

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we reach the end of our first month of the new school year, I have been reflecting on what a positive start it has been for our school family. It has been particularly wonderful to see our new Reception children settle so confidently into their new school, classes and routines. They have already become such an important part of our community, and it has been a joy to see their confidence grow.

This half term, we have introduced our Freedom Fridays, bringing our KS1 and KS2 playgrounds together each Friday. This is helping us prepare for merging our playgrounds every day, and it has been wonderful to see children of different ages playing, chatting and enjoying time together. These moments are a lovely reflection of the sense of community we want to nurture across St Stephen's.

We have also enjoyed some wonderful opportunities beyond the classroom. Our Macmillan Coffee Morning was a lovely morning, and I would like to thank everyone who baked, donated and supported us. Together, we raised an incredible £464.12.

Finally, thank you to Mr Pratt for our apple pressing experience. After collecting apples from our school orchard in the Forest, the children pressed and enjoyed their very own freshly made apple juice! What a joy! We really are lucky to have such beautiful school grounds.

With best wishes,
Miss Frankie Greenhalgh
Headteacher

YOUNG LEADERS' COLUMN



This month, our Year 6 pupils have thought long and hard about which Young Leaders team they feel aligns with their personality, skills and ambitions.

One of these teams, is the Communications team, who write to you in these newsletters to describe the day-to-day experiences at our lovely school.

This year, our new Communications team are Subhan, Esther and Maseeha. We can't wait to hear from them in their first column, in October.



St Stephen's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

An exceptionally happy school in the heart of Preston

st-stephens.lancs.sch.uk

Notices and Diary Dates

September 2026

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

A reminder to our Year 6 families that applications for secondary school places for September 2027 are now open. Applications should be made through Lancashire County Council, where parents can express their school preferences and access information about individual schools and their admission criteria. The closing date for applications is **31 October 2026.** We strongly encourage families to submit their application before the deadline, as applications received after this date are treated as late and may reduce the chance of being offered a preferred school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

A reminder that applications for children starting Reception in September 2027 are now open. Families should apply through Lancashire County Council by **15 January 2027**. If you have a child who is due to start school next September and already have a sibling at St Stephen's, please remember that you still need to submit an application and include St Stephen's as your preferred school.

We would also be delighted if you would recommend St Stephen's to friends, relatives and other families who may be looking for a school place. We are incredibly proud of our school community and would love to welcome more families to St Stephen's. If you would like a prospectus to share with someone you know, please ask at the school office.



OPEN DAYS

Our next open day for prospective parents is Wednesday 18th November.



CHURCH WELCOME BACK

A huge thank you to our church family for the warm welcome back to school, greeting our families on the playground with a smile and a biscuit!

Church have some great groups on currently. See below.





PARKING PLEA

A polite reminder to all families to please park considerately and thoughtfully when dropping off and collecting children. We have received concerns from local residents, whose driveways and designated parking spaces have been blocked for extended periods, limiting their access to their homes.

We completely understand that parking around school can be challenging at busy times, but we ask everyone to be mindful of our neighbours and to ensure that driveways, entrances and access points are always kept clear.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 2026

Thurs 1st Oct	Key Stage 1 Alfresco Learning History Day
Fri 2nd Oct	Lower Key Stage 2 Harvest Event
Tues 13th Oct	Y5/6 trip to the Young Science Centre
Tues 20th Oct	Y5 trip to the Young Science Centre
Weds 21st Oct	Y6 trip to the Young Science Centre
Weds 21st Oct	Parents Evening (until 5pm)
Thurs 22nd Oct	Parents Evening (until 7pm)
Fri 23rd Oct	Finish for half term (3.20pm)

November 2026

Monday 2nd Nov	Return to school (8.45am)

Celebrations and Awards

September 2026

VALUES IN PRACTICE WINNERS (VIPs)

This month, awards were given to a child who **shows respect and kindness to all.**

Well done to all of our winners!

Year 1: Harry, Zahrah, Light
Year 1/2: Zeil, Musa, Felami
Year 2: Ekowoicho, Saratu, Nadya
Year 3: Wildaan, Eva, Omar
Year 3/4: Violet, Kimberley, Yusuf
Year 4: Frankie, Alfreda, Bobby
Year 5: Mirelle, Ella, Skyler
Year 5/6: Mohammed, Olza, Amelia
Year 6: Zayn, Subhan, Dara

GOLDEN BROOM WINNERS

The Golden Broom is awarded by our site management team every week to the cleanest, tidiest classroom in school.

