2026. Miss Almond will be finishing work at the end of the half term, and we wish her and her family all the very best as she prepares to welcome her new arrival. As a school family, we keep Miss Almond and her family in our prayers at this special time. We know you will join us in wishing her every happiness and blessing.



There is lots to look forward to this term, so please do take time to read the key dates included in this newsletter and available online. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for sharing your brilliant children with us each day.

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-Jace & Arya

YEAR 1 Deborah & Zoya

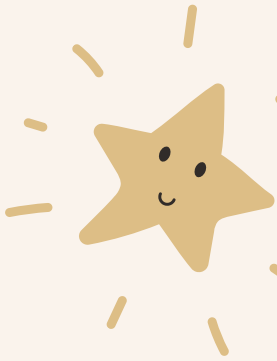
YEAR 2 Karson-Gray & Abdulrahman

YEAR 3 Archie & Gracie

YEAR 4 Melissa & Zayn

YEAR 5 Archie & Heavenlyjoy

YEAR 6 Jacob & Amelia



OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Evie (Rec)	Amelia (Y1)	Bisma (Y4)

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

NURSERY 95.38% 1 late YEAR 3 97.60% 4 lates

RECEPTION 96.92% 4 lates YEAR 4 98.95% 1 late

YEAR 1 93.33% 1 late YEAR 5 94.83% 2 lates

YEAR 2 92.50% 0 lates YEAR 6 97.93% 0 lates

Number of lates this week: 14

No improvement from 13 last week



Punctuality Champions: Year 2 and Year 6

Attendance Heroes: Year 4



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!

FAMILY SUPPORT

Please see Padlet links below for further support:

[For children and young people](#)

[For parents and carers](#)

CLICK HERE

Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Support



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

YOU TUBE

YouTube continues to be one of the most popular platforms for young people, offering a mix of entertainment, creativity and learning. However, its vast content library and recommendation systems can also expose children to risks that are not always easy to spot. This guide highlights key concerns, including:

- Inappropriate or extreme content
- Interaction with strangers
- Risky trends and challenges
- The impact of short-form content

It also offers practical advice, such as using YouTube Kids, setting parental controls and watching content together. [CLICK HERE](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content available on any topic. However, with over 30 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
A free and open platform allows anyone to upload content without any checks. This means that inappropriate and potentially harmful content is readily available to all users. This includes content that is violent, sexually explicit, or contains hate speech. It also includes content that is inappropriate for children, such as gambling, alcohol, and drugs.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
Trends and challenges on YouTube can be risky and potentially harmful. These include challenges that involve dangerous activities, such as eating spicy food, or challenges that involve self-harm or other dangerous activities.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT
The platform's recommendation system can expose children to extreme content, such as videos of violence, self-harm, or other dangerous activities. This content can be particularly harmful to children and young people.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
YouTube allows users to interact with each other through comments, likes, and shares. This can lead to children interacting with strangers, which can be risky.

SUGGESTED CONTENT
YouTube's recommendation system can suggest content that is inappropriate for children, such as videos of violence, self-harm, or other dangerous activities.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT
Short-form content, such as TikTok and Instagram Reels, can be addictive and can lead to children spending too much time on the platform. This can impact their schoolwork and other activities.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS
YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos to age-appropriate content. However, it is not perfect and should be used alongside other safety measures.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS
If a child is your own device content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with intended viewers. Parents or guardians can also limit what their children can see and watch together.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Parents can use parental controls to limit content, restrict usage, and manage privacy settings. YouTube Kids, for example, allows parents to manage their child's account and restrict what they can watch.

WATCH TOGETHER
Watching and discussing YouTube with the child and young person in your household helps you understand what they are watching and can help them think about inappropriate content.

Meet Our Expert
#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Twitter: @wake_up_weds Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday TikTok: @wakeup.weds



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





School Grid is our online system for ordering school lunches. It lets parents and carers choose their child's meal in advance using a phone, tablet or computer.

How will it help at lunchtime?

Your child gets the meal they've chosen: Meals are pre-selected, so children feel confident and know what they're having.

Less waiting, calmer lunchtimes: Choices are already made, which helps queues move faster and gives children more time to eat and play.

Supports healthy choices: Parents can see the menu in advance and help children choose balanced meals.

Helpful for allergies and dietary needs: Dietary requirements are safely managed as staff know exactly what each child needs.

Less food waste: The kitchen prepares the correct number of meals, helping reduce waste.

Easy to use: You and your child can order meals at a time that suits you and see what's coming up on the menu.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU NEXT WEEK?

SCHOOL MENU



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
ORANGE	Chicken Chow Mein	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Cottage Pie	Macaroni Cheese	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons
BLUE	Halal Chicken Chow Mein	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Halal Cottage Pie	Macaroni Cheese	Halal Southern Fried Chicken Goujons
PURPLE	Veggie Burrito	Quorn Tikka Curry, 50/50 Rice, Naan	Quorn Sausage Dinner With Gravy	Sweet & Sour Vegetables With Rice	Quorn Fishless Fingers
GREEN	Cheese Jacket Potato	Bean Jacket Potato	Cheese Jacket Potato	Tuna Jacket Potato	Cheese Jacket Potato
YELLOW	Tuna Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Egg Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Ham Sandwich
Accompaniments	Mini Corn Cobs Jacket Wedges	Steamed Mixed Vegetables Smoky Diced Potatoes	Fresh Carrots Fresh Broccoli Mashed Potatoes	Garden Peas Garlic Sliced Potatoes	Baked Beans Oven Chips
Desserts	Wibble Strawberry Jelly Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Summer Berry Crumble & Custard Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Strawberry Smoothie Pot Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Shortbread Biscuit Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Organic Apple Fruity Ice Lolly Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter



School Uniform

Children wearing full school uniform always look smart and ready to learn.

Thank you for your support



St Stephen's

Winter Uniform (September to Easter holidays):

- Blue polo shirt (short or long sleeved)
- Maroon jumper/cardigan/fleece - our uniform stockist is Touchline
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore
- Black school shoes (not trainers)
- White/grey/black socks/tights

Summer Uniform (April to July):

The following may be worn:

- Blue/white checked dress
- Grey shorts

P.E. Kit:

- Blue polo shirt
- Black shorts / leggings/ jogging bottoms/ PE skirt
- Plain black pumps or trainers



Children should come to school in their PE kit on their PE days.

Long hair must be tied back for PE lessons. Earrings should be covered with tape or removed.

Jewellery

Jewellery is not allowed in school with the following exceptions:

- Watches
- Stud earrings

Children need to remove earrings for all P.E. lessons. If earrings cannot be removed for any reason, parents should supply plasters to cover them.

- Please ensure that all clothing is marked with your child's name.
- NO make up may be worn



Smart uniform: builds pride creates a sense of belonging supports learning and routines prepare children for secondary school and beyond.

THE YEAR OF READING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

GO
ALL
IN.

To me, reading is important because it helps you learn more vocabulary!

Amelia, Y6



Great Books Guide for age 11+
CLICK HERE

CHECK OUT



BURY LIBRARIES SERVICE

Download the FREE BorrowBox app today!



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, BADCLIFFE & RAMSBOTTOM)
SUNDAY 9.30AM - 1PM
(FREETWICH)
VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.BURY.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES



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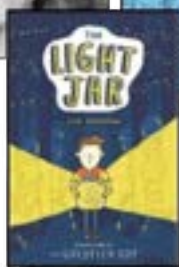
AUTHOR WORDS OF THE WEEK

The amazing author of *The Goldfish Boy* and *The Light Jar*

@lthompsonwrites and @vocabularyninja

Lisa Thompson

Lisa Thompson worked as a Radio Broadcast Assistant making all sorts of programmes for the BBC. During this time she got to make tea for lots of famous people. She grew up in Essex and now lives in Suffolk with her family. An actor, playwright and screenwriter, Lisa has studied in the US, Australia and Brazil. She played the role of Maria-Elena Holly in the long-running musical *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story*. Her experiences as a sheep-drencher and salsa-dancer inspired her to write *Fleeced!*, which is her first novel.



superfluous - necessary, especially for being too much.

brittle - hard but likely to break easily.

@VocabularyNinja



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



YOU are in the spotlight:

Iylah-Rose

Reception

Kindness

spotlight

CHOOSE kindness

All of Y3

Favourite food: Chicken nuggets & chips

Favourite film/programme: Waffle Doggy

Favourite subject: Writing

What is the best thing about St Stephen's? Playing with my friends

What would make St Stephen's better?

Forest school more often

What is your greatest achievement in school?

Getting a certificate for star of the week

What is your greatest achievement out of school?

Gymnastics

Anything else? I love, love

school dinners!

you are
A.M.A.Z.I.N.G

Your kindness makes our school shine!

Wellbeing WISDOM from the warriors:

“
KEEP LEARNING
Try a new craft or DIY project
”

WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING



TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED



Your time,
your words,
your presence



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF



DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR MOOD

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.](#)



Reflection of the week:
AVOIDING QUARRELS

Foolish people are always getting into quarrels, but avoiding quarrels will bring you honour. Proverbs 20:3

KID TIP

Tempted to fight? Walk away. The best fights are those that never happen.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Dear 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.

Wellbeing Club with Katie every:

MONDAY

12.30-1.00pm in HUB Connect

Joke of the week:

Q: How did the French fries get engaged?

A: With an onion ring!



Bury

Young People's
Mental Health
Support Team
Thrive in Education

Hello, my name is Katie



NHS

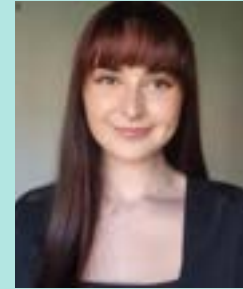
Pennine Care
NHS Foundation Trust

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.



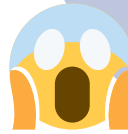
I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner



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
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
Family Breakfast & Parent Workshop	Monday 18th May at 8:15am
'No Pens Day' - £1 suggested donation	Wednesday 20th May
May half-term	Monday 25 May - Friday 29th May
Y6 Bikeability	Monday 1st - Friday 5th June
Class Photographs	Monday 8th June
Y6 Residential	Wednesday 10th - Friday 12th June
Y6 Swimming - everyday for 10 days	Monday 15th - Friday 26th June
KS2 Sports Day -morning	Friday 26th June
The Sycamore Trust Concert at Bury Parish Church	Tuesday 30th June
Year 6 Leavers Service @ Manchester Cathedral	Thursday 2nd July
EYFS and KS1 Sports Day - morning	Friday 3rd July
Family Breakfast & Parent Workshop	Monday 13th July at 8:15am
School closes for Summer	Friday 17th July at 2:30pm

THIS WEEK



Picture News

London Marathon: Is it ever too late to try something new?

TAKEHOME



In the news this week

An 82-year-old runner, Eileen Hieron, has shown that age hasn't stopped her trying something new. She only started running in her 70s and ran her first marathon at the age of 74. Since then, she has completed nearly 10 marathons and even won her age group at the London Marathon. This Sunday, runners from all over the world will take part in the 2026 London Marathon, and stories like Eileen's are inspiring others to think about whether it's ever too late to try something new.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you ever tried something new that felt difficult at first? What helped you keep going?
- > Do you believe age should matter when trying something new? Why or why not?
- > Is there someone you know who has tried something new later in life? What have they done?
- > Why do you think people take part in challenges like the London Marathon?



Is it ever too late to try something new?

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?

“No, because there shouldn't be an age limit on trying new things.” - Chloe, Year 5

Concerned about your child's speech and language? There's a brilliant online tool that parents can use at home to get personalised ideas to support their child's communication. It's super simple to use and gives you fun and practical everyday strategies you can do together — perfect if your little one is finding certain sounds tricky, struggling to put words together, or just needs a little extra support. Easy, reassuring, and parent-friendly.

A great first step if you're looking for guidance at home.



Free Speech & Language Support for Families

♥ What is it?

A simple, friendly WhatsApp programme that helps you support your child's early communication – no waiting, no appointments.

You'll get short videos, ideas and practical tips for everyday life – all designed by a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist



Who is it for?

- Parents of children who aren't yet talking or are not having conversations
- Families on waiting list for or considering speech and language therapy
- Anyone who wants to feel clearer and more confident about what to do next



What will you get?

- 10 easy steps delivered by WhatsApp
- Videos, audios, and quick activities
- Support for connection, confidence and communication
- Trusted by over 7,000 families worldwide

How to start

Scan the QR Code to Join instantly



(This is not a group chat – it's private support sent directly to you.)