



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 29th November 2024

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...Another busy week at St Stephen's has come to a close - I can't quite believe there is only three weeks left of this term. This week has been Assessment Week - children have taken part in assessments in Maths and Reading. The children have worked extremely hard and I am so pleased with the progress they are making. These assessments help teachers to understand where there are gaps in learning and ensure children are progressing well with the curriculum. A huge well done to everyone!

We also had an Early Years (Nursery and Reception) review this week by our School Improvement Partner from Emmaus. It was extremely positive and they were very impressed with the teaching and learning across the phase. We are committed to giving children the very best start in their education journey and we are doing just that here at St Stephen's! Well done everyone!

Christmas season is upon us and I cannot wait to see the preparations for the various performances to start. This Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent - we light the first purple candle on our Advent Wreaths, which is a symbol of Hope as we await the arrival of baby Jesus.

Christmas Fair - Thank you so much to our PTA and the Church Community for coming together to hold such a fantastic Christmas Fair. I am always so grateful for the hard work and dedication that goes into organising these events. A huge thank you to all involved and to you for your continued support in raising vital funds for school.

Sing-a-thon - On Wednesday we held our very first 'Sing-a-thon' here at St Stephen's, with the aim of raising money to purchase new instruments for children to use in their Music lessons. It was a fantastic day and we kept the singing going from start to finish! We had a wonderful assembly to showcase our Music Curriculum. Thank you for your support and generosity, and to Mrs Herbert for organising the day.

Year 3 - Thank you our Year 3 children for sharing a wonderful class assembly this week. As always, thank you for taking the time to attend. Class Assemblies will resume in the New Year and I will provide the dates in the final newsletter of the term.

Christmas Coffee Morning - Our Pupil Parliament Team have planned an event for our Parishioners and for families on Friday 6th December. Refreshments will be served from 9:15am in the School Hall and there will be a few songs performed from our Christmas Productions. Spread the word to your families.

You will find the calendar dates for next academic year on the next page.

Have a great weekend, **Mr Lavin, Headteacher**

Our Values:
St Stephen's
CARES

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service



| Be Ready | Be Respectful | Be Safe |

#TEAMSTSTEPHENS

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St Stephen's RC Primary School Calendar 2025-2026

Autumn 1 Term (38 days)		
Staff INSET (1)	Monday 1st September 2025	School Closed
Staff INSET (2)	Tuesday 2nd September 2025	School Closed
School reopens	Wednesday 3rd September 2025	School Opens
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 24th October 2025	Half term begins at 3:15pm

Autumn 2 Term (35 days)		
School reopens	Monday 3rd November 2025	School Opens
School closes for Christmas	Friday 19th December 2025	School closes at 1:30pm

Spring 1 Term (29 days)		
Staff INSET (3)	Monday 5th January 2026	School Closed
School reopens	Tuesday 6th January 2026	School Opens
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 13th February 2026	Half term begins at 3:15pm

Spring 2 Term (29 days)		
School reopens	Monday 23rd February 2026	
School closes for Easter	Thursday 2nd April 2026	School closes at 1:30pm

Summer 1 Term (29 days)		
School reopens	Monday 13th April 2026	School Opens
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026	School Closed
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 22nd May 2026	Half term begins at 3:15pm

Summer 2 Term (29 days)		
School reopens	Monday 8th June 2026	School Opens
Staff INSET (4)	Friday 3rd July 2026	School Closed
School closes for Summer	Friday 17th July 2026	School closes at 1:30pm
Staff INSET (5)	Monday 20th July 2026	School Closed

190 School days + 5 INSET = 195 days

Staff INSET - School closed for pupils

Monday 1st September 2025	School Closed for INSET
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	School Closed for INSET
Monday 5th January 2026	School Closed for INSET
Friday 3rd July 2026	School Closed for INSET
Monday 20th July 2026	School Closed for INSET

Bank Holidays

Thursday 25th December 2025	Bank Holiday for Christmas Day
Friday 26th December 2025	Bank Holiday for Boxing Day
Thursday 1st January 2026	Bank Holiday for New Year's Day
Friday 3rd April 2026	Good Friday
Monday 6th April 2026	Easter Monday
Monday 4th May 2026	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 25th May 2026	Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 31st August 2026	Summer Bank Holiday

The table above shows 190 pupil school days and 5 INSET days. Any application for leave of absence during term time will only be considered by the headteacher if there are exceptional circumstances that warrant granting leave. Please note: Family holidays should not be taken during term time.



