



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter 'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 13th December 2024

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

WOW! What a week here at St Stephen's! This week has been jam packed with Christmas plays and performances and I could not be prouder of all of our talented children! It is such a magical time in school and one of my favourite weeks!

Our Nursery children started us off with a wonderful performance of 'Wriggly Nativity'. Their confidence was amazing to watch, and what a wonderful celebration of the Christmas story. Next, we had two fantastic performances of the Nativity from our Reception children. Their singing, acting and dancing was incredible. I always say to parents/carers of our youngest children - treasure these moments as you will soon be back in the hall watching them performing in the Year 6 play!

Yesterday afternoon, our Year 1 children confidently performed a Carol Concert for us all - it was such a beautiful performance. Finally, today our Year 2 children performed 'Prickly Hay!' - we have such a talented bunch of actors and singers!

A huge thank you to all who managed to attend and support - it really does mean a lot. Thank you so much to the school staff for working so hard to put these performances together and provide these opportunities for our children - it has really been a week of demonstrating our school values of 'Excellence' and 'Rejoice'.

Our final Christmas performance will be our Key Stage 2 children. They will lead us in an Advent Service on Tuesday, in Church, at 2pm. You are welcome to join us.

Thank you

A huge thank you for all of the fantastic donations to our Toy Appeal. Our Pupil Parliament donated the toys today. These gifts will really help those children in need.

Miss Boucher

Miss Boucher (School Administrator) began her maternity leave yesterday. We wish her the very best for the arrival of her new baby. We welcome Miss Ahmed to the office team whilst Miss Boucher is on maternity leave. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to the St Stephen's family.

Next week:

- **Tuesday 17th December** - KS2 Advent Service, in Church at 2pm. Families are most welcome to join us
- **Wednesday 18th December** - Christmas Dinner Day - Please pre-order your child's meal via School Grid - this is open to those children on packed lunches too.
- **Thursday 19th December** - Party Day! Children can come into school in their own clothes

A reminder that we break up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 20th December at 1:30pm.**

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

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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 16th December 2024

Date	Event
17.12.24	KS2 Carol Service 2pm in Church
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	Bobby & Imoleoluwa
RLS	EVERYONE!
RNE	EVERYONE!
Y1SH	Kayson
Y1LB	Nicholas
Y2JL	Jessica
Y2AL	Maisie
Y3HB	Kalani
Y3LH	Thomas
Y4DS	Eva
Y4SM	Caoimhe
Y5LW	Moise
Y5LS	Frances
Y6GB	Charlie
Y6DF	Emily

Readers of the Week

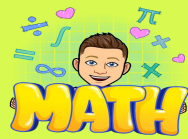


Nursery	Caitlyn
RLS	Aryel
RNE	Ocean
Y1SH	Maverick
Y1LB	Phoebe
Y2JL	Sienna
Y2AL	Armaan
Y3HB	Anastazja
Y3LH	Oscar
Y4DS	Lydia
Y4SM	Sofija
Y5LW	Vanellope
Y5LS	Layla B
Y6GB	Matilda
Y6DF	Jemima





Maths Star



Nursery	Olivia
RLS	Chester
RNE	Romie
Y1SH	Tommy
Y1LB	Evie
Y2JL	Poppy
Y2AL	Bobby
Y3HB	Michelle
Y3LH	Esme
Y4DS	Anaya
Y4SM	Freya
Y5LW	Isla
Y5LS	Layla W
Y6GB	Beau
Y6DF	Liam

Writing Star



Nursery	Penelope
RLS	Flora
RNE	Kofi
Y1SH	Darcie
Y1LB	Noah
Y2JL	Harper
Y2AL	Bailey
Y3HB	Annie
Y3LH	Aurora
Y4DS	Kacper
Y4SM	Riley
Y5LW	Harrison
Y5LS	Saul
Y6GB	Freddie
Y6DF	Deborah

1% BETTER



Wednesday
11th December

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME



1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

When the crowds asked John the Baptist, "What must we do?" He answered, "If anyone has two coats they should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and they said to him, "Master, what must we do?" He said to them, "Don't collect any more than you should." Then he said to some soldiers, "Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone, but be satisfied with your pay." By now, a feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandal strap."



From the Gospel of Sunday 15th December 2024 Luke 3:10-18 (the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **MERCY**.





"Read the gospels! This way we will learn what is most essential in our lives: love and mercy." Pope Francis

Who did the people think that John the Baptist might be? In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of Jesus. He tells them to share with others and to show mercy - to put people (not money or power) first; to feel for those who suffer and to do something to help. Within the Catholic Church, these actions, attending to people's basic needs, are known as Corporal (or physical) Works of Mercy. Ask your child what the word 'mercy' means to them. You may want to share with your child what the word 'mercy' means to you. Can you or your child remember a time when you were merciful and gave someone another chance?

"God is merciful towards us. We too should learn to be merciful." Pope Francis

The Church also encourages us to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy. These include: being compassionate; being patient with others even if we are being treated unfairly; forgiving others (even if we feel they don't deserve forgiveness); sometimes giving people more than they deserve. Merciful people do things out of their love and care for others and this helps make the world a better place. Who do you know to be a merciful person? Each time we show 'mercy', we open ourselves to receive mercy from God. Each of you say if there is someone to whom you could show mercy this Advent.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to grow in the virtue of **mercy** - to be open to receiving your **mercy** and showing **mercy** to others. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**



**JOHN
BAPTIST**



**ENCOURAGES
MERCY**



**COATS
FOOD**



**SHARE
OTHERS**



SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	S	I	Q
T	T	L	M	E	R	C	Y	Y	B	L	R
Y	O	J	O	H	N	W	F	O	O	D	F
C	T	L	P	D	W	C	O	A	T	S	S
R	H	S	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	N	E
E	E	N	B	U	K	Q	D	H	W	B	G
M	R	S	H	A	A	X	E	N	S	A	S
E	S	R	R	O	P	C	S	F	H	P	T
S	R	Z	X	E	J	T	O	V	A	T	A
I	M	A	K	A	H	O	I	Q	R	I	O
V	I	C	H	S	D	T	B	S	E	S	C
I	U	C	W	S	U	C	O	Z	T	T	G



Cross out the letters

u d w

in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

umodrew Jowhund tuhwand Bawptistud

_____ the _____ said, "Someone is coming, someone who is _____ powerful _____ I am."

The Catholic Church encourages us to prepare for Christmas and experience God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

During Advent, many parish churches also offer special Reconciliation Services for us to experience God's love, mercy and forgiveness. All are warmly invited.



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

What a fabulous week it has been! We loved performing 'Wriggly Nativity' to all our families. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed performing it. We are so proud of our Nursery children!

We have been very festive this week and have created some lovely cards, calendars and decorations to bring home next week. We have loved using lots of glitter and sequins!

This week following on from our Christmas performance we have continued to learn all about the christmas story. We are very knowledgeable about the important people in the story and can talk about the journey Mary and Joseph made.

Next week we are really looking forward to our final week of our first term in Nursery. We have Christmas dinner day on Wednesday and Party Day on Thursday.

Question- Can you name the special gifts given to baby Jesus?

Reception

Wow oh wow! What a week! We are SO proud of the children and their amazing efforts with our Nativity. Their confidence blew us away - extremely happy teachers! WELL DONE, RECEPTION! You are all superstars!!

As well as their dazzling singing, dancing and acting, the children have been busy in Maths and Literacy, too! We have been retelling our story "Jesus' Christmas Party" using our Talk for Writing skills and in maths we have been embedding our knowledge on shapes - are they squares or not squares? We have also been busy making some very special Christmas surprises for our families at home.

We really cannot believe that next week will be our final week of our first term. We have had the best time and are looking forward to our party day and whole school mass.

Have a well deserved rest this weekend!

Question: Where was Jesus born?



Year 1

What a busy week we have had! Firstly we would like to thank you for coming to our Christmas Carol Service and congratulate the children on doing such a great job.

We have been enjoying our new text "Winter's Child". The children have written some wonderful setting descriptions.

We have also been busy exploring materials to see if they could freeze and melt, sink or float or whether they would absorb liquid or not. We had great fun predicting and testing our ideas. In geography we created maps based on our walk last week.

We have been keeping our calculation skills and phonic skills sharp with daily activities. In RE we continue to learn about symbols of Advent and wrote about the Annunciation.

Task: Challenge yourself on "Hit The Button" number bonds questions.

Year 2

Another very busy week in Year 2!

In English this week, we have been writing using contractions and a range of exciting vocabulary to write letters in the role of Father Christmas. We wrote thank you notes to Little Robin from our book 'Little Robin Red Vest', to thank him for his kindness.

In Maths, the children have worked so hard and have been subtracting two digit numbers that cross ten using place value charts. They have really impressed us! In RE, we learnt about the Visitation, and thought carefully about the feelings of Mary and Elizabeth.

In Geography, we have explored the features and climates of the different continents and created visual maps of these.

Towards the end of the week, the children blew us away with their singing and acting in all of their Nativity performances - we are so proud of each and every one of you! We ended the week with a peaceful and thoughtful Celebration of the Word.

Question: What can you exchange 'ten' for?



Year 3

This week in Year 3 was a busy as ever! The Children in Mrs Artingstall's Rainbow group performed the play 'The Lion and the Mouse' for some of the staff. Their reading was so confident and fluent.

We have begun to practise for our Advent Carol Service which will be taking place next week. The children are trying hard to learn the carols.

In English, we have worked on paragraphing so that the children are able to structure their texts more successfully. Today they planned out a narrative based on the book 'The Dark.' The story will be a spin off of the original book and will be written from The Dark's point of view.

In Maths, we have looked at arrays as well as the difference between grouping and sharing. They children have been working hard on their 4 times table.

In RE, we have continued to think about how we can prepare for Christmas by doing kind deeds and refraining from being thoughtless towards others.

In Geography this week, we compared the populations of the four countries of the UK. The children used maps to identify the most highly populated areas and to consider why some areas are sparsely populated.

Question: Which city is the most populated in the UK?

Year 4

This week in Year Four, we have been busy finishing off units of work and getting in the Christmas Spirit.

On Wednesday, we were treated to a Christmas performance from Year Two who did so well remembering all of the their lines and putting on a great show. We all really enjoyed it!

We have also been practising the carols for our Carol Service in church next week.

On Thursday and Friday, we began making calendars to take home. The children loved using a combination of different skills and media to create a piece of art they could be proud of!

In English, we finished reading A Christmas Carol and wrote a letter of apology in character as Scrooge. The children worked to incorporate all of the writing techniques that they have been developing throughout this unit. It was a real pleasure to read their writing and see how much they have engaged in the story and its characters.

In RE, we learnt about the life of a Christian Missionary named Sean Devereux. The children were inspired by his bravery, his sacrifices and love he showed to those in need.

Question: Who was Scrooge visited by in A Christmas Carol?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year 5

As we approach Christmas, Year 5 are working hard to complete units of work in Maths, English, RE, Science and Geography, whilst also preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

In English, this week, we have planned and begun to write Chapter 13 of our book 'Room 13'. This is an opportunity for the children to use their imaginations, as this chapter is missing from the book. We have been amazed by their creativity and ability to create suspense and tension in their work. We can not wait to share some of the children's work with you.

Prime, Composite, Square and Cube numbers have been the focus in our Maths lessons this week. The children have investigated the properties of these numbers, considering the number of factors, as well as identifying patterns and relationships. The children are becoming increasingly confident with using these mathematical terms and are able to make generalisations.

In RE, the children explored the sacrament of Marriage. They produced a marriage booklet, selecting relevant scripture, hymns and identifying the different elements of the marriage ceremony. As part of our work during Advent, the children also considered the symbolism of the candles on the Advent wreath and analysed the lyrics of the hymn 'The Servant King' in relation to Jesus' service to others.

Question: Can you write a definition for Prime and Composite numbers?

Year 6

This week, the children have worked extremely hard as we begin to come to an end of our units of work this half term. We are very proud of their continuing efforts, well done Year 6!

In English this week, the children have unpicked more about characters in the story as secrets have been revealed! As a stray suitcase washed up on the shore, the children have been working hard to analyse features of a newspaper report as well as consolidating their knowledge of direct and reported speech before writing a newspaper report of their own next week, detailing the events.

In Maths, the children have been focusing on and developing their understanding of coordinates. The children initially began by looking at the first quadrant before extending this to the four quadrants. Towards the end of the week, we began problem solving using coordinates which the children initially found quite tricky but have demonstrated great perseverance and resilience with this. Next week, we will begin to look at translations and reflections.

Question: What is the orientation of a newspaper?