St Stephen's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, in our celebration assembly, we spoke of being generous with each other. It was wonderful to see how many of our children are already helping others and giving their time for good works and acts of kindness within school. The children made some lovely promises about how they would support their families, so perhaps it has been an easy week for everyone!

This week has been particularly active and energetic across the school. Our Year 5/6 pupils have taken part in basketball festivals, Year 3/4 have been enjoying Forest School sessions, and our Year 5/6 swimmers have been in the pool. Of course, all our regular PE lessons and active break times have continued as usual. It's been brilliant to see so many children signing up to our new clubs – running club, pickleball and Friday football have all launched and are already well attended. There's something really special about watching children being active, making new friends across different year groups, and discovering how good it feels to take part in exercise and movement. It's a perfect way to feel confident and positive about yourself.

Wednesday was a particularly significant day for our school when some of our Mini Vinnies attended St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds for the annual recommissioning Mass. Our Mini Vinnies are following in the footsteps of St Vincent de Paul and have signed up this year to undertake charitable works and to help raise funds for the vulnerable in society. Whether it's supporting a local charity or one on the other side of the world, the important thing is recognising that we can all do small things within our school community that make a real difference. I am confident they will make us very proud.

Our School Council will have their first meeting of the year next week, and the children will be reminded of the importance of democracy. Their official badges have now arrived, which means their roles are truly official! To add to the excitement, we have managed to book a trip to visit the Houses of Parliament in London with our Year 6 children next summer. Our Year 6 leadership team is already arriving at my door brimming with ideas and enthusiasm, and Miss Calow will have a wonderful time channelling their suggestions into something really special.

Next week brings two particular focuses that are very much at the heart of what our school is about – helping others. From Thursday, our Mini Vinnies will be leading Rosary Club daily throughout October as we focus our prayers with Mary. This quiet time, made available every day, is a special way for children to pause and reflect in prayer. The children are remarkably thoughtful about what they want to say thank you for and who or what they might want to pray for.

On Friday afternoon, our usual Celebration Assembly will be replaced with our Harvest Festival Assembly. Please look out for additional information from the school office regarding donations for Skipton Food Bank. Our Head Students in Year 6 will arrange a delightful display of foods and will help deliver the food parcels on the school's behalf.

A few practical notices: on Thursday morning, our Year 1/2 class will be heading to Sandylands for a Fundamental Skills session. The walk there, the activities, and the walk back will make for a busy morning, so the children will be tired! We would be very grateful for volunteers to help accompany the class between 9am and 12.30pm. Please contact the school office if you can help.

Please also ensure that reading books and reading records are coming into school every day. Reading daily with your child – whether in Reception or Year 6 – is the minimum we ask to support their learning. Also, a reminder that school opens at 8.40am daily. Children arriving at this time settle into class and complete a valuable learning task linked to English or Maths. This extra practice time helps build fluency and confidence. A late mark is recorded for arrivals after 9am, and missing this morning session means missing approximately 1900 minutes of learning across the year.

Thank you for your support and 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 1-6	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.

Unfortunately, we have only received approximately half of these back.

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

Thursday 1 Oct	National Autumn Census Day
	KS1 Sandylands Foundational skills AM
Friday 2 Oct	Harvest Festival Assembly at 2:40pm
Sunday 4 Oct	St Francis House Mass at 10am
Thursday 8 October	Open Afternoon Sessions:
	1:15pm – 2pm
	2:15pm – 3pm
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
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…..

Nastiia, Aliah, Catherine, James and Frankie (Y6)!



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)

It is our Harvest Festival on Friday 2 October. More details to follow. We kindly request families to send in items of dried and tinned food to support Skipton Food bank. The student leaders will deliver these next week.

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Stars of the week

Nursery

Miles

St George

Henry & Gabriella

St Patrick

Stars: Penny & Sienna

Maths: Emmanuel

St Andrew

Stars: Amelia & Lizino

Maths: Zakariya

St David

Stars: Naomi & Peter

Maths: Albert

St Christopher

Stars: Nika & Hafsa

Maths: Vavelo & Samantha

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Menu 1

Week commencing 28th September

Monday

Main:	Crispy Kentucky Chicken
Vegetarian:	Quorn Crispy Fillet
Sandwich:	Ham or Cheese

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Main:	Roast Beef
Vegetarian:	Cheese Pasty
Sandwich:	Ham

Thursday

Main:	Yorkshire Sausages
Vegetarian:	Veggie Sausages
Wrap:	Crispy Chicken or Ham sandwich

Friday

Main:	Crispy Battered Fish
Vegetarian:	Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Sandwich:	Cheese

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HOLIDAY CAMPS STC SINCE 2000

OCTOBER CAMPS

TENNIS | FOOTBALL
MULTISPORTS

Mon 26 - Fri 30 October

9:00am - 3:30pm £25 per day

FREE Early drop-off from 8:30am

Late pickup (3:30pm - 5pm) £7.50 per day
(no movie club on Friday)

Reception to 12 yrs



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