

St. Stephen's Tockholes

CE Primary School



Newsletter—September 2025

After School Clubs

This year we are returning to give our clubs a focus each night, to provide additional learning opportunities for the children.

For us to provide a proper structure to these clubs, ideally children will need to attend for the full hour, from 3:15 to 4:15pm.

Monday—Games Club

Tuesday—Lego Club

Wednesday—KS1 Sports Club or drawing club

Thursday—KS2 sports club or maths activities games

Friday—Singing/Music/Dancing

Please remember that children must be collected at 4:15pm and anyone being collected later than this will incur an additional charge.

Charges for clubs:

After School Club: £2.50 per child, per day.

Breakfast Club: £3.00 from 7:30—8:00am and £2.50 from 8:00 to 8:20am, which is the last cut off time for admission.

Clubs must be paid for in advance or on the day in cash, cheque or online via ParentPay.

Spanish Day—Wednesday 10th September

As we are introducing Spanish as our modern foreign language, we will start this off next week with a Spanish Day. The children are invited to come to school wearing something red and/or yellow. They will participate in a variety of activities.



Beth Tweddle (Gymnast) Visit

On Tuesday 16th September we are very much looking forward to welcoming the retired artistic gymnast, Beth Tweddle to school. Beth Tweddle is one of Britain's most successful ever gymnasts with three world gold medals in her collection, along with six European titles. Beth made her Olympic debut as a 19-year-old in Athens..

She was awarded the MBE for services to gymnastics in 2010 and in 2006 she finished third in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award, becoming the first ever gymnast to reach the shortlist for the annual prize.

At the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Beth won bronze in the uneven bars before retiring in August 2013.

Beth will be talking to the children about the new Gymfinity Kids Community Club that is opening up at St. Bede's RC High School.

Start of the school day

For a variety of reasons, our doors open at 8:30am for our children to come into school. Some of these include:

- Reduction of traffic on Rock Lane
- Children can then benefit from a quieter/calm entry into school
- Most importantly, this ensures a prompt start to lessons at 8:45am

We do ask that all children are sat in their classrooms and registered ready to start lessons at 8:45am. For the Infants this is their phonics lesson and for KS2 this is their spelling and handwriting sessions. This avoids any disruption to the lessons and reduces any distress and anxiety that some children experience. All children benefit from a strong start to the day with their peers.

Road Safety at drop off/pick up

Gentle reminder that when arriving at school to drop off/pick up your children, please can you make sure that you go down the Lane to turn around, before parking up on the left opposite school.

To enforce our message to the children of staying safe on the roads, please walk your children down the pavement and cross the road opposite the school gate.

Please do not use the school car park to turn around.

Open Afternoon for parents—Tuesday 23rd September 3:30—4:30pm

We invite you to come into school with your child to visit their classroom and have a look at the work they have started so far this year. This is also an ideal time for you to speak to the class teacher should you have any questions.

Open Evening for Prospective Parents—Wednesday 22nd October 2025 - 5:30pm

Our annual open evening for anyone with children due to start school in September 2026, will take place on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 5:30pm.

Prospective families will have the opportunity to meet the staff, governors and have a look around our wonderful school.

Healthy Snacks

Children in the juniors are invited to bring in a healthy snack for morning playtime. These will need to come into school in a sealed container/bag as they are taken out their lunch bags and kept in the classroom. Healthy snacks may include fruit or vegetables, cereal bars, rice cakes, crackers, yoghurt pouches. Please, NO crisps, chocolate, sweets or nuts.

Children in the Infants will be offered a piece of fruit as part of the Government's National Fruit and Vegetable Scheme for Infant children.

Attendance

A new page has now been created on our school website specifically linked to attendance. This is as a result of the new guidance issued by the Department for Education.

We kindly ask that all families familiarise themselves with the information and policies relating to attendance so that you are aware of the expectations on both school and families to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children.

Holidays in term time are not permitted and school are not able to authorise any requests.

Reporting an absence

If your child is unwell and not fit to attend school parents must inform the school by telephoning the absence line. Please leave your child's full name and reason for absence, along with your name and contact number. Absences must be reported daily unless it is for a condition such as chicken pox, or if a medical note has been issued by a doctor.

Please do not send in absence messages by class dojo to your child's class teacher as it is the office who need to be made aware in the first instance, via the absence line.

Recording absences is the responsibility of the office staff, who will telephone the people on your child's contact list, in order of priority, if a reason has not been provided via the telephone absence line.

Telephone number: 01254 701806, option 1.

Please note that for cases of sickness and/or diarrhoea 48 hours absence is required, from the last bout of illness.

Inhalers

If your child needs an Inhaler whilst at school, please can you ensure that they are sent into school ASAP and that they are labelled with their names.

Harvest Service at St. Stephen's Church—Friday 3rd October 2025 @ 9:00am

Our School Harvest Festival will take place in Church on Friday 3rd October at 9:00am.

Along with St. Stephen's Church, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Darwen Food Larder. Any donations of non-perishable food items will be very gratefully received during the next two weeks prior to the Harvest Service.

All families and friends are welcome to join us for this special service.

TOCKHOLES SCARECROW FESTIVAL

SAT 6TH SEP
FROM 10:30AM

**WALKING
SCARECROW
TRAIL**

**WITH QUIZ, STARTING
FROM
TOCKHOLES VILLAGE HALL**



Scarecrow Festival

Please come along on Saturday to support the Tockholes Scarecrow Festival. The weather is due to be nice and what better way to enjoy some fun filled time with your family.

Quiz sheets, if you wish to join in with the quiz, can be collected from the Village Hall or St. Stephen's Church Pop-Up Café, from 10:30am.

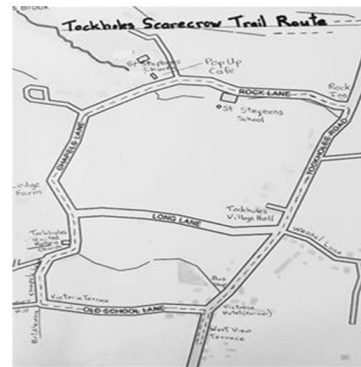
Completed quiz sheets must be returned to the Village Hall by 4:30pm. People can vote for their favourite Scarecrow on the quiz sheets.

The route is circular and can be started from any point going in either direction, so pegs will not necessarily run in numerical order.

Drinks and refreshments can be purchased at the St. Stephen's Church Pop-Up Café.

Please come along and see the wonderful creative efforts from school and villagers.

Children, and adults alike, are sure to enjoy it.



**COME FOR
COFFEE
AND
CAKE**

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Friday 26th September 2025

8:50am

In the School Hall

Please come along to join us for our first event of the new school year and help us to raise money for this very worthy charity.

Donations of pre-packaged cakes would be very much appreciated and can be sent into school during w/c 22nd September.



Diary dates—Autumn term 2025

Saturday 6th September	Tockholes Scarecrow Festival
Wednesday 10th September	Spanish Day
Tuesday 16th September	Beth Tweddle Visit
Tuesday 23rd September	Parents Open afternoon
Friday 26th September	8:50am MacMillan Coffee morning—all welcome
Friday 3rd October	9:00am Harvest Service in Church—all welcome
Thursday 16th October	Golf Day—details to follow
Wednesday 22nd October	5:30pm Prospective Parents Open Evening
W/C 10th November	Remembrance Week
Tuesday 11th November	Y5/6 Remembrance service in Church
Tuesday 18th November	Parents Evening—details to follow
Saturday 29th November	Christmas Fair in school—details to follow
Wednesday 3rd December	Hindu/Diwali Enrichment Day
Wednesday 10th December	All school to Panto at Planet Ice Blackburn
W/C 15th December	NO After school clubs this week
Wednesday 17th December	2:00pm & 6:00pm Nativity performances in Church
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Dinner and Parties
Friday 19th December	2:00pm Carol Service in Church

Term Dates

Thursday 23rd October 2025	School closes for half-term
Tuesday 4th November 2025	School re-opens
Friday 19th December 2025	School closes for Christmas holidays
Monday 5th January 2026	School re-opens for start of Spring term 1