



Friday 2nd February 2024

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe

A Message from Mr Lavin...

I hope this week has been a great one!

Reception Assembly - Thank you to our Reception classes for a fantastic class assembly on Wednesday. You amaze me everyday with how much you are growing in confidence.

Sporting Success - A huge well done to our Y5/6 Boys Football team who came joint first in the Tameside Catholic School tournament on Tuesday night! They represented our school so well and I am really proud of all who took part!

Our Girls Football team have had a busy week too, taking part in two competitions! At the beginning of the week, they travelled to Manchester City's training ground to take part in a Greater Manchester competition. They did really well, and even though they did not win, they had a great time! Then yesterday, they arrived at Manchester United's old training ground The Cliff, with determination and they only went and won the competition!! I am so proud of all of the girls who took part!

Numbers Day - Thank you for supporting NSPCC Numbers Day today. Children took part in Maths Activities/ Times Table Rock Stars sessions and had a great time! Thank you so much for the generous donations too.

Back of Year 1 Building - Mr Allcock and Mr Whittle have put their creative hats on again after their amazing work on the Reception outdoor areas. They have started a big project at the back of the year one building, with the aim of giving our Year 1 children an incredible outdoor learning space. We have some materials on the playground so please take extra care around there. We all cannot wait to see what it is going to look like and I thank them both for their hard work!

Continued on the next page...

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

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service



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



Friday 2nd February 2024

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe

A Message from Mr Lavin Continued...

Drop off and Pick up arrangements

I've spent some time this week reviewing the school site, watching and noticing how we can improve things to ensure maximum safety for everyone. Having reviewed how we do things, I want to share a few updates regarding gate opening and closing times. These tighter procedures are all about improving site security and ensuring there is a prompt start to the school day - nothing to worry about!

Mornings

- The main Pupil Entrance Gate (where myself and Miss Dempsey stand) will now not open until **8:30am**. There will be no access to the school before then, unless you are using Funtasia, which means you should enter and exit via the hall gate. If your child attends a Year 6 Booster class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, they should enter via the school office where they will be registered. A member of staff will be there to greet them.
- The Nursery gate will not open until **8:35am**. Whilst we understand that this gate provides easier access through the school for some, we do ask that this entrance is limited to Nursery children only.
- Classroom doors open at **8:40am**. The Pupil Entrance Gate (where myself and Miss Dempsey stand) and the Nursery Gate will be locked at **8:55am**, and the only access to the school will then be via the school office.
- Registers are taken at **8:50am** - your child should be in class by this time.
- Please use the pedestrian pathway to access the playground, not the car park.
- The adventure playgrounds are not to be used before and after school.

End of the School Day

- The Pupil Entrance Gate (where myself and Miss Dempsey stand) and Nursery Gate will not open until **3:10pm**.
- If your child is at one of the school led after-school clubs, we ask you to not wait on the school site as all school gates will close at **3:25pm** to ensure safety for staff, children attending clubs and Funtasia. Please do not be offended if you're asked to leave the school site.
- Collection for any of the school led after school clubs (not Funtasia) will be from the office gate.

I hope this all makes sense - have a great weekend and I will see you on Monday when will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week!

Mr Lavin, Headteacher



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 - Spring 1

Week Beginning 5th February 2024

Date	Event
05/02/24	Children's Mental Health Week
06/02/24	Safer Internet Day
07/02/24	Fire Service in School to talk to Year 2 children
07/02/24	Y5GB Class Assembly 9:05am
09/02/24	Express Yourself Day for CMHW - own clothes day
09/02/24	Fire Service in School to talk to Year 6 children

Week Beginning 12th February 2024

Date	Event
14/02/24	Nursery Class Assembly 9:05am
14/02/24	Whole School Mass @ 10am - Ash Wednesday
14/02/24	Y5 Trip to Jodrell Bank
16/02/24	Reception/ Y6 Mass @ 10am
16/02/24	Own Clothes Day £1 donation towards School Books
16/02/24	Water Safety Day
16/02/24	Half term begins 3:30pm

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Isobel /Luicie
RLS	Fabian
RNE	William
Y1SH	Natalie
Y1JL	Felicity
Y2LS	Lyna
Y2AL	Lano
Y3HB	Pippa
Y3LH	Harrison
Y4LM	Donaeo
Y4SM	Layla W
Y5LW	Leila
Y5GB	Olivia
Y6HG	Brock
Y6DF	Ciannarose

Readers of the Week



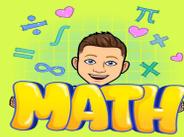
Nursery	Eddison
RLS	Leo
RNE	Isabella M
Y1SH	Muzaffar
Y1JL	Rose
Y2LS	Deanah
Y2AL	James
Y3HB	Evelyn
Y3LH	Oscar D
Y4LM	Godwin
Y4SM	Charlotte
Y5LW	Charlie
Y5GB	Audrey
Y6HG	Freshta
Y6DF	Eddie T

1% BETTER





Maths Star



Nursery	Ocean
RLS	Louie
RNE	Harper
Y1SH	Evie-Rose
Y1JL	Lin Xi
Y2LS	Jake
Y2AL	Sophie
Y3HB	Jensen
Y3LH	Grace
Y4LM	Cleo
Y4SM	Isla
Y5LW	Travis
Y5GB	Harrison H
Y6HG	Payton
Y6DF	Dolton

Writing Star



Nursery	Cole
RLS	Peyton
RNE	Chester
Y1SH	Hazel
Y1JL	Jessica
Y2LS	Henry
Y2AL	Elijah
Y3HB	Alex
Y3LH	Caoimhe
Y4LM	Jacob
Y4SM	Charlie
Y5LW	Erin
Y5GB	Macy
Y6HG	Kaitlyn
Y6DF	Rihanna

**1%
BETTER**

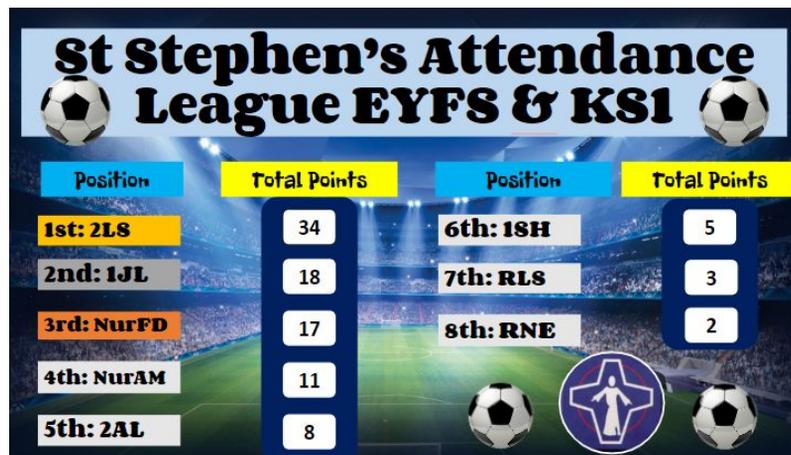




Attendance

Whole School: 90.8%

Nursery AM	91.6%	3HB	95.4%
Nursery Full Day	91.9%	3LH	95.4%
RLS	80.3%	4LM	92.7%
RNE	76%	4SM	90.9%
Y1SH	92%	5LW	94.6%
Y1JL	90.2%	5GB	99.2%
Y2LS	92.9%	6HG	91.5%
Y2AL	94.6%	6DF	95%





Religious Education

Jesus Spoke with Authority

This week in our Gospel Assembly we learnt about how Jesus spoke with authority. The people in the synagogue said his teaching was new and they listened. We talked about how people listened to Jesus because he followed up his words with his actions.

Jesus told us to be kind- he was kind to others
Jesus told us to love one another- Jesus loves everyone

We thought about when we consider our words or actions, do we ask ourselves if this is what Jesus would do? I asked the children this week to think, 'would Jesus do or say this?' to help them make the correct choices.

Mrs Gibson

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

Dear Jesus,

Help me to hear you today.

To hear joy in the birds songs.

To hear your voice in chattery voices.

To hear your voice in the quiet.

Help me hear you today.

Amen



Nursery

This week has been our last week following the naughty bus story, we have been retelling the story with our own story maps and timelines. The children also enjoyed matching different types of transport and talking about what types of transport they have been on. On Wednesday the children really enjoyed forest school, we made bird feeders and watched to see if any birds came. In maths we have been focusing on number 4 playing counting games and rhymes.

Question: What type of birds did we see in the forest?

Reception

We started our week by starting our new class book called "Handa's Surprise." The story is about a girl called Handa who takes a journey from her village to her friends village with a surprise basket of fruit. On Monday, we tried some fruit from the story including a mango and a guava. We have thought about how the different characters felt throughout the story and used our emojis to help.

In maths we have been thinking about the numbers 6, 7 and 8. We can now find them and know different ways to represent them. We have also introduced 10 frames to the children.

In RE we are learning about the time when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple. We are preparing for our "Be a Light" afternoon with our Year 6 special friends in a couple of weeks time.

Question: How was the goat feeling in our class story? Why do you think he was feeling like this?



Year 1

Year 1 have had another busy week and have been working really hard.

This week, we have continued developing our place value knowledge and have been using this to support in addition up to twenty. The children have begun to explore our new book focus, 'Man on the Moon', and have been asking some super questions about the characters. In Science, the children have really enjoyed continuing our Animals topic, and have been classifying fish, as well as observing the growth of their plants and recording this. During RE, we have been learning and retelling the story of Simeon and Anna. In My Happy Mind, we have continued to celebrate ourselves and explore our character traits. Towards the end of the week, we have started off our new History topic of Flight, and have been learning about what an aeroplane is and how it flies. Children are continuing to work independently during their Rainbow challenges, and have shown great support to one another during these.

Question: What do fish use gills for?

Year 2

We have had yet another busy week in Year 2.

In English, we have continued to study Lizzie And The Birds. This week have immersed ourselves in the text further by summarising what we had read and looked closely at the structure of complex sentences.

In Maths, we have consolidated our understanding of 2 digit subtraction. The children have worked extremely hard to work pictorially to complete a range of questions, rather than using concrete equipment.

In Geography, we have completed a more in depth study of Africa. The children have produced some wonderful leaflets about different physical and human features of the continent.

On Thursday, we were lucky enough to have been joined by Mrs Farmer for our religious retreat. The children showed great respect during the session and completed a range of prayerful activities.

In Science, we have continued to explore different materials and their uses. The children were tasked to find an appropriate material for an umbrella.

Finally, we concluded our week with number day. The children enjoyed taking part in an interclass TTRockstars competition. This is a programme they can access at home.

Question- What is 34- 28?



Year 3

Another busy week in Year 3!

In English, we read the story of Pandora. This book links to our main text, 'The Tin Forest' as they are both about a person who is living in a polluted environment and describes how their lives are transformed. The children wrote letters from the main character of one book to the main character of the other.

In Maths we have focussed on the 8 times table. The children are doing well with recalling the multiplication facts and related division facts. We compared the 8 times table with the 2's and the 4's.

In History, we have looked at the sporting events in the Ancient Olympics and compared them with those in the Modern Olympics.

In RE, we looked in detail at the days leading up to Easter Sunday, also known as the Triduum. The children had to match symbols and images to the appropriate scripture. This week we began our new Science unit on soils. The children had to compare different types of soils and observe what happened when each of them was mixed with water.

Question: If I know $4 \times 8 = 32$, what else do I know?

Year 4

The start of a new month has been a fantastic week for year 4!

Year 4 have been really engaged in our new text '*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*' and have been extending our vocabulary quite a lot. The rabbit, in the story, uses many words that the children are not familiar with and this has created many discussions on what the words mean.

In maths we are still on the multiplication and division unit and although, many are finding it challenging we are persevering and really getting to grips with mastering this topic.

In Science we are coming to the end of our 'States of matter' unit, the children have enjoyed learning about the water cycle and how evaporation happens. We are all excited to start our new, noisy topic next week, which will be 'sound'.

What is 85 divided by 3?



Year 5

It has been another exciting and busy week in Year 5.

This week, we planned, wrote and edited formal application letters to join the expedition to South Polaris from Arty and Maudie Brightstorm in English. We incorporated cohesive and persuasive devices, as well as parenthesis, which have been a focus for this half term.

In Maths, we added and subtracted fractions with different denominators, as well as mixed numbers which crossed the whole. We also applied our skills to problem-solving and reasoning tasks, justifying our opinions and working systematically.

As part of our Earth and Space unit in science, we explored the Geocentric and Heliocentric models of our solar system. We learned about the work of Aristotle, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo and Sir Isaac Newton, producing a timeline of their discoveries and theories and explaining their differing opinions.

Excitingly, we have allocated the parts for our Passion play and have begun rehearsals. We can't wait to share our performance with the parish and parents during Holy Week.

Question: What is the difference between the Geocentric and Heliocentric models of our solar system?

Year 6

We welcomed Mr Fitch back from his paternity leave this week! In maths he has started a new algebra topic. The children have looked at function machines and have been creating and interpreting algebraic expressions.

In English, we carefully edited our Baba Yaga information texts and published them using pen! We then continued to read on in *The House with Chicken Legs* and analysed the character of Marinka. We wrote a short character description to help us understand Marinka in preparation for writing a monologue.

Our RE lesson focused upon the process a man has to undertake when he wants to become a priest. Within this, we explore the life of Saint John Mary Vianney who is the patron saint of priests.

In Science, we have continued our electricity unit and explored the difference between complete and incomplete circuits.

Finally, to complete the week, we welcomed in Safety Squad who led a PSHE themed morning for the children. We split into groups and participated in workshops on antisocial behaviour, online safety, first aid and fire safety. Thank you to all the team from Safety Squad who delivered the interactive workshops today!

Question: What is the difference between a common noun and a proper noun?