

NEWSLETTER

06: Friday 9th October 2026

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

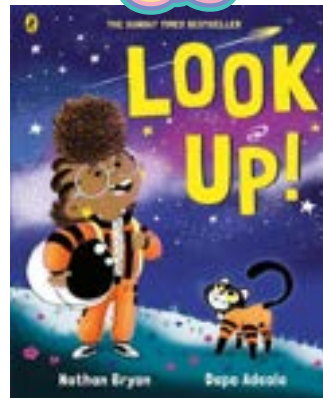
SPELLING BEE COMPETITION



For pupils in Year 1-Year 6, spelling lists have now been sent home, and we encourage all children to spend some time practising their spellings ready for a fun-filled week of challenges beginning on Monday. Children will take part in a range of spelling activities throughout the week and we are looking forward to a week of learning, teamwork and friendly competition.



During Black History Month, the whole school will be exploring Look Up!, a wonderful story inspired by the life of Dr Mae Jemison, the first Black woman in space. Children will celebrate diversity, dream big and learn about the achievements of inspirational Black role models.



Flu vaccinations

A catch-up session for Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 has been arranged for Thursday 12 November.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a selection of good-quality, spare school uniform available free of charge for families who may need it including; t-shirts, trousers, skirts, pinafores, jumpers and cardigans.

Please consider contacting the office before buying new!



ART COMPETITION

Create a piece of **artwork** that celebrates Bury's past or commemorates Remembrance Day. See further details below on pages 13-14.



YEAR 6 PARENTS: APPLY FOR YOUR CHILD'S SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE NOW! DEADLINE IS 31/10/2026.

Apply Now

Well done!

SKIP2BFIT

Year 3 - Mia
Year 4 - Phoebe
Year 5 - Melissa
Year 6 - Arish

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's-CE-Primary-School-Bury)

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/

LOGIN



Parent Portal



OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	Theo
YEAR 1	Evie & Raphael
YEAR 2	Ruby & Ivy
YEAR 3	Daniel & Lucas
YEAR 4	Paige & Niamh
YEAR 5	Amelie & Fadil
YEAR 6	Noah & Aria



OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS & KEY STAGE 1

Annabella - Year 1

KEY STAGE 2

Mae & Amelia - Year 6

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

<u>NURSERY</u>	97.1%	0 lates	<u>YEAR 3</u>	97.5%	3 lates
<u>RECEPTION</u>	91.18%	1 late	<u>YEAR 4</u>	98.89%	2 lates
<u>YEAR 1</u>	97.79%	1 late	<u>YEAR 5</u>	98.1%	0 lates
<u>YEAR 2</u>	99.05%	0 lates	<u>YEAR 6</u>	97.24%	3 lates

Number of lates this week: 10

Good improvement
from 8 last week.

Punctuality Champions: Nursery, Year 2 and Year 5

Attendance Heroes: Year 2



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

Thriving
IN BURY

This week's guide reminds educators that they do not need to be specialists to provide meaningful support.

The guide explores:

- Building warm, trusting relationships
- Choosing a safe and appropriate place to talk
- Using side-by-side conversations to reduce pressure
- Staying calm when a pupil shares a concern
- Being clear and honest about confidentiality
- Knowing when to involve safeguarding colleagues or seek support yourself

It also includes practical conversation starters to help staff open discussions gently and give pupils space to talk when they are ready.



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

Top Tips for Educators

PUPIL WELLBEING CONVERSATIONS

If you feel difficult to know how to start a conversation with a pupil about their wellbeing, never because you do not feel equipped with the information you think you need, or because you do not feel confident opening it up. You do not need to be a specialist. This guide covers how to start, what to say about confidentiality, and what to do with what you hear.

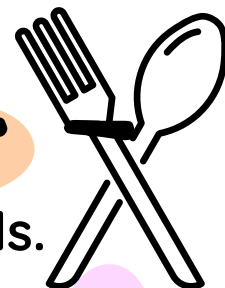
- 1. NURTURE WARM, TRUSTING, & KIND RELATIONSHIPS**
Build a relationship with your pupils that is based on trust and kindness. This is the foundation for any meaningful conversation about their wellbeing. Use your knowledge of your pupils to build a relationship that is based on trust and kindness. This is the foundation for any meaningful conversation about their wellbeing.
- 2. KEEP CALM, EVEN IF YOU'RE WORRIED**
When you are talking to a pupil about their wellbeing, it is important to stay calm. This is because you are the adult in the room and you are responsible for creating a safe and supportive environment for your pupils. If you are worried, it is important to take a breath and stay calm. This is because you are the adult in the room and you are responsible for creating a safe and supportive environment for your pupils.
- 3. HAVE SIDE-BY-SIDE CONVERSATIONS**
Side-by-side conversations can be a great way to build a relationship with your pupils. This is because you can talk to them in a way that is less intimidating than a face-to-face conversation. Side-by-side conversations can be a great way to build a relationship with your pupils. This is because you can talk to them in a way that is less intimidating than a face-to-face conversation.
- 4. THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE**
The location of your conversation can make a big difference to the outcome. A quiet, private space is ideal for a conversation about wellbeing. A public space, such as a hallway or a classroom, can be intimidating for a pupil. Think about where you are when you are talking to a pupil about their wellbeing.
- 5. BE HONEST ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY**
It is important to be honest about confidentiality. This is because you need to know what you can and cannot share with your pupils. Be honest about what you can and cannot share with your pupils. This is because you need to know what you can and cannot share with your pupils.
- 6. CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
A safe environment is essential for a meaningful conversation about wellbeing. This is because you need to know that your pupils feel safe and supported. Create a safe environment for your pupils. This is because you need to know that your pupils feel safe and supported.
- 7. DO NOT CARRY IT ON YOUR OWN**
It is important to know when to seek support. If you are struggling to have a conversation about wellbeing, it is important to seek support from your colleagues or your supervisor. Do not carry it on your own. This is because you need to know when to seek support from your colleagues or your supervisor.
- 8. HELPFUL OPENERS**
Here are some helpful openers to get you started:
"I've noticed you seem a bit quiet today. Is everything okay?"
"I've noticed you seem a bit quiet today. Is everything okay?"
"I've noticed you seem a bit quiet today. Is everything okay?"

Meet Our Expert
Mrs Denney is a mental health and wellbeing specialist with nearly 20 years of experience. She is a member of the National College for Mental Health and Wellbeing. She is a member of the National College for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College

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





We use School Grid for pre-ordering school meals.

Parents can book their meal on School Grid up to 8:55am each morning.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU NEXT WEEK?

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Chicken Chow Mein	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Cottage Pie	Macaroni Cheese	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons
	Halal Chicken Chow Mein	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Halal Cottage Pie	Macaroni Cheese	Halal Southern Fried Chicken Goujons
	Veggie Burrito	Quorn Tikka Curry, 50/50 Rice, Naan	Quorn Sausage Dinner With Gravy	Sweet & Sour Vegetables With Rice	Quorn Fishless Fingers
	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato	Choice of Jacket Potato
	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



West Bury CEPS Parent & Carer drop in

Bury
Council

Book an individual appointment with
**Bury Community Educational
Psychology Service** to discuss
questions or concerns relating to your
child.



Who are the sessions for?

These sessions are available to families whose child has not already been seen by an Educational Psychologist through school, for example as part of an EHC Needs Assessment.

The aim of the call is to give you an opportunity to talk through any concerns you have about your child and to access advice, guidance, or signposting from the CEP Team.

Please note:

We do not record calls or keep personal details from our conversations. We may, however, keep anonymous notes about the themes and questions discussed so that we can identify common areas of need and continue to improve the support we offer to children, families, and schools across Bury.



Mondays, Tuesdays and
Thursdays



4pm - 6pm (30 minute
slots)



Microsoft Teams

How to book

To book a session at a time that suits you, please use the following QR code.



Once you have selected the booking time and submitted the request, you will receive an email with the link to access the meeting.

For any further questions, please contact  Abigail.Boylin@bury.gov.uk

mini giants

TINY TOTS
GROWING
BIG



Each week we have lots of fun, play, crafts,
activities and smiles!

Come and join us!

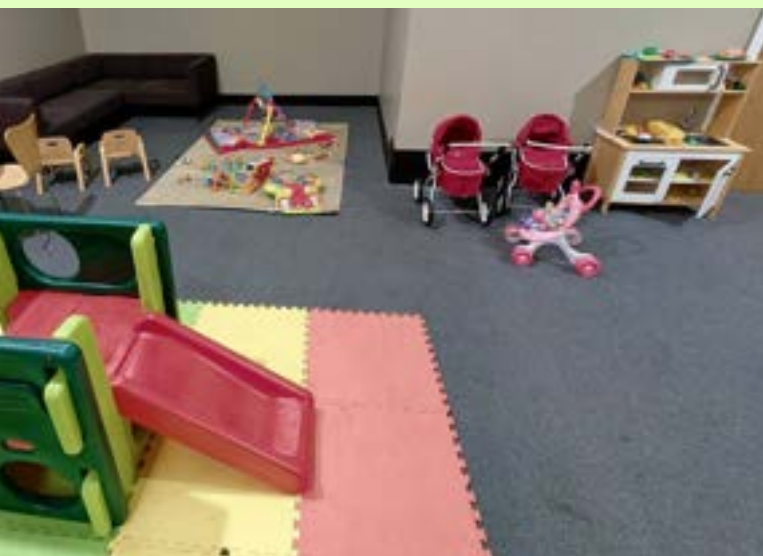
Our sessions are FREE!

