



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

37: Friday 3rd July 2026

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

NEW
ADVENTURES
AHEAD!

Staffing Update for

SEPTEMBER

As we look ahead to September, we are delighted to share our teaching team for the new school year.



For the Autumn Term, *Mr Smith will be spending part of his time supporting another school within our Trust. We are very proud that his experience and expertise are being recognised more widely, and we know he will make a positive difference to children and staff across the Trust. Importantly, Mr Smith remains a valued member of our team and will continue to work with our Year 6 children throughout the Autumn term. This temporary arrangement gives us the opportunity to welcome Mr Ahmed to St Stephen's as Year 5 teacher for the Autumn Term. Mr Ahmed is an Early Career Teacher and we are excited to support him as he develops his skills and experience. As a school, we are proud of our track record of nurturing talented early career teachers, as we have done with Mr Davis this year, and we look forward to seeing Mr Ahmed flourish as part of our team.

- ★ EYFS: Mrs Garside
- ★ Year 1: Miss Dunbar
- ★ Year 2: Mr Davis
- ★ Year 3: Miss Ramzan
- ★ Year 4: Mrs Harrison and Mrs Potter
- ★ Year 5: Mr Ahmed*
- ★ Year 6: Mrs Cooney and Mr Smith*

On Monday 6th July we will be continuing our transition sessions with all children in (current) Reception to Year 5 spending time in their new classrooms with their new teachers.

Thank you, Mrs Crouch!

Mrs Crouch has been with us for the past six weeks on her teaching placement, and she will be greatly missed. She has been an absolute pleasure to have in school and has had a truly brilliant placement. Throughout her time with us, she has shown enthusiasm, dedication and a genuine commitment to supporting our children in Year 4. We wish her every success for the future and know she will make a wonderful teacher. ✨



YOU WENT
ABOVE
AND
BEYOND

OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

- EYFS Evie & Alaaya
- YEAR 1 Ruby & Evie
- YEAR 2 Abdulrahman
- YEAR 3 Suzie & Thomas
- YEAR 4 Zayn & Maisie
- YEAR 5 Noah & Aizah
- YEAR 6 Noah & Anaya



OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Sidney - YR	Evie - Y1	Zahra - Y6

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

<u>NURSERY</u>	89.19%	1 late	<u>YEAR 3</u>	93.08%	2 lates
<u>RECEPTION</u>	93.33%	3 lates	<u>YEAR 4</u>	96.82%	0 lates
<u>YEAR 1</u>	98.26%	0 lates	<u>YEAR 5</u>	96.33%	0 lates
<u>YEAR 2</u>	98.13%	3 lates	<u>YEAR 6</u>	95.17%	0 lates

Number of lates this week: 9



Much improved from 13 last week!

Punctuality Champions: Year 1, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

Attendance Heroes: Year 1



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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
MANAGING DIGITAL BOUNDARIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

Screens are part of everyday life, but they should not take over early childhood routines. For under-fives, healthy digital habits are built through simple, steady boundaries that protect sleep, play, connection, and development. Current UK guidance advises avoiding screen time for children under two – except for shared activities such as video calls – while children aged two to five should ideally have no more than one hour a day.

- ASK A GROWN-UP FIRST**
For under-fives, autonomy is important, but not when it comes to choosing digital content. Establish an 'ask a grown-up first' rule early, whether at home or in an early years setting. Adults should choose the video, app, or game, reviewing helping children avoid unwholesome content and understand that devices are tools to be guided, not toys to control.
- PROTECT SLEEP BUFFERS**
Screens can make it harder for young children to wind down, especially when content is bright, noisy, or fast-paced. Aim for a screen-free hour before sleep or start with 10 minutes of quiet time instead. Use this time for calming routines such as stories, bath time, quiet play, or cuddles, helping children recognise that bedtime is approaching.
- CO-VIEW AND CHAT**
Screen time is safer and more meaningful when adults are involved. Sit with children, even briefly, and talk about what they're watching. Ask simple questions like "What can you see?" or "How does that character feel?" This turns passive viewing into shared interactions, supports language development, and helps adults spot content, unwholesome content, or disturbing messages.
- KEEP DEVICES HIDDEN**
Young children are more likely to ask for screens when they can see or reach them. Keep devices out of sight when they're not being used, and consider creating corded trays or shared screens instead of handing over a phone or tablet to a child. This reduces passive scrolling, supports self-regulation, and helps adults stay to control of what appears next.
- PLAN THE TRANSITION**
The hardest part of screen time is often stopping. Before the screen goes off, tell the child what's coming next and offer two acceptable choices, such as books or drawing. This gives the child a sense of agency without remaining the boundary. A planned next activity encourages a smoother stop, which can quickly become frustration or distress.
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Children notice adult habits long before they understand adult explanations. If they're expected to put their screens away, they need to see adults doing the same thing during meals, play, and conversations. Create a shared "phone home," such as a basket or shelf, to show that technology has a place in daily life but does not need constant attention.
- MAKE SCREENS PREDICTABLE**
Young children do not always understand minutes, but they quickly learn patterns. When screen time happens at a regular point in the day, it becomes a routine rather than a negotiation. Use the same spot and finish routines each time, such as a timer, goodbye wave, or toy-away moment, so children know what to expect next.
- CREATE SCREEN ZONES**
Physical boundaries help children understand digital boundaries. Keep screens out of bedrooms to protect their sleep and away from tables to preserve real-life connections. Choose one space, like a table, for shared viewing, reading, or supervised classroom corner. This makes limits feel less personal and more like a clear family or setting routine.
- USE SIMPLE SCRIPTS**
Transitions are easier when children hear the same calm language each time. Use short, repetitive phrases such as "It's time, then books," or "When the timer rings, we stop." Avoid long explanations during emotional moments. Simple scripts reduce negotiation, help adults stay consistent, and give children clear expectations they can gradually understand and follow.
- PRIORITISE SLOW CONTENT**
Not all screen time feels the same to a young child's brain. Fast-paced clips, loud sounds, and rapid scene changes can make it harder for young children to settle down afterward. Choose slower content with simple stories, gentle voices, and natural pauses. Think of digital content like food, with more calm, nourishing choices than fast-paced, digital "sugar treats."

Meet Our Expert
Neha Agarwal is the founder of Cyber Well Kids, an innovative educational initiative that empowers children with digital literacy skills and online safety awareness. She offers live and on-demand cybersecurity training for children aged 5-10, with her unique background in cybersecurity services for corporates and serving as an expert panel advisor on internal matters. Neha brings corporate-grade cybersecurity expertise to the early years world.

Wake Up Wednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

Screens are now part of everyday family life, but for very young children, clear and predictable boundaries can help screen time feel calm rather than constant.

This guide shares practical advice for families, nurseries and early years settings on supporting healthier digital habits for under-fives. With supportive tips and realistic routines, this guide helps adults manage screen time with greater confidence. Read the guide [here](#):



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



We now use School Grid for pre-ordering school meals.

Please login and book your child's meals in advance. Without booking in advance, your child may not receive their first choice of meal.

If you do not have access, please speak to the school office.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU NEXT WEEK?

	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	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato
YELLOW	Choice of Sandwich	Choice of Sandwich	Choice of Sandwich	Choice of Sandwich	Choice of Sandwich
Accompaniments	Mini Corn Cobs Jacket Wedges	Steamed Mixed Vegetables Smokey 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





St Stephen's
CE Primary School

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

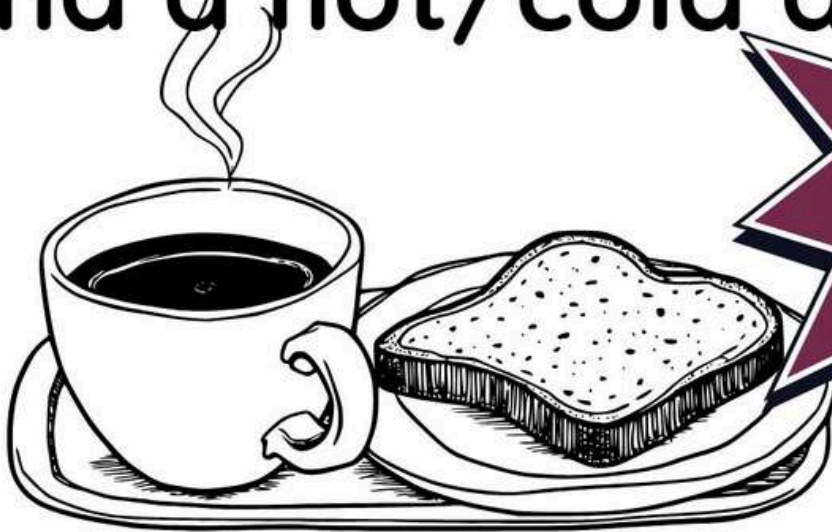


YOU'RE INVITED!

Monday 13th July

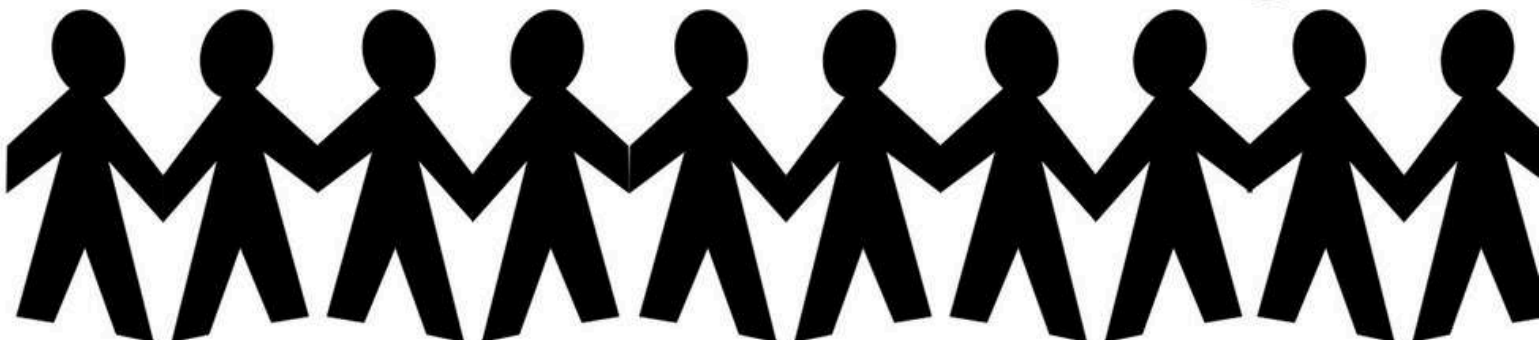
Family Breakfast

Join us for a slice of toast
and a hot/cold drink.



8.15am

We can't wait to see you!



YOU are in the spotlight:

Mrs Crouch

Student
Teacher

Favourite food: Mexican food
Favourite film/programme: Harry Potter or Friends
Favourite subject (to teach): RE and Geography
What is the best thing about St Stephen's?
The people
What would make St Stephen's better?
Nothing
What is your greatest achievement in school? Teaching as part of my course
What is your greatest achievement out of school? Being a mum
Anything else? Just thank you for having me and supporting me. I will miss you all.

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:

What did the pencil sharpener say to the pencil?

Stop going around in circles and get to the point!

Kindness

spotlight

CHOOSE kindness

Melissa

Year 4

Your kindness makes our school shine!

Wellbeing WISDOM from the warriors:

CONNECT

Play a board game or do a puzzle together

WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING



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



Reflection of the week:

SET THE EXAMPLE

You are young, but do not let anyone treat you as if you were not important. Be an example to show believers how they should live. Show them with your words, with the way you live, with your love, with your faith, and with your pure life.

NHS 5 ways to wellbeing

1 Timoth 4:12

KID TIP

Your friends are watching: so be the kind of example that God wants you to be - be a good example.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, make me a good example to my family and friends. Let the things I say and do show everybody what it means to be a good person and a good Christian. Amen.



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

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

Inclusion Champions

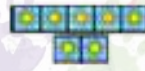


Our



sign

of the



week

is



SCHOOL

Extended index and middle fingers held together in front of body. Wrist bends side to side while hand moves downward.

School



Our Inclusion Champions are working on a sensory garden area to support children with their sensory needs.

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.



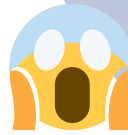
I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner



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
Super Mrs Smith Saturday	Saturday 4th July at 12:00pm
Excel Tennis Tournament (by invite only)	Tuesday 7th July (Y3/4 9:30am, Y5/6 1pm)
Welcome to Nursery September 2026 Tour of EYFS	Tuesday 7th July at 4:00pm
Welcome to Nursery September 2026 Stay & Play	Wednesday 8th July at 10:00am
St Stephen's Got Talent Final	Wednesday 8th July
Nursery Sports 'Day'	Thursday 9th July at 2:00pm
Family Breakfast - ALL INVITED	Monday 13th July at 8:15am
Year 6 Leavers' Disco	Thursday 16th July, 6-7:30pm
End of Year Church Service @ St Stephen's Church ALL INVITED	Friday 17th July at 10:00am
Year 6 Leavers Service at School YEAR 6 FAMILIES	Friday 17th July at 1:15pm
School closes for Summer	Friday 17th July at 2:30pm

We return to school on Wednesday 2nd
September (Y1-Y6)

Pupils in Nursery & Reception will receive
separate confirmation of their start date.

