



**Friday 8th December 2023**

# Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe

## A Message from Mr Lavin...

Another week has come to a close and it has been a great one!

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 19th December, 2pm in Church - no need for tickets for this event. I look forward to seeing you at the events!

**Angela Rayner School Visit** - Today our local MP Angela Rayner visited our Year 5 children. A few weeks ago, I received a letter from Angela, inviting all children to submit an entry into her Christmas Card competition. The chosen design will be printed onto the front of Angela's Christmas Cards. I am pleased to say that St Stephen's won for the second year in a row, with Abigail Dempsey's design the overall winner! A huge congratulations to her. Year 5 also wrote letters to Angela about their work they were completing in English. She spent some time talking about this work with the children. Well done everyone!

**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'. I hope everyone enjoyed the morning!

**Emmaus Academy Trust** - I mentioned in last weeks newsletter that our conversion had been delayed to 1st January 2024. Unfortunately, there has been another slight delay and we will now hopefully join the Trust on 1st February 2024.

Please do look carefully at the calendar on the next page as the next few weeks are very busy.

**Enjoy your weekend! Mr Lavin, Headteacher**

**Our Values:**  
**St Stephen's**  
**CARES**

**Compassion**



**Ambition**



**Rejoice**



**Excellence**



**Service**



**'It's the right thing to do...'**



**St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter**  
**'A world class school for children that want to make the world a better place as God intended.'**

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

## Dates for your calendar

Date	Event
12/12/23	Nursery Nativity - School Hall at 9:30am
13/12/23	Reception Nativity - School Hall at 9:30am (RNE)
14/12/23	Reception Nativity - School Hall at 9:30am (RLS)
14/12/23	Year 1 Carol Concert - School Hall at 2:30pm
15/12/23	Year 2 Play - School Hall at 9:30am
15/12/23	Year 4/5 Mass @10am
19/12/23	KS2 Carol Service 2pm in Church
20/12/23	Christmas Dinner Day
21/12/23	Christmas Party Day
22/12/23	Whole School Mass @10am
22/12/23	School closes @ 1:30pm
08/01/24	School Reopens

*Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe*



## Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



<b>Nursery</b>	Alfie & Lena
<b>RLS</b>	Peyton
<b>RNE</b>	Brume
<b>Y1SH</b>	Luke
<b>Y1JL</b>	Jessica
<b>Y2LS</b>	Myley-Dean
<b>Y2AL</b>	Leo
<b>Y3HB</b>	Daley
<b>Y3LH</b>	Kingston
<b>Y4DM</b>	Tarandeep
<b>Y4SM</b>	Isla
<b>Y5LW</b>	Eva
<b>Y5GB</b>	Lexi
<b>Y6HG</b>	Kyrah
<b>Y6DF</b>	Melody

## Readers of the Week



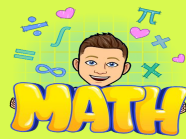
<b>Nursery</b>	Ocean
<b>RLS</b>	Gadiel
<b>RNE</b>	Tommy
<b>Y1SH</b>	Hazel
<b>Y1JL</b>	Poppy
<b>Y2LS</b>	Kingsley
<b>Y2AL</b>	Gabbie
<b>Y3HB</b>	Ebony
<b>Y3LH</b>	Lani
<b>Y4DM</b>	Isla
<b>Y4SM</b>	Estee
<b>Y5LW</b>	Reece
<b>Y5GB</b>	Emily
<b>Y6HG</b>	Payton
<b>Y6DF</b>	John-Paul

**1%  
BETTER**





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Pippa
<b>RLS</b>	Iremide
<b>RNE</b>	Tilly
<b>Y1SH</b>	Sayo
<b>Y1JL</b>	Ronnie
<b>Y2LS</b>	Michelle
<b>Y2AL</b>	Harrison
<b>Y3HB</b>	Conor
<b>Y3LH</b>	Jeremiah
<b>Y4DM</b>	Donao
<b>Y4SM</b>	Riley - James
<b>Y5LW</b>	Emelia
<b>Y5GB</b>	Scarlett
<b>Y6HG</b>	Hollie
<b>Y6DF</b>	Kiera

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Darcy
<b>RLS</b>	Evie R
<b>RNE</b>	Harriet
<b>Y1SH</b>	Aaliyah
<b>Y1JL</b>	Abigail
<b>Y2LS</b>	Deanah
<b>Y2AL</b>	Ava
<b>Y3HB</b>	Lydia
<b>Y3LH</b>	Alex
<b>Y4DM</b>	Lotus Lou
<b>Y4SM</b>	Avaya
<b>Y5LW</b>	Ellenore
<b>Y5GB</b>	Rosie
<b>Y6HG</b>	Michal
<b>Y6DF</b>	Alfie H

**1%  
BETTER**





## Sports Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Nehneh
<b>RLS</b>	James
<b>RNE</b>	Brume
<b>Y1SH</b>	Nathaniel
<b>Y1JL</b>	India
<b>Y2LS</b>	Lyna
<b>Y2AL</b>	Lyne
<b>Y3HB</b>	Samuel
<b>Y3LH</b>	Hollie
<b>Y4DM</b>	India
<b>Y4SM</b>	Charlie
<b>Y5LW</b>	Ellenor
<b>Y5GB</b>	Naomi
<b>Y6HG</b>	Tyler
<b>Y6DF</b>	Ethan

## Class Dojo Points



<b>Nursery</b>	206
<b>RLS</b>	955
<b>RNE</b>	1037
<b>Y1SH</b>	1051
<b>Y1JL</b>	706
<b>Y2LS</b>	703
<b>Y2AL</b>	789
<b>Y3HB</b>	617
<b>Y3LH</b>	985
<b>Y4DM</b>	1296
<b>Y4SM</b>	822
<b>Y5LW</b>	2411 <b>WINNERS!</b>
<b>Y5GB</b>	2348
<b>Y6HG</b>	703
<b>Y6DF</b>	957

**1%  
BETTER**







## Attendance

Whole School: 93.1%

Nursery AM	78.6%	3HB	92.5%
Nursery Full Day	85.5%	3LH	95.4%
RLS	90.4%	4DM	92.9%
RNE	84.5%	4SM	92.5%
Y1SH	91.7%	5LW	97.9%
Y1JL	94.6%	5GB	96.8%
Y2LS	98.9%	6HG	93.8%
Y2AL	90.1%	6DF	96.3%

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

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 2LS	21	6th: RLS	3
2nd: NurFD	15	7th: RNE	2
3rd: 1JL	13	8th: 2AL	1
4th: NurAM	9		
5th: 1SH	4		

### St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	25	5th: Y3LH	4
2nd: Y5GB	19	6th: Y6DF	3
3rd: Y3HB	8	7th: Y6HG	2
4th: Y4SM	7		
5th: Y4DM	4		



## Religious Education

### Travelling Nativity

Our children have begun to bring their class travelling nativity home. Within the travelling nativity bag, there will be a nativity scene, a candle and prayers, Please share these at home with your families and then return it the next day to school for another family to enjoy.  
If you take any pictures, please email these to Mrs Gibson ([hannah.gibson@stsrcp.co.uk](mailto:hannah.gibson@stsrcp.co.uk)) for our whole school display.



### Mass Times

**Mass Times:**  
**Saturday Vigil : 5.30pm**  
**Sunday: 10.30am**

Our Parish Priest is Father B. Wilson.

We keep Father Wilson in our prayers as he recovers from illness.

We welcome Father Callistus Orjika to St Stephen's as our assistant priest as Father Wilson recovers.

Class Masses will continue weekly on a Friday at 10am Mass.

### Prayer of the Week

Loving God,

**We thank you for the example of Mary, whom you chose to be the mother of your only Son, Jesus. She lived her life with love for you and for others. Help us to do the same.**

**Amen**





## Nursery

Christmas is fast approaching and so is our Nativity. Two tickets went home today with each child. If both tickets are not required please return to school on Monday. On Monday, Nursery were visited by four owls. They learnt lots of new facts, watched them fly and even got to hold them. The children were very welcoming towards the owls and Chris from SMJ Falconry.

This week we have finished our talk for writing book 'WOW! Said the owl.' The children have enjoyed reading this book and learnt some new 'big' word including 'curious.' In Maths we moved on to ABC patterns. The children have created patterns indoor and outdoors with concrete objects and also made moving patterns with their friends.

In RE we have started advent.

In forest school this week the children made hedgehog homes by putting sticks and straw inside large flower pots. Our school is a member of the Hedgehog Preservation Society. They are an endangered species and we try and help them by creating habits and planting shrubs that provide berries.

Today we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day and the children had an extra special visit from Father Christmas. He gave each child a gift and asked them what they wanted for christmas.

*What does it mean to be curious?*

## Reception

The children are working so hard on their Christmas play. We are so excited for you to come and see it. Tickets will be sent home with your child on Monday. Each child will get 2 tickets. RNE's date is 13.12.23 and RLS's date is 14.12.23 - 9.30am in the school hall.

We are really enjoying our new story in Literacy which links to our nativity - "Jesus' Christmas Party." We have summarised the story and have been busy sequencing the events. Next week we are excited to retell using actions and key words. In Maths we have focused on one more and one less. In RE we have started our Advent unit.

We have been thinking about what birthdays are and how we prepare for them. We really enjoyed our Christmas jumper day and a visit from the big man himself!

**Just a polite reminder that there are still some children who have not yet brought their clothes for the play. Please do so on Monday. Thank you :)**

*Question: What caused the bright light in our story?*





## Year 1

We have had a busy week with curriculum and practising for our Carol Service. In English we have been reading our new book "Winter's Child" by Angela McAllister. The children have loved learning about the new story and have ordered events on a timeline, They practiced retelling the story using a story map. In maths we have started our work on shape and have been learning the names of 3d shapes. We have also been sorting shapes too.

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. In our Happy Minds session the children have shown great interest in how their brain works and the effect of happy breathing on their well being. We reviewed our knowledge of the UK this week and learnt about the capital cities within it. As well as being in fine voice for our concert, we have been busy completing our Rainbow Challenges too.

**Question: Can you find any 3d shapes in your home or local environment?**

## Year 2

What a busy week have had in Year 2 this week!

In English, we have been continuing to develop our writing skills by learning all about contractions. We have then put those into our writing when producing thank you notes to Little Robin from a range of characters within our book. We then completed our week by writing in role as Father Christmas to produce a letter, thanking Little Robin for his compassion and generosity.

In Maths, the children have continued to work on their addition skills this week. We have used base 10 to add numbers together that cross a ten. The children have worked hard to transition from using physical equipment to drawing images to help them complete their mathematical calculations.

In Religion, the children have continued to consider different signs and symbols. We looked in detail at the order of a Baptism and wrote a letter to a friend to explain this order. Here we were also able combine our religious knowledge with what we had learnt in English to write the letter.

We have also been continuing to work hard on our scripts, songs and dances for our upcoming Nativity next week. We can't wait to share our hard work with you!

Finally, we were lucky enough to take part in a storytelling workshop this week. The children were excellent representatives for our school and learnt a lot about storytelling and characterisation through drama.

**Question: What is 26 + 8?**

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## Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have made great progress in Maths, learning how to add and subtract exchanging tens, hundreds or both. The children enjoyed practising with different types of questions. We also started learning our four times table.

In English, we began our new unit based on the story, 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket. We are reading the book slowly and savouring the language of the text. The children enjoyed using drama to show how the Dark is hidden and still in the daytime but active at night.

In Guided Reading this week, the children particularly enjoyed a section from 'The Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells. Many have been inspired to write the rest of the story themselves.

In RE this week we have continued looking at the sacrament of Baptism, particularly the promises made by the child's parents and godparents. The children had to read about Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist and compare the story as written in the four gospels.

**Question: How does the writer use Personification in 'The Dark?'**

## Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been consolidating our learning in a lot of different areas.

In English, we are getting into the spooky christmas spirit, studying A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and looking at the character of Scrooge and how he changes throughout the story.

In Maths, we are learning about multiplication and division and using our times tables knowledge to help us find the correct answer. We have also been learning our 9 times tables this week and will be next week as well.

In RE, we are finishing off our topic of Confirmation and now focusing on our topic of Advent as we approach Christmas time.

In our science lessons, we revised our key vocabulary in our states of matter unit and have also been looking at the water cycle, which is very handy as we have also been studying this in Geography too!

Question: Can you name the different types of precipitation?



## Year 5

The children in Year 5 have had an incredibly busy week!

Excitingly, Angela Rayner (our local MP) visited year 5 to discuss the letters they wrote to her based on their leaning around 'Saving the Butterfly' in English. She was also keen to congratulate Abigail Dempsey (the successful winner of Mrs Rayner's annual Christmas card competition.)

We couldn't be prouder of all the children's achievements.

In English this week, the children have written, edited and published their narrative for the missing chapter in Room 13. They have worked hard to include suspense techniques through short sentences, figurative language, varied sentence structures, ambitious vocabulary and dialogue.

In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions, calculating unit and non-unit fractions of an amount, equivalent fractions and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers. This work will continue until the Christmas break.

As part of our Life Choices unit in RE, the children wrote a job description for a person following God's mission, as well as analysing the meaning behind the promises made in the sacrament of Marriage.

**Question - What personal attributes might a person who follows God's mission display?**

## Year 6

The children have been working extremely hard in Year 6 this week.

The children have continued working on fractions in their maths lessons whilst also consolidating arithmetic knowledge through a range of fun activities. Please encourage your child to be accessing Freckle at home to support with arithmetic topics they are finding challenging.

In English, we have been consolidating our understanding of using inverted commas accurately to punctuate direct speech. We have started planning our own chapter for 'Letters from the Lighthouse'. Next week we will be writing and editing these.

On Sunday, we began the liturgical season of Advent. In class, we wrote our own Advent prayers of hope which focused upon the current climate crisis and pockets of war across the globe.

The children loved learning about microorganisms in Science and were confidently able to classify them based on their shape.

**Question: Can you describe the difference in shape between bacteria and fungi?**