



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

Friday 7th March 2025

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

**A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN**...I hope everyone is well and you have had a good week! The light mornings and longer evenings are certainly making a difference! It has been great to be able to get the field back open this week for the children to play out on. Children can bring in a pair of trainers to change into at free time if they wish.

**Congratulations** - A huge congratulations to our girls football team this week. They attended a tournament on Monday at Manchester City's training ground. If they won, they'd represent Manchester City in a national competition against other schools representing Premier League teams. I'm pleased to say that they won!! This is an incredible achievement. They will now play at Wolves Football Ground later this year! Well done girls and Mr Grantham!

**Ash Wednesday Mass/ Lenten Appeal** - On Wednesday, Reception to Year 6 attended Mass to receive their ashes - it was a beautiful mass. Nursery had a special service with Father in school - he was very impressed with them. In the coming weeks, children will bring home a St Joseph's Penny Box. This is part of our Lenten Charity work. I know you will be as generous as always. We will send them home as soon as they arrive.

**Class Assembly** - Thank you to Year 6 Mr Fitch for a wonderful class assembly this week.

**Parents Evening** - Thank you for attending Parents Evening in such great numbers. I hope you found the meetings useful and you have a good understanding of your child's strengths and areas for development. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's class teacher via class dojo to arrange a suitable time.

**World Book Day** - It was great to see children so enthusiastic about World Book Day yesterday. Everyone looked amazing in their costumes. Children really enjoyed the book swap, and I hope you had a great time listening to their new stories. Thank you for your support with this event.

**Easter Events** - On the next few pages you'll find details about our Easter Bonnet Parade/ Egg decorating competition. As always, your generosity in egg donations for prizes is always appreciated and thank you if you have already donated.

Have a fantastic weekend - please continue to keep Pope Francis in your prayers as he continues his illness. **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



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

## Dates for your calendar - Spring 2

### Week Beginning 10th March 2025

Date	Event
12.03.25	Cheerleading Comp
14.03.25	Year 5 Mass - 10am Church

### Week Beginning 17th March 2025

Date	Event
20.03.25	6GB Class Assembly - 9:05am Hall
21.03.25	Reception and Y6 mass - 10am Church World Down Syndrome day

### Week Beginning 24th March 2025

Date	Event
24.03.25	2AL Stay and Pray Shakespeare Week
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 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 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 closed 1:30pm

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



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

### **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>	Maddox and Skye
<b>RLS</b>	Alyssa
<b>RNE</b>	Afia
<b>Y1SH</b>	Jeremy
<b>Y1LB</b>	Jake
<b>Y2JL</b>	Felicity
<b>Y2AL</b>	Ivy
<b>Y3HB</b>	Kalani
<b>Y3LH</b>	Samuel
<b>Y4DS</b>	Conor
<b>Y4SM</b>	Muwaffaq
<b>Y5LW</b>	Noah R
<b>Y5LS</b>	Luca
<b>Y6GB</b>	Erin
<b>Y6DF</b>	Delilah

## Readers of the Week

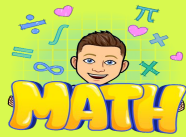


<b>Nursery</b>	Noah
<b>RLS</b>	Ophelia
<b>RNE</b>	Lilianna
<b>Y1SH</b>	Noah
<b>Y1LB</b>	Betti
<b>Y2JL</b>	Noah
<b>Y2AL</b>	Alise
<b>Y3HB</b>	Deanah
<b>Y3LH</b>	Harrison
<b>Y4DS</b>	Alex
<b>Y4SM</b>	Alex
<b>Y5LW</b>	Patrick
<b>Y5LS</b>	Layla W
<b>Y6GB</b>	Lily-Grace
<b>Y6DF</b>	Lleyton





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Yousuf
<b>RLS</b>	Harlow
<b>RNE</b>	Romie
<b>Y1SH</b>	Darcie
<b>Y1LB</b>	Noah
<b>Y2JL</b>	Valentina
<b>Y2AL</b>	Gabriella-Rose
<b>Y3HB</b>	Evelyn
<b>Y3LH</b>	Elijah
<b>Y4DS</b>	Ivy
<b>Y4SM</b>	Harrison
<b>Y5LW</b>	Serenity
<b>Y5LS</b>	Amella
<b>Y6GB</b>	Jenson
<b>Y6DF</b>	Emily

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Lily
<b>RLS</b>	Adrian
<b>RNE</b>	Isobel
<b>Y1SH</b>	Nancy
<b>Y1LB</b>	Vinnie
<b>Y2JL</b>	Ronnie
<b>Y2AL</b>	Jessica
<b>Y3HB</b>	Jake
<b>Y3LH</b>	Grace
<b>Y4DS</b>	Ruby
<b>Y4SM</b>	Elliott
<b>Y5LW</b>	Cleo
<b>Y5LS</b>	Frances
<b>Y6GB</b>	Ralph
<b>Y6DF</b>	Lyla

# 1% BETTER







Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. This is the day when Catholics throughout the world come together to celebrate Mass and receive ashes on their foreheads to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season.

The season of Lent reminds us of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness, where he grew stronger through resisting various temptations. In this Sunday's Gospel, the tempter makes three suggestions in an effort to divert Jesus from his true mission.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Jesus rejects the temptations, one after another - each time with a word from Scripture, which is the Word of God.

It is part of the human condition to face temptations in life. But the more familiar we become with the Word of God, the more we too can be strengthened to resist temptations and be filled with new life. Enjoy your week and help spread God's love, through **LENT**.

Dom Henry Warsbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"Lent is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change in each of us. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others."

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Following his baptism, Jesus went out into the desert for forty days. He was all alone and he ate nothing because he was fasting. Knowing that Jesus would be hungry, the Tempter told him to turn a stone into bread.

But Jesus refused and said, "Scripture says, 'No one lives on bread alone.'" Then the Tempter showed him all the kingdoms of the world, promising Jesus all their power and glory if Jesus would worship him rather than God. But Jesus said, "It is written, 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only!'" Finally, the Tempter took Jesus to the top of the temple and told him to prove he was the Son of God by jumping off, and have God's angels come to save him. But Jesus said, "You must not put the Lord your God to the test." After Jesus had resisted three times, the Tempter left him.

Adapted from Luke 4:1-13  
The 1<sup>st</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

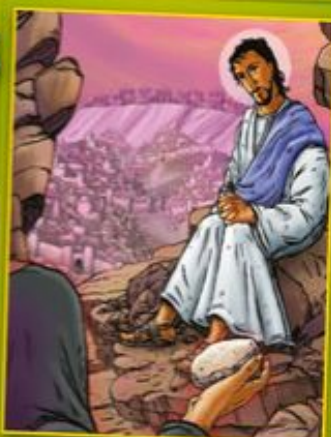
In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus relied on God's word to resist temptation. Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to listen carefully to God's word, to turn away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others, to grow in love, and to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter.





# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



### 1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Following his baptism, Jesus went out into the desert for forty days. He was all alone and he ate nothing because he was fasting. Knowing that Jesus would be hungry, the Tempter told him to turn a stone into bread. But Jesus refused and said, "Scripture says, 'No one lives on bread alone.'" Jesus resisted two more temptations and then the Tempter left him.

**How many days did Jesus spend in the desert?**

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.

### 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?

### 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ by listening to the word of God and celebrating the sacraments." *Pope Francis*

## LENT



Lent is a time when God calls us to make a special effort - perhaps to give something up or to do something loving and good. Ask your child what the word 'Lent' means to them. What has your child been learning at school about Lent and about Lenten promises? You may want to tell your child something that you know about Lent. Each of you say if there is anything you would like to start or stop doing this Lent - something which will help you to grow in love for God and each other - and then make a Lenten promise.



Lent is a great opportunity to be strengthened. In the same way that bread feeds our body, we also need prayer and God's word to feed and strengthen our mind. How can we strengthen ourselves to keep our Lenten promises? *Perhaps we can: set aside a few minutes each day to pray; read God's word in the Bible; read The Wednesday Word every week; go to Church together. As a family, can you think of any other ways?*

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help me and my family to grow in love and strength during **Lent** through keeping our **Lenten** promises. Amen.

### FINDING THREE

F	Y	S	E	J	R	O	W	A	Y	S
K	G	P	J	T	J	F	O	R	T	Y
J	P	O	L	A	E	F	R	T	T	D
D	E	K	O	P	S	M	D	R	E	Y
A	K	E	M	U	T	T	R	M	S	
D	A	Y	S	F	S	F	A	K	P	Y
T	R	E	T	P	M	E	T	P	T	A
G	J	F	A	P	P	E	A	R	E	D
F	O	Z	S	P	K	E	O	G	R	F
T	E	N	A	P	P	F	G	O	D	S
Y	S	D	O	G	E	D	W	R	O	D

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

- FORTY
- FORTY DAYS
- TEMPTER APPEARED
- JESUS SPOKE
- GOD'S WORD

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



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **U C Z** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**decsezrut fozrucfy Fozullowicng buapticsmz**

"\_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus went out into the \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ days."

Each year, the Church invites everyone to examine their lives, to make Lenten promises and make a fresh start with God. Families can find out more about how to make the best of this Season of Lent at: [catholicchurch.org.uk](http://catholicchurch.org.uk)

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley







## Attendance

<b>Whole School</b>	96%	<b>3HB</b>	97%
<b>Nursery</b>	98%	<b>3LH</b>	95%
<b>RLS</b>	97%	<b>4DS</b>	97%
<b>RNE</b>	99%	<b>4SM</b>	95%
<b>Y1SH</b>	99%	<b>5LW</b>	98%
<b>Y1LB</b>	97%	<b>5LS</b>	90%
<b>Y2JL</b>	94%	<b>6GB</b>	97%
<b>Y2AL</b>	94%	<b>6DF</b>	98%

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

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
<b>1st: 1SH</b>	24	<b>5th: 1LB</b>	6
<b>2nd: RNE</b>	19	<b>6th: 2AL</b>	5
<b>3rd: Nursery</b>	2		
<b>4th: 2JL</b>	8		
<b>5th: RLS</b>	8		

### St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
<b>1st: 5LW</b>	24	<b>6th: 5LS</b>	5
<b>2nd: 6DF</b>	19	<b>7th: 3HB</b>	5
<b>3rd: 6GB</b>	12	<b>8th: 3LH</b>	3
<b>4th: 4SM</b>	7		
<b>5th: 4DS</b>	5		





## Nursery

This week in Nursery we have enjoyed lots of outdoor play.

We have enjoyed mark making outdoors, riding bikes and scooters, being explorers and dressing up as Superheroes.

We have shared lots of special moments this week including Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

We welcomed Father C into our Nursery class on Ash Wednesday, it was lovely to see him and we enjoyed his teachings. As a class we said a special prayer and began to understand the importance of Ash Wednesday.

We made the sign of the cross and this was very special.

Mrs Artingstall welcomed us to the school allotment this week, we went on a hunt to find 'Jasper' (Jasper's Beanstalk) around the allotment- we had lots of fun!

The weather again was kind to us and we got to plant some peas in the soil.

On Thursday we loved taking part in World Book Day, we enjoyed activities based on Elmer (the elephant), Fairy Tales, Princesses and Superheroes!

We loved listening to our favourite stories and talking about our favourite book characters.

*Question- What is your favourite Julia Donaldson Story?*

## Reception

Another fabulous and busy week in Reception! It was so lovely celebrating all of our lovely children at parents evening. Thank you to all who came.

We had the best day for World Book Day! The children looked fantastic and really enjoyed the book swap. We hope you enjoy sharing your new books and stories at home.

In Literacy we read our whole school book called "Leaf." We thought about the different animals in the book and we created art and garlands with leaves we found in our outdoor area. In maths we completed our unit about 6, 7 and 8. We are looking forward to learning more about height and length next week.

Have a lovely, well deserved, restful weekend.

*Question: What special job does the author of a book have?*



## Year 1

This week in we have been learning to re tell our dinosaur story using our story maps and then using this write detailed sentences. In maths we completed our assessments on addition and subtraction within 20. We have also started our new topic of place value to 50. We started by counting forwards and backwards and then in jumps of 10. In geography we learned about different types of weather and have started recording the weather daily. We reflected on the meaning of Lent and made our Lenten promises. The children were respectful and sang beautifully at our Ash Wednesday Mass. We ended our week celebrating World Book Day- we did lots of fun activities and especially enjoyed our school book Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann. Thank you for all your effort with costumes the children looked fantastic!

**Task: Practise counting forwards and backwards to 50. Can you spot any of these numbers in the locality?**

## Year 2

In Maths this week the children have worked hard to count with 2s and use this knowledge to work out multiplication and division problems. In English they wrote their own letter of resignation as part of our 'Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory' unit. In Science, we explored some different types of habitats and thought about why there are suitable for different animals. In RE, we have reflected on what we strive to achieve within ourselves during Lent and wrote our own Lenten promises. During Ash Wednesday Mass the children were very respectful. The children had a fantastic time on World Book Day and enjoyed some book themed activities - they looked fantastic in their outfits.

**Question: Why can polar bears live in a polar habitat?**





## Year 3

It has been a lovely week in Year 3! In Maths we have learned about converting m to cm and cm to mm. At the moment we are measuring length and height using m, cm and mm.

In English children have been encouraged to use their best presentation skills in writing their diary entry about chapter 3 of George's Marvellous medicine.

In RE we have learned about Lent and children have discussed the importance of Lent and what they would give up during this time. Following this we attended Mass at Church, where we all received blessings and ash on our foreheads from Father C.

In Guided Reading we read a range of texts and answered comprehension questions.

In Science we have started a new topic called Soil. Children are learning about different soils and why they are important for the environment and natural habitats.

## Year 4

Another busy week in Year Four!

With Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent, we all went to church for a beautiful mass and to receive our ashes. Father C spoke about how Lent is a time for everyone to become a better version of themselves and how it is a fresh start. The children considered his words carefully and wrote some lovely Lenten Promises reflecting on the positive changes they can make.

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day. The children's outfits were amazing! As a school, we read the book Leaf about a polar bear who had become lost. Then, we did some reading activities around the story.

In English, we spent the week writing a narrative based on our novel, Edward Tulane. We read a chapter which left us on a cliffhanger and so we wrote the next chapter. The children had amazing ideas and really enjoyed writing their story.

Question: What is Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir well known for?



## Year 5

What an incredible week it has been for our Year 5 pupils!

As we embrace the season of Lent, the children have been reflecting deeply and making their Lenten promises in RE. They also explored the upcoming Jubilee for 2025, which Pope Francis has themed 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Inspired by this, the children penned their own heartfelt pledges, aiming to spread hope to others in our community and across the world.

In Maths, the children have been tackling long multiplication, developing their skills with formal methods and expanding to 4-digit by 2-digit calculations. Once fluent with this method, the children applied their knowledge to a range of contexts to deepen their understanding.

English lessons have been equally engaging as the children stepped into the shoes of Arty Brightstorm, creating vivid character descriptions that bring his personality and appearance to life! In celebration of World Book Day, we dove into 'Leaf' by Sandra Diekmann—a poignant picture book that addresses themes of acceptance, difference, and the pressing issue of global warming. The children analysed the text and its relationship to the illustrations, before creating their own alternative cover for the book.

**Question: What does commutative mean in relation to calculations?**

## Year 6

Another busy week here in Year 6! A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended 6DF's class assembly this week. The children have continued to work extremely hard and we are very proud of them.

In Maths, we have begun our new unit on fractions, decimals and percentages. We first began by utilising our prior knowledge to understand and identify fraction and decimal equivalents. We then moved to look at fractions as division to support our learning. The children were able to apply their understanding of short division to calculate the equivalent decimals. As well as this, we revisited percentages ahead of next week where we will begin to unpick the relationship between fractions and percentages.

In English, the children have utilised their understanding of the text to successfully plan a narrative from the house's perspective which we will be writing next week before we move on to our new unit which focuses on 'Romeo and Juliet'.

In class, we have been learning about the Jubilee 2025 and Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". Using this, we have considered the importance and created individual pledges for how we can make changes to be a good role model and a 'Pilgrim of Hope' this year.

**Question: What is the decimal equivalent for 12/25?**

*Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe*





## World Book Day 2025



***I BE READY / BE RESPECTFUL / BE SAFE !***

**#TEAMSTSTEPHENS**

WEBSITE: [www.stsrcp.school](http://www.stsrcp.school)  
TWITTER: @stsrcp  
TEL: 0161 370 2071





**/ BE READY / BE RESPECTFUL / BE SAFE /**

**#TEAMSTSTEPHENS**

WEBSITE: [www.stsrcp.school](http://www.stsrcp.school)  
TWITTER: @stsrcp  
TEL: 0161 370 2071