



Friday 15th December 2023

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 more proud of all of our talented children!

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 Concerts for us all - it was such a beautiful performance. Finally, today our Year 2 children performed 'It's a miracle!' - 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.

Children have also been treated to an extra special 'Forest School Christmas Party' this week (a couple more classes to go next week), thanks to a suggestion from our Pupil Parliament. Thank you so much to Mrs Artingstall for leading these sessions and making them extra special for children.

Please take note of the remaining dates for the term of the next page.

Have a lovely 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.'

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Dates for your calendar

Date	Event
19/12/23	KS2 Carol Service 2pm in Church
20/12/23	Christmas Dinner Day
21/12/23	Christmas Party Day (own clothes)
22/12/23	Whole School Mass @10am
22/12/23	School closes @ 1:30pm
08/01/24	School Reopens

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Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

Date	Event
08/01/24	School Reopens
12/01/24	Whole School Mass
15/01/24	World Religion Day
16/01/24	Y6HG Class Retreat (in school)
17/01/24	Y1SH Class Assembly 9:05am
18/01/24	Y6DF Class Retreat (in school)
19/01/24	Y1, Y2, Y3 Mass @ 10am
22/01/24	World of Work Week
24/01/24	Y1JL Class Assembly 9:05am
26/01/24	Reception/ Y6 Mass @ 10am
31/01/24	RNE Class Assembly 9:05am
02/02/24	Y6 Safety Squad (in school)
02/02/24	Y4 / Y5 Mass @ 10am
06/02/24	Safer Internet Day
07/02/24	RLS Class Assembly 9:05am
09/02/24	Y1, Y2, Y3 Mass @ 10am

Date	Event
12/02/24	Children's Mental Health Week
14/02/24	Nursery Class Assembly 9:05am
14/02/24	Y5 Trip to Jodrell Bank
16/02/24	Reception/ Y6 Mass @ 10am
16/02/24	Water Safety Day
16/02/24	Half term begins 3:30pm

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Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Emily & Olivia
RLS	Lilly
RNE	Michael S
Y1SH	Rosie
Y1JL	Lily
Y2LS	Kaiden
Y2AL	Sam
Y3HB	Grace
Y3LH	Emily
Y4DM	Harrison
Y4SM	Hamilton
Y5LW	Beau
Y5GB	James
Y6HG	Zach
Y6DF	Callen

Readers of the Week



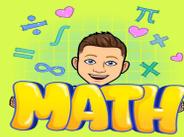
Nursery	Fifi
RLS	Betti
RNE	Darcie
Y1SH	Myla
Y1JL	Berrie-Mae
Y2LS	Gavriel
Y2AL	Grace
Y3HB	Luna
Y3LH	Elliott
Y4DM	Oscar
Y4SM	Daisy
Y5LW	Alexis
Y5GB	Olivia
Y6HG	Vinnie
Y6DF	Oscar

Winners from last week and this week will receive Hot Chocolate on Monday.





Maths Star



Nursery	Eddison
RLS	Phoebe
RNE	Nancy
Y1SH	Kendrick
Y1JL	Valentina
Y2LS	Henry
Y2AL	Oscar
Y3HB	Clark
Y3LH	Ember
Y4DM	George
Y4SM	Charlotte
Y5LW	Freddie
Y5GB	Lyla
Y6HG	Nancy
Y6DF	Annalise

Writing Star



Nursery	Elliott
RLS	Lula
RNE	Ava
Y1SH	Evie
Y1JL	Ylan
Y2LS	Evelyn
Y2AL	Niall
Y3HB	Ruby
Y3LH	Charlie
Y4DM	Elijah
Y4SM	Layla B
Y5LW	Finley
Y5GB	Hannah
Y6HG	Hollie
Y6DF	Alfie H

1%
BETTER





Sports Star



Nursery	Annie
RLS	Gadiel
RNE	Brume
Y1SH	Huckleberry
Y1JL	Lily
Y2LS	Felix
Y2AL	Emmanuel
Y3HB	Grace
Y3LH	Grace
Y4DM	Oscar
Y4SM	Frances
Y5LW	Ralph
Y5GB	Sara
Y6HG	Carter
Y6DF	Alfie H

Class Dojo Points



Nursery	316
RLS	1285
RNE	1385
Y1SH	1227
Y1JL	968
Y2LS	1049
Y2AL	1389
Y3HB	853
Y3LH	1247
Y4DM	1355
Y4SM	1265
Y5LW	3253 WINNERS
Y5GB	3157
Y6HG	739
Y6DF	1158

**1%
BETTER**





Attendance

Whole School: 93%

Nursery AM	96.4%	3HB	94.2%
Nursery Full Day	92.1%	3LH	90%
RLS	93.3%	4DM	95.8%
RNE	89%	4SM	92.9%
Y1SH	87%	5LW	96.7%
Y1JL	96%	5GB	98.4%
Y2LS	96.8%	6HG	87.5%
Y2AL	91.2%	6DF	93.8%

St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 2LS	24	6th: RLS	3
2nd: NurFD	15	7th: RNE	2
3rd: 1JL	14	8th: 2AL	1
4th: NurAM	11		
5th: 1SH	4		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	27	5th: Y3LH	4
2nd: Y5GB	22	6th: Y6DF	3
3rd: Y3HB	8	7th: Y6HG	2
4th: Y4SM	7		
5th: Y4DM	5		



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) 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

God you are bigger than we can imagine, but you made yourself small enough to hold.

God you are more wonderful than we can imagine, but you made yourself ordinary enough to sleep in a stable.

God you are mightier than we can imagine, but you made yourself fragile enough for people to care for.

God you are more amazing than we can imagine, but you made yourself down to earth.

When we imagine we are too busy to stop and be with you, help us to remember that you stopped being big and wonderful and mighty and awesome to be with us.

Amen



Nursery

We can't begin to express how proud we are of Nursery this week. They were stars in their performance of 'The Wiggly Nativity.' Thank you to everyone who sent lovely messages regarding the performance and please add any pictures to your child's dojo portfolio.

This week we have completed ABC patterns indoor and outdoors. The children have loved being able to find objects to create a concrete pattern or grab a friend to instruct a moving pattern. Next week we will be consolidating our learning on everything we have learnt this term. Please refresh their memories by completing this week's homework.

We have created lots of christmas crafts this week and will finish them to come home next week. In RE we are continuing to look at Advent. We have discussed what advent is, the nativity story and how and why we celebrate Christmas.

Just a few dates to remember for next week: **Wednesday (20th)** is Christmas Dinner Day. **Thursday (21st)** is our class party so children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. **Friday (22nd)** is the last day of term and children finish at 1.30pm.

Reception

What a week! We can't put into words how proud we are of the children! Three nativity performances and they were fabulous in each and every one of them! Hollywood here we come!

Thank you to all who took time to message with such lovely words, we have read them all to the children which they loved!

Next week is our final week before we finish for the Christmas break. We will finish our story "Jesus' Christmas Party" and complete our Christmas crafts and surprises! In Maths we will finish our 1 more/less unit and recap numbers 1-5 and how they are made up.

Just a few dates to remember for next week: **Tuesday (19th)** is our party in the forest - all children will need wellies and a waterproof coat with a hood. **Thursday (21st)** is our class party so children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. **Friday (22nd)** is whole school mass and children finish at 1.30pm.

We are really looking forward to a great last week of term.

Question: How many kings were there and what gifts did they bring?



Year 1

The children in Year 1 have had a fantastic week! We are so proud of their performances in the Christmas Carol service, they worked very hard and put on a lovely show.

This week, the children have been working hard on their weekly challenges and are showing increasing skill in working independently. We have now finished our shape work in Maths, by sorting 2D and 3D shapes and building patterns. In English, we have been working on our descriptive language use, and the children have been writing sentences based on a setting from our focus book 'The Winter's Child'. In RE, we have been re-telling the Annunciation story, as well as working in groups to consolidate learning surrounding Baptism and Advent. The children have been producing some lovely Christmas crafts, and we look forward to continuing this next week. **Reminder:** Year 1 have their forest school disco on **Monday 18th December**. Please could a pair of wellies and a spare pair of socks be provided if they haven't already.

Question: Can you retell the Annunciation story?

Year 2

What a big week for Year 2! This morning, the children performed their Christmas Nativity and they did a fantastic job! All the staff in Year 2 are so proud of all the children for how well they have learnt their lines, practised the songs and how they have put 100% effort into the rehearsals to make it a fantastic show for all their parents to see! We hope that you all enjoyed it and we are sure that you are all bursting with pride!

In class, the children have finished their Baptism unit and they have been explaining the symbolism of different signs and symbols used. Next week, the children will complete their Advent unit and retell the story of the First Christmas.

In English, the children have been preparing for writing their own narrative in the style of Little Robin Red Vest. They have analysed the emotions of characters in the story and identified the key moments. The children have re-capped using subordinating conjunctions and they wrote a detailed setting description including them.

Question: What are the five key events in Little Robin Red Vest?



Year 3

Another exciting week in Year 3!

In English we have continued with our book 'The Dark.' The children had to write a thank you letter to the Dark, thanking him for his gift. We also read our linking story - 'The King Who Banned the Dark.'

In Maths, the children are becoming more confident in tackling addition and subtraction of two and three digit numbers. They also learnt their four times table together and have been practising it at speed.

In RE, we have begun to look at the significance of Advent as a time of preparation and waiting for Jesus. The children had to think about how we prepare when we are expecting visitors at home - the demands and also the joys of welcoming them.

The highlight this week has to have been our Forest Schools Party on Monday afternoon. The children danced and sang and then enjoyed a hot chocolate drink in the forest.

Question: Think of two things that happened when Jesus was baptised.

Year 4

Another busy week has passed and we now edge very close to our winter break. This week in year 4 we have moved onto reading and working on the famous novel 'A Christmas Carol'. We have looked in depth at the character of Scrooge and wrote descriptions using higher level vocabulary. The children have really enjoyed the story so far and we will continue this next week.

In math we have looked at using our multiplication skills to multiply 3 digits by 1 in the written method. We have also continued to practise our multiplication and division skills.

In RE we have continued our Advent work. We have looked at the meaning behind 'Gaudete Sunday'. We have also looked at the Christmas Story from the perspective of the Three Wise Men and the significance of the gifts that they presented to Jesus at his birth. A brilliant part of our week was our 'Forest School Fun Afternoon' on Thursday where the children danced, partied and drank hot chocolate.

Question- What words would you use to describe Scrooge in the opening chapters of 'A Christmas Carol'?



Year 5

Another busy week here in Year 5!

In Maths this week, the children have continued to develop their understanding of our Fractions unit with focus on mixed numbers and improper fractions. Although the children found this difficult at first, they have persevered with this and are developing their ability to recognise and convert improper fractions to mixed numbers, and vice versa. We are extremely proud of the children for their efforts throughout this topic as they continue to challenge and push themselves. Well done Year 5!

Following the children's excellent writing and editing of their chapter 13 in English, the children have published their writing into books of their own which include illustrations to enhance their stories and a carefully designed front cover. The children have demonstrated a fantastic understanding of the features required to build suspense in their writing, as well as combining this with our previously developed understanding of direct speech and varied sentence types.

On Tuesday, Year 5 celebrated their Forest School Christmas Disco where we all enjoyed a hot chocolate and threw some fantastic shapes on the dancefloor. A big thank you again to Mrs Artingstall for organising such a fun-filled afternoon. Continuing our Christmas celebrations, we were thrilled to be invited to watch Year 2's Nativity performance. The children worked extremely hard and we were very impressed and grateful to be supporting them. As well as this, we have been practicing carols in preparation for our carol service on Tuesday. It would be lovely to see some of you there!

Question: What is a mixed number and how is this different from an improper fraction?

Year 6

Another busy week in Year 6 this week! In English, the children have been continuing to write the chapter, 'Freedom is in Peril'. In the lead up to this, we have been considering how we can integrate dialogue into a narrative to move the story forwards. Whilst writing, the children have been considering using dialogue purposefully. Mrs Gibson has been extremely impressed with the children's choice of vocabulary to describe when writing!

In Maths, we have been looking at measurement. This has largely focused on metric measures and converting between them, however we have also looked at imperial units of measure which are still used today.

In Science, we learnt about the scientist Carl Linnaeus and his contributions to biology. The children enjoyed learning about the Linnaean System of classification!

We have been preparing for the birth of Jesus in RE through our exploration of expectations during Advent. We learnt about the prophet Isaiah and what his expectations of the Messiah were.

Both the children and staff have loved reading 'A Christmas Carol' as part of the Just Read Project. It is a highlight of the day!

Question: What did the first spectre show Scrooge?