

NEWSLETTER

October 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

School has felt a truly wonderful place to be over the past few weeks, and it has been a joy to see our children learning, growing and shining in their own unique ways.

During our collective worship, we have been exploring our theme for the year, 'Created to Shine'. We have reflected on the wonder of creation and the belief that every one of us has been made uniquely, equally valuable and special. We have talked about how wonderful our world is because we are not all the same; we each bring different gifts and talents that help make our world a richer, more beautiful place. As part of this, the children have been thinking about their own gifts. Some are easy to spot, such as talents in sport, music or creativity. Others are less visible but just as precious-if not more so: kindness, courage, honesty, perseverance and the ability to make someone smile when they need it most. We are encouraging everyone to recognise these gifts in themselves and others, and to let their own light shine.

We are also determined to make the most of this beautiful autumn season! Whether it's pulling on our wellies and waterproofs to jump in muddy puddles, exploring the changes in our outdoor environment or spending time learning and playing in our forest, we want our children to embrace every opportunity to get outside, explore and enjoy the wonders of the world around them.

With best wishes,
Miss Frankie Greenhalgh
Headteacher

YOUNG LEADERS' COLUMN

October has been an exciting month in school.

A few weeks ago, we had Bikeability. Bikeability is where some children can learn how to ride a bike. This is so helpful because lots of children that can't ride one at the start, can ride by the end of the week! It is also exciting for children who can already ride because they get to go out on the roads to learn how to stay safe whilst riding on the road.

Earlier in October, Years 5, 5/6 and 6 did a sponsored obstacle course to raise money for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. We did balancing, throwing beanbags and other fun activities. We raised £161.53, which we are so happy with! It was great fun and for a good cause too.

We have been enjoying Freedom Friday's this month and are so excited for it to be everyday in the next half term. We have loved playing with the younger children and also loved being able to go over to the front playground.

This month we have had a new place built for sensory circuits. This is really good for when children need a movement break or to do sensory circuit in the day to help them concentrate. It really helps children to get ready for learning and listening.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Young Scientist Centre this week. Year 5 and 5/6 have been and loved learning about electricity in a lab.

Subhan, Esther & Maseeha
The Y6 Communications Team

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

October 2026

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

A reminder to our Year 6 families that applications for secondary school places for September 2027 close on the 31st October. 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 coming up (31 October 2026)** and 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.



OPAL UPDATE

After a successful half term of our 'Freedom Fridays' , once we return after the half-term, we will begin to transition into having merged playgrounds everyday.

Our front playground offers calmer, quieter play such as arts & crafts, lego and small world play, whilst our large back playground and field host larger scale play such as loose parts, the dress up stage, the mud kitchen and the wheeled zone.

Children are so excited to have Freedom Friday everyday!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 2026

Monday 2nd Nov	Return to school (8.45am)
Thursday 5th Nov	Diwali Enrichment Day (non-uniform
Wednesday 11th Nov	Year 5 trip to the Harris- Group 1
Thursday 12th Nov	Year 5 trip to the Harris- Group 2
Monday 16th Nov	KS1 Theatre Trip
Wednesday 18th Nov	Y3 & Y3/4 Trip to Bolton Museum
Monday 23rd Nov	Robinwood Parents Meeting (Y6)
Tueday 24th Nov	Y4 Trip to Bolton Museum

December 2026

Thursday 3rd Dec	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 8th Dec	Christmas Crafts Parent Workshop
Thursday 10th Dec	LKS2 Christingle Service at Church
Friday 11th Dec	EYFS Nativity (10am & 2pm)
Monday 14th Dec	KS1 Nativity (2pm)
Tuesday 15th Dec	KS1 Nativity (10am & 2pm)
Friday 18th Dec	Break up for Christmas Holidays



Celebrations and Awards

October 2026

VALUES IN PRACTICE WINNERS (VIPs)

This month, awards were given to a child who **notices and values those others might overlook.**

Well done to all of our winners!

