St Stephen's CE Primary School

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

NEWSLETTER

07: Friday 16th October 2026

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



FAMILY BREAKFAST IS BACK!



Each half-term we welcome families to join us for family breakfast. The next one is at 8:15am on Monday 19th October. Come and join us for a slice of toast and a hot or cold drink. We can't wait to see you there!



As it is Black History Month, this coming week 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.

REMINDER

ST STEPHEN'S IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL



Thank you for keeping everyone safe at St Stephen's!



PANTO TRIP

Please check School Money for our annual trip to Bury College to watch *'The Snow Queen'*. We are asking for a £7.00 donation per child to cover the cost of the show and transport.

Log in to School Money to pay and give consent for your child to attend.



JAMES FRITH MP CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Check your email for details of James Frith MP Christmas Card competition. Entry forms are available from the office. Deadline for entries is Wednesday 4th November.



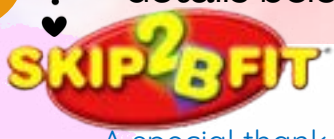
ART COMPETITION

Create a piece of **artwork** that celebrates Bury's past or commemorates Remembrance Day.

See further details below.











A special thank you to our Skip to be Fit leaders who are ready each day to set up, support others and lead by example. You are appreciated! Aleena Y6, Zoya Y6, Aria Y6, Mae Y6 and Maisie-Reign Y5.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

Phone: 0161 764 1132

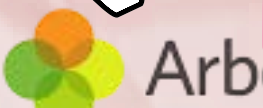
Email: ststephens@thesycamoretrust.co.uk

Facebook: St Stephen's CE Primary School, Bury.

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk/

LOGIN







Parent Portal

SchoolGrid

OUR ST.STEPHEN'S SUPERSTARS:

EYFS	Aryaan
YEAR 1	Abeera & Ava-Grace
YEAR 2	Joshua & Evie
YEAR 3	Emma & Yusuf Ja
YEAR 4	Rhyan & Ivy
YEAR 5	Jacob & Myla-Rose
YEAR 6	Mae & Ariana

OUR CHARACTER SUPERSTARS:

EYFS & KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
Thea - Year 1	Thomas - Year 4

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:

NURSERY	92.86%	0 lates	**YEAR 3**	95%	5 lates
RECEPTION	93.33%	2 lates	**YEAR 4**	98.52%	0 lates
YEAR 1	98.21%	1 late	**YEAR 5**	92.86%	0 lates
YEAR 2	91.43%	0 lates	**YEAR 6**	97.59%	1 lates

Attendance Heroes: Year 4

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

Number of lates this week: 9

Some improvement from 10 last week.

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 96.7%

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued commitment to supporting good attendance.Let's keep working together to keep our attendance above our school target of 96%.

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





AI companions are becoming increasingly popular with young people, offering conversations with virtual characters designed to feel like genuine friends.

This guide explores:

- Emotional dependency
- Harmful or unreliable mental health advice
- Oversharing personal information
- Inappropriate or explicit content
- Distorted expectations around real-world relationships

The guide also offers practical advice on discussing AI friendships, checking privacy settings and age limits, encouraging offline relationships and reminding young people where to seek genuine support.



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

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
	Beef Burger	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Beef Lasagne	BBQ Chicken Panini	Vegetable Nuggets
	Halal Beef Burger	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Halal Beef Lasagne	Halal BBQ Chicken Panini	Vegetable Nuggets
	Vegetable Bolognaise	Vegan Sausage Roll	Vegetable Moussaka	Cheese Whirl	Salmon & Sweet Potato Fishcake
	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	Chocolate Orange Sponge & Custard Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Strawberry Smoothie Pot Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Blueberry Muffin Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter	Organic Rainbow Fruity Ice Lolly Yeo Organic Fruit Yoghurt Fresh Fruit Platter



West Bury CEPS Parent & Carer drop in

Bury Council



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

Who are the sessions for?

These sessions are avaliable to families whoes 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.

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 recieve an email with the link to access the meeting.

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.

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!

FREE

Our sessions are 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

peep Learning Together Programme

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

Bury Council

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

St Stephen's CE Primary School

Sycamore Trust

OPEN DAYS SEPTEMBER 2027

Emotionally Friendly Settings 2025 to 2027 Bronze Accredited

"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

Rooted School of Kindness 2025/26 KINDNESS AMBASSADOR SCHOOL School of Kindness Accredited 2025/26

Inclusion Quality Mark IQM Bury Schools

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."

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 spotlight

Arya
Year 1

Jordan
Year 3

Your kindness makes our school shine!

Wellbeing WISDOM from the warriors:

"CONNECT
Write a note to a friend or family member."

WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING



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

PRAYERS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13



Random acts of kindness - They're so fun, Lord. I love dreaming up all sorts of ideas that I can do to bless others. I want to bless everyone with unexpected encouragement and surprises. I need your help, Lord, to come up with creative ideas. Let's get started! Amen.

BE THE CHANGE: Surprise a stranger by complimenting them.

DID YOU KNOW...

The vampire squid avoids predators by turning itself inside out and wrapping its spiky bottom half over its body.



INCLUSION CHAMPIONS

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

St Stephen's Inclusion Champions
Different minds brighter together

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



arch

ONGOING PROJECTS

- RUNNING THE SENSORY ROOM.
- LEADING SIGN LANGAUGE IN WORSHIP.
- ADDING WIDGIT TO OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

Bury Young People's Mental Health Support Team
Thrive in Education

NHS Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust

Hello, my name is Katie



I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner

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.**

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
Family Breakfast	Monday 19th October @ 8:15am
EYFS Parent Stay & Learn	Thursday 22nd October @ 9:00am (Reception) and 2:00pm (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

AI: Do we need AI wherever we go?

Meta has created the Muse Charm, a small device that can fit in a pocket or hang from a keyring.

TAKEHOME



In the news this week

Meta has created the Muse Charm, a small device that can fit in a pocket or hang from a keyring. The Charm uses Muse, Meta's artificial intelligence (AI), so people can talk to it, ask it questions, and show it what is happening around them. It is designed for adults over the age of 18, and Meta aims to have the new device ready to buy by December.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you use any AI at home or school at the moment?
- When do you think technology can be helpful in our everyday lives?
- What rules might help people use an AI companion safely?
- Talk to someone older at home about what it was like to find information out before the internet, AI and other similar technologies.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

© Picture News 2026

USE your VOICE

What do you think?

"No, people should think for themselves and make their own decisions. AI is taking over the world! - Henry, Year 6

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

Twocategories:EYFS& KeyStage1 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

THE FUSILIER MUSEUM LANCASHIRE

BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Bury Remembers is an art competition for primary school-aged pupils which enourages 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 llam on 11 November 2026 and the prize winning ceremony will take place at l.30pm Friday 27th November 2026 at the Fusilier Museum.
There are two categories — one for EYFS and KSI pupils and another for KS2 pupils — prizes will be awarded for both.

Further information can be requested at
buryremembers@burygrammar.com

THE FUSILIER MUSEUM LANCASHIRE

BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Oracy 21

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

Voice 21 Oracy School

Our School Priorities



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.

Physical

Voice

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

Body language

- Gesture & posture
- Facial expression & eye contact

CHALLENGE

Weekly family challenge ...

Spot the difference?





Did you know...

...at Stephen's we are continuing our journey to improve Oracy?



What is Oracy?

Articulating ideas, developing understanding and engaging with others through speaking, listening and communication.

Voice 21 explains that oracy is a powerful tool for learning because it helps children:

- Expresstheir thoughtsandideasclearly.
- Listen actively to others.
- Build understanding through discussion.
- Develop confidence, relationships and social skills.
- Improve learning across the curriculum



Why is it a priority?

Oracyisa prioritybecause spoken language is the foundation of learning. Children who can communicate effectively are better able to express their needs, share their ideas, build relationships and access the curriculum.

How can I help at home?

Talk together throughout the day



- Chat during meals, journeys and routines.
- Encourage children to explain what they are doing, thinking or feeling.
- Ask open-ended questions such as:
- "What do you think will happen next?"
- "Why do you think that?"
- "How did you solve that problem?"

Read and discuss stories

- Read books together regularly.
- Talk about characters, events and predictions.
- Encourage children to retell stories in their own words.

Sing, rhyme and tell stories

- Nursery rhymes, songs and storytelling help children hear and practise language patterns.
- Encourage children to join in, perform and create their own stories.

Learn through play

- Engage in imaginative play, small-world play and role play.
- Introduce new vocabulary during play.
- Encourage children to negotiate, explain and share ideas with others



Every conversation counts. Talking, listening, reading and playing together help children develop the confidence and communication skills they need for learning, friendships and future success.