St Stephen's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the end of another super week in school. Lots of wonderful things have been happening along with lots of lovely learning.

Our Reception and Nursery children ventured out for an Autumn walk to Ermysted's - taking in sights and sounds of nature all around them. Our Key Stage 1 class headed a little further afield to Sandylands to take part in an Essential Skills workshop with other local schools. Our Year 5/6 have had their swimming lesson and are making excellent progress. Finally, Our Year 3/4 class made the journey to Skipton Woods working on their skills making hitch knots in Forest School.

Within school, we have had several visitors. Our Key Stage 2 classes enjoyed workshops from Yorkshire Water where they learned about the water cycle and how to limit the amount of water we waste. They were thrilled to learn that we're still drinking the same water as ancient Egyptians and the dinosaurs!

We also had visitors from our Trust this week and lots of children had the opportunity to chat with our guests. They were all fantastically well-mannered and brilliant conversationalists. We are so proud of them.

Today, we celebrate the end of the week with something extra special – our Harvest Festival Assembly. Thank you for all the donations you have brought into school. We look forward to making the trip to Skipton Foodbank with all the food you have donated to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

This weekend we have our St Francis House Mass at St Stephen's Church on Sunday morning at 10.30am – our children will be reading, doing the offertory and the collections, with our diocesan choir singing too. Please come along and support our school and parish.

We have the first of our Reception 2027-28 Open Days next Thursday 8th October in the afternoon – this is available for all families with children of Reception age for NEXT September start. If you have a 3 or 4 year-old or know someone who does, please do signpost our open day to them and get them to book on the day by contacting the school office.

Please note that we are hosting a Phonics Workshop for our Reception Class parents next Thursday 8th October at 5.30pm. We've timed it to try and meet the needs of working parents. Please do try to attend as getting your child off to a strong start with reading and writing is a priority and Mrs Shooter will be modelling the teaching of phonics to make it as easy as possible for you to support at home.

The dates for our first parents evening are the 13th and 15th October. We have deliberately made them earlier this year so we can discuss how everyone has settled into school routines and share as much information about the year ahead. The booking system will be available from Monday – please book an appointment and be part of your child's learning journey.

We also have Stay and Play in Nursery and Reception on Tuesday 20th October from 9am – 10.30am. All parents/carers/grandparents are welcome to stay and play with your child.

With the festival of Diwali approaching, if any families would like to come into school to do a short activity with classes, we would love to welcome you. In particular, the Reception class will be looking at Diwali as part of their Understanding the World, so would be very excited to welcome visitors and bring this celebration and festival to life.

Thanks for all your help with trips this week. Wishing you all the very best for a quiet and relaxing weekend and I hope you will join me in wishing Mrs Parkinson well as she leaves us today to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the very best and can't wait to meet her new baby.

Kind regards,

Jo Sykes
Headteacher

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find below details of clubs running from **Monday 21st September to Friday 4th December 2026**.

The clubs are £2 per session and we ask that you sign up for a **10 week block (£20)**. **The clubs run from 3:20pm until 4:20pm. Places are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.**

Payment can be made via ParentPay or in cash to school. Payment should be made prior to the commencement of the clubs.

Friday Football will also continue with Mr Douglass for Key Stage 2.

In addition to the clubs, we have our Diocesan Choir with Miss Howe on a Wednesday after school which finishes at 4:45pm and Miss Calow's Choir on Friday lunchtimes.

Mondays:

Years 3-6	Running Club/Circuits	Mrs Sykes & Miss Calow
Years 1-6	Lego Club	Mrs Fox

Tuesdays:

Years 3-6	Pickleball	Mr Abbott

Thursdays:

Years 3-6	Craft Club	Mrs Holt

Fridays:

Years 1-6	Board Games Club	Mr Bullock

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Schools are now expected to take clear, demonstrable action to improve allergy awareness, prevention, and emergency response. This represents a major step toward consistent, life-saving protections in every school, not optional best practice but expected compliance for all schools in England.
Thank you to the parents who have already returned the form.

To this date, we are still missing forms for 45 of our students. Please ensure you fill in this form for each of your children.

If you have multiple children, please make sure you fill in a form **FOR EACH CHILD EVEN IF THEY HAVE NO KNOWN ALLERGIES/MEDICAL NEEDS.**

We greatly appreciate your co-operation in this.

If you have any questions or are unsure how to fill in the form, please contact the school.

Benedict's Law and Allergy Policy Update 2026 – Fill in form



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Dates for your diary

OCTOBER

Friday 2 Oct	Harvest Festival Assembly at 2:40pm
Sunday 4 Oct	St Francis House Mass at 10.30am
Thursday 8 October	Open Afternoon Sessions: 1:15pm – 2pm 2:15pm – 3pm Phonics Evening for Reception parents (5:30pm in the School Hall)
Friday 9 Oct	Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:05-10am
Monday 12 Oct	FOSS AGM (2:15-3:15pm in the School Hall)
Tuesday 13 Oct	Parents' Evening – 4:00-6:30pm
Thursday 15 Oct	Parents' Evening – 3:30-6:00pm St Patrick visit to Skipton Castle AM
Tuesday 20 Oct	Stay & Play Nursery & Reception (9am-10:30am)
Thursday 22 Oct	School closes for half-term
Friday 23 Oct	School closed for Training Day

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

Matilda, Arshman, Yahya & Nika!



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.



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PE Days Autumn Term 1

St George - Reception
Tuesdays and Thursdays
St Patrick – Year 1/2
Tuesdays and Thursdays
St Andrew – Year 3/4
Forest School – Thursdays
St David – Year 4/5
Mondays and Fridays
St Christopher – Year 5/6
Swimming – Wednesdays (am) (from 16/09 to 25/11)
PE - Wednesdays (pm)



St Patrick visited Sandylands on Thursday for a Movement & Skills Festival and were presented with a wonderful award for their great effort and skills! **Well done St Patrick!**



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Stars of the week

Nursery

Inaaya

St George

Aahil & Lyra

St Patrick

Stars: Watson & Arya

Maths: Dua

St Andrew

Stars: Aminah & Ishaal

Maths: Mary

St David

Stars: Valentino & Nusaybah

Maths: Mirha

St Christopher

Stars: Samantha & Malachy

Maths: Arthur

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Menu 2

Week commencing 5th October

Monday

Main:	Baked Chicken Pasta
Vegetarian:	Baked Cheese Pasta
Sandwich:	Ham

Tuesday

Main:	Oven Baked Pizza
Vegetarian:	Oven Baked Pizza
Sandwich:	Ham or Tuna

Wednesday

Main:	Roast Turkey
Vegetarian:	Cheese Pasty
Sandwich:	Ham
Wrap:	Chicken & Cheese

Thursday

Main:	Crispy Chicken Burger
Vegetarian:	Veggie Burger
Sandwich:	Ham

Friday

Main:	Fish Stars
Vegetarian:	Cheese & Tomato pasta
Sandwich:	Cheese sandwich

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