



St Stephen's Primary School Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another super week, and a week that is ending with glorious sunshine and the promise of a sunny, warm weekend.

During our worships this week, we have reflected further on our virtues of perseverance and resilience, and the children are more than able to talk about how they can follow these virtues. In fact, they are so well versed in these virtues that they struggle to think any other way! Our children will find things difficult sometimes, yet they can work out how to cope, change what they do and learn from the experience. We do our children a disservice if we always step in and fix problems for them. A guiding hand or a few words is often all that is needed.

Our Year 6 children are busy currently with lots of work in lessons preparing for their SATs in 2 weeks' time. These are tests that children up and down the country in Year 6 take, all in the same week. The children have been gathering knowledge all the way through primary school and these tests will capture just some of that learning, before they head off to secondary school in September. I have been impressed this week with how well our Year 6 children have applied themselves to the extra lessons to revise key topics. They are a credit to you!

Whilst our Year 6s have been studying hard, our Year 2/3s visited Ponderosa Zoo on Tuesday. They were lucky with the weather and came back to school with big smiles and full of stories of the animals they had seen. A trip on a coach is always exciting and this trip was no different! A day out with friends to somewhere new is such an adventure!

Now for Earth Day 2026 – school was teeming with colour, and mostly blues and greens. On Tuesday, we gathered together for our Picture Book Assembly to share the book 'The Girl who Planted Trees'. We linked it to Earth Day and looking after God's beautiful world – our beautiful world that we need to take care of. Children were reminded of the letter written by Pope Francis, Laudato Si, in which he asked us all to be stewards of the earth. The children were delightful as always and understood that we have a big job to do. Our Mini Vinnies helped our younger children with a litter pick in the school grounds and all classes completed work and made pledges about what they could do to help our environment so that it is cared for. Thanks to everyone for your donations both of money and beautiful plants and compost. We have over £150 to spend on plants and will go shopping with the money raised to fill the flowerbeds with colour by the side of The Avenue. We also have gardening club starting next Monday with Mrs Holt. There will be plenty to do without a doubt!

In last week's newsletter I made a request regarding school uniform which I am including again to ensure everyone has had a chance to read it. Our uniform is a red jumper or cardigan, grey trousers, shorts or skirt and a school tie. Trainers and hoodies should **only** be worn on PE days - again with the correct uniform. There should not be branded items or football kits. We do have spare uniform if this happens and children will be asked to change once in school. Also, please remember that jewellery should not be worn (other than a single stud earring) and that long hair should be tied back on both girls and boys. PLEASE add **names** to school uniform so it does not end up in lost property. If anyone is unsure about the uniform, please ask for details at the school office. Children often feel upset when we offer a change of clothes and this can set the day off on the wrong path. It is much easier if our families support our school uniform policy and provide the children with the correct clothes for school on a daily basis.

Our Reception and Year 1 class have been out today at Hesketh Farm. A lovely local visit and a place we are lucky to have so close! Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped out today. Many hands make light work – that is definitely the case when taking small children out and about! A beautiful sunny day, a tractor ride, some super cute animals including chicks – one hatching in front of our very eyes in the incubator; lambs, piglets, calves – one only 7 days old - and guinea pigs. We prepared milk for the lambs and fed it to them; we learned that there are 980 new lambs on Hesketh Farm and that they are marked with a red shoulder and red hip to show they are Hesketh Farm lambs. It was a wonderfully enriching day and we're excited to see the writing that will follow next week.

Our new selection of after-school clubs begin next week. We have gardening club, stay and play, TTRS/Morphs club, running club and chess club. Thanks to our staff for offering these clubs – much appreciated! We also have choir on Wed with Miss Howe and Friday football as normal with Mr Douglass. There are still some spaces so sign up before it's too late.

Next week sees our doors open to welcome our Little Saints into our school on Tuesday morning – spread the word to families with young children! Our Year 3/4s will start their forest school sessions on Monday so will need to wear their PE kit to school.

Have a lovely weekend in the sunshine!

Warm regards,

Jo Sykes
Headteacher



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DATES

APRIL:

Tue 28th— Little Saints Playgroup at 9am
Wed 29th— Last swimming for St Andrews

MAY:

Sun 3rd— St Margaret Clitherow House
Mass at 10:30am
Mon 4th— **May Day (School closed)**
Thu 7th— Weighing & Measuring for
Reception & Y6
Mon 11th
to Thu 14th— Year 6 SATS



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

Jonah!

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 27th April (week 2)

Monday

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

Tuesday

Main: Pizza
Vegetarian: Pizza
Sandwich: Tuna or Ham

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Main: Spaghetti Bolognese
Vegetarian: Vegetarian Bolognese
Sandwich: Ham or Cheese

Friday

Main: Fish Fingers
Vegetarian: Tomato & Cheese Pasta
Sandwich: Cheese



Attendance (13/04-17/04)

SCHOOL 97.1%

St George 98.3%

St Patrick 94.6%

St Andrew 98.6%

St David 98.7%

St Christopher 93.5%



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Stars of the week



St George

Stars: Paddy & Amelia

Maths: Nathan

St Patrick

Star: Isaac & Aminah

Maths: Mary

St Andrew

Stars: Emmieol & Frankie

Maths: Imogen

St David

Stars: Vavelo & Dominic

Maths: Esther & Arthur

St Christopher

Stars: Edith & Sabah

Maths: Aidan



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

YOS North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service



FREE Discovery Day invitation (ages 4-7 years)

Ever wondered what Stagecoach Performing Arts is all about? Come along to our **FREE** Discovery Day at Skipton Academy and see first-hand how our classes help children grow in confidence, creativity and life skills.

Children can try out singing, dancing and acting.

Meet our friendly teaching team.

Chat with our Principal and ask any questions.

Date: 25th April.

Time: 3pm (Our usual Early Stages classes, ages 4-6, run from 3pm – 4:30pm each week – term time only)

Venue: Skipton academy

It's the perfect chance to experience the magic of Stagecoach before joining! Spaces are limited – reserve your place by calling/texting Laura on 07734875140

Telephone: 07734875140

Email: keighleyandskipton@stagecoach.co.uk

Website: www.stagecoach.co.uk/keighleyandskipton

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



MAY HALF TERM ROCK CLIMBING



Holiday climbing sessions are an ideal way for kids to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Activities include climbing, abseiling and weaselling, an action-packed day.

Holiday Session - £62.50 (7-17 years old)

Ilkley Cow & Calf: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-16:30
Brimham Rocks: Tuesday or Friday, 9:30-16:30
Rock Skills Introduction (1-day) and Intermediate (2-day) Courses are also available

Childcare Vouchers accepted



Book online or contact us via email



WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM