



St. Stephen's C.E. Primary School

Colville Drive, Bury, Lancashire. BL8 2DX

Tel: 0161 764 1132

Website: www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs J S Parsons

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs S J Denney



Tuesday 31st October 2023

Dear Families,

Happy new half term. We hope you've had a lovely break and enjoyed spending time with family. We have had a busy start to the school year as we continue to focus on our areas of school improvement with the support of The Sycamore Trust whilst we remain steadfast in providing your children with the very best school to learn in each day.

We look forward to seeing you all for our Parent/Teacher night on 15th November to share with you your child's learning progress and how you can further support their learning journey at home,

We have so much to look forward to this term as we continue: Learning, loving and growing; together as God's children.

Mrs Denney and the St Stephen's Team

Our School Vision

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

Our vision is about celebrating the **uniqueness of every individual, inspiring a lifelong love of learning and experiencing life in all its fullness**. It is rooted in John 13:34:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Our school will be a place where:

- everyone feels safe, welcome and valued.
- everyone feels excitement, joy and challenge through developing their God-given gifts to achieve.
- everyone flourishes and excels, grows in character, faith and wisdom and develops hope and aspiration.
- everyone is equipped to move on in their journey with confidence, resilience and motivation.
- In partnership with others we seek to serve and make a valuable contribution to God's world.



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Mental Health Support Team

We are really pleased to share that the MHST - Mental Health Support Team, are staying with us!

This is an amazing provision that tries to meet the emerging mental health/ well-being needs of our children. As adults, we all know that we all have 'mental health', albeit good, bad or OK. We aim to normalise mental health, as much as we would with our physical health. This service helps to do that by trying to meet emerging mental health issues, through CBT lead interventions, as well as through workshops and group work.

This helps the children by giving them coping skills, strategies and changing thinking patterns, and to also, psycho educate them, in how our brains work and the impact of hormones and other influences, that can affect or mental health.

We would like to say a big thank you to Natelie Edgar - Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP), for all that she poured into our school last year. Now we welcome - Katie Barker (her 'All About Me' profile was added to Jotter earlier today), our new EMHP. We are looking forward to working with Katie and all the expertise she will bring. If you have any concerns with regards your child's well-being/mental health, and feel they may benefit from the MHST, please either come to speak to Mrs Taylor in school or drop me an email - l.taylor@ststephensceprimary.co.uk. (This service is a referral consultation service and will go to panel to see what can be offered as per referral. Please note - Not all cases are guaranteed to be accepted - they need to meet criteria).



Parent Coffee Morning

You are invited to join Katie Barker and Mrs Taylor for a coffee morning on Thursday 2nd November 9-10am in HUB XL – no need to sign up! We look forward to seeing you there.

Uniform Shop

Please remember we have a pre loved uniform shop in school. This has been set up with the donated uniform, which has been freshly laundered, bagged and labelled with correct sizes. Suggested prices are:

- t-shirts £1
- skirts, trousers, pinafores and dresses £2
- fleeces, sweatshirts and cardigans £3

If you are interested in purchasing anything from the uniform shop, please contact the school office, in person or by email ststephens@bury.gov.uk and we will look at available stock.



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WOW – Walk to School Campaign

If you are new to school, you may not know about our WOW badge incentive system. Each day your child records the way they travel to school on an online database. They may have travelled by car, on foot, park and stride, scooter or bike. If your child has ONE active journey each week, at the end of the month they will receive a WOW badge to wear on their uniform with pride. The scheme promotes looking after the planet whilst staying active, it also helps prevent congestion around school and helps keep everyone safe from traffic. Each week we celebrate the highest class engagement and most active class in our Friday good learning assembly. For more information, please visit <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/parents-info>

You are invited to park at Bolton Road Methodist Church as a park and stride location. We are currently trying to secure more park and stride locations local to school. If you have any ideas, please share them – via email – with Mrs Denney.



Pupil Photographs

On Wednesday 1st November, we welcome John Hunt photography to school to take pupil and sibling photographs. Please ensure your child is super smart and in full school uniform (PE uniform can be brought in a bag if it is a PE day). Smiles at the ready!!



THANK YOU so much for the very kind Harvest donations for Porch Boxes and The Community Grocery Store.

Children in Need

We feel proud that – in line with our school vision statement - we have been able to love others in different ways this term and have tried hard to make a difference in our local community and God's wider world.

This half term, we will be supporting Children in Need – children are invited to wear spots on Friday 17th November for a suggested donation of £1.



Inter Faith Week

This year, Inter Faith Week is 13-17 November 2023. As always, we want to celebrate this special event as a school and will be building on the learning we already do in our RE lessons and learning more about the multi



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faiths in our school, community and the wider world. We would love you to get involved in this. There are two ways:

- We would love to create a special book in school showing the many, many cultures and faiths we – as a school family - represent. If you can, please send us a photograph of your child/ren/family detailing something about your culture or faith. The special book will take pride of place in front of our God's Wonderful World display.
- As part of our assemblies during Inter Faith Week, Mrs Denney would love to invite in family members or local faith leaders to share with the children the importance of their faith to them. If you would like to be involved in this, please email ststephens@bury.gov.uk and mark it for the attention of Mrs Denney.



Parking

As you know, we have a long-standing arrangement for parents to have access to the Methodist Church carpark at the beginning and end of the school day – this is known as a 'park and stride' location. Please consider parking there and walking over to school via the pedestrian crossing to avoid parking on the streets immediately surrounding the school. We would like to avoid any unnecessary inconvenience for the residents of Colville Drive, Bolton Road, Kenmor Avenue and be courteous to our neighbours. Our ongoing OPEN DOOR system (from 8:45am each morning) also helps to reduce congestion considerably.



Nut Allergy Awareness for Packed Lunches, Snacks and Treats



As we have a number of children in school with nut allergies, we would like to remind you that food items that contain nuts must not be brought into school. The risk of cross-contamination from nuts is too high to allow any of these foods in school. Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening reaction that impairs breathing and can send the body into shock. Given this information, we ask that you carefully check the labels of any food in packed lunches, snacks or treats to ensure that they do not contain nuts. With this in mind, we know that some parents like to send in a class treat to celebrate their child's birthday, we respectfully ask that you choose a small item that can be shared by all of our children e.g. a class book, pencils or a piece of fruit. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.



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Attendance

We continue our big push on attendance. At St Stephen's we believe that ALL our pupils should be given the best chance to do well in life. There is a clear link between good attendance and good results, and we want to work together with you to achieve this by:

- Encouraging all pupils to arrive on time, ready to learn - every day
- Talking to each other if there is a problem causing your child to miss school
- Recognising good attendance
- Encouraging you to play a vital role in supporting school and helping your child to succeed
- Working with school to achieve our attendance target of 96%

Did you know?

- 90% in a test is good but 90% attendance throughout your child's life = 1 year missed at school
- 10 minutes late every day = 33 hours lost learning each year
- 1 day absence every week = 2 months lost learning each year
- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to 3 full days of school lost
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 full weeks of school lost
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day adds up to 19 full days of school lost



Mrs Taylor and Mrs Denney will be working closely with our families to continue to promote good attendance for our children at St Stephen's. This may include letters, phone calls, meetings and the help of outside agencies to continue to provide help and support where it is needed.



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School Photographs Day – Individual and Family	Wednesday 1 st November
Celebration Worship – all parents welcome	Every Friday at 3pm
Coffee morning – all welcome	Thursday 2 November at 9am -10am
Neon Night – Friends of St Stephen's Event	Friday 3 rd November EYFS and KS1 6-7pm KS2 7.15-8.15pm
Ethos Club	Restarts Thursday 9 th November 3.30-4.30pm
Mad Science Club	Tuesday 7 th November 3.30-4.30pm
Year 5 Class Assembly – Remembrance	Tuesday 7 th November at 9am
Anti Bullying Week	13-17 November 2023
Inter Faith Week	13-17 November 2023
Parent Teacher Consultation Evening – separate letter will be sent out	Wednesday 15 th November 2023
Children in Need day – SPOTacular theme! (suggested donation of £1)	Friday 17 th November
Y6 Lantern Workshop	Monday 20 th November
Assessment week for Y1 – Y6	27 th November – 1 st December
KS2 Advent Service at St. Stephen's Church (led by Year 6)	Friday 1 st December at 2pm
School choir to Bolton Road Methodist Church	Wednesday 6 th December
Orienteering Experience Day	Thursday 7 th December
Own Clothes Day – Please bring donation for the Christmas Fair (bottle tombola)	Friday 8 th December
Pantomime Visit to Bury College – there will be a separate letter	Tuesday 12 th December
Own Clothes Day – Please bring donation for the Christmas Fair (chocolate tombola)	Wednesday 13 th December
Christmas Fair at St. Stephen's CE Primary School	Wednesday 13 th December at 3:30pm
EYFS Nativity	Tuesday 19 th December
KS1 Nativity	Wednesday 20 th December
Christingle at St Stephen's Church	Wednesday 20 th December at 6pm
EYFS / KS1 Christmas Party Day	Thursday 21 st December
KS2 Christmas Party Day	Friday 22 nd December
Finish for Christmas Break	Friday 22 nd December at 2:30pm
Start of Spring Term 2024	Monday 8 th January 2024



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