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**



My
Favourite
Things

SUMMER Cabaret 2026

AN EVENING OF SONGS FROM EXCELLENT FILMS

CHILDREN PERFORMING
A VARIETY OF FUN PERFORMANCES



11TH
JULY
2026



7:15PM
CURTAIN UP



ST. STEPHEN'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
ELTON, BURY
BL8 2DX



£5 ADULT
£2 KIDS



TICKETS
ON DOOR

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

St. Stephen's Church +



Letters have come home for the Y6 Leavers' Disco on Thursday 16th July 6pm-7:30. Return your slip to Mr Smith for your ticket!

YOU'RE INVITED TO

FREE



Thursday 16th July
6-7.30pm

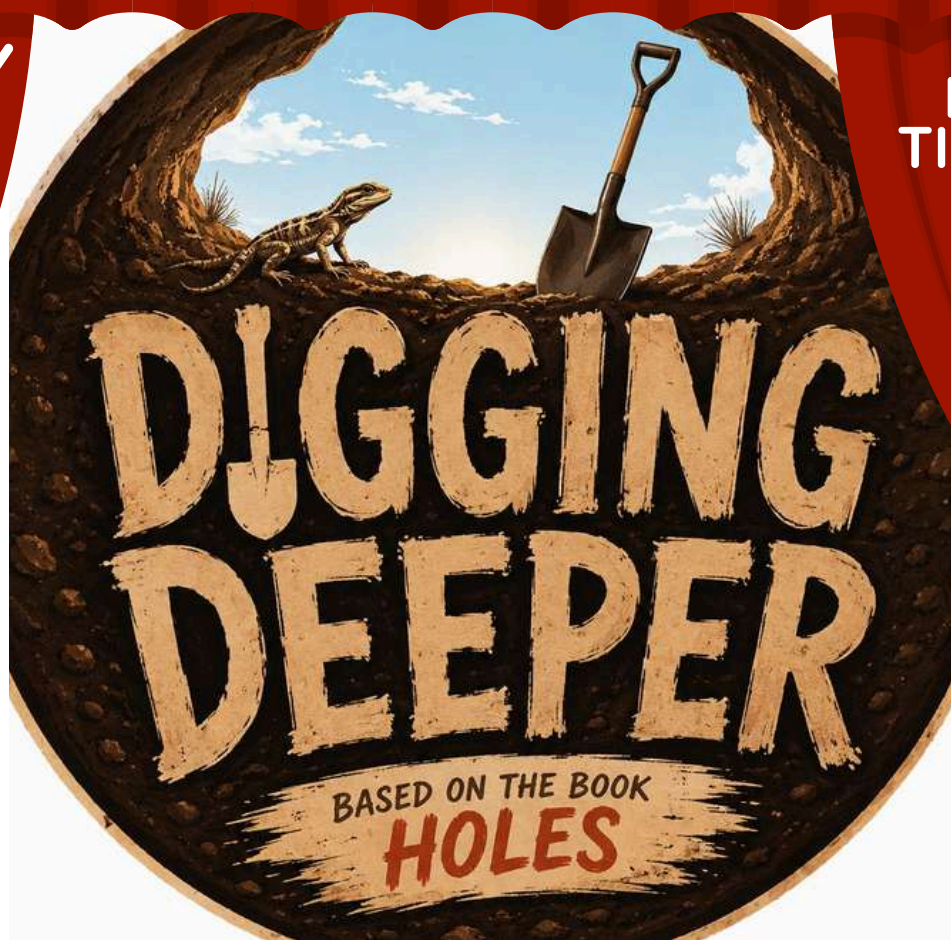
St Stephen's Year 6 Leavers' Disco

You're invited to our year 6 play

TUESDAY
14TH
JULY

FREE
TICKETS

BIG
RAFFLE



2pm

6pm

REFRESHMENTS