



Newsletter— July 2026

July is always a month filled with mixed emotions. It is a time to celebrate achievements, reflect on special memories and look forward to new beginnings. Yet it is also the month when we say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils.

For seven years, we have watched the remarkable journey that this class has taken and we reflect on what a huge privilege it has been to watch them grow into the thoughtful, confident and caring young people they are today. It is hard to believe that during their first two years at school, they had to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited opportunities to play, learn together, build friendships and enjoy many of the childhood experiences that most four- and five-year-olds take for granted.

In fact, their third year at school was the first time they were able to experience a full year of education with the rich curriculum, opportunities and enrichment activities that we pride ourselves on providing. Along the way, they have said goodbye to friends who have moved on and warmly welcomed new classmates into our school family.



For seven years, we have watched them arrive at school each morning, held their hands when they needed us, celebrated their successes and supported them through challenges. Throughout it all, they have consistently tried their very best—to learn, to be good friends and to make a positive difference to our school community. It is therefore with a very heavy heart that we say farewell to our Year 6 pupils. Our school has been truly blessed by the presence of these nine wonderful children. They have been exceptional role models and shining examples of our Christian values in action.

Now the time has come for them to spread their wings and begin the next chapter of their journey. We hope they carry with them everything they have learned during their time at St Stephen's: a love of learning, a sense of compassion for others, respect for the world around them and the confidence to make a positive contribution wherever life takes them.

Although we will miss them greatly, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and excited to see what the future holds for each and every one of them.

We look forward to building a few last memories together over the last few weeks of term and then we wish them every happiness and success as they move on to secondary school.

Our Year 6 Leavers Service takes place on Thursday 16th July, 2:00 at church.

It's been a busy few weeks, which for many of our children has included completing end of term assessments. We are incredibly proud of all the children and the effort they have put into the reading, maths, grammar, punctuation and spelling tests, which show us how much they have learnt and point us towards what we need to learn next. Our Year 1 children have worked extremely hard with their phonics this year showing great focus and effort and have now completed their phonics screening checks. We are also proud of our Year 4 children who undertook their multiplications check.

Enrichment Activities

As always we continue to ensure that are children are involved in a wide range of enriching experiences beyond the classroom. From a trip to Water Park, Reading for Pleasure webinars, choir performances, sporting activities, virtual reality and science STEM sessions and a few other surprises yet to come, the children have developed new skills, broadened their interests and grown in confidence. These opportunities help to bring learning to life, encourage teamwork and creativity, and create memorable experiences that support pupils' personal development and wellbeing. Enrichment remains a valued part of school life, helping every child to thrive and discover new passions.



Tockholes Barn Bash

A Heartfelt Thank You

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the incredible generosity shown at the Tockholes Barn Bash, organised so brilliantly by our amazing parents. An outstanding £6,390 was raised – a total that left us overwhelmed and truly touched. Your kindness, support and community spirit will make a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for our children. For this reason whether you have ideas for resources, enrichment activities, improvements to our learning environment or something else entirely, please share your suggestions with us via the link below. We are excited to work together to ensure this fantastic contribution has the greatest possible impact on the children of St Stephen's.

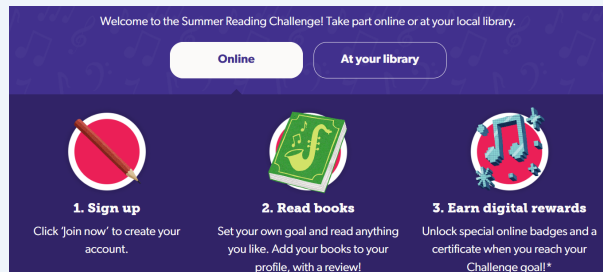
[Barn Bash Fundraising Survey – Fill in form](#)



Summer Reading Challenge

The annual Summer Reading Challenge for children age 4—12 years is now underway. Children are encouraged to read and rate six library books before 30th September. Audio books, eBooks all count. Visit your nearest library or sign up online.

www.summreadingchallenge.org.uk



Breakfast Club and After-School Club Payments

A polite reminder that all Breakfast Club and After-School Club sessions should be booked and paid for in advance via Parent Pay. Regular and timely payments help us to continue providing these valuable care services for our families.

If you have any questions about payments or are experiencing difficulties, please contact the school office in confidence.

After School Clubs

Just a reminder that there will be no after school clubs during the final week of term, W/C 13th July 2026. There will also be no KS2 sports club next Thursday.

Matilda the Musical

We are looking forward to watching some of our Year 5 & 6 children perform in Matilda the musical next week at Thwaites Theatre. Tickets are available online.

www.blackburnempire.com/show/matilda-jr-by-redeemer-primary-school/



Sports Day

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual sports day on Wednesday 8th July at 9:00m. Please come along (with a camping chair if possible) to cheer the children.



Ukulele Performance

Our annual KS2 ukulele performance will take place on Thursday 8th July at 2:00pm. Please come along and listen to us performing our latest hits!

Surprise End-of-Year Event/Non-uniform

To finish off our school year in style, we have organised a special surprise event for the children. The total cost of the event is £385. School will be funding part of this amount, and we are kindly asking for a voluntary contribution of £2.00 per child to help cover the remaining costs. On the day, children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform. As the activities will be active, please ensure they wear comfortable sports-style clothing and suitable footwear.

We are sure the children will enjoy this special end-of-year treat!

Clothes Clearout—13th July

We're delighted to be taking part in **Donate Clothes 4 Sammy**, a fantastic initiative that turns your unwanted clothing into funds for our school while supporting vital blood cancer research and helping the environment. We are collecting **good-quality pre-loved clothes, shoes, handbags, belts and Accessories (not school uniform)**. Every donation helps to raise money for school projects and resources, supports the work of **Leukaemia & Myeloma Research UK**, and prevents textiles from ending up in landfill.

So, if you're having a clear-out, please consider donating your unwanted items and giving them a new purpose! Please bring clothes in bin bags ready for collection on the 13th July.



WE ACCEPT...

- Adult & Children Clothing
- Paired and clean undamaged shoes
- Handbags & Belts
- Soft toys and Toys in new & working condition
- Jewellery & Accessories
- Purses & Watches
- Cosmetics (unused) & Perfumes & Toiletries sets



Diary dates—Summer term 2026

Wednesday 8th July—Sports Day @ 9:00

Thursday 9th July—KS2 Ukulele performance @ 2:00

Monday 13th July—KS2 Volcano Stem Workshop

Tuesday 14th July—Linking Classrooms visit LKS2

Tuesday 14th July—Everybody Make KS2

Wednesday 15th July—Tockholes Talent Show

Thursday 16th July—Everybody Sing Event

Thursday 16th July—Leavers Service 2:00

Friday 17th July—Special Event/Non-uniform Day

Term Dates

Friday 17th July 2026 School closes for Summer holiday

Wednesday 2nd September School re-opens for start of Autumn Term

Friday 23rd October Schools closes for half-term

Monday 2nd November School re-opens

Friday 18th December School closes for Christmas

Tuesday 5th January School re-opens for start of Spring Term