



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

Friday 21st March 2025

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

### A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

The weeks just seem to be flying by at the moment! I hope you have had a lovely one - thankfully the weather has been good to us! This week my office has been busy with visits from children showing me fantastic work! I special mention to our Year 1 children who have been working so hard on their maths work!

**Swimming Gala** - Last Friday evening, a group of children competed against other Tameside Catholic Schools in a swimming gala! The children performed incredibly well and did our school proud! Well done to those involved!

**Boys Football** - Our boys have been at Manchester City this week, competing in a Greater Manchester tournament. The boys won their group and will return on Monday to compete in the finals! Well done to the team and we wish them all the best!

**Year 6GB** - A big thank you to our Year 6 children for a brilliant class assembly this week. Next week we will be having a joint class assembly from our Year 4 children - Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 9:05am in the school hall.

**St Joseph's Penny Boxes** - Unfortunately we were only able to receive enough St Joseph's Penny Boxes for Early Years and Key Stage 1. These boxes will come home today; please return to them to the school office during Holy Week. Your support is always greatly appreciated and will go to help those in need.

**CARITAS Award** - A reminder that I give out a special award each week for someone who is demonstrating one of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. They are: Dignity, Solidarity, The common good, The option for the poor, Peace, Creation and Environment and The dignity of work and participation. A huge well done to Luca in Year 5LS who demonstrated 'solidarity' when helping others!

#### Next week:

- Next week is Shakespeare week and as usual we have a drama company coming into school to complete sessions with Years 1 to 6. We are asking for a donation of £3.00 per child to help cover the cost of this experience. Without your support, we would not be able to offer such experiences so thank you in advance. You can make payment on Parent Pay.
- Year 2AL Parents are warmly welcomed to their Stay and Prayer session in the classroom on Monday 24th March. Please wait outside the Year 2 doors after drop off and you will be invited inside when we are ready. Year 2 Miss Leishman will take place on Tuesday 25th March.
- Tuesday 25th March - Mini Vinnie's Mother's Day Sale
- Year 4 Singing Assembly 9:05am on Wednesday 26th March in the hall.
- Year 1, 2 and 3 celebrating Mass together on Friday 28th March at 10am in Church.

Enjoy your weekend, *Mr Lavin, Headteacher*

### Our Values: St Stephen's CARES

#### Compassion



#### Ambition



#### Rejoice



#### Excellence



#### Service



**| Be Ready | Be Respectful | Be Safe |**

**#TEAMSTSTEPHENS**

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## Dates for your calendar - Spring 2

### Week Beginning 24th March 2025

Date	Event
24.03.25	2AL Stay and Pray Shakespeare Week
25.03.25	Mini Vinnie Mother's Day Sale
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
31.03.25	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

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

### Week Beginning 7th April 2025

Date	Event
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 closes at 1:30pm

### Mini Vinnies Mother's Day Fundraiser

Next Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, during the school day, children will be invited to purchase a wrapped Mother's Day gift for a donation of 50p or £1. All proceeds will go to our St. Joseph's Penny Appeal. If we have any gifts left over a stall will be set up on the playground at home time for people to purchase additional gifts.

Once again thank you for your generosity and continued support,

Mini Vinnies Group





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### **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>	Matilda & Caleb
<b>RLS</b>	Aryel
<b>RNE</b>	Pippa
<b>Y1SH</b>	Ava
<b>Y1LB</b>	Bella
<b>Y2JL</b>	Frankie
<b>Y2AL</b>	Aaliyah
<b>Y3HB</b>	Jake
<b>Y3LH</b>	Ava
<b>Y4DS</b>	Daley
<b>Y4SM</b>	Bella
<b>Y5LW</b>	Amelia
<b>Y5LS</b>	Yasmin
<b>Y6GB</b>	Emelia-Rose
<b>Y6DF</b>	Macy

## Readers of the Week

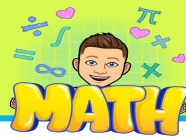


<b>Nursery</b>	Aria
<b>RLS</b>	Lua
<b>RNE</b>	William
<b>Y1SH</b>	Maverick
<b>Y1LB</b>	Jaxon
<b>Y2JL</b>	Keziah
<b>Y2AL</b>	Myla
<b>Y3HB</b>	Michelle
<b>Y3LH</b>	Esme
<b>Y4DS</b>	Eva
<b>Y4SM</b>	Peyton
<b>Y5LW</b>	Oscar
<b>Y5LS</b>	Tallulah
<b>Y6GB</b>	Leila
<b>Y6DF</b>	Evie





