



Friday 10th January 2025

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a great Christmas with your loved ones and spent some quality time together. It has been a great first week back, despite the very cold weather. We started off the week reflecting on the Feast of the Epiphany. In classes, we also reflected back on our school rules, our values and mission and we talked about what it means to be part of the St Stephen's family. Children have settled back into their routines very well! We have welcomed lots of new children to our Nursery class too. The children have settled in wonderfully and it has been lovely to see them exploring their new environment. A huge welcome to our new families.

A reminder to make sure you apply for your child's Reception class place by 15th January. Spread the word!

Today we attended mass together as a school and it was a lovely celebration to start off the new term.

A few gentle reminders:

- Please put your child's name in their uniform to avoid lost items
- Hair below shoulder length must be tied back
- School shirts and ties are to be worn for Y1 to 6. School ties are part of the school uniform - these can be purchased on ParentPay and collected at the school office.
- Nail Polish/make up is not permitted.
- Bracelets, rings, hoop earrings should not be worn.
- A watch can be worn but this **should not be a smart watch**.
- Footwear - should be black shoes.
- As the weather is changing, please ensure your child comes into school with a waterproof coat - they can also bring in a pair of spare trainers to change into for lunch and playtimes if they wish.
- PE kits should be royal blue polo shirt, navy pants if you have not purchased the school branded kit.
- We are seeing an increased number of children being dropped off to school late, and being picked up early. Please make every effort to arrange appointments outside of school hours if possible - I know it can be difficult.

Please take note of the terms calendar dates on the next page.

Have a fantastic 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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Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

Week Beginning 13th January 2025

Date	Event
13/1/25	Y6DF RE Retreat in school
14/1/25	Y6GB RE Retreat in school
17/1/25	Year 1 and 2 Mass @ 10am

Week Beginning 20th January 2025

Date	Event
21/1/25	Y5 Racism Workshops
23/1/25	Year 1 Class Assembly 9:05am School Hall
24/1/25	Year 3 and 4 Mass @ 10am
26/1/25	Y3 Sacramental Mass @ 10:30am

Week Beginning 27th January 2025

Date	Event
30/1/25	RNE Class Assembly 9:05am School Hall
31/1/25	Year 5 and 6 Mass @ 10am

Week Beginning 3rd February 2025

Date	Event
3/2/25	Y2 RE Retreat Day
6/2/25	RLS Class Assembly @ 9:05am School Hall
7/2/25	Numbers Day - Dress up in anything connected to maths
7/2/25	Year 2 and 3 Mass @ 10am

Week Beginning 10th February 2025

Date	Event
10/2/25	Children's Mental Health Week
11/2/25	Safer Internet Day
13/2/25	Nursery Class Assembly @ 9.:05am
14/2/25	Reception/Y6 Mass @10am
14/2/25	Half Term begins 3:15pm

New dates will be added as the term continues, I will highlight these in a different colour.



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Callie & Neil
RLS	Julianna
RNE	Axel-James
Y1SH	Aurora
Y1LB	Louie
Y2JL	Louie
Y2AL	Armaan
Y3HB	Jacob
Y3LH	Raya-Mae
Y4DS	Kacper
Y4SM	Grace
Y5LW	Elijah
Y5LS	Charlotte
Y6GB	Alexis
Y6DF	Hannah

Readers of the Week

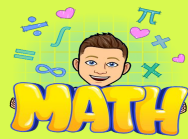


Nursery	Elsie D
RLS	Lily-Mae
RNE	Buddy
Y1SH	Chester
Y1LB	Bella
Y2JL	Valentina
Y2AL	Evie-Rose
Y3HB	Gavriel
Y3LH	Lano
Y4DS	Adam
Y4SM	Lani
Y5LW	Cleo
Y5LS	Noad
Y6GB	Sienna-Rae
Y6DF	Minhat





Maths Star



Nursery	Maddox
RLS	Mila-Mae
RNE	Alfie
Y1SH	Sienna
Y1LB	Iremide
Y2JL	Ronnie
Y2AL	Thomas
Y3HB	Adriel
Y3LH	Harrison
Y4DS	Conor
Y4SM	Ethan
Y5LW	Oscar
Y5LS	Poppy
Y6GB	Finley
Y6DF	Jaime Leigh

Writing Star



Nursery	Caleb
RLS	Honey
RNE	Emily-
Y1SH	Harper
Y1LB	Ivy
Y2JL	Scarlett
Y2AL	Rosie
Y3HB	Linen
Y3LH	Bruke
Y4DS	Anaya
Y4SM	Riley
Y5LW	Patrick
Y5LS	Layla W
Y6GB	Declan
Y6DF	Macy

1% BETTER





Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Filled with excitement, the people were wondering if John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John said to them, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." Then, after the people had been baptised by John, Jesus himself was baptised. While Jesus was praying the sky opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and with you I am very pleased." **What was John the Baptist doing?**

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...

"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift." *St Gregory of Nazianus*

BAPTISM



Ask your child what they know about baptism. Ask them if they know what any of the symbols of baptism represent (e.g. candle, water, oil, white garment, the sign of the cross). If your child has been baptised, ask them if they know who chose their name, and why that name was chosen for them. You might also like to share with your child any memories you have of their baptism and how you chose their name. Perhaps you have photographs to show them.

Baptism is the start of a life-long call to reveal God's Spirit to our family and community. When we are baptised, we receive the very same Holy Spirit, to help us to live like Jesus. How can we live more like Jesus as we begin this new year? Perhaps we can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help others; as a family, choose to support a charity in 2019; regularly make an effort to let other family members know how much we love them.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of **Baptism**. Please help us to live like you and to spread God's love throughout this new year. Amen.

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

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

JOHN RIVER

BAPTISED JESUS

VOICE HEAVEN

BELOVED SON

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **u k m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

Bamputistk Churmkiat womnuderking pumcoplek

The _____ were _____ if John
the _____ might be the _____

At Jesus' baptism, God the Father called Jesus his Son. Through Baptism, we too become children of God. After Baptism, as part of God's family (the Church), we are called to live the life of a Christian by loving God and our neighbours, just as Jesus did.

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





Attendance

Whole School	95%	3HB	94%
Nursery	91%	3LH	94%
RLS	86%	4DS	94%
RNE	99%	4SM	95%
Y1SH	96%	5LW	98%
Y1LB	99%	5LS	92%
Y2JL	96%	6GB	97%
Y2AL	92%	6DF	99%

St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1SH	15	5th: RLS	4
2nd: Nursery	8	6th: 2AL	2
3rd: RNE	8		
4th: 2JL	7		
5th: 1LB	5		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	15	6th: 5LS	4
2nd: 6DF	15	7th: 3LH	2
3rd: 4SM	7	8th: 3HB	0
4th: 4DS	6		
5th: 6GB	5		



Nursery

Happy New Year to all our Nursery families and welcome back.

We have had a very busy first week back at Nursery and have enjoyed welcoming new friends to our class.

This week we have started our new topic 'Transport' we have loved listening to our new story 'Naughty Bus'.

In phonics this week we have revisited the nursery rhyme 'Jack and Jill' we have been learning rhyming words and exploring different sounds in our environment.

In our Storytime Maths learning we have focused on the book 'One Fox' we have really worked hard representing numbers in the story.

We have introduced our new Nursery friends to our favourite class songs 'My Lighthouse' 'This Little Light of Mine' and 'Magic Penny'.

Question- What city can you find Red Buses?

Reception

We have had such a lovely first week back. The children were all ready for action after the break and have produced some lovely work!

We have started our new text "The Train Ride" in literacy which links to our new topic about journeys. We have summarised the story, sequenced the story and thought about how the characters feel in different parts of the story.

In maths we have been learning some new vocabulary: equal and unequal as well as what "zero" means and how it is represented.

In phonics, we have learnt four new digraphs, 'ai' 'ee' 'igh' and 'oa'.
Towards the end of the week, we attended whole school mass.

Question: How do you travel to school?



Year 1

Year 1 have hit the ground running in the New Year and have settled so quickly back into their learning routines. Well done children! Our new English text is called Unplugged by Steve Antony. The children have shown good understanding of the story and are doing so well retelling the story using their story maps. We also used emoji's to describe how Blip feels throughout the story.

In maths we are looking at place value to twenty. We are beginning to understand tens and ones, count forwards and backwards and write number names in words. Our RE lessons began with the story of the Epiphany and the children thought about gifts they would have liked to have given Jesus. We also introduced the Bible story

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and discussed Simeon and Anna.

In Science, we looked at the key features of the season of winter and assessed children's knowledge of seasonal changes so far.

We finished our week with a lovely Mass.

Question: Can you count forwards and backwards to and from 20?

Year 2

What a fantastic first week of 2025 we have had! It has been lovely welcoming the children back into school and listening to everything they have been up to over Christmas. The excitement has continued with all the snow and ice!

This week, we have been learning about the Epiphany in R.E and we ended our week with a special Mass to celebrate it. We have started our new R.E topic about books and we have considered why the Gospels are special books.

In Maths, we have started our new unit about Shape. We have identified 2D and 3D shapes and recognised the properties of 2D shapes including lines of symmetry.

We have been finishing off topics from before Christmas in Science and Geography.

In Science, we investigated the question, "Which material is the most suitable for an umbrella?" We tested the strength and whether different materials are waterproof or not.

In Geography, we created an information leaflet about Africa sharing the knowledge of the climate and different features of the continent. We also identified the 5 oceans of the world.

Question: Can you name the 5 oceans of the world?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year 3

We have had a lovely first week in Year 3.

On Tuesday we read all about the Epiphany. The children imagined they were working for King Herod and had to write a WANTED poster as Herod was desperate to track down the Three Wise Men after their visit to Bethlehem. In English we started work on our new book, The Tin Forest by Helen Ward. The children had to do some detective work to find out about the main character in the story by looking carefully at a picture. They also thought of noun phrases which contrasted the man's real life with the world of his dreams.

In Maths we are continuing to work on problems around our times tables. This week we looked at the 3 times table and worked on the inverse operation, missing numbers and word problems.

We completed our geography unit on the UK by using photos to compare Manchester today to Manchester in Victorian times. The children compared housing, shopping, transport and work.

On Wednesday a representative of the St Vincent de Paul charity came in to speak to the children about becoming 'Mini Vinnies.'" Lots of the children wrote letters of application to take part in this initiative which will involve actively helping at school and in the community.

Year 4

Welcome back to Year 4; we have been so impressed with the way the children have returned to school and settled back into their learning.

We have been rounding off our learning in Maths this week and are getting ready to begin our brand new unit on Multiplication and Division. In English, we are preparing to start our new text: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and we think the children will really enjoy getting stuck into this new topic.

In Geography, we are consolidating our unit on Rivers and have been looking at how rivers erode, transport and deposit sediment during their journeys and how river pollution can be prevented.

We completed an experiment in Science using milk, dark and white chocolate by melting the three different chocolates and recording how long each chocolate took to melt - the children then recorded their results and drew them up in a graph and were very proud to be able to record their results this way.

In DT, the children have begun to research and design their own bags and are enjoying getting creative with their ideas!

Question: Are the forces of attraction strong or weak in solids, liquids and gases?

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Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent start to 2025. Happy New Year to all!

This week, the children have been looking closely at their sentence structure in English. We have identified the subject of different sentences and been verb spotting. We also considered that the number of words to represent a subject can vary. We then ensured that we punctuated sentences correctly and edited given sentences.

In Maths, we have been continuing to study our multiplication and division unit. The children have been investigating cubed numbers and multiplying numbers by 10, 100 and 1000.

In Science, we have looked carefully at the Heliocentric and Geocentric model of space. We then looked at how our understanding of space has changed over time.

In Geography, we have continued to study Brazil. We have looked at different landmarks within the country and explained why it is such a popular tourist spot.

We completed our week with a Mass celebration.

Who believed in the Heliocentric model?

Year 6

What a wonderful week to welcome back Year 6 and a big Happy New Year to you all! Despite the cold weather, Year 6 have worked hard this week to get back into routines and complete some excellent work.

In Maths this week, the children have been working hard to utilise their understanding of coordinates and have extended this to translate and reflect shapes across all four quadrants. Towards the end of the week, we began our unit on ratio which we are looking forward to getting stuck into next week.

In English, we have begun our new unit which focuses on the text, 'The House with Chicken Legs'. The children have made some insightful predictions based on the illustrations on the front cover before analysing the character of Baba Yaga. As a tale of Slavic Folklore, the children have begun to understand her story and apply this to what we have learnt within the first few chapters of the book. Next week, we will be completing a character description for Baba Yaga.

In RE, we have focused on the Epiphany. We first began by analysing a religious painting before completing missing sections utilising what we know was happening during this time. Following this, we considered the expectations of Jesus when receiving the gifts, linking this carefully to the hymn, 'We Three Kings'. Next week, we will begin our next unit of 'Sources'.

Question: What was the expectation of Jesus when gifted frankincense?

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