



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

Friday 12th January 2024

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. We started off the week reflecting on the Feast of the Epiphany and in assembly, I set each class the challenge of how we can spread the good news of Jesus across the community. I am really excited to hear what each class has planned!

We also reflected back on our school rules, our values and mission and we talked about why 'it is the right thing to do' - we even watched a clip of the King's Christmas Message and he used our school saying too!

Welcome

We welcome Ms Murray to the Year 4 team, who replaces Mr Muschamp. I am sure you will welcome her into our school family.

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 via 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.

Unfortunately our conversion to Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has been delayed to 1st March 2024 - I will keep you updated.

Please take note of this term dates on the next page.

Have a great weekend! Mr Lavin, Headteacher

Our Values: St Stephen's CARES

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service



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



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BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

Date	Event
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	Reception Classes Assembly 9:05am (Both together)
02/02/24	Y6 Safety Squad (in school)
02/02/24	Y4 / Y5 Mass @ 10am
06/02/24	Safer Internet Day
07/02/24	Y5GB 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

Please note two changes of dates from the previous newsletter.

Both Reception classes will join together to deliver an assembly on 31st January 2024 and Year 5GB will have a class assembly on 7th February 2024.

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



We are having a whole school special themed lunch on Thursday 18th January 2024.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, remember they're entitled to a Free School Meal. Why not allow them to try the menu on this day? Pre-orders can be made via School Grid - contact the School Office if you need any help.



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Bessie & Layla-Mai
RLS	Jake
RNE	Aurora
Y1SH	Nathaniel
Y1JL	Frankie
Y2LS	Anastazja
Y2AL	Emmanuel
Y3HB	Samuel
Y3LH	Peyton
Y4LM	Leah
Y4SM	Tallulah
Y5LW	Tejiri
Y5GB	Liam
Y6HG	Ava
Y6DF	Annalise

Readers of the Week



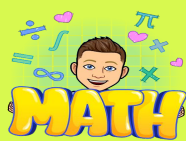
Nursery	William
RLS	Iremide
RNE	Noah B
Y1SH	Arthur
Y1JL	Amelia
Y2LS	Kingsley
Y2AL	Lyne
Y3HB	Grace
Y3LH	Klayson
Y4LM	Noah R
Y4SM	Yasmin
Y5LW	Lacey
Y5GB	Naomi
Y6HG	Evan
Y6DF	Dolton

1%
BETTER





Maths Star



Nursery	Cole
RLS	Cole
RNE	Kayson
Y1SH	Sofia
Y1JL	Felicity
Y2LS	Felix
Y2AL	Hudson
Y3HB	Oscar
Y3LH	Jacob
Y4LM	Harrison
Y4SM	Mia Bella
Y5LW	Ralph
Y5GB	Rosie
Y6HG	Brock
Y6DF	Melody

Writing Star



Nursery	Alyssa
RLS	Ivy
RNE	Maverick
Y1SH	Thomas
Y1JL	Rose
Y2LS	Lexie
Y2AL	Leo
Y3HB	Evelyn
Y3LH	Muwaffaq
Y4LM	Jacob
Y4SM	Riley-James
Y5LW	Farren
Y5GB	Rocco
Y6HG	Hanna
Y6DF	Callen

1%
BETTER





Attendance

Whole School: 94.5%

Nursery AM	94.5%	3HB	99.2%
Nursery Full Day	91.3%	3LH	97.1%
RLS	88.9%	4LM	95.7%
RNE	90%	4SM	89.2%
Y1SH	93%	5LW	98.6%
Y1JL	95.5%	5GB	97.7%
Y2LS	96.7%	6HG	92.7%
Y2AL	98.9%	6DF	94.8%

St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1			
Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 2LS	26	4th: 2AL	4
2nd: NurFD	15	5th: RLS	3
2nd: 1JL	15	6th: RNE	2
3rd: NurAM	11		
4th: 1SH	4		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2			
Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	29	5th: Y3LH	4
2nd: Y5GB	23	6th: Y6DF	3
3rd: Y3HB	11	7th: Y6HG	2
4th: Y4SM	7		
5th: Y4DM	5		



Religious Education

Epiphany

This week in RE, all of the children have been re telling the story of the Epiphany- the visit of the Wise Men. It has been wonderful to hear about how the Epiphany has been studied across school! Some classes have completed pieces of descriptive writing, some classes have researched celebrations around the world and others have considered presents that they would give to Jesus.

Travelling Nativity

If you have any travelling nativity bags at home, please can these be returned to your class teacher next week so that we can begin to prepare our Lenten bags.



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

New Year Prayer

A special prayer is offered for you on New Year's Day-
May God in His unceasing love
send many gifts your way,
And may He fill your heart with
peace and forever near,
Blessing you and guiding you
throughout the coming year.

Happy New Year!



Nursery

What an amazing first week back!

Well Done Nursery, you have settled back in to school life well. Our new starters have blown our socks off, we are so excited to have you all at St Stephens.

This week the children have read traditional tales, drawn lots of pictures, explored small worlds, made sandcastles, built towers and become mummies and daddies in the house.

The children have taken part in Squiggle whilst you wiggle, cosmic yoga, PE, Forest School sessions and invented their own stories.

Next week we are looking forward to starting our new book - The Naughty Bus and returning to number in maths.

Question - What day is it today?

(Use our new days of the week song to help you)

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 RE we will be reflecting on the story of when "Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple" and thinking about celebrations in church.

VIPs will be starting again next week, please see the recent dojo and the posters at the pick doors for your child's date.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Our class assembly will now be a joint one on WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2024 @ 9.00AM - all welcome.

Question: What other words do you know that mean the same as equal?



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. 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 had a mini science lesson on plants and planted a seed. We will observe how it grows over the next four weeks as we learn about animals. New phonics groups have started and we would encourage you to support your child in learning their new sounds and practising their reading. We finished our week with a lovely Mass.

Question : Can you name parts of a plant?

Year 2

We have had a lovely first week back after Christmas! It has been fantastic seeing the children's enthusiasm towards their learning and they have settled back into following our behaviour curriculum extremely well.

On Monday, we learnt about the feast of Epiphany in R.E. The children learnt the significance of the gifts that the wise men gave to Jesus and they thought about what gifts they would give to Jesus.

In Maths, the children have continued their addition and subtraction topic. We have been adding and subtracting 10s and we have introduced the exchanging method when crossing the 10s boundary.

We started our Materials unit in Science where we have explored different types of materials and looked at their properties.

In Geography, the children have identified the seven continents and located them using compass points.

We ended the week by starting our Story Seekers project. We discussed the children's favourite stories and generated one of our own using key images from fairytales.

Question: What are the 4 main compass points?



Year 3

Our first week back has been extremely busy.

On Monday we started a new Maths unit on Multiplication and Division. This week we have looked at arrays, groups and multiples.

In English we planned and wrote our last piece of writing on 'The Dark.' The children were given a blurb and were asked to write a parallel story from The Dark's point of view. They came up with some original ideas.

Last weekend was the celebration of the Epiphany so we read and talked about the visit of The Magi. The children had to write a WANTED poster with King Herod offering a reward to whoever found the Holy Family.

In Science, we have begun our topic on Movement. Having studied the skeleton last term, we are now seeing the important role of joints in giving humans and animals motion.

In our 'My Happy Mind' session, the children enjoyed learning about how we can keep our brains healthy.

In Guided Reading, we read a text about Chinese New Year and compared Chinese traditions with those we have in the UK.

Question: Give three multiples of 2 which are between 30 and 50.

Year 4

We are back to business as usual in Year 4 this week!

In English, we have finished off A Christmas Carol by writing an apology letter from Scrooge to Bob Cratchit and telling him all about the ghosts' visits.

In Maths we are continuing with Multiplication and Division and really diving into all of our times tables and looking at inverse operations and repeated addition. We have also focused specifically on the 11 times tables this week and the children have achieved some very good results.

In RE, we looked at The Epiphany and the gifts that the Three Wise Men brought to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus. The children had to write from the point of view of one of the wise men and talk about their chosen gift. We are now getting ready to start our new topic of Community.

In Science, we are continuing on with our unit of States of Matter, this week we looked at condensation and the water cycle.

Finally, in My Happy Mind we discussed our different character strengths and how we all have these but in different amounts!

Question: In 'A Christmas Carol', what did Charles Dickens call the chapters of his book? There is a link to [music here!](#)



Year 5

What a fantastic week here in Year 5 and a great start to 2024. It has been lovely to welcome all of the children back after the half term!

In English, we have begun our new unit which focuses on the novel 'Brightstorm' by Vashti Hardy. We have thoroughly enjoyed unpicking this exciting, fast-paced adventure story and analysing both the characters' emotions and interesting vocabulary. With focus on the rich description of the airships in the story, the children have been able to identify words such as 'bimontgolfiers', 'quadrablade' and 'uniscope'. Using these, we have unpicked the words to understand their etymology. This new understanding allowed the children to analyse images of other airships and write descriptions of their own, adopting the author's use of vocabulary by adding different prefixes relating to quantity to an existing root word. These made for very interesting reads and the children should be very proud.

In Maths, we are continuing our Fractions unit. The children demonstrated an excellent understanding and have been able to reason, identify, compare and order fractions less than 1. Next week, we will extend this learning to fractions beyond 1 before using this knowledge to add and subtract fractions.

MyHappyMind has brought us to our second unit; 'Celebrate'. The children thoroughly enjoy the weekly sessions and we have begun to understand our own characters. We were introduced to the fact that our character is half determined by genetics and the other half of our character varies due to personal experiences and how we develop. The children engaged in interesting discussions and reflected on their own character in their journals.

Question: What does the word 'uniscope' mean? How do you know?

Year 6

It has been wonderful welcoming all the Year 6 children back to school this week!

We have loved our English lessons this week! We have analysed the cover of our new text, 'The House with Chicken Legs', and made predictions about the text. We learnt that one of the characters in the text is Baba Yaya- a Slavic folklore character. We analysed images of Baba Yaga and matched them to descriptive features from text.

In Maths, the children have been exploring geometry. Mr Fitch began the year with a bang by introducing the children to coordinates through a game of battleship!

In RE, we have studied the book Refuge. This book tells the story of the Holy Family's journey to Egypt after the wise men warned Mary of their fate if they returned home.

Question: Can you define the words benevolent and malevolent? Why are both of these words used to describe Baba Yaga?