Year 1: Ariana, Amirah, Dheerav
Year 1/2: Kaizer, Sofia
Year 2: Mahammad, Ruhan, Roman
Year 3: Sidney, Freya, Zaynah
Year 3/4: Kimberley, Zana, Auriella
Year 4: Eddie, Leah, Sai
Year 5: Rebecca, Ford, Faizah
Year 5/6: Layla, Efia, Seth
Year 6: Nihal, Raoza, Amber

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:

28th Sept-2nd Oct : **Year 3/4**
5th Oct- 9th Oct: **Year 4**
12th Oct- 16th Oct: **Year 2**
19th Oct- 23rd Oct: **Year 6**

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 1/2**
3rd Place **Reception Explorers**

Well done, everyone!

WALK TO SCHOOL CLASS CHAMPIONS

The class with the highest percentage of active journeys this month was **Year 2!**



This class achieved 89% active journeys!

They were followed by Year 4 with 87%.

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!



















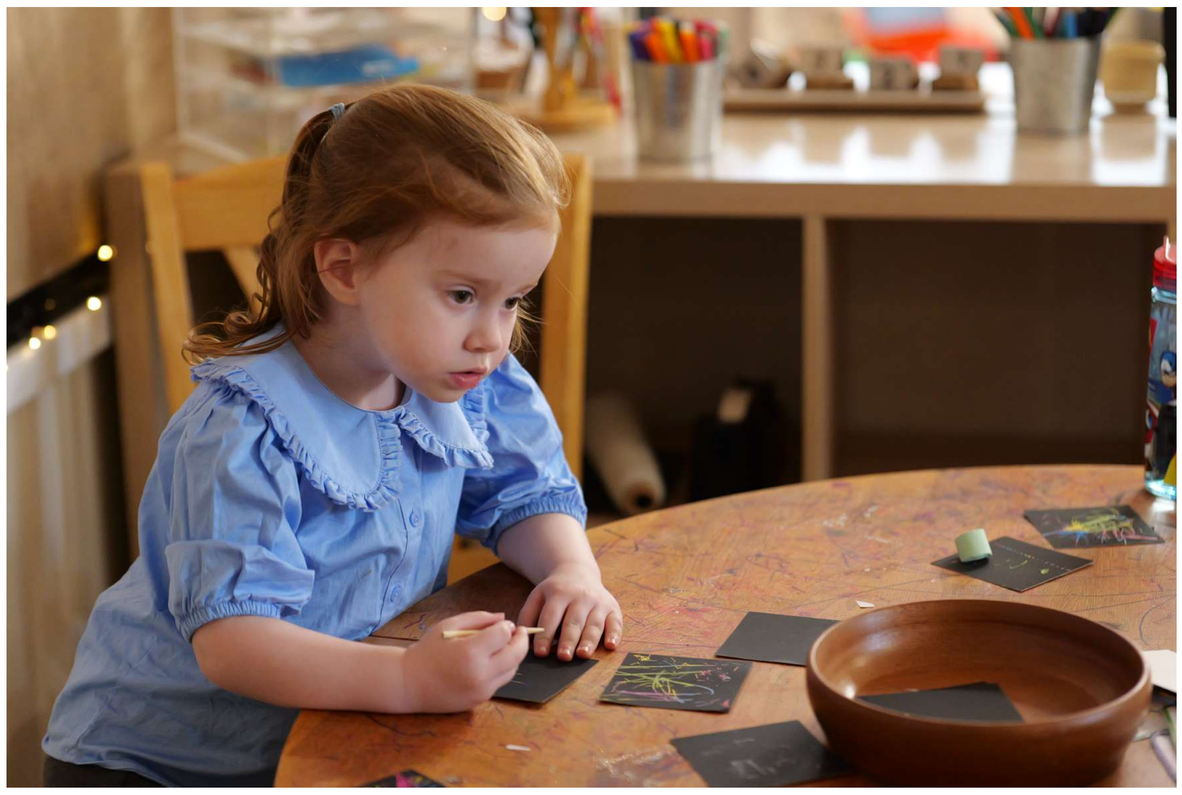





Bran Flakes
Pop-Up
Seasons














Created
to
Shine