



Friday 28th March 2025

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

As we draw even closer to Holy Week, we've spent a lot of time in school making our preparations and reflecting on our Lenten Promises. A highlight has been hearing our Year 5 children practising the songs for their Passion Play. I know they are all working hard on learning their lines and are really excited for their families to see their interpretation of the events of Holy Week.

Stay and Pray - Our Year 2 children held two beautiful Stay and Pray sessions this week. These special moments are a wonderful way to spread Jesus' message to their families. Thank you so much for the families who were able to attend - I hope you enjoyed this special time.

Boys Football - Another busy week for our Boys Football Team. They travelled to Manchester City's training ground on Monday to take part in the finals of the Greater Manchester tournament. The boys played so hard but unfortunately were knocked out in the group stages. They represented the school so well.

Shakespeare Week - Children have really enjoyed taking part in Shakespeare Week this week. They completed sessions with a drama company - really bringing the work of Shakespeare to life. I made a mistake in last week's newsletter and said it was just for Year 1 to 6. Reception took part too, which was wonderful. If parents can support us with £3.00 donation via parent pay it would be greatly appreciated.

Mini Vinnies - Thank you to our Mini Vinnie group for organising our Mother's Day sale this week. It was really well supported and we managed to raise £281.00 for St Joseph's Penny. Thank you children for your hard work; I am awarding all of our Mini Vinnies my special CARITAS award this week.

Please do take the time to look at the calendar dates for the remainder of the term. The scheduled Year 3 assembly has been rearranged for later in the year.

Have a wonderful weekend celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday,
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 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 - This has been rearranged to later in the school year.
04.04.25	Years 4 and 5 Mass - 10am Church

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

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



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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



Nursery	Caitlyn & Penelope
RLS	Lily-Mae
RNE	Olivia
Y1SH	Evie
Y1LB	Michael
Y2JL	Louie
Y2AL	Natty
Y3HB	Evelyn
Y3LH	Sophie
Y4DS	Eliza
Y4SM	Poppy
Y5LW	George
Y5LS	Alisha
Y6GB	Emelia
Y6DF	Aoife

Readers of the Week

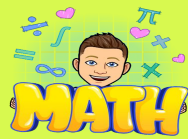


Nursery	Bobby & Ella
RLS	Ophelia
RNE	Axel-James
Y1SH	Harriet
Y1LB	Evie
Y2JL	Valentina
Y2AL	Deedee
Y3HB	Jacob
Y3LH	Bruke
Y4DS	Conor
Y4SM	Freya
Y5LW	Donao
Y5LS	Riley-James
Y6GB	Finley
Y6DF	Liam





Maths Star



Nursery	Eleanor
RLS	Matias
RNE	Kofi
Y1SH	Jeremy
Y1LB	Cole
Y2JL	India
Y2AL	Alise
Y3HB	Gavriel
Y3LH	Raya-Mae
Y4DS	Eva
Y4SM	Noah
Y5LW	Cleo
Y5LS	Jacob
Y6GB	Gustavo
Y6DF	Minhat

Writing Star



Nursery	Rudy
RLS	Lena
RNE	Aahil
Y1SH	Victoria
Y1LB	Raya
Y2JL	Ylan
Y2AL	Luke
Y3HB	Freddie
Y3LH	Patrycia
Y4DS	Elvis
Y4SM	Muwaffaq
Y5LW	Dolly
Y5LS	Avaya
Y6GB	Tejiri
Y6DF	Jemima

1% BETTER





Dear Parents and Carers,

Forgiveness is the lifeblood of any family or community.

In this Sunday's Gospel the younger son insults his father; his inheritance is all he thinks about. To make matters worse, his reason for returning is not love or consideration for his father, but simply his own desperate hunger. The father doesn't even question his son's motives. He welcomes his son back with the open heart and the open arms of forgiveness.

Wednesday 26th March 2025

The message for us is that, whatever we may have done wrong, if we are truly sorry, we can still count on the loving forgiveness of God, who is our Father, and on the freedom that his forgiveness brings.

Enjoy a special time with your child exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FORGIVENESS**.

Dom Henry Worsbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

*"May each family rediscover family prayer,
which helps to bring about forgiveness."*

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 30th March 2025



Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have the inheritance that would come to me.' So the father gave him his share and his son then left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of shameless living. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and he began to be in need and he had to hire himself out to feed pigs. So he decided to go back to his father. When his father saw him, he ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him and kill the fattened calf. For this son of mine was lost and is now found.' And they began to celebrate."

*Adapted from Luke 15:1-3.11-32
The 4th 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

The father in this Sunday's Gospel gives us a glimpse of God the Father's merciful and forgiving nature. If we acknowledge when we have gone wrong, God is always ready to forgive us and to help us to forgive others. We are all part of God's family and no matter how many times we need to forgive or to be forgiven, God is there to help us.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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?

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

One day Jesus told this story: "A young man asked his father for his share of the family's money. He went off and quickly spent all he had on selfish living. Then a serious famine spread through the country and, having spent all his money, the son became hungry. He went home to beg for his father's forgiveness and offer to live as a servant. But the father ran out to meet his son. He hugged him and he kissed him and he treated him to a great celebration."

What did the father do to the son who returned home?

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.

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

"Pray and forgive. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven." *St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

Forgiveness is one of God's greatest gifts to us. We must try to forgive others in the same way that we want God (and others) to forgive us. Ask your child what the word 'forgiveness' means to them. Has your child ever asked for and received forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? It may help your child if you tell them about a time when you forgave someone, especially when it wasn't easy to do, or when you were forgiven.



Each of you say how it feels to forgive someone and make friends again. Ask your child if there is anyone they need to forgive, or if there is anyone whose forgiveness they would like? If so, help each other by sharing ideas about how to do this. During Lent, many parish churches have special Reconciliation Services to help us experience God's forgiveness and to give us the strength to forgive others. All are warmly invited.

FORGIVENESS



3 Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

FINDING THREE

S Y R G N U H R F F
E H U N O S O M E O A
L H U T I M M R H R M
S O N F F A V N T G S
V M L G O R E H A A E
R E T U R N G U F V L
S F A M I N E N A E F
R E E M O H T G V G I
E F A T H E R R R N S
T F I L S O G Y N T H
H S E L F N R U T E R

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

SON
SELFISH
FAMINE
HUNGRY
RETURN
HOME
FATHER
FORGAVE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **c p u** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

pofuferc chopmue secruvapnt ubpecg

He went _____ to _____ for his father's forgiveness

and _____ to live as a _____



This Sunday (the 4th Sunday of Lent) is traditionally known as 'Laetare Sunday'. 'Laetare' is a Latin word that means 'rejoice'. Let's rejoice for the forgiveness which God our Father gives to us whenever we tell him we are sorry.

This week I will try my best to...





Attendance

Whole School	97%	3HB	94%
Nursery	90%	3LH	98%
RLS	100%	4DS	99%
RNE	99%	4SM	96%
Y1SH	99%	5LW	97%
Y1LB	95%	5LS	97%
Y2JL	99%	6GB	99%
Y2AL	98%	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

This week in Phonics we have enjoyed learning the nursery rhyme 'Row, Row, Row your boat.' Our rhyming word knowledge is amazing! We are really working hard to hear initial sounds in words and we continue to hear the initial sounds in our own names.

In Maths this week we have been learning about the meanings of 'full' and 'empty.' We can recognise when a cup is full or empty and use these terms correctly in a variety of different contexts.

Mrs Artingstall has been working very hard to improve our outdoor area and our new pond habitat now has some frogspawn we can't wait to meet some frogs soon!

Our class caterpillars are now on their next stage of their journey and are beginning to make cocoons. We can't wait to see what happens over the weekend!

We have enjoyed learning all about Eid during our carpet sessions and how it is celebrated we have taken part in some lovely activities in our classroom to celebrate it.

We have also enjoyed lots of creative activities- making special bracelets for Mother's Day and Cards to send home.

Date for your Diary- Thursday 3rd April 2025- 3.15-4pm Nursery Stay and Play based on this terms topic book 'Jasper's Beanstalk.' Please confirm with Miss Taylor if you are able to attend.

Question- What does Frogspawn turn into for its next stage in its Lifecycle?

Reception

A fantastic week of investigating in Reception this week. Following on from our forest school session, Mrs Artingstall has given us some frog spawn to look after in our outdoor area. We can't wait to see the changes in the coming weeks.

We have really enjoyed "Shakespeare Week." We have read an adaptation of A Midsummer Night's

Dream and we think a real fairy from the play delivered our story...we found a trail of magic sparkles in our classroom! Our Shakespeare workshop was so much fun and we learnt some facts about his different plays. We also learnt some new vocabulary such as "tragedy" and "sonnet."

In maths, we have continