



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

Friday 14th March 2025

**BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |**

**A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN**...I hope everyone is well and that you have had a great week!

**Science Week** - This week has been Science Week here at school. We joined schools around the country in celebrating all things Science! It has been wonderful to see children in and out of the classroom completing various experiments. I am sure children have had a great time! On Wednesday afternoon we held our annual Science fair, where all classes had the opportunity to look at each others projects. Thank you to Miss Scaife, our Science Lead, for organising the week.

**Cheerleading** - Our Cheerleading group attended a Catholic Tameside Schools competition on Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Ellison and Mrs Grantham. I am pleased to say they won the whole competition! I am so proud of the team! Thank you to Mrs Ellison for giving the children this opportunity.

**Football in the mornings** - Just a reminder that there should be no ball games in the morning on the playground whilst children are waiting to go into class. We have many young children walking with their parents and making sure everyone is safe is our priority. We will remind children in assembly but if you could reinforce this message with children I'd appreciate it.

**Mini Vinnies** - Please see letter on the next page from our Mini Vinnie Team about their Lenten project.

**Miss Smith** - Miss Smith has secured a new teaching position in a school closer to her home. She will be leaving the St Stephen's family at Easter and I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future. I will contact parents in the coming weeks to confirm her replacement.

**CARITAS Award** - Last Friday, in our Good News Assembly, I introduced a new special award that I will give out each week for someone who is demonstrating one of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. They are:

- Dignity
- Solidarity
- The common good
- The option for the poor
- Peace
- Creation and Environment
- The dignity of work and participation

I am pleased to say last week's winner (and the first winner this year) was Kayson in Year 1 for demonstrating 'The Common Good'. He was so proud of himself! This week's winner is Poppy in Year 2 for showing great consideration for Creation and Environment. A huge well done!

I hope you have a great weekend. Happy St Patrick's Day to our Irish families/community when it arrives on Monday! **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](http://www.stsrcp.school)  
TWITTER: @stsrcp  
TEL: 0161 370 2071



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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINI VINNIE TEAM...

Hello,

We are the Mini Vinnies. We are a new addition to our school's pupil leadership groups.

Our aim is to spread kindness and help those in need. We would like to raise some extra money for our St. Joseph's Penny charity this Lent and also help celebrate our mothers and special women in our lives.

We intend to hold an own clothes day on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** and would appreciate if people would donate chocolates, candles and toiletries.

Our intention is to wrap the donations and have a small stall on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**, where children can buy a gift for Mother's Day. Gifts will be priced between 50p and a £1.

All the money raised will go to St. Joseph's Penny.

This is our first venture as a group and we would appreciate it if you could support us.

"Please help us to help others"

Yours Sincerely,

Mini Vinnies Group



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## Dates for your calendar - Spring 2

### Week Beginning 17th March 2025

Date	Event
19.03.25	Own clothes day - donations of chocolate, sweets, toiletries to sell for Mother's Day - Mini Vinnie Appeal
20.03.25	6GB Class Assembly - 9:05am Hall
21.03.25	Reception and Y6 mass - 10am Church World Down Syndrome day

### Week Beginning 31st March 2025

Date	Event
31.05.25	RE Retreat Mrs Farmer 3LH
01.04.25	RE Retreat Mrs Farmer 3HB
03.04.25	Year 3 Assembly - 9:05 School Hall
04.04.25	Years 4 and 5 Mass - 10am Church

### Week Beginning 24th March 2025

Date	Event
24.03.25	2AL Stay and Pray Shakespeare Week
25.03.25	Mini Vinnie Mother's Day Sale
25.03.25	2JL Stay and Pray
26.03.25	Y4 Joint Singing Assembly - 9:05 School Hall
28.03.25	Years 1, 2 and 3 Mass - 10am Church

### Week Beginning 7th April 2025

Date	Event
07.04.25	RE Retreat Mrs Farmer 5LW
08.04.25	RE Retreat Mrs Farmer 5LS
11.04.25	Easter Bonnet Parade EYFS/KS1 Outside 9:15am KS2 Decorate an Egg Competition

### Week Beginning 14th April 2025

Date	Event
15.04.25	Y5 Passion Play 9.15 am in Church
16.04.25	Whole school mass 10am School closes at 1:30pm

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



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### **EYFS/ Key Stage One**

I am thrilled to confirm that our Annual Easter Bonnet Parade for Children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** is back this year! We invite all children to create an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it in for a Parade on **Friday 11th April**. It is a wonderful event and has been supported so well in past years. Parents are invited to attend.



Plan 1 will be for parents from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to gather on the playground after drop off. Children will then parade their bonnets on the playground for all to see - if the weather is bad, we will go to plan 2. We will inform you the day before when we know more about the weather!

Plan 2 will be in the school hall at the following times to watch your child walk down the catwalk. Please only attend during your allocated time, we will clear the hall before the next set of parents are allowed to enter so please wait outside until a member of staff signals for your time to come in:

Nursery and Reception: 9:00-9:15 am

Year 1: 9:20 am - 9:30 am

Year 2: 9:35 am - 9:40 am

We will allow you to take individual photographs of your child but you will not be allowed to photograph or film the parade for Safeguarding reasons.

### **Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)**

For children in Key Stage 2, **Years 3 to 6**, we invite children to decorate an egg - we have had some incredible creations over the years and I cannot wait to see what comes in this year. We display the eggs in the school hall on the day (Friday 11th April) for all classes to come and look at the creations.

**\*\*Please can we ask for donations of Easter Eggs to help us with the prizes for the Bonnet and decorated eggs - these can be sent in with your child or left at the office.**

**THANK YOU!\*\***



**| Be Ready | Be Respectful | Be Safe |**



## Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



<b>Nursery</b>	Elsa and Olivia
<b>RLS</b>	Matias
<b>RNE</b>	William
<b>Y1SH</b>	Chester
<b>Y1LB</b>	James
<b>Y2JL</b>	Scarlett
<b>Y2AL</b>	Kendrick
<b>Y3HB</b>	Freddie
<b>Y3LH</b>	Isabelle
<b>Y4DS</b>	Kiana
<b>Y4SM</b>	Emily
<b>Y5LW</b>	Isla
<b>Y5LS</b>	FiyinfoLuwa
<b>Y6GB</b>	Beau
<b>Y6DF</b>	Olivia

## Readers of the Week

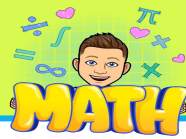


<b>Nursery</b>	Sonny
<b>RLS</b>	James
<b>RNE</b>	Nehneh
<b>Y1SH</b>	Tommy
<b>Y1LB</b>	Leon
<b>Y2JL</b>	Odin
<b>Y2AL</b>	Poppy-Kay
<b>Y3HB</b>	Runo
<b>Y3LH</b>	Lyne
<b>Y4DS</b>	Thomas
<b>Y4SM</b>	Jeremiah
<b>Y5LW</b>	Angel
<b>Y5LS</b>	Charlie
<b>Y6GB</b>	Alexis
<b>Y6DF</b>	Sam





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Roman and Imoleoluwa
<b>RLS</b>	Theodore
<b>RNE</b>	Aahil
<b>Y1SH</b>	Brume
<b>Y1LB</b>	Gadiel
<b>Y2JL</b>	Octavia
<b>Y2AL</b>	Natty
<b>Y3HB</b>	Jake
<b>Y3LH</b>	Thomas
<b>Y4DS</b>	Luna
<b>Y4SM</b>	Caoimhe
<b>Y5LW</b>	Leah
<b>Y5LS</b>	Joseph
<b>Y6GB</b>	Declan
<b>Y6DF</b>	Jemima

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Callie-Marie
<b>RLS</b>	Mila-Mae
<b>RNE</b>	Cole
<b>Y1SH</b>	Noah
<b>Y1LB</b>	Nicholas
<b>Y2JL</b>	Finley
<b>Y2AL</b>	Rahilla
<b>Y3HB</b>	Kingsley
<b>Y3LH</b>	Isla
<b>Y4DS</b>	Ivy
<b>Y4SM</b>	Alex
<b>Y5LW</b>	Elijah
<b>Y5LS</b>	Samson
<b>Y6GB</b>	Eva
<b>Y6DF</b>	Hannah

# 1% BETTER





Dear Parents and Carers,

There are times when we all need encouraging: that is, to be inspired with courage and to have our hope renewed, especially when we are going through difficult times.

The snapshot of Jesus' glory in this Sunday's Gospel was an encouragement to the three disciples. For the first time they received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus. But soon they would go through difficult times and see Jesus crucified.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

So beforehand, God tells them to listen to Jesus and allows them to see Jesus for who he really is.

Following Jesus isn't easy: it never was. But if, like the disciples, we too listen to Jesus, we will experience the encouragement that God offers freely to each one of us - today.

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ENCOURAGEMENT**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from **Pope Francis**

*"The invitation at the Transfiguration is to listen to Jesus and to follow him, laying down our lives as a gift of love for one another."*

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the appearance of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing over (his death, his resurrection and his ascension) which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." As he spoke, a cloud overshadowed them; and the disciples were afraid. Then a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him".

*Adapted from Luke 9:28-36  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, 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.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

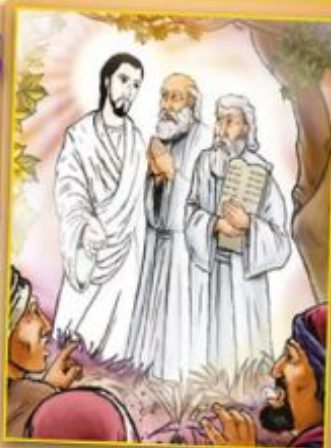
Having Hope  
in our Families

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus knew that he was soon to be arrested and put to death, but the change in the way he looked (his transfiguration), the extraordinary appearance of Moses and Elijah and hearing the Father's voice from heaven, would have encouraged Jesus to continue his mission - to spread the Good News.



# Good News for Families

## 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!

Peter, James and John went with Jesus to pray on a mountain top. While they were praying, Jesus' face shone and his clothes became as brilliant as lightning. Then Moses and Elijah appeared and began to talk to Jesus. They were two great prophets who had lived many centuries earlier. Peter said, "It is good to be here." But then a cloud covered them and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him".

**How did Jesus look when he was transformed?**

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...

If God can work through me,  
he can work through anyone."

*St Francis of Assisi*

By showing them his inner glory, Jesus encouraged the disciples. Today, when we listen to and follow Jesus, our lives are transformed and we are filled with words of encouragement. Ask your child what 'to encourage someone' means to them. Who encourages them and keeps them going when they find things difficult? How does it feel to be encouraged? Has your child ever encouraged anyone? What did they do?

## ENCOURAGEMENT



There are times when we all need encouragement. Do you know anyone who may need encouraging? Each of you choose a way to encourage someone during this Lenten season. Perhaps you can: offer words of support; let someone know when they are doing something well; help someone if they are struggling; support each other in keeping CAFOD's Lent Fast Day this Friday.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **encouraging** us. Please help us to be more like you – to be an **encouragement** to those around us. Amen.

## FINDING THREE

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

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

**JESUS CHANGED FACE SHONE MOSES ELIJAH CLOUD VOICE**

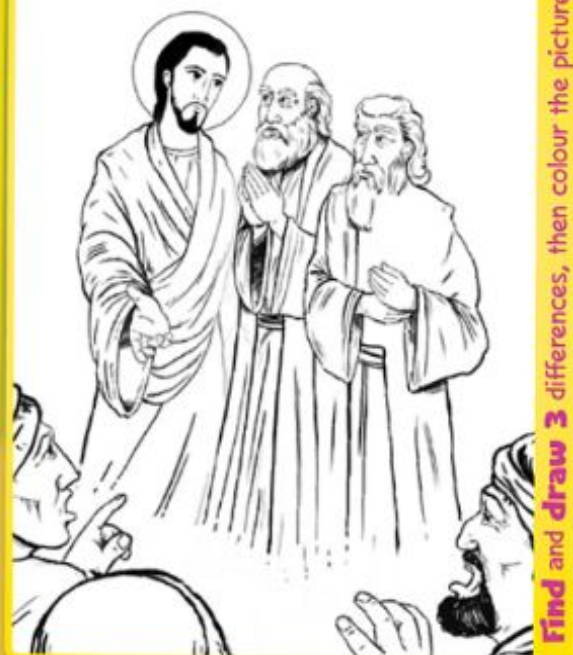
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

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

**culodthmes fudacem lidguhtnming burilmilandt**

Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ shone and his \_\_\_\_\_ became

as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture



**This Friday is CAFOD's Family Fast Day.** Why not join in so that some of the world's poorest children and families can be helped and encouraged? Discover lots of ideas at: [cafod.org.uk/primary](http://cafod.org.uk/primary)

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





## Attendance

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

### St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1SH	27	5th: 1LB	6
2nd: RNE	21	6th: 2AL	6
3rd: Nursery	12		
4th: 2JL	9		
5th: RLS	8		

### St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	27	6th: 5LS	5
2nd: 6DF	21	7th: 3HB	5
3rd: 6GB	14	8th: 3LH	4
4th: 4SM	8		
5th: 4DS	7		



## Nursery

This week in Nursery we have continued our 'Jaspers Beanstalk' story. We have used our talk for writing skills to retell the story and follow a story map about Jaspers adventure from when he found a seed to when it grew into a Beanstalk!

We have enjoyed listening to some different stories all about Growing and Spring during our class circle times.

In Maths we have been learning all about the number 6 through subitising, singing and Numberblocks work.

We have loved taking part in Science week, we got to visit the school hall to see the different experiments other classes had set up.

In class we loved being Scientists and creating lots of potions. Miss Whittaker showed us an exciting volcano experiment using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda- it was so much fun to see!

On Thursday afternoon Mrs Artingstall visited our Nursery outdoor area this was very exciting as she has helped us to start getting our area ready for Spring/Summer!

Spring is on the way and our Nursery area is creating habitats for Minibeasts. We planted broad beans and peas in our very own allotment area. They produce white flowers full of nectar for hungry bumblebees. We created a log pile and will keep a record of what creatures visit it. Our mini pond is a habitat for tiny insects and passing birds might take a bath or drink from it. Finally, our fruit trees are starting to flower and hopefully we will get our first apples and pears this year.

*Question- What number comes before 6 and after 6?*

## Reception

The children have worked so hard this week for Science Week! We have been learning about parts of a flower and the important things that flowers need to grow. We enjoyed our cress seed experiment which we displayed and spoke about at the science fair.

We really enjoyed planting our own sunflower seeds. We can't wait to watch them grow.

In Literacy we started our new text "Lulu Loves Flowers" - what is your favourite flower? In maths we have been comparing length and height.

In RE we learnt about the Pentecost and the importance of the Holy Spirit.

*Question: Where do the roots grow?*



## Year 1

Year One have really enjoyed Science Week this week. The children loved being a part of our science fair and were proud to showcase their own plants and observations. We also used this week to extend our learning about caring for the planet. We sorted rubbish into whether it could be reused, reduced or recycled, before making posters.

In English, we had a dinosaur delivery and were told to write a set of instructions on how to look after a dinosaur. The children worked hard on their instructions in order to be able to take the dinosaur home.

In maths, we have been partitioning numbers to 50 into tens and ones using base 10 and part-whole models.

In R.E this week, we thought about how Lent and Spring are a time for change and growth.

**Question: How many tens and ones does the number 46 have?**

## Year 2

What a busy week we have had in Year 2! We enjoyed showcasing our ongoing investigation of "Do plants survive best in the light or dark?" in the Science Fair on Wednesday. We also enjoyed participating in all the other year group's fantastic investigations. In class, we have been learning about ocean and desert habitats. We have now started our Lent unit in R.E and this week we have shared how it is a time for opportunities for doing good. The children produced beautiful double page spreads describing how they are going to use Lent as an opportunity for doing good.

In English, we have been building up to writing a persuasive speech. We used superlatives and hashtags to describe Mr Bunny and his actions.

In Maths, we continue to engage in our multiplication and division unit. This week, we have looked at odd and even numbers and the 10 and 5 times tables. Please practise these on Times Tables Rock Stars.

Throughout the week, we have been observing daily weather patterns. On Monday, we created a wind vane, anemometer and a rain gauge to check the strength and direction of the wind and daily rainfall. Typically, we chose a week of very little wind and rain to conduct this experiment!

**Question: Is 25 an odd or even number?**



## Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting week.

**In Maths, we learnt all about perimeter which involved calculating the perimeter of regular and irregular shapes as well as investigating and reasoning about other problems. In English, we are continuing with 'George's Marvellous Medicine.' We have read up to the part where George is just about to give his potion to his Grandma. This week, the children planned out the next chapter of the story as if they were Roald Dahl, having to imagine how Grandma will react when she drinks the concoction. In RE, we have been thinking about Lent and what it means for us. The children thought carefully about how they could make a difference during Lent to be kinder to those around them. In Geography, we have looked at how earthquakes occur and their effect on both the environment and people. It was also interesting for the children to learn how the severity of earthquakes are measured.**

**Question: Why does Lent last for forty days?**

## Year 4

We have had a great week in Year 4 this week.

As it has been Science Week this week, we have been looking into consolidating our knowledge on sound by making loud lollies and investigating pitch as well as assessing household items that use electricity and how to be safe when using electrical appliances. The children made some very eye-catching posters about their work for our science fair and they looked brilliant!

In Maths, we're working on length and perimeter and fractions and the children have been careful to count carefully when measuring and understanding the different amounts from a whole shape, such as a half and a quarter.

In English, we finished our writing on Edward Tulane and have begun to read William Shakespeare's Macbeth, which the children have loved so far, looking at investigating a murder scene and the themes of love, betrayal and revenge!

In geography, we are getting ready to start our topic on Mountains, which should really engage the children and learn more about the world around us.

**Question: How long did Jesus spend in the desert?**



## Year 5

Year 5 have had a great week!

In our English lessons, we have been immersed in the exciting world of "Brightstorm". This week, the children have been busy planning and writing persuasive letters from the perspectives of Maudie and Arthur.

During Maths, we have continued our work on long multiplication. The children have tackled the challenge of multiplying three and four-digit numbers by two-digit numbers with great enthusiasm and determination.

In Religion, we have considered the story of the Passover from the Old Testament. The children have taken on the role of Moses, writing speeches to inform the Israelites of God's plan.

This week has also been Science Week, and the students truly embraced it! We conducted an experiment investigating thermal insulation, observing the results over time.

On Wednesday, we shared our wonderful work at the Science Fair. The children also enjoyed taking part in activities with different year groups.

Finally, we have commenced preparations for "The Passion" play, which will be performed at Easter. The children have been singing the songs beautifully.

**Question: What is the Passover?**

## Year 6

What a week it has been in Year 6!

In Maths, we have continued to focus on fractions, decimals and percentages. This has involved converting between the three and then ordering them accordingly. Over the course of the week, the children have shown great determination and resilience through some challenging reasoning work.

In English, we concluded our work on The House With Chicken Legs by rewriting The Bonding Ceremony from a different perspective. We then began our new text, Romeo and Juliet. Although this is an incredibly well-known story, the language involved throughout is challenging (even for adults). In order to get us used to this, we analysed the prologue and rewrote our own, pretending that the story was set in the modern day.

As it has been Science Week, we have had a focus on our Electricity unit. We planned and conducted our investigation which centred on the volume produced by buzzers in a circuit. We recapped the different types of variables and concentrated on making sure the investigation was fair and valid. We also thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Science Fair - it was fantastic to see all the work that other year groups are doing!

**Question: What impact did adding components have on the volume of the buzzer?**

*Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe*