



Friday 31st January 2025

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

I hope you have had a fantastic week! I've seen so much great work this week from our children and I am very proud of all their achievements.

Reception Class Assembly

A huge well done to Mrs Ellison's class for an amazing class assembly this week. Our children always make us so proud! Next up is Miss Smith's class - 9:05am on Thursday morning in the school hall.

Boy's Football

A huge well done to our Boy's Football team who won the Tameside Cup this week! Well done to the whole team! The team also played a game against Manchester Road last night and won 8-0! Amazing!

Girl's Football

Our girl's football team travelled to The Cliff this week to compete in a Greater Manchester Competition. They game second overall - such a great achievement! Well done!

Numbers Day

Next week, Friday 7th February is Number's Day. All children will take part in a variety of activities linked to Maths! Children are invited to wear their own clothes - ideally something Maths/Numbers themed. We ask for a £1.00 donation to go towards new maths resources.

This weekend's Gospel

In the Gospel this Sunday, we meet Jesus on the bank of the River Jordan. He has been baptised by John the Baptist and suddenly the heavens open and God the Father speaks some amazing words. This is a moment of awe and wonder! We talked in assembly today about how God the Father loves each of us just as much as he loves Jesus. We hold this truth in our hearts as we prayed and worshipped together. We think especially about our Year 3 children who begin their preparations for their First Holy Communion by being presented to the Parish this Sunday in Church.

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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Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

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	Matilda and Aria
RLS	James
RNE	Cole
Y1SH	Ava
Y1LB	Leon-Gabriel
Y2JL	Amelia
Y2AL	Bailey
Y3HB	Annie
Y3LH	Aurora
Y4DS	Hudson
Y4SM	Alex
Y5LW	Hanna
Y5LS	Saul
Y6GB	Jenson
Y6DF	Evie

Readers of the Week

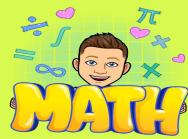


Nursery	Pixie
RLS	Elliott
RNE	Lincoln
Y1SH	Isabella
Y1LB	Michael
Y2JL	Rose
Y2AL	Huckleberry
Y3HB	Kaiden
Y3LH	Milliane
Y4DS	Pippa
Y4SM	Muwaffaq
Y5LW	Charles
Y5LS	Yasmin
Y6GB	Gustavo
Y6DF	Lexi





Maths Star



Nursery	Inaayah
RLS	Darcy
RNE	Alice
Y1SH	William
Y1LB	Peyton
Y2JL	River
Y2AL	Evie-Rose
Y3HB	Bella
Y3LH	Ava
Y4DS	Brooke
Y4SM	Anopa
Y5LW	Freya
Y5LS	Luca
Y6GB	Seth
Y6DF	Harlow

Writing Star



Nursery	Bobby
RLS	Alyssa
RNE	Alfie
Y1SH	Evie
Y1LB	James
Y2JL	Jessica
Y2AL	Armaan
Y3HB	Arabella
Y3LH	Emmanuel
Y4DS	Daley
Y4SM	Peyton
Y5LW	George
Y5LS	Alisha
Y6GB	Travis
Y6DF	Lottie

1% BETTER





Wednesday 29th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read about Simeon who joyfully recognised Jesus as the 'Light of the World' – the one who fills our lives with hope.

Hope is a virtue which can strengthen and sustain us through life's greatest difficulties. Putting our hope in God is trying to live and do our best in the present moment, and then trust the future to God.

Simeon is a great example of someone who placed his hope in God and was blessed by encountering Jesus, the 'Light of the World'. We too can be blessed and enlightened when we do the same.

As part of our celebrations for this Jubilee Year of Hope, enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HOPE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

"Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!"

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 2nd February 2025



When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and, in accordance with the Law, they offered two young pigeons in sacrifice. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man and it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: "Now, Master, you can let your servant die in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel." Jesus' parents took him back to Nazareth where Jesus grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

*Adapted from Luke 2:22-40
The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

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

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope
in our Families

Hope is a wonderful gift. When we spend time learning about and listening to Jesus, we are blessed with hope and strengthened, and so are able to bring great hope and good news to others.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

When Jesus was a baby, his parents, Mary and Joseph, took him up to the Temple to present him to God and make an offering of two young pigeons. In the Temple was a good and holy man named Simeon. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Jesus, the Light of the World. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and praised God saying, "Now, I can die in peace because you have kept your promise. This child, Jesus, will be a light for all nations."

What had the Holy Spirit promised Simeon?

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...

"God is the reason for our hope and the source of our happiness." *Pope Francis*

HOPE



Jesus brings a message of hope to the world. Ask your child what the word 'hope' means to them. Can they remember a time when they faced a difficult situation and someone (or maybe their faith) gave them hope? Each of you say who or what gives you hope when times are tough. Can you remember a time when you gave hope to someone?



To hope is to believe that God's love will always be with us. Is there anyone you know who is sad or troubled and needs hope? In what ways can we bring hope to that person or those people? Perhaps we can: be a good friend; be a patient listener; offer help and support where needed; tell others about the hope that God brings into our lives; let others know we are praying for them.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the hope and light you bring to our lives. Please help us to bring light and hope to others too. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- MARY
- JOSEPH
- PRESENTED
- JESUS
- SIMEON
- TEMPLE
- LIGHT
- HOPE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **b v w** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

cwhibldv blivghtw nabtiwonvs Sibmevown

_____ said, "This _____, Jesus, will be a _____ for all _____."

This Sunday we celebrate a special feast - 'The Presentation of the Lord', which is also traditionally known as 'Candlemas'. During Mass this weekend, church candles may be blessed by the priest. We light these candles every time we celebrate Mass to remind us of the light that Jesus brings to our world.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Attendance

Whole School	93%	3HB	98%
Nursery	91%	3LH	95%
RLS	96%	4DS	94%
RNE	99%	4SM	88%
Y1SH	99%	5LW	95%
Y1LB	92%	5LS	96%
Y2JL	83%	6GB	96%
Y2AL	87%	6DF	93%

St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1SH	21	5th: RLS	5
2nd: RNE	13	6th: 2AL	2
3rd: Nursery	8		
4th: 2JL	8		
5th: 1LB	5		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	18	6th: 5LS	5
2nd: 6DF	16	7th: 3HB	3
3rd: 6GB	9	8th: 3LH	2
4th: 4SM	7		
5th: 4DS	5		



Nursery

This week at Nursery we have celebrated Chinese New Year-The Year of the Snake. The children have engaged in all the activities, making dragons, creating snakes, saying hello in mandarin, enjoying messy play with cornflour and mark making with chopsticks, number sequencing in relation to the 'Great Race' and being very creative (making some super slithery snakes!).

We have enjoyed learning all about how the New Year is celebrated and loved watching dragon dances and parades! We took part in a Yoga session based on the 'Great Race' and danced to Music to celebrate.

In Maths we have continued our learning on the number four, we have loved subitising and recalling numbers to four.

In Phonics we have enjoyed the rhyme 'Baa, Baa Black Sheep' we have also been learning words which start with the 'o' sound such as 'Orange and Otter.'

Question- Can you name a colour that is said to be lucky during Chinese New Year?

Reception

What great week we have had in Reception celebrating Chinese New Year. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Lunar New Year and why it is celebrated. In Literacy, the children have been following instructions to make chinese noodles. In Maths, we have been subitising, comparing mass and finding a balance. We have been thinking of the vocabulary 'compare' 'mass' 'heavier' 'lower' and 'balance scales'. In phonics, we have learnt two new sounds - 'air' and 'er'. We have practised writing words with double letters along with the tricky words, 'are' 'sure' and 'pure'.

A huge well done to Mrs Ellison's class for their amazing assembly. A reminder that Miss Smith's class assembly is on Thursday 6th January 2025 at 9:05am.

Question: Which Chinese New Year animal are you?



Year 1

This week we have completed our work on Unplugged by writing our own narratives. We have also started our new text -Man on the Moon and have enjoyed retelling the story with our story maps. We have been consolidating our understanding of numbers to 20 by comparing them and ordering them. We continue to look at animal groups in science and have been learning about fish, amphibians and reptiles. Our RE lesson helped us to understand the work of CAFOD and how they bring good news to those who are suffering. We continue to learn about the history of flight through the lives of the Wright brothers. We enjoyed music and playing the glockenspiel.

Task: Talk about different animal groups and their differences

Year 2

In Year 2 this week, the children have been very productive. At the start of the week, the children enjoyed a whole year group PE session where we engaged in a carousel of exercise and games. In English, the children have been really impressing us, writing some fantastic character descriptions including adverbs and expanded noun phrases. In Maths, we continue our unit on Money, this week the children have been comparing amounts of pounds and pence, and adding pence to make up a pound. In RE, we have been reflecting on our unit all about special books, and have been understanding what makes the Gospel stories special to us. In History, we have been reflecting on the effects of the efforts made by the Suffragettes, and learnt about some significant actions they took, such as hunger strikes to fight for their cause.

Question: How many pence make up a pound?



Year 3

In Year 3 this week we have begun our new English unit based on the books 'Greta and the Giants' and the 'Little People Big Dreams' book about Greta Thunberg. The children are already enjoying discussions about our natural environment and endangered species.

In Maths this week we began a new unit on multiplication. This unit looks at multiplying two digit numbers. The children will initially look at a range of visuals which help them to understand the process before learning more formal methods.

In Science we have come to the end of our unit on Rocks. Our last lesson involved a fair test. The children performed an experiment which tested which types of rocks sunk and which floated when placed in water.

The children are all enjoying their regular singing lessons provided by the diocese. They have been practising the hymn 'Shine Jesus Shine' for the Welcome mass on Sunday.

Question: what is 24×10 ?

Year 4

In Year Four this week, we have been continuing our English unit based around the novel 'The Miraculous journey of Edward Tulane'. The children created their own character, a toy just like Edward and wrote an explanation text all about how their toy is made, their appearance, their personality traits and any other unique features. We then began researching the RMS Queen Mary which is the setting of a key moment in the story. We plan to use our research to write a non-chronological report all about the legendary ocean liner.

In Maths, we began to use formal methods of multiplication to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. The children have picked up the method really well and now have another tool to help them multiply larger numbers.

In Science, we began our unit on 'Sound'. We thought about what sound is and how it travels. To support our learning, we made telephone cups and investigated how they work.

Question: How does sound travel?



Year 5

This week culminated in the creation of our vegetarian meals on Thursday. The children loved preparing and cooking falafel, with an accompanying sauce. Following this, they evaluated their work, identifying what they liked/ disliked about the look and taste of their meal; suggesting how it could be improved and recognising the problems they faced in preparing and cooking falafel.

In Art, the children studied the work of Kittie Jones (a landscape artist from Edinburgh). They explored her artistic process, using a range of media, from pencil sketches to ink washes, charcoal to pastels and finally paint. They used their creativity to make visual notes about her work, which will be used to inspire their own landscape paintings next weeks.

As part of our learning in Maths this week, we used chocolate swiss rolls to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa. We then compared and ordered fractions in a range of ways, finding common denominators and numerators, before applying our understanding to problem-solving.

Fronted adverbials have been a focus in English this week. Using the animated film 'Monkey Symphony' as stimuli, the children used colourful semantics to create sentences, incorporating fronted adverbials of time and manner. The children then applied their understanding of a range of sentence structures to independent written pieces. Next week, we will begin our study of Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy.

Question: What is mixed media and how can it be used in the artistic process?

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have completed another round of mock SATs. The children have all done their absolute best and are now showing that they are comfortable with the setup and expectations around the SATs.

Aside from this, we have been busy looking at decimals in Maths. This started with familiarising ourselves with the place value involved, moving on to rounding and then adding and subtracting decimals.

In English, we have concentrated on Nina, a character in The House With Chicken Legs. We looked at her feelings and emotions as the story progressed and then produced a monologue from her perspective.

In R.E., we have looked at how to navigate the bible in order to locate scripture. This involved using the contents page, understanding whether books were located in the old or new testament and then working out which chapters and verses were relevant.

In Science, we have continued to look at circuits, with our focus on varying circuits this week. We explored the impact that adding or removing components has on a circuit.

Question: Is the book of Matthew in the old or new testament?