



Friday 6th December 2024

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

I hope you have had a great week - it has been a brilliant one in school! Children have been reflecting on the Christmas story and have been making their spiritual preparations for the season of Advent within their Celebration of the Word sessions.

Thank you to our Year 3 parents who were able to join in our 'Stay and Pray' sessions this week. I hope you enjoyed this special time in prayer with your child. These sessions will return after the Christmas break for other year groups.

Our Year 4 children have taken part in a retreat with Mrs Farmer this week, helping them to prepare for Advent. Mrs Farmer was very impressed with how reflective our children were.

It has been so lovely seeing the children preparing for their various productions/concerts coming up next week. You will hear from your child's class teacher regarding tickets for the Nursery Nativity, Reception Nativity, Year 1 Carols, or the Year 2 Production. KS2 will have their Advent Service on 17th December, 2pm in Church - no need for tickets for this service. I look forward to seeing you at the events!

Pupil Parliament - Thank you to our Pupil Parliament and school staff for hosting a wonderful coffee morning for the community. Miss Seville and the Pupil Parliament have worked hard to host this event so we are very thankful. This really demonstrated our school value of 'Service'.

Next week is jam packed so here's a summary of the events:

- **Tuesday 10th December** - Nursery Nativity - 9:30am in the Hall
- **Wednesday 11th December** - Reception Nativity (RLS Parents) - 9:30am in the Hall
- **Thursday 12th December** - Reception Nativity (RNE Parents) - 9:30am in the Hall
- **Thursday 12th December** - Year 1 Carol Concert at 2:30pm in the School Hall
- **Thursday 12th December** - Christmas Jumper Day - Whole School
- **Friday 13th December** - Year 2 Play at 9:30am in the School Hall

Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Lavin,
Headteacher

Our Values:
St Stephen's
CARES

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service



| Be Ready | Be Respectful | Be Safe |

#TEAMSTSTEPHENS

WEBSITE: www.stsrcp.school
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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 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

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



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Luca & Lily
RLS	Coby-Ray
RNE	Annie
Y1SH	Victoria
Y1LB	Iremide
Y2JL	Valentina
Y2AL	Bobby
Y3HB	Bella
Y3LH	Lyne
Y4DS	Ruby
Y4SM	Keane
Y5LW	Angel
Y5LS	Yannis
Y6GB	Lacey
Y6DF	James

Readers of the Week

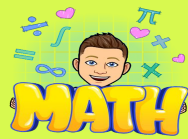


Nursery	Roman
RLS	Lena
RNE	Cole
Y1SH	Kayson
Y1LB	Leo
Y2JL	Finley
Y2AL	Thomas
Y3HB	Valerie
Y3LH	Sam
Y4DS	Luna
Y4SM	Ember
Y5LW	Noah R
Y5LS	Avaya
Y6GB	Ralph
Y6DF	Sara





Maths Star



Nursery	Ruben
RLS	Dustie
RNE	Lilianna
Y1SH	Ava
Y1LB	Lula
Y2JL	Odin
Y2AL	Aaliyah
Y3HB	Kingsley
Y3LH	James
Y4DS	Millie
Y4SM	Oscar
Y5LW	Donaao
Y5LS	Laicee
Y6GB	Phoebe
Y6DF	Anabelle

Writing Star



Nursery	Skye
RLS	Peggie-May
RNE	Christoforos
Y1SH	Aurora
Y1LB	Jaxon
Y2JL	Noah
Y2AL	Myla
Y3HB	Evelyn
Y3LH	Grace
Y4DS	Grace
Y4SM	Grace
Y5LW	India
Y5LS	Daisy
Y6GB	Lily-Grace
Y6DF	Ted

1% BETTER





Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist calling people to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival. John alerted the people of the need to change some of their ways and to the fact that Jesus was coming.

This Gospel can serve to remind us about the importance of preparing ourselves as Christmas approaches: to repent (to look into our hearts and see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better), and to be busy doing the things that Jesus told us to do, loving God and

Wednesday 4th December 2024

loving one another through our words and through our deeds. In these ways we prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed.

Enjoy a very special time together hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **PREPARATION**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"In this second week of Advent, we ask for the grace to prepare ourselves with faith to celebrate Christmas."



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 8th December 2024



At the time when Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judaea, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the desert. John went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice cries in the wilderness; prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all people will see the saving power of God.'

Adapted from Luke 3:1-6
The 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2024 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf ▶

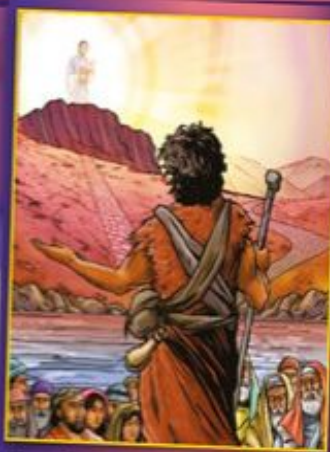
Having Hope
in our Families

John the Baptist encouraged people to change their hearts. His message is for us too. Good preparation is always important in everything we do. Preparing ourselves well for Christmas will help us to draw closer to Jesus, and so experience and share more of God's love.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

At the time when Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judaea, there was a man named John, a prophet, who was living in the desert. God spoke to him and told him to preach to the people. So John went out to baptise and to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. He told them to change their lives and to turn back to God.

Who was John preparing the people for?

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.

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?

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

"Whoever has peace in his heart 'prepares a place' for the Lord." *St Theoliptos of Philadelphia*

PREPARATION



Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Ask your child what the word 'preparation' means to them. When did your child last prepare for something particularly well or for something special? It may help your child if you can share something about a time when you prepared particularly well for something. How is your child preparing at school for the celebration of Jesus' birthday at Christmas?

As a family, how can you prepare well for Christmas? Perhaps you can: slow down and try to remember Jesus - the real reason for Christmas; read *The Wednesday Word* together; read the Bible's Christmas story together; make an extra effort to consider other people's needs throughout this Season of Advent; sing favourite Christmas carols together. What other ways can you think of to prepare for celebrating Jesus' birth?

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to prepare our hearts to receive and to share more of your love as Christmas approaches. Amen.

FINDING FIVE

J	H	C	A	E	R	P	O	J	N	H
E	E	P	H	E	L	P	O	E	P	G
S	P	P	R	E	A	C	H	S	D	D
U	P	R	O	P	S	G	B	T	E	E
S	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	V	S	T
T	R	L	I	V	E	D	I	U	E	E
R	E	G	I	H	N	L	S	H	R	S
E	P	E	O	P	L	E	P	L	T	N
S	A	L	S	E	J	O	H	N	H	G
E	R	A	P	E	R	P	D	O	N	J
D	E	S	H	P	B	H	J	L	J	D

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JOHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROPHET	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIVED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	DESERT	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREACH	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEOPLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **ifm** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

pemopilet Jothinm Jetsumsi piretparem

"_____ went out to baptise and to _____ the _____ for the coming of _____."



Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



Advent is traditionally a time to do more good works. For more ideas about how you can bring God's love to others, see Mission Together's 2024 Advent Calendar: missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar/



This week I will try my best to...





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

It has been a busy start to Advent in Nursery.

The children have enjoyed learning about the First Christmas and the important people who were there. They have been talking about the story and retelling it in our class Worship Area.

We have enjoyed taking the travelling Nativity home with us this week and we will continue to do this over the next couple of weeks.

Please share any photographs via Class Dojo.

We have been extremely busy practising for our 'Wriggly Nativity!' and are very excited to perform it to you next Tuesday 10th December at 9.30am in the School Hall.

On Thursday we enjoyed a Stay and Play at Nursery, It was lovely to see so many of you come and for you to experience all the wonderful activities we do at Nursery in our lovely Nursery environment- we hope you enjoyed the story Simon Sock!

There will be more Nursery Stay and Plays in the New Year arranged based the Storytime Maths programme.

Question- How many Kings were there in the Christmas Story?

Reception

We cannot believe that it is our Reception Nativity next week! The children have been working so hard and we are sure that you will love the show.

In Literacy, we have started to explore our new class text "Jesus' Christmas Party." We read the story, spoke about the people in the story and the important roles they played in the safe arrival of Jesus. We then wrote story summaries. Next week, we will be using our talk for writing skills to retell and sequence the story.

In maths we have been thinking about shapes with 4 sides. Can you remember the names of the shapes?

In RE we performed our own Baptism service (see class dojo for photos.) The children have really started to understand the meaning of Baptism and being welcomed into God's family. Next week, we will be starting our advent focus. This half term's VIPs came to an end this week. Thank you so much to everyone who came. It was lovely to chat with you about your wonderful children. VIPs will begin again after the half term.

Question: Why is a square different to a rectangle?



Year 1

Our week in Year 1 started with a walk around Droylsden as part of our geography topic. The children could recognise and identify local landmarks. In English this week, the children have been writing their own Supertato story with different characters. They wrote the beginning, middle and end of the story using their story maps and produced some lovely pieces of work. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. Children have been identifying them as well as sorting them. In RE we have been learning about Advent and how it is a time for waiting and preparing. We have looked at the symbolism of the Advent Wreath. Some children have taken home our travelling nativity. Please do send photos of the children praying at home via Dojo. In Science, we have been identifying and sorting different materials such as wood, metal, and plastic.

Question: Can you find any 2D and 3D shapes around the house?

Year 2

Year 2 have worked extremely hard this week. We have now completed our assessments and we are so proud of the effort the children put into these and the resilience they displayed.

We have now started our new text in English, Little Robin Red Vest. This week, the children have read and answered questions about the story and started to look at how apostrophes are used for contractions.

In Maths, we have started to subtract 2 digit numbers not crossing a boundary and learn methods to support us in doing this.

In R.E, we read Isaiah 9:2-6 and thought about how we can prepare for the coming of Jesus. We also learnt about the Annunciation of Mary and the children described the words and actions during this.

In Geography, we learnt about the 8 compass points and we located continents and oceans using these.

In Science, we learnt about how different objects can be made out of different materials and why people might choose which material is most effective.

Question: What did Angel Gabriel say to Mary?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year 3

This was a great week in Year 3.

On Monday and Tuesday, the Year 3 classes had their 'Stay and Pray' sessions. We were delighted by the numbers of parents and grandparents who attended. The focus was Advent. The children enjoyed having their families with them and did a lovely job of reading and writing prayers.

In English this week, we continued with our work on 'The Dark' by reading the rest of the book and discussing its meaning. The children had to make their own sentences using a range of conjunctions.

This week in RE we started our work on Advent by thinking about how we prepare for the coming of Jesus. We explored what a Jesse Tree is as well as reading some beautiful verses written by the prophet Isaiah.

We are also marking Advent by opening a door of the 'Reading Rocks' calendar every day. This means we are introduced to an author talking about one of his/her books each day.

In Maths we have completed our unit on Addition and Subtraction and have begun work on Multiplication and Division.

Question: When is the church's new year?

Year 4

Well done to all of the children for getting to the end of another productive week, we have been very busy and are working hard to get to the end of our learning before we break up for the Christmas holidays.

In our English lessons, we are studying 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. We have discussed the front cover and suggested different keywords that come to mind and have read through the first two chapters, focusing on the character of Scrooge. We have used different adjectives, expanded noun phrases and similes to describe Scrooge and have compared and contrasted different pictures from the film adaptation using our knowledge of subordinating clauses.

In Maths we are continuing on with our hefty topic of Multiplication and Division, looking at the 11 and 12 times tables and learning how to multiply three numbers together. The children have also been revising their 7 times tables in class too so please do keep encouraging them to practise their times tables on TTRs ahead of the MTC in Spring.

We have had a little look into different states of matter in Science as we have begun our new Chemistry topic and have looked at the main rivers in our world in Geography.

This week, 4DS and 4SM took part in their class RE retreats with Mrs Farmer and really enjoyed learning more about Advent and what this time of year means. They got creative and painted their own representation of Advent and wrote their own prayers to God

Question: which colour is associated with Advent?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year 5

We've had a great week in Year 5 this week.

In Maths, we have been continuing our multiplication and division unit by exploring common factors. This has highlighted to the children the importance of knowing their times table facts at speed and they are encouraged to regularly access TTRockstars at home.

In English, we have been discussing formality and how to create it in our writing. As part of our Room 13 unit, we have identified main events which have involved two of the main characters. We have then written school reports for each character.

During Science we have been exploring Earth and Space. The children have worked hard to learn scientific terminology for celestial bodies in our Solar System and looked at distinguishing features of each of the planets.

In Religion, we have been discussing meaning of the vows within a marriage ceremony. We have also considered the role of a priest and created our own job advertisements,

Question: What is the order of the planets?

Year 6

Another busy week in Year 6! In Maths, we completed our Fractions unit by looking at finding the whole when given a fraction of an amount. We then progressed on to looking at metric units of measurement. We explored which units are appropriate and how to convert between different units.

In English, we wrote our own endings for a chapter in which Budmouth Point was being attacked. The children demonstrated their imagination and accuracy with punctuation to create some brilliant pieces of writing!

In Science, we looked at how microorganisms are classified. We then looked at Carl Linnaeus, who was the first scientist to create a classification system for animals and plants.

Our R.E. work focused on the sacrament of Holy Orders and the process that would-be priests need to go through in order to be ordained.

Question: Why didn't Carl Linnaeus include microorganisms in his classification system?