This month's winners were:

7th- 11th September: **Year 1/2**
14th- 18th September: **Year 3**
21st- 25th September: **Year 1**

CLASS ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

We are committed to promoting excellent attendance and punctuality at school. Thank you for doing all you can to support your child to be in school on time, every day.

Congratulations to **Year 6** for achieving the highest average attendance this month!

1st Place **Year 6**
2nd Place **Year 1**
3rd Place **Year 5**

Well done, everyone!

WALK TO SCHOOL CLASS CHAMPIONS

The class with the highest percentage of active journeys this month was **Year 3/4!**

This class achieved **88%** active journeys!



They were followed by Year 4 with 84%.

CELEBRATING AWARDS FROM HOME

Has your child achieved something special outside of school?

If so, we would love to celebrate their success. On Thursdays, children can bring certificates, trophies, medals, badges, rosettes, etc. to school to share their achievements with the whole school family! These items should be given to class teachers at the start of the school day on a Thursday, and will be returned at home time.

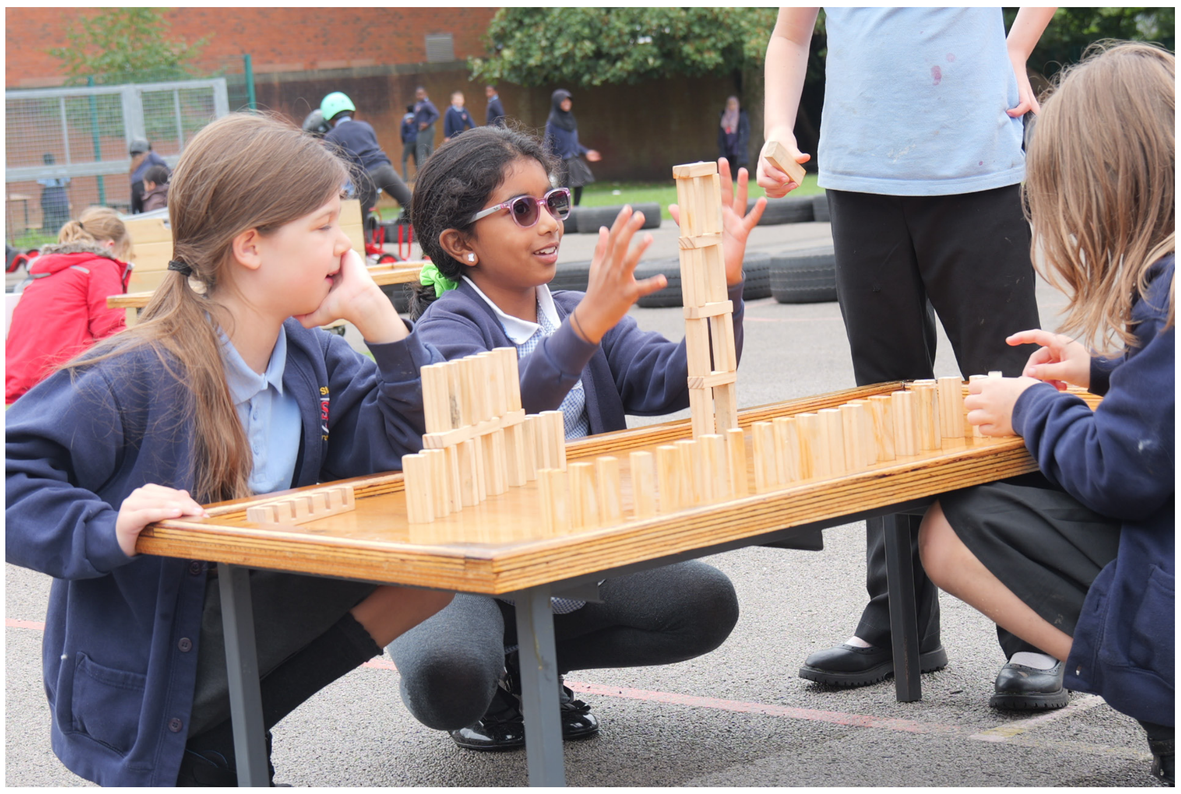
As well as celebrating successes, this is also a great way to inspire others in school!












Garage






Preston




forest school















