

St Stephen's Primary School Newsletter

Friday 27th March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We find ourselves at the end of our final week of the Spring Term and are grateful for all the wonderful things that have been possible these past weeks. Possible because our school is brimming with wonderful children, incredibly supportive parents and fantastic staff.

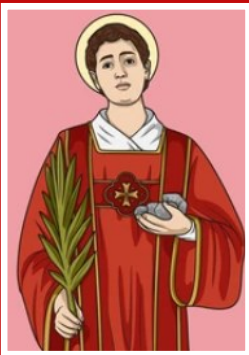
Some of those fantastic staff went the extra mile this week, taking our Year 6 children to Peat Rigg on residential from Monday to Wednesday. Mr Abbott and Mrs Hey returned and were gushing about the great time they had with the children and how proud they were of the behaviour, impeccable manners and overall resilience displayed by our children. Mrs Shooter and I joined for some of the fun and can honestly say a great time was had by all. We have shared lots of photos of all the activities - caving, zipline (high!), abseiling, crate challenge, orienteering, obstacle course, archery and Jacob's ladder! They will be shattered for a few days yet!

This week has also seen our final efforts in fundraising for the Good Shepherd Appeal. Toast has continued to sell out every day. We have also had our Easter Egg raffle with the winners bringing home their eggs today. Finally, we have had our two movie nights for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. It's fair to say there is never a dull moment when everyone at St Stephen's steps up to the challenge of fundraising for those less fortunate. We know what we need to do and why we need to do it. We are fulfilling our school mission in every way possible, and we are very grateful to our families for helping through your generous donations.

Our Reception and Year 1 children picked a perfect day for their woodland walk yesterday as they searched for signs of Spring in Skipton Woods and features of castles as we walked past the castle. We had so many helpers from our families on this excursion and do feel really grateful for this support. We simply do not have spare adults in school so to have willing volunteers makes a real difference to what we can offer in terms of trips and alternative enrichment opportunities. The children were buzzing about what they had seen and were able to tell me all about it – they had clearly picked up lots of beautiful vocabulary from their wander into the woods.

Yesterday, we marked Epilepsy Awareness Day by inviting children to wear something purple. We always want to find ways of raising awareness of things that affect our school family, and this was one such way. Families throughout our school and parish often have to face challenges to which we can be blissfully unaware, which is the exact reason why we say to the children that they should always be kind and respectful to each other. Life can be tricky – we need to do what we can to ease the burden when we can.

Having made it to Friday, we have been able to share Mass with Father Chris and the parish this morning. We had super readers with the Mini Vinnies leading the service and some beautiful singing from all our children. The singing was expertly led by Miss Calow who leads weekly singing practice in school. This afternoon we had a lovely Easter service re-enacting Holy Week, starting with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and finishing with Good Friday and the death of Jesus. Whilst we finish school today, Fr Chris is facing his busiest time of the year, so please keep him in your prayers this Easter break.



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Looking ahead, we have our annual FOSS Bingo tomorrow (Saturday). Doors open at 1.30pm and the bingo itself runs from 2pm until 4 pm. Quite simply, you play lots of bingo with the hope of getting lucky and winning Easter Eggs. It's a fun afternoon with children, families and friends of St Stephen's. Hope to see you all there!

Next term, we will have some new after-school clubs and some tweaks to our lunch clubs too. These clubs will start in the second week as we have parents' evening on the calendar in the first week back. Information regarding clubs will go out in the first week. If you haven't already done so, please book your appointments – it would be fabulous to have every parent sign up to discuss their child's progress and to be able to find out the things that could be done at home to support their child in school.

You will of course remember that we had our Ofsted inspection in February and we now await the report being finalised and published. I'm sure some of you will be aware that the report format changed in November last year and therefore single word judgements no longer apply. Attached is some information and a link that explains what to expect when the report is made available.

Changes to the inspection report card

You may have seen in the news that the way Ofsted reports the findings of our inspections is changing. Our new-look report cards have been designed with you in mind and will give you a clearer picture of what is working well and where there are areas for improvement.

The inspection will no longer result in a one-word judgement, such as 'good' or 'outstanding'. Instead, the report card that we publish will show colour-coded grades for a number of different areas - so you can see how we have graded the areas that matter most to you. These are new grades and should not be compared to what you might have seen on earlier inspection reports.

You can view a short video about our new report cards at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-ofsted-report-cards-and-grades

Next half term will see our Year 6 children take their SATs in May – w/c 11th May will be a busy week of tests where the children will be able to demonstrate some of their learning in school. Next term we will also see extra phonics work for our Year 1 children in readiness for their Phonics check in June. We are determined to ensure our children become fluent, confident readers, and strong phonics is part of that. Obviously, copious amounts of reading at home is also essential to support our efforts. Additionally, our Year 4s will be working extra hard on their times tables as they prepare for the Multiplication check in June. Times tables are something every family can help with – and you don't have to wait until Year 4. The earlier the better as far as we're concerned! At this point in the year, the children should know their times tables up to 12. Please take time to practise with your child at every opportunity as rapid recall will improve their overall Maths attainment.

A final date for the diary..... so, we had World Book Day on the 5th of March and had a great time sharing stories with each other. This year, as it's the Year of Reading, we are going to celebrate World Book Night. Details are being finalised but the event will be held on the 23rd of April after school. Watch this space!

Thank you for all your support this term and enjoy the next two weeks with your families. Take time to rest and recharge ready for our final term of the academic year.

Enjoy!

Warm regards,

Jo Sykes

Headteacher



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DATES

March:

Sat 28th— FOSS Easter Bingo

April:

Mon 13th— School re-opens

Tue 14th— Little Saints at 9am

Fri 17th— Whole school Mass at 10am

Tue 21st— St Patrick visit to
Ponderosa Zoo



This week and during the holidays we're wishing a very happy birthday to

**Alon, Charlie,
Enosh and Lyas!**

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 13th April (week 3)

Monday

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

Tuesday

Main: Beef Burger
Halal: Halal Burger
Sandwich: Tuna Mayonnaise or Ham

Wednesday

Main: Roast Chicken
Vegetarian: Cheese Pasty
Sandwich: Cheese or Ham

Thursday

Main: Pork Meatballs
Vegetarian: Vegetarian Meatballs
Wrap: Chicken & Cheese or Ham & cheese

Friday

Main: Fish Goujons
Vegetarian: Pizza
Sandwich: Cheese

Attendance (16.03-20.03)

SCHOOL	90.1%
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St George	90.7%
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St Patrick	86.1%
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St Andrew	89.7%
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St David	92.1%
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St Christopher	90.5%
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School Games



Awards

St George

Self-belief: Aaron

Respect: JD

St Patrick

Self-belief: Ishaal

Respect: Arlo

St Andrew

Self-belief: Albert

Respect: Evana

St David

Self-belief: Oskar

Respect: Amelie G.

St Christopher

Self-belief: Amelia

Respect: Finley



School Virtues

Awards

St George

Love & Charity: Penny

Forgiveness: Nathan

St Patrick

Love & Charity: Anorah

Forgiveness: Alexandra

St Andrew

Love & Charity: Aaila

Forgiveness: Azhrylle

St David

Love & Charity: Abigail

Forgiveness: Hafsa

St Christopher

Love & Charity: Max & Ethan

Forgiveness: Lucie





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Easter Holiday Programmes

Cross Hills - Earby - Gargrave - Settle

Cross Hills (9am - 3pm)

- Tuesday 31st March
- Wednesday 1st April
- Thursday 2nd April
- Tuesday 7th April
- Wednesday 8th April
- Thursday 9th April

Earby (9am - 3pm)

- Tuesday 31st March
- Wednesday 1st April
- Tuesday 7th April
- Wednesday 8th April

Settle (9am - 3pm)

- Wednesday 1st April
- Thursday 2nd April

7TH-9TH APRIL

EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP

BOOKING NOW OPEN!

Looking for something fun (and full of variety) for the kids over Easter? Join us for our FREE Ofsted registered Easter Holiday Camp, in partnership with HAF! We've got loads planned including...

- Arts, crafts & sensory play
- Baking activities
- Sports & games
- Fun learning activities
- Movie time
- Easter wreath making with Lottie Rose Designs ... and lots more!

7TH, 8TH, & 9TH APRIL
9am-3pm

GATEWAYS EDUCATION
Steton Primary School

100% FREE FOR CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR WITH SEND! OTHERWISE JUST £30/ DAY!

JOIN NOW LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE! Use the booking link in caption or message us to secure your child's place!

EASTER

ARTS & CRAFTS KIDS' WORKSHOP

*Come and make some exciting Easter crafts!
One hour session, includes two crafts to take home*

Sunday 29th March



- 2pm to 3pm
- Teas and coffees included for parents
- Best for primary school aged children
- (3yr olds welcome at parents' discretion)

Carleton-in-Craven
Village Hall

£12 per child



@sarahtheartcoach

Book online at:
<https://sarahtheartcoach.eventbrite.com>
or scan the code to book



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Calling all curious budding adventurers!

Natural Education

Age 3-5 years experience biodiversity and the natural world in a fun and memorable way

NATURAL EXPLORERS WORKSHOP

Skipton Library
Monday 13th April
10.30am
Booking essential

01609 534548 | skipton.library@northyorks.gov.uk

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Let your under 5s experience all the fun of Under 5s Fortnight at Skipton Library!

FREE event

Under 5s Fortnight

13th - 25th April

Little Explorers Sessions

A chance for under 5s to enjoy play activities and stories at Skipton Library

Tuesday 14th April

10am - 11:30am OR **1pm - 2:30pm**

skipton.library@northyorks.gov.uk | 01609 534548

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AT SKIPTON LIBRARY

All holiday Drop in any time over the holiday and borrow 3 books to get a free wooden Easter decoration to decorate at home	Wednesday 1st April 10:30 - 12:30 Free family craft event with the Adult Learning Service, Booking required direct with Adult Learning on 01609 536066
Wednesday 8th April 2:30 - 4:00pm Craft event with Gilly. Make a spring wreath to take home. For ages 4 - 10. Drop in event.	Friday 10th April 2pm - 3:30pm Have some building fun at this Lego drop in session. For ages 3 - 11. Duplo available for younger children.

Happy Easter

All activities free and all welcome.
skipton.library@northyorks.gov.uk | 01609 534548