Dates for your calendar - Autumn 2

Week Beginning 2nd December 2024

Date	Event
02.12.24	3LH Stay and Pray 9am
03.12.24	3HB Stay and Pray 9am
04.12.24	4DS Retreat in school
05.12.24	4SM Retreat in school
06.12.24	Christmas Coffee Morning 9:15am Reception and Year 6 Mass 10am

Week Beginning 16th December 2024

Date	Event
17.12.24	KS2 Carol Service 2pm School Hall
18.12.24	Christmas Dinner
19.12.24	Party Day
20.12.24	Whole School Mass 10am School Finishes at 1.30pm

Week Beginning 9th December 2024

Date	Event
10.12.24	Nursery Nativity 9:30am School Hall
11.12.24	Reception Nativity 9:30am School Hall for RLS families
12.12.24	Reception Nativity 9:30am School Hall for RNE families Year 1 Carol Concert 2:30pm School Hall Christmas Jumper Day
13.12.24	Year 2 Christmas Play 9:30am School Hall



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Caitlyn & Pixie
RLS	Ophelia
RNE	Isobel
Y1SH	Evie
Y1LB	Leighlah
Y2JL	Cornelia
Y2AL	Myla
Y3HB	Myley-Dean
Y3LH	Bruke
Y4DS	Clark
Y4SM	Tegan
Y5LW	Freya
Y5LS	Laicee
Y6GB	Gustavo
Y6DF	Sara

Readers of the Week

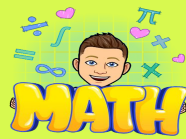


Nursery	Bessie
RLS	Matias
RNE	Annie
Y1SH	Harper
Y1LB	Leon
Y2JL	Abigail
Y2AL	Arthur
Y3HB	Lyna
Y3LH	Leo
Y4DS	Ivy
Y4SM	Riley
Y5LW	Joshua
Y5LS	Charlotte
Y6GB	Emelia
Y6DF	Delilah





Maths Star



Nursery	Caleb
RLS	Adrian
RNE	Lily-Jean
Y1SH	Ava
Y1LB	Louie
Y2JL	Rose
Y2AL	Ivy
Y3HB	Kalani
Y3LH	Isabelle
Y4DS	Elvis
Y4SM	Jeremiah
Y5LW	Dolly
Y5LS	Estree
Y6GB	Darcy
Y6DF	Audrey

Writing Star



Nursery	Yousuf
RLS	Julianna
RNE	Axel-James
Y1SH	William
Y1LB	Michael
Y2JL	Declan
Y2AL	Keoni
Y3HB	Bella
Y3LH	Pati
Y4DS	Eliza
Y4SM	Bella
Y5LW	Hanna
Y5LS	Akisha
Y6GB	Leila
Y6DF	Abigail

1% BETTER





Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is the start of the season of Advent, a word which means 'important arrival'. Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth - God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

The Gospel reminds us that there is no time to lose. We shouldn't put off our good resolutions until New Year. Now, Advent, is the time to think about the way we live our lives and begin to make any necessary changes.

Wednesday 27th November 2024

The message is clear for all of us: we are to 'stay awake!' Pope Francis reminds us, "Christ asks us to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter."

Enrich this special season through exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ADVENT**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

"Advent is a time for us to prepare for the coming of Jesus, Prince of Peace. It's a time to make peace with ourselves and our neighbours."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 1st December 2024



Jesus said to his disciples, "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars and on the earth, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man approaching in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand upright, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. Watch yourselves; be careful not to let your hearts be weighed down with the cares of life. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."

Adapted from Luke 21:25-28.34-36
The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year C

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

2024 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf

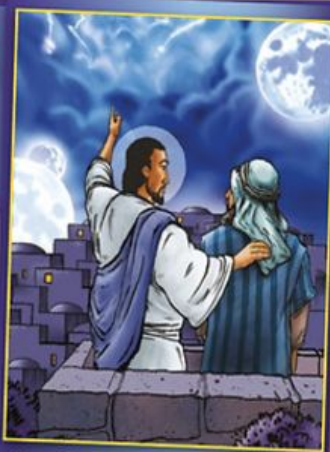
Having Hope
in our Families

Advent reminds us that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into our world. Let's use this season of Advent to be open to welcome him, to make a fresh start and to draw closer to God, through living a good life!



Good News for Families

10 MINUTES TOGETHER TIME



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus said to his disciples, "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars. Then people will see the Son of Man returning in the clouds with power and great glory. You must always be ready, because only my Heavenly Father knows when this will happen."

What did Jesus say we must always be?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. The Birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely by God." *Pope Francis*

ADVENT



Advent is the time when we make an extra effort to be more loving towards God and our neighbours. Ask your child what they think the word 'Advent' means (parent help: for the answer, please see the 'Parent Letter' on the front page). What do they know about Advent? What do they like best about this season which leads up to Christmas? You may want to share with your child what you like best about the season of Advent.

Advent is an opportunity to be spiritually refreshed and helps us get ready for Christmas. Choose something to do, individually or as a family, to stay spiritually 'awake' and make this Advent prayerful and special. Perhaps you can: say a prayer together as you put up the crib or the Advent wreath; pray especially for someone (or better still for a few people) each evening throughout Advent; go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession); go to Church on Sundays; regularly give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to get ready during Advent to welcome you with joy this Christmas, and when you come again in your glory. Amen.

FINDING THREE

G Y S N G I S P R E A
 A L W A Y S O W L J E
 J R O Y S N R U T E R
 E O E R K D Y R J S E
 S W Y T Y D A E R U S
 E S I G N S D T Y S J
 B I R D Y R S U S E J
 G N E A J E G R W K A
 P O W E R A Y N E D Y
 G L O R Y D N Y L L A
 A L P D A Y R O T S D

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- SIGNS
- SKY
- JESUS
- RETURN
- POWER
- GLORY
- ALWAYS
- READY

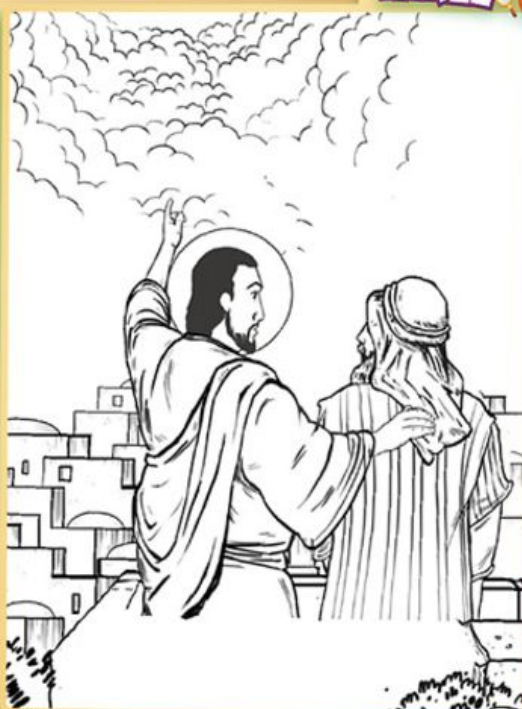
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **a o k** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

awiklo disacipolesk askuno osiganks

Jesus said to his _____, "There
be _____ in the _____ and moon and stars.