FREE

Snacks and drinks are available
Every Wednesday during term time.

11:00am-12:30pm

Kings Church, The Mill, Bury Rd, Bolton BL2 6QE



EYFS

Autumn Stay and Learn Sessions

Reception

9-10am

Nursery

2-3pm

Thursday

22ND

October 26

Join us for some learning and
fun!

Find out why play is so
important for growing brains
and then join your child in
provision and enjoy some play
time.



This is a no phones event, please
leave the distractions at home!

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**



PEEP is coming to St Stephen's!
Are you interested in fun, practical
activities you can do at home?

Starts: Tuesday 3rd November (for 4 weeks)
2:00-3:00pm



Suitable for Nursery & Reception aged children
including younger siblings.
Speak to class teacher to book



Bury
Council



St Stephen's
CE Primary School



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

OPEN DAYS
SEPTEMBER 2027



"St Stephen's **welcomes, nurtures** and **supports** all children enabling them to **flourish.**"
SIAMS Inspection, November 2023

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU TO
OUR NURSERY OR RECEPTION CLASS 2027**

Our school vision is about **celebrating the uniqueness of every individual**, inspiring a life long love of learning and experiencing life in all its fullness. If you would like to visit our wonderful school to see our school vision in action, please contact the school office on 0161 764 1132 to book a tour with Mrs Denney, our Headteacher.



Monday 5th October at 9:30am
Monday 5th October at 4:00pm
Monday 19th October at 1:30pm
Tuesday 20th October at 4:00pm

Friday 20th November at 9:30am
Monday 23rd November at 1:30pm

Deadline for application:
15th January 2027



Please also visit us at Facebook or
at www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk



Our wellbeing focus this half term:

CONNECT

"We belong."

CHOOSE kindness

Some of the ways we will be supporting this include:

- Friendship-focused activities at social times
- Buddy systems to help children settle in
- Collective worship centred on kindness, community and belonging
- Family workshops offering advice on supporting positive friendships

By working together, we can ensure every child feels a strong sense of belonging and enjoys a positive start to the year ahead.

Kindness

Melissa George

spotlight

Year 1

Year 4

Your kindness makes our school shine!

Wellbeing WISDOM from the warriors:

“**CONNECT**
Play a board game with your family.”

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

NHS 5 ways
to wellbeing



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

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

DID YOU KNOW...

A group of

LEMURS

is called a

CONSPIRACY



PRAYERS TO CHANGE THE WORLD IN THE SAME WAY

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16



Lord, I know the only chance I have of making a real difference in this world is to follow the example of Your Son, Jesus. He gave sacrificially and approached people in practical ways. Best of all, He took the time to get to know others and assess their needs before He offered a remedy. Point me in the direction of someone who needs a little light. I pray that I may step out of my comfort zone and be the hands and feet of Jesus to that person. Amen.

BE THE CHANGE: Invite someone to join in a game or activity



INCLUSION CHAMPIONS



Inclusion means everyone belongs.
Everyone is welcome, valued and supported.

MEET THE TEAM



CURRENT PROJECTS



- We're designing a sensory garden that everyone can enjoy!
- We're creating a Zones of Regulation Tool Kit for our school.

SIGN OF THE WEEK



BICYCLE

Both closed fists facing downwards make alternating forward circles in front of body (with or without index fingers extended).

ONGOING PROJECTS

RUNNING THE SENSORY ROOM.

LEADING SIGN LANGUAGE IN WORSHIP.

ADDING WIDGIT TO OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

Hello, my name is Katie



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.

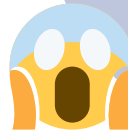


I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner

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



For the year's overview, please view school calendar

Event	Date
Celebration Worship	Friday 3pm
Family Breakfast	Monday 19th October @ 8:15am
EYFS Parent Stay & Learn	Thursday 22nd October @ 9:00am (Reception) and 2pm (Nursery)
October half-term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
Year 6 Secondary School Application Deadline	31st October 2026
Solo & Sibling Photographs Parents Evening	Wednesday 4th November
Remembrance Service @ St Stephen's Church (Parents Welcome)	Wednesday 11th November @ 2:00pm
Flu vaccination catch-up session	Thursday 12th November
Children in Need non-uniform day - £1 donation	Friday 13th November
Year 6 at Bury Grammar - 'Wizard of Oz'	Wednesday 25th November
Advent Service @ St Stephen's Church (Families Welcome)	Monday 30th November @ 2:00pm
Panto! - Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2	Monday 7th December
Panto! - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6	Tuesday 8th December
Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Christmas Fair	Wednesday 9th December
Family Breakfast	Monday 14th December @ 8:15am
EYFS Christmas Show	Tuesday 15th December @ 2:00pm
KS1 Christmas Show Christingle Service @ St Stephen's Church (Families Welcome)	Wednesday 16th December @ 2:00pm Wednesday 16th December @ 6:00pm
EYFS and KS1 Christmas Party Day	Thursday 17th December
KS2 Christmas Party Day	Friday 18th December
Close for Christmas holidays	Friday 18th December @ 2:30pm

THIS WEEK



Picture News

School Lunches: Who should decide what we have for school lunch?

The UK government has announced plans to make food served in schools across England healthier from September 2027.

TAKEHOME



Who should decide what we have for school lunch?

In the news this week

The government has announced plans to make food served in schools across England healthier from September 2027. Under the proposed rules, schools would serve more fruit, vegetables and fibre-rich foods, while deep-fried foods and foods containing lots of fat, sugar or salt would be restricted. Schools would still offer familiar meals, but they would use healthier ingredients and cooking methods.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Who usually decides what your family eats at home? Do you take turns? Does everyone help choose meals?
- > What are some of the things you think are important to consider when choosing what we eat?
- > If you could suggest one new school meal, what would it be?

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 school lunches should be our choice because we are the ones who have to eat it." - Rhoda, Year 2

BURY HOLIDAY Activities & Food Programme



ANNOUNCING OCTOBER HALF TERM HAF

The Bury Holiday Activities and Food Programme is pleased to announce we will be offering HAF places for October Half Term.

HAF provides Food and Activities to families in receipt of Free School Meals.

HAF Vouchers with 4 credits will be issued automatically via email from Holiday Activities on **Monday 5 October 2026** to all children in receipt of Free School Meals.

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals but do not receive your HAF Voucher email, please contact school.

Our programme this October sees providers from our Summer HAF delivering activities in venues across the whole of the borough, offering a great choice for all.

Activities Available include

- Forest Schools
- Football Camps
- Multisport Clubs
- Martial Arts
- Gym Sessions
- Drama Workshops
- SEND Specific Activities and so much more

Find activities



Scan the QR code to find
and book activities

SEND Provision is offered by several Providers. With SEND Specific places provided by BeeInclusive and Funtime.

The Bury Council HAF Webpage will Go Live by **Monday 5 October** where you will see our full programme.

Book as soon as you can to secure your places.



bury.gov.uk/bury-haf



BURY REMEMBERS

2026 Art Competition

Age 4- 11 Years Old

Create a piece of **artwork** that celebrates Bury's past or commemorates Remembrance Day
Open to primary-aged pupils

Two categories: EYFS & Key Stage 1
and Key Stage 2



1st Prize:
£50 Amazon Voucher
Highly Commended:
£10 Amazon Voucher

Entries must be submitted via email as a high resolution jpeg. If submitting a sculpture, please photograph from at least two angles.

Email your entries with your name, age, year group, primary school and primary school email contact to
buryremembers@burygrammar.com

Deadline for entries: 11/11/2026



Bury Remembers is an art competition for primary school-aged pupils which encourages them to celebrate the national Day of Remembrance and recognise the importance it holds in the life of our town.

They are invited to enter a piece of artwork of their choice - a painting, a drawing, a sculpture or a photograph - which captures the essence of remembrance and the celebration of peace.

Entries should be submitted by email as a high-resolution JPEG file which must include the name of the pupil, the school they attend and relevant contact details.

Multiple entries from schools are welcome with each entry attached as an individual JPEG file named using the following convention: pupil name _ school name.jpeg
e.g. Jamessmith_Kidmoreprimary.jpeg along with a covering email containing the name of the coordinating teacher, the school name and relevant contact details.

Originals of the artwork should be kept as the highly commended and winning entries will be displayed at the Fusilier Museum in Bury.

The deadline for entries is 11am on 11 November 2026 and the prize winning ceremony will take place at 1.30pm Friday 27th November 2026 at the Fusilier Museum.

There are two categories — one for EYFS and KS1 pupils and another for KS2 pupils — prizes will be awarded for both.

Further information can be requested at
buryremembers@burygrammar.com



ORACY 21

Oracy is articulating ideas, developing understanding and engaging with others through speaking, listening and communication.

Voice 21
Oracy School

Our School Priorities

1

FIND YOUR VOICE
WITH ORACY



SPEAK



LISTEN



DISCUSS



RESPECT

♥ Share ideas. Listen. Respect.



FIND YOUR VOICE
WITH ORACY

Our theme this half-term is...

Physical Oracy

As part of our commitment to developing confident speakers and listeners, we are working on physical oracy

this half term. Children will explore how their body language, expressions and voice can help them share ideas, show understanding and communicate with confidence.

CHALLENGE

Weekly family challenge ...

What animal could this be?
What can it NOT be?



Physical

Voice

- Pace of speaking
- Tonal variation
- Clarity of pronunciation
- Voice projection

Body language

- Gesture & posture
- Facial expression & eye contact