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Arthur & Alba
<b>RLS</b>	Eddison
<b>RNE</b>	Annie
<b>Y1SH</b>	Harper
<b>Y1LB</b>	Peyton
<b>Y2JL</b>	Declan
<b>Y2AL</b>	Muzaffar
<b>Y3HB</b>	Felix
<b>Y3LH</b>	Milliane
<b>Y4DS</b>	Jensen
<b>Y4SM</b>	Elliott
<b>Y5LW</b>	Bobby
<b>Y5LS</b>	Evianna
<b>Y6GB</b>	Sienna-Rae
<b>Y6DF</b>	Lily

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Elsie
<b>RLS</b>	Matias
<b>RNE</b>	Erin
<b>Y1SH</b>	Harriet
<b>Y1LB</b>	Betti
<b>Y2JL</b>	Odin
<b>Y2AL</b>	Natty
<b>Y3HB</b>	Anastazja
<b>Y3LH</b>	Hudson
<b>Y4DS</b>	Hudson
<b>Y4SM</b>	Ethan
<b>Y5LW</b>	Vanellope
<b>Y5LS</b>	Amella
<b>Y6GB</b>	Darcy
<b>Y6DF</b>	James

# 1% BETTER





Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout the school years, the whole family will grow and change - learning more about life and about one another.

Change can be an exciting part of family life. The Season of Lent presents a great opportunity to examine our conscience - do we need a change of heart, a change of attitude?

In this Sunday's Gospel, the fig tree represents God's people - it represents all of us.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

We are all called to change: to grow and so enrich the world around us - to love as Jesus loved.

That is what being fully human means! Jesus is like the gardener. He is patient with us, nurtures us and helps us to change for the better.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **CHANGE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from  
**Pope Francis**

*"Lent helps us fight against any of our faults.  
We all can improve and change for the better."*

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025



Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, 'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

*Adapted from Luke 13:1-9  
The 3<sup>rd</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

Lent is a time of change and each new day is an opportunity for us to change. God has 'planted' us on this earth to produce the good fruits of love, joy and kindness in our lives. Jesus helps us to keep growing in faith and goodness - to change the world and make it a better place.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

One day Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard which was taking up space and not producing fruit. So he said to the gardener, 'For three years I have been coming to look for fruit on this tree and finding none. Let's chop it down!' The gardener replied, 'Sir, let's leave it for another year. I'll help it to grow and produce fruit.'"

**What was wrong with the fig tree?**

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...

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." *St John Henry Newman*

# CHANGE



Ask your child what the word 'change' means to them. As a family, share any positive changes which have recently taken place at home, at school or within the community. Let your child know about at least one way in which they have changed for the better and grown in goodness over the past months (e.g. in behaviour, in attitude, in helpfulness). How does your child think that changing in that way has helped them? How has it helped the family or their friends?



Each of you say something about yourself that you would like to change this Lent - and say why. Perhaps it is: trying to listen better at school; trying to follow Jesus more closely; being more patient; helping out more at home; always remembering to say your daily prayers. How can you make that change? Do you need anyone's help? Are there any other ways to make a change for the better this Lent? You may also like to choose something new to do together that will make life better for the family.

### 3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your patient care for us. Show us where we need to **change** - to grow more in our love for you and for each other. Amen.

## FINDING THREE!

P	E	G	N	A	H	C	Y	R	O	P
E	C	U	D	O	R	P	E	T	D	G
M	H	T	I	M	E	N	W	R	A	V
G	A	H	N	G	E	H	A	E	M	I
F	N	V	M	D	W	Y	C	E	P	N
R	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	R	T
U	E	A	T	N	R	E	N	W	O	R
I	G	V	I	N	E	Y	A	R	D	E
T	Y	V	U	E	E	M	I	T	U	W
G	T	U	R	F	V	M	I	C	N	
T	H	T	F	R	U	O	W	N	E	R

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- TREE
- VINEYARD
- OWNER
- GARDENER
- TIME
- CHANGE
- PRODUCE
- FRUIT

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **b c d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**cfbrudif bledacve yebcard gbrodwc**

The gardener replied, 'Sir, let's \_\_\_\_\_ it for another \_\_\_\_\_ . I'll help it to \_\_\_\_\_ and produce \_\_\_\_\_ .'

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus cares for us, just like the gardener cares for the tree. Listening and acting upon what our parents, teachers and others tell us about God, helps us to keep growing into the best people we can be.



This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





## Attendance

Whole School	96%	3HB	94%
Nursery	92%	3LH	94%
RLS	94%	4DS	96%
RNE	95%	4SM	94%
Y1SH	96%	5LW	97%
Y1LB	91%	5LS	92%
Y2JL	92%	6GB	96%
Y2AL	94%	6DF	96%

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

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1SH	27	5th: 1LB	6
2nd: RNE	21	6th: 2AL	6
3rd: Nursery	12		
4th: 2JL	9		
5th: RLS	8		

### St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5LW	27	6th: 5LS	5
2nd: 6DF	21	7th: 3HB	5
3rd: 6GB	14	8th: 3LH	4
4th: 4SM	8		
5th: 4DS	7		





## Nursery

In Phonics this week we have been singing the nursery rhyme 'Twinkle, Twinkle little Star.'

We are very confident in recognising rhyming words and clapping syllables to words.

Our sound focus this week was 'r' we enjoyed our phonics game 'What's in the box?' and know that 'rainbow', 'rabbit', 'rice' and 'ring' all begin with the 'r' sound.

We loved celebrating St Patrick's day on Monday, we made hats, learned all about the traditions and enjoyed messy play and had so much fun Irish dancing.

In our Liturgy session this week, we enjoyed singing some of our favourite songs, 'This Little Light of Mine' and 'Our God is a Great Big God.'

We are so proud of our children who continue to say our dinner time prayer and bedtime prayer with lots of confidence and respect.

We have been enjoying our outdoor provision this week and have made the most of the lovely weather, Mrs Artingstall visited our Nursery to help with the planting and new ideas we have had and this week we created another habitat, this time for a hedgehog using the off cuts of willow from our willow tunnel and arch. We also used the sticks as a tool to dig small holes in the soil when planting broad beans. We can't wait to watch them grow!

*Question- How many syllables do you have in your name? Can you clap the syllables?*

## Reception

We have had a wonderful week in Reception. Lots of learning as always. Phonics and reading has been a particular highlight - the children are doing so well and are growing in confidence every day!

At the start of the week we learnt about the Holy Spirit in RE. We made our own Holy Spirits and watched how they moved all around us outside, just like the real Holy Spirit does to help us learn more about the ways of Jesus.

In Literacy, we have completed our class text "Lulu Loves Flowers." We have been watching our own sunflowers grow too, some of them have started shooting and we can see some roots. We will continue to look after them with all of the things they need. We enjoyed our forest school session with Mrs Artingstall too!

In Maths we started our new unit called "building 9 and 10." We have been comparing numbers to 10 and representing 9 and 10. Next week we will focus on the special number bonds to 10.

We hope you have a lovely and restful weekend ready for another busy week in Reception.

*Question: Can you say what's 1 more AND 1 less all the way to 10?*

*Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe*



## Year 1

What a lovely week we have had in Year 1! In science we went on a lovely ,sunny spring walk, observing seasonal changes. In maths we continued to deepen our understanding of numbers to 50 by finding and estimating positions on a number line. We also used our knowledge to find one more or one less of a given number to 50. In English we spent our sessions revising punctuation and grammar. We continue to work hard to improve our spelling and reading in our daily phonics sessions. Our geography lesson helped us understand how the weather changes over the four seasons and how it affects humans. In RE we considered our Lenten promises and look at symbols of Lent.

**TASK: Look around your locality- What signs of spring can you see?**

## Year 2

We have had another lovely week in Year 2 and enjoyed getting out in the sunshine. We began the week with a forest school session where the children thought about saying thank you to God for the things in our world. The children made some clay sculptures and loved petting the chickens in the allotments. In Maths this week we completed our multiplication and division unit by revising 2s, 5s and 10s. We now move onto length and height. In English this week the children wrote letters of persuasion in the character of Mr Bunny. They also enjoyed a chocolate tasting session where they learnt more about the real methods in making chocolate and harvesting cacao. In Science, we explored microhabitats and thought carefully about which minibeasts may live there. In RE, we learnt about Palm Sunday and demonstrated our understanding of the scripture through drawing. In Geography, we continue learning about weather patterns and have explored which continents in the world have the hottest climate. We enjoyed ending the week with some painting in Art exploring the expressive styles of Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne.

**Question - can you add 'est' to turn 'happy' into a superlative?**



## Year 3

Another busy week in Year 3.

In English, the children had to write the next chapter of George's Marvellous Medicine. They described what happened when Grandma was given George's potion. The children used a range of impressive verbs as well as dialogue to create an amusing piece of writing. In Maths this week we began our first unit on Fractions. We looked at the purpose of the denominator and the children had to order and compare sets of fractions. As the children's First Reconciliation approaches, we are preparing them for their sacrament. This week we talked about how important it is to take accountability for our actions and that God will listen to us when we say we are sorry. The children enjoyed talking and listening to each other's feelings when they thought about times they had made the wrong choices. This week we went back to finish our History topic on the Olympic Games and learnt all about the great athlete Jesse Owens. The children are preparing to write his biography.

**Question: How many medals did Jesse win in the 1936 Olympics?**

## Year 4

In Year Four this week, the children have been working hard and enjoying the sunnier weather.

In English, we have continued our work on Macbeth, studying the first chapter in which Macbeth meets the witches. We have been learning how to use prepositional phrases in our sentences and writing about the eerie scene on the Scottish moors. The children then further practiced these skills while writing a diary entry from the point of view of Macbeth and reflected on the confusing events and strange prophecies.

In maths, we have been learning to order and compare mixed numbers. The children did a great job at estimating where to place fractions on a number line! We continue to work on developing fluency and pace with our times tables. This week's focus has been the 12 times tables.

In science, we have been investigating the different sources of power that electrical appliances work from. We sorted household appliances according to whether they were powered by battery, the mains or solar power.

**Question: What is solar power?**



## Year 5

As always, this week has been a busy one in year 5. Rehearsals for the Passion in Holy Week are well underway and the children are working incredibly hard to ensure it is performed in a respectful and prayerful manner.

The week began with RE Retreats for both classes, where the children engaged in meaningful discussions about 'care for creation'. Through a combination of scripture, prayer, song, meditation and reflection, the children explored God's plan for creation. In response, they produced beautiful artwork, as well as heartfelt sorry prayers and poems. It was a wonderful workshop and our thanks go to Mrs Farmer, who delivers all of the retreats in school.

In History, we scrutinised both primary and secondary sources of evidence relating to the physical appearance and character of Henry VIII. The children analysed the reliability of the sources and identified what they could tell us about Henry's fascinating life. Following this, we explored the reasons behind the reformation - religious, political and economic.

Mathematics took us on a journey through reasoning and problem-solving as we tackled long multiplication before progressing to short and long division methods. This crucial area of learning will continue to be a focus in the coming weeks.

**Question:** What is the difference between a primary and secondary source of evidence?

## Year 6

What wonderful week here in Year 6! This week, the children have been working extremely hard and we are very proud of them. A big thank you to all those parents who attended 6GB's class assembly yesterday. It was lovely to see so many faces and to celebrate the children's work and achievements.

In English, we have focused on our new text, 'Romeo and Juliet', which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. After watching the first meeting scene at the Capulet ball, we carefully considered how this compared to the text by Matthews and Ross. We analysed the thoughts and feelings of both Romeo and Juliet as well as the significance of them finding out that they are from feuding families. After a deep analysis of the features of a diary entry, we have written diary entries of our own from either Romeo's or Juliet's perspective to recount the events.

In Maths, we have worked hard to learn and understand the formulas when finding the area and perimeter of rectilinear shapes. The children were able to apply their prior knowledge and understanding of this successfully to support their understanding. Throughout the week, we have also learnt how to find the area of any given triangle using the base and perpendicular height. Well done Year 6!

**Question:** What is the formula for the area of a triangle?