



St Stephen's Primary School Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We end our school week by celebrating May Day – also the feast day of St Joseph, The Worker. Today is the 1st of May and it has arrived with glorious sunshine and colour springing up all around us. Throughout the month of May, our Mini Vinnies will be leading Rosary Club as May is a special month when we think about Our Lady. As Jesus' mother, Mary holds a very special place and we can pray to her when we are happy, to thank her for looking after us, and when we are sad or don't know what to do.

Our Year 6 pupils continue to work incredibly hard as they prepare for their SATs, with booster clubs and revision papers. This is an important time for them, and I have been impressed by the maturity they are showing as they buckle down to their studies. These examinations mark a significant milestone in their primary school journey, and the dedication they are displaying now will serve them well as they transition to secondary school. The resilience and work ethic they are developing will be invaluable as they move forward into the next chapter of their education.

Reception and Year One were all about profit this week as they sold ice creams in the Grow a Pound initiative. They made a £54 profit and the other children in the school definitely benefitted from cold sweet treats on this warm day. It was also a lovely opportunity for them to engage in meaningful mark making as they created signs and labels for the ice cream stall.

I am delighted to tell you about the launch of Morphs, an exciting new online spelling game, that has been integrated into our English scheme of work. Our Year 6 pupils had the privilege of trialling this resource first, and I am pleased to report that they have given it a very positive reception. Not only have they found it to be a lot of fun, but they have already noticed an improvement in their spelling accuracy. This is exactly the kind of engaging, purposeful learning we want to foster at St Stephen's. By the end of next week, all children from Year 1 through to Year 6 will have their own login to access Morphs. Whilst the game has been designed with Key Stage 2 in mind, all year groups will have access to it, allowing every pupil to benefit from this interactive approach to developing their spelling skills. I would very much appreciate your feedback once your child has had the opportunity to try it out. Your comments help us to understand what is working well and how we can continue to support learning at home and in school.

Goal Ball at Skipton Academy has provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils. This is an inclusive sport designed for those with a visual impairment, and it represents exactly the kind of inclusive thinking we champion at St Stephen's. Every child deserves the chance to participate, to challenge themselves, and to experience the joy of sport and physical activity, regardless of their abilities.

Beyond the school day, I want to celebrate the wonderful range of clubs and activities that have got off to such a great start this term. Our summer term clubs have launched with real enthusiasm as we have lots of lovely opportunities to join in with. Our Gardening club has made a splash of colour in the Key Stage 1 playground, and it has been wonderful to see the purposeful work taking place there. Gardening is so much more than simply planting seeds and watching things grow. It teaches our pupils about patience, responsibility, and the natural world, whilst also providing a genuine boost to their wellbeing. Running club has attracted a new group of athletes and is already proving to be an excellent means of supporting the wellbeing of our pupils. Fitness is important, of course, but beyond that, Running club provides our children with a space to challenge themselves, to build stamina, and to experience the positive effects of physical activity on their resilience. Our Chess club on a Friday has also captured the imagination of many of our pupils. From what I hear, there is going to be some serious and stiff competition as the term progresses, and it is wonderful to see our children developing strategic thinking and problem-solving skills in such a focused way.

I also want to highlight the online practice sessions that are now available to our pupils. Numbots, TTRS and Morphs all offer engaging ways for children to practise key foundational skills in numeracy and literacy. These are tools that complement our teaching in the classroom and give pupils the opportunity to consolidate their learning in a fun and interactive way. Do encourage your child to log on to these educational screen opportunities at home. Please have a look and commit some time to these platforms. If you are averse to extra screen time, pen and paper works just as well. Year 4 children crack on with practising your times tables and see if you can get 25 out of 25 next week when we have our weekly check!

Beyond school, our children continue to accomplish so much at home. Today, we have received another Blue Peter badge in assembly, some more gymnastics medals and swimming certificates to celebrate their wider accomplishments.

Next week, we have our Year 1s at Sandylands on Friday morning – volunteers for this would be most welcome! Also, next Friday is David Attenborough's 100th birthday and we will be celebrating this in school!

That leaves me to say, have a fabulous long weekend and see you next Tuesday!

Mrs Sykes, Headteacher



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MAY:

DATES

- Sun 3rd—** St Margaret Clitherow House
Mass at 10:30am
- Mon 4th—** **May Day (School closed)**
- Thu 7th—** Weighing & Measuring for
Reception & Y6
- Fri 8th—** Y1 Tennis at Sandylands am
- Mon 11th**
to Thu 14th— Year 6 SATS Week
- Sat 16th—** First Holy Communion at
10:30am
- Tue 19th—** Little Saints Playgroup at 9am
Nursery Open Morning 10am
- Fri 22nd—** Celebrating World Cultural

This week we're wishing
a very happy birthday
to.....

**James H, Hannah,
Mirha, Kian and Elodie!**

Please remember we are a **NUT FREE** school. Please do not pack anything containing nuts in your child's lunch pack. This includes Nutella/ hazelnut/chocolate bars with nuts. Please make sure to read the label before sending this in with your child. We have some severe allergy sufferers in school.



Menu 5th May (week 3)

Monday

Main:
Vegetarian: **SCHOOL CLOSED (MAY DAY)**
Sandwich:

Tuesday

Main: Beef Burger
Halal: Halal Burger
Sandwich: Tuna Mayonnaise or Ham

Wednesday

Main: Roast Chicken
Vegetarian: Cheese Pasty
Sandwich: Cheese or Ham

Thursday

Main: Pork Meatballs and Tomato Sauce

Vegetarian: Veggie Meatballs
Wrap: Ham & Cheese or Chicken & Cheese

Friday

Main: Fish Goujons
Vegetarian: Pizza
Sandwich: Cheese sandwich

Attendance (20/04-26/04)

SCHOOL 96.1%

St George 96.7%

St Patrick 93.9%

St Andrew 96.8%

St David 97.4%

St Christopher 93.5%



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Stars of the week



St George

Stars: Hailix & Ephraim

Maths: Valentina

St Patrick

Stars: Zakariya & Mirha

Maths: Alexandra

St Andrew

Stars: Imogen & Ollie

Maths: Jeik

St David

Stars: Alex & Angelina

Maths: Aubree & Izzy

St Christopher

Stars: Ethan & Jack

Maths: Lucie



After School Clubs

Please note these are the After School Clubs for this term. There will be a charge of **£2 per session per child (£20 for a whole term)**. Monday clubs will be for 9 weeks (£18) due to May Day. These sessions will run from **Monday 27th April until Friday 10th July (10 weeks)**. Clubs will take place from **3.20-4.20pm**. If your children are interested in joining, please contact the school office.

Mondays: Years 2-6

Gardening Club with Mrs Holt

Tuesdays: Years Rec, Y1-2

Stay & Play with Mrs Shooter

Thursdays: Years 1-2

Numbots with Mrs Fox

Years 3-6

Morphs with Mrs Fox

Years 3-6

Running Club with Mrs Sykes & Miss Calow

Fridays: Years 3-6

Chess Club with Mr Bullock

Free after school clubs

Wednesdays: Years 3-6

Music Choir with Miss Howe (3.30-4.45pm)

Fridays: Years 3-6

Football with Mr Douglass



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A fun-filled, action-packed half term

If you're looking for fun and adventure in the great outdoors, our action-packed activities are available to book now for May half term!

Tuesday 26 to Friday 29 May

Adventure Club is back at **Bewerley Park**, with planned activities on set days. Save 10% when booking siblings or multiple days.

Our **East Barnby** team are also running a two-day RYA sailing course at **Scaling Dam**, where young people can gain their Stage 1 or Stage 2 qualification.

Find out more and book now at outdoored.co.uk/schoolholidays

YOLS North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service



Parent and Carer Support Group

From the Mental Health Support Team

Our online Parent and Carer Support Group offers a safe and welcoming space to explore ways of supporting your child's emotional wellbeing, and your own.

Each half term, we cover a new wellbeing topic inspired by the Five Ways to Wellbeing, and share practical tips and ideas. It's also a chance to connect with other parents, share experiences, and support one another.

This half-term's topic:

Keep Learning – Feel it, Name it, Tame it

This session will focus on helping parents and carers support young people in understanding and managing emotions. Together we will share simple, practical ways to help young people recognise, name, and respond to big feelings.

Date: **Wednesday 6th May 2026**

Times: **10:30am or 7:00pm**

Platform: **Microsoft Teams**

To register your interest and receive a joining link, please email: mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com



better lives, together

W: www.bdct.nhs.uk

Twitter: @BDCTF

WILD EXPLORERS

Where nature, fun and adventure collide!
A child-led, fun and nurturing holiday club set in beautiful woodland on the Broughton Estate.

We are an OFSTED registered outdoor holiday club where children can play, enjoy a campfire, woodland crafts, tools and much more!

Price
£35 per child per day
Childcare vouchers accepted

Age
Reception - Age 13

Upcoming Dates
26th - 29th May

Into The Wild (Year 6 upwards) is running 26th - 27th May
Click [here](#) for more info

Time
9.30am - 3.30pm

Location
Broughton Hall Estate

hello@wildexplorers.org.uk

www.wildexplorers.org.uk



Sat Afternoon 13th June

Craven Leisure Centre

JUNIOR AQUATHLON

Come have fun and try out a multi-sport event



Swim 50 m (2 lengths)

Run 1km

Age 7-14 years



Enter Here!



Swim Bike Run - Skipton