



St Stephen's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week we have had at St Stephen's! As we settle back into our routines after the long summer holiday, I am delighted to share the many highlights from our first week and what lies ahead for our school community.

Walking through our classrooms this week has been an absolute joy. Every corridor has been filled with happy, smiling children. Our children have slipped back into school life beautifully, and it has been excellent to see them re-establish routines and expectations so quickly. There is something special about September – a fresh start, new possibilities and a real sense of excitement about the year ahead.

This week we have also launched our school council, and I am thrilled with our team. We have children from Years 1 through to 6, and I have every confidence that they will make thoughtful and impactful decisions throughout the year. It is wonderful to see so many children keen to take on responsibility and serve our school community. Speaking of leadership, our student leadership team prepared and delivered their speeches beautifully and fully deserve their new roles in school.

The icing on the cake came today when we celebrated Mass in our parish church, joined by so many parishioners from our community. It marked the official beginning of our new school year at St Stephen's. Thanks to Father Chris for setting us off on our journey this year – his support for us means so much to our school family.

Our Reception children have made a super start to school life. They have been making new friends and enjoying all the wonderful resources and spaces in our Early Years provision. We have also welcomed new families across other year groups this September - children and staff have welcomed them warmly. We love having new children join us at St Stephen's.

Next week, we are holding our Meet the Teacher sessions. This is a valuable opportunity for you to hear directly from your child's class teacher about classroom routines, expectations, and how you can best support your child's learning at home. I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend – it is a wonderful chance to get to know the staff a little better early on in the school year and to understand more about what your child will be experiencing in their classroom.

Our lunch clubs begin on Monday, with a lovely range of activities on offer throughout the week. We have Lego, art, games, and library clubs available, and pupils can sign up for whichever activities appeal to them each day. We are also mindful of ensuring children spend time outside in the fresh air during lunchtime, so we try to balance the indoor clubs with outdoor time. Additionally, our lunchtime choir with Miss Calow will be starting next week, so if your child enjoys singing, this is a wonderful opportunity to be part of something special.

After-school clubs will begin the following week, and details have been sent from the school office. Please do look out for the options available and sign up accordingly. We have tried to schedule clubs across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, sometimes on the same day, to help with family life and make things easier for working parents and carers.

There are exciting activities happening as part of our curriculum. From next week, Year 5/6 will be heading out for swimming on Wednesdays, whilst Year 3/4 will be starting forest school on Thursdays. Year 4/5 are already heading out on a school trip next week to Heber Farm in Buckden – it is wonderful to be out on visits so soon in the academic year and to bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

As we move into full timetables next week, our pupils will be working hard showing their love of learning and their determination to do their very best in lessons. They will need a good night's sleep.

Another reminder regarding school uniform in case you missed emails earlier in the week: school ties for everyone from Years 1-6 (or earlier if wanted); black shoes to be worn other than PE days; no jewellery other than earrings which should be a single stud in each ear only.

Finally, we have Little Saints on Tuesday next week – a huge success last year with visitors to our school. If you have younger siblings, family members or friends with pre-school age children, please tell them about our play sessions in school.

Thank you for all your support; it has been delightful seeing everyone again. Have a lovely weekend and see you all on Monday.

Jo Sykes
Headteacher



St Stephen's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



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

Years 1 & 2

Running Club/Circuits

Stay and Play Club

Mrs Sykes & Miss Calow

Mrs Fox

Tuesdays:

Years 3-6

Pickleball

Mr Abbott

Thursdays:

Years 3-6

Years 5 & 6

Craft Club

Netball Club

Mrs Holt

Mrs Shooter

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.

Please follow the link (or QR code) below and complete the form **by Friday 18th September 2026 at the latest** so we can update our records accordingly.

Please note that for Parents/Carers with multiple children in our school, you will need to **fill in a form for each child**.

Please fill in the form, even if your child has no known allergies or medical need.

Thank you for your co-operation. If you have any questions or need any help, please do not hesitate to get in touch or come speak with us.

Warm regards,

Mrs Sykes

[Benedict's Law and Allergy Policy Update 2026 – Fill in form](#)





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Dates for your diary

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 15 Sept

Wednesday 16 Sept

Thursday 17 Sept

Thursday 17 Sept

Monday 21 Sept

Thursday 23 Sept

Little Saints

St Christopher first swimming (am)

St David visit to Heber Farm Buckden

St Andrew Forest School Session

St Christopher Basketball Festival

Mini Vinnies Recommissioning Mass at 10am

OCTOBER

Sunday 4 Oct

Friday 23 Oct

St Francis House Mass at 10am

School closes for Half Term

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

Watson
and
Florence!



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

(This will start from w/c 14th September)

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)

Meet The Teacher

(3:20pm in your child's classroom)

Monday 14th Sept -

St David (Y4/5) Meet Miss Calow

Tuesday 15th Sept -

St Andrew (Y3/4) Meet Mr Douglass

Thursday 17th Sept -

St Christopher (Y5/6) Meet Mr Abbott

Friday 18th Sept -

St Patrick (Y1/2) Meet Mr Bullock

Monday 21st Sept -

St George (YR) Meet Mrs Shooter



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Menu 2

Week commencing 14th September

Monday

Main:	Baked chicken penne pasta
Vegetarian:	Baked cheese penne pasta
Sandwich:	Ham sandwich

Tuesday

Main:	Cheese & tomato pizza
Vegetarian:	Cheese & tomato pizza
Sandwich:	Tuna mayonnaise OR Ham

Wednesday

Main:	Roast turkey
Vegetarian:	Cheese pasty
Sandwich:	Ham OR Chicken & cheese wrap

Thursday

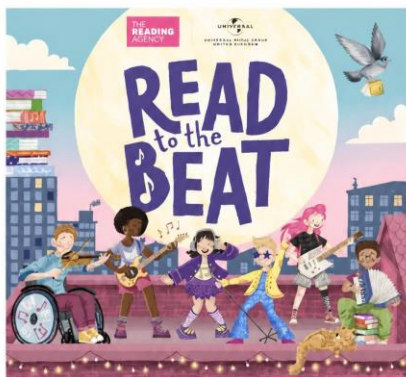
Main:	Crispy chicken burger
Vegetarian:	Veggie burger
Sandwich:	Sliced turkey OR Ham

Friday

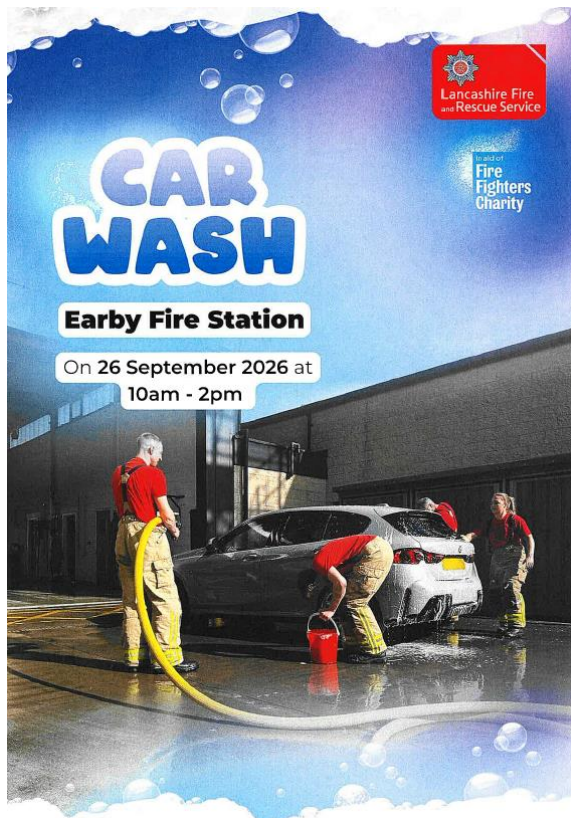
Main:	Fish stars
Vegetarian:	Tomato & cheese pasta
Sandwich:	Cheese sandwich



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Celebrate your progress!
Finish the Summer Reading
Challenge 2026 strong!
September 12 by 1:30 pm is
your final chance to complete
the challenge and claim your
prizes. Thank you for
participating!



NHS
Bradford District Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Parent / Carer Workshop Behaviour strategies and support

Specialist advice for parents of children with a Learning Disability
Delivered by the Children's Learning Disability Team Craven



Up to 15% of children with special educational needs use behaviours of concern. Join our specialist nursing team to explore the reasons for these behaviours and what your child may be trying to communicate, as well as strategies to manage and reduce the behaviour.

12:30 to 14:30 16 October 2026
at Fisher Medical Centre,
Community Hub Room, Millfields,
Coach Street, Skipton, BD23 1EU

If you cannot attend in person, a virtual option will be available.

Book your place today! email: ChildrensLearningDisabilities@bdct.nhs.uk



better lives, together

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