Each Advent we think about Mary and Joseph's difficult journey to Bethlehem. This Advent, let us pray especially for all those people who have been forced to make dangerous journeys, similar to that of Mary and Joseph, to find safety.



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Attendance

Whole School	93%	3HB	89%
Nursery	90%	3LH	94%
RLS	86%	4DS	96%
RNE	91%	4SM	92%
Y1SH	100%	5LW	90%
Y1LB	93%	5LS	90%
Y2JL	98%	6GB	92%
Y2AL	92%	6DF	98%

St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1SH	14	5th: 2AL	2
2nd: Nursery	8	6th: 1LB	2
3rd: 2JL	7		
4th: RNE	6		
5th: RLS	4		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	14	6th: 5LS	4
2nd: 6DF	11	7th: 3LH	2
3rd: 4SM	7	8th: 3HB	0
4th: 4DS	6		
5th: 6GB	4		



Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been very busy practicing our singing and dancing for our Christmas production 'A Wiggly Nativity'.

We are working so hard and we can't for you to watch our show!

In phonics this week we have been learning the rhyme 'Jack and Jill' we have loved learning the rhyming words and this weeks sound in our 'What's in the box?' game has been 't'- tiger, toast, teeth and teddy bear.

In Maths this week we have been learning about repeating patterns and have been able to talk about what makes a repeating pattern.

We loved celebrating Olive the Owls 2nd Birthday- we made cakes in the playdough area, had a tea party in the home corner and made birthday cards in the writing area. On Thursday afternoon we had a lovely forest school session with Mrs Artingstall based on Hedgehogs, the weather was good to us and we enjoyed learning facts about Hedgehogs, making hedgehogs from clay, listening to Percy the Park Keeper and the Hedgehog followed by a yummy hot chocolate!

Next week we are looking forward to Advent and learning about the First Christmas.

Question- What facts about Hedgehogs can you remember?

Reception

Where is the time going? The weeks are flying by!

This week marks our final week answering our big question of "Where is the Magic?" The children have secure knowledge of colour mixing, rhyming words, adjectives that describe texture and magical related words such as "mythical."

We have been learning about the composition of 4 and 5 this week. We have been using ten frames and double sided counters to help us. A really great game that we have played is called "Shake the Magic Cup"...

Put 4 or 5 double sided counters in a cup (1 side red, 1 side yellow - you could make these.)

Shake the cup well.

Empty the cup onto a flat surface.

Let "magic" choose how many red and how many yellow counters.

Use subitising skills to say how many red and how many yellow.

Say the STEM sentence ___ and ___ make 4 (or 5 - depending how many in the cup.)

The children have been working hard on their nativity. They are so excited for you to see it. Just a reminder that the clothing they need to go with their costumes need to be in school, in a labelled carrier bag (with your child's name.)

Have a lovely weekend

Question: If the witch wasn't the main character in our story, who would you choose?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year 1

This week has been very and productive. The children have worked hard to show how much they have learned in their English and Maths. We are very pleased with how much progress they are making in their phonics- thank you for all your home support. In RE we completed our work on Baptism and it was lovely to see and hear how much the children had remembered. We also enjoyed learning about Advent through our special Cafod assembly. We will explore the meaning of Avent over the coming weeks. We thoroughly enjoyed the music assembly on Wednesday and had great fun singing in class as part of the Singathon. The children continue to enjoy learning about the UK and are looking forwards to their Local area walk.

Task: Talk to your child about landmarks/ significant places in Droylsden

Year 2

A big well done to all children in Year 2 this week. You have worked so hard in your Maths and Reading assessments and the teachers in Year 2 are really proud of you! Alongside this, the children have been learning about Advent and enjoyed a CAFOD assembly to introduce us to our next RE unit. In Science, we have continued to learn about different materials and their suitability.

On Wednesday, we took part in our school Sing-a-thon and enjoyed a fantastic assembly from other year groups. We enjoyed taking part and singing throughou the day. The children have also been working so hard on their Nativity play, I'm sure you will hear lots of the songs at home! We ended the week with a lovely and relaxing Celebration of the Word.

Question: What would be a good material for a window? Why?



Year 3

The children have worked extra hard this week as they completed English and Maths assessments.

Our new Geography unit is about geography of the UK. The children have enjoyed learning about the countries and cities that make up the UK. We also looked at the main rivers and mountains.

In English, we began our new book, 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket. We began by looking at the opening picture of the book and inferring what might be happening. Then we began to look at the use of personification of the dark.

On Thursday morning, Year 3 did their assembly for parents. The children performed beautifully as they acted, read and prayed. Some of the children from Mrs Bilic's class were proud to talk about their great grandparents who had contributed in some way to the war effort. Mrs Herbert's class treated us to two pieces on their ukuleles.

On Wednesday we had a whole school sing-a-thon which included a range of classes playing drums, ukuleles and brass instruments. At the end, we all sang together. It was great fun.

Question: Name the four countries that make up the UK.

Year 4

This week has been Assessment Week in school. The children have been working hard to show how much they have learnt this term. We would like to say a huge well done for their effort and focus!

On Wednesday, school took part in a Sing-a-thon to raise funds for new instruments to enrich the children's learning in music. In assembly, the whole school came together in song. We were treated to performances from the school choir and from classes in Year 3, 4 and 5 who have been learning to play an instrument with our music teacher, Miss Chambers. 4DS performed Africa by Toto on the djembe drums.

In English, we began 'A Christmas Carol'. We discussed Charles Dickens as an author and also explored what life was like in Victorian England to add context to the story. The children are looking forward to reading the whole story.

In PE, the children have been enjoying learning to play basketball. In RE, we continued to learn about people that were called by God. We focused on the call of the apostles, reading the story from Mark's gospel.

Question: When the sun heats up water on Earth and turns it into water vapour, what is this process called?



Year 5

This week has been a fabulous opportunity for the children to demonstrate how hard they have been working this term. They have all been extremely mature, putting maximum effort into their Maths and Reading assessments. We are so proud of them.

Another proud moment this week was 5LS's performance in the Singathon on Wednesday. They sang and played their tenor horns so beautifully. Well done 5LS!

In English this week we have continued to study Room 13. We analysed dialogue to identify whether it creates tension, advances the action or provides information about the characters. Following this, the children wrote their own dialogue between characters, using ellipses, pauses, short sentences and exclamations to create tension, as well as powerful language.

In Maths, we explored multiples, common multiples, factors and common factors, including finding the LCM and HCF. The children investigated common multiples and factors, making generalisations and explaining their conclusions using precise mathematical language.

Finally, in Geography, the children planned and conducted a class debate about the effects of urbanisation in Brazil. Using push and pull factors, they considered the pros and cons of moving from the countryside to the city. The children were so engaged and articulated their points well.

Question: How do you know if a number is a multiple of 3?

Year 6

Another brilliant week here in Year 6! The children have been working extremely hard across all areas of the curriculum; Mr Fitch and Miss Birtles are very proud of them.

This week, in English, we have continued our learning on Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. We first begun by analysing features of a narrative text, highlighting conjunctions, parenthesis, dialogue, fronted adverbials and the varied use of punctuation - including semi-colons. Following this, we revisited our learning from Year 5 and consolidated our understanding and accurate use of direct speech, punctuating this with developing accuracy. The children worked hard to rewrite existing dialogue with focus on moving the narrative forward and these have made for an interesting read.

In Mathematics, the children have continued developing their understanding of fractions. Year 6 have worked hard to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions by integers as well as by other fractions. We have even begun applying this understanding to mixed questions before finding fractions of amounts. The children have shown great resilience to this and are beginning to develop in confidence in their processes and application of methods. Well done Year 6!

Question: What is $\frac{6}{7}$ of 84kg?

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