



St Stephen's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our virtue for this week is 'love of learning', and I can honestly say that this is already evident in every classroom. I am seeing focused, interested learners all over school, and that means we are off to a great start. Our children, including our newest and youngest, have settled beautifully, understand what is expected of them, and most importantly, want to do their best and make their adults proud.

Thanks to all the parents and carers who attended the parent meetings with their class teachers this week. These sessions were really well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many of you making time to support your child's learning journey here at St Stephen's. Your engagement makes such a difference.

This week has also seen the launch of our lunch clubs, which offer a fantastic range of activities to enjoy during lunchtime. We have Lego, art, library, board games and choir on offer – a good selection. It is brilliant to see so many signing up and making the most of these opportunities.

Our Year 5/6 class has made an excellent start to their swimming lessons. We have some super swimmers in our midst, and it has been fabulous to see the progress that all our students have made since last year. Swimming is such an important life skill, and we are committed to ensuring that all our children develop confidence and competence in the water.

Forest School for our Year 3/4 class has also got off to a fantastic start this week. In Forest School, they are making cross-curricular links to their history topic on the Stone Age. We are fortunate to be able to weave these connections throughout our curriculum, bringing learning to life.

Our Year 4/5 class ventured out on our first school trip of the year to Heber Farm with Miss Calow and Mrs Fox this week. It was hailed by some as the best trip ever! The behaviour of our pupils was excellent throughout, and they represented our school community with real pride. It was great to receive an email from Farmer Garry complimenting our children and our school for excellent behaviour.

Our Year 5/6 class attended Mass on Thursday as part of our Mass cycle. They were so respectful and it made us feel very proud. These moments of collective worship are central to our Catholic identity, and it is fantastic to see our children engaging meaningfully with this aspect of school life.

Looking ahead, there are several things on the agenda for next week. We have our first trip to Sandylands for a basketball festival on Monday for our Year 5/6 class. We also have our annual re-commissioning Mass for our Mini Vinnies, which will take place at St Anne's Cathedral. Some of our Mini Vinnies will be doing the readings at this service which is a big responsibility. Building and nurturing this kind of confidence is something we must continue to do as we prepare our children for the next stage of their learning journey.

Finally, I am pleased to remind you that our after-school clubs will be starting next week. There are still places available, so if you have not already secured a place for your child, I would encourage you not to miss out. Research shows that participating in organised sports and joining after school clubs can help to improve primary school children's academic performance and social skills (Nuffield Foundation). Our staff are providing our pupils with wonderful opportunities to develop new skills and interests in a supportive environment. Please make the most of the offer!

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

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 & 2

Stay and Play Club (tbc)

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.

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

Monday 21 Sept

St Christopher Basketball Festival am
Meet the Teacher – Mrs Shooter

Wednesday 23 Sept

Mini Vinnies Recommissioning Mass at 10am

OCTOBER

Sunday 4 Oct

St Francis House Mass at 10am

Thursday 8 October

Open Afternoon Sessions:

1:15pm – 2pm

2:15pm – 3pm

Friday 23 Oct

School closes for Half Term

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

Tommy K.
and Hafsa!



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 3

Week commencing 21st September

Monday

Main:	Chicken Korma Curry
Vegetarian:	Veggie Korma Curry
Sandwich:	Ham or Cheese

Tuesday

Main:	Beef Burger
Vegetarian:	Veggie Burger
Sandwich:	Tuna mayonnaise or Ham

Wednesday

Main:	Roast Chicken
Vegetarian:	Cheese Pasty
Sandwich:	Ham

Thursday

Main:	Pork Meatballs with Tomato Pasta
Vegetarian:	Mac & Cheese
Wrap:	Ham & cheese or Chicken & cheese

Friday

Main:	Fish Goujons
Vegetarian:	Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Sandwich:	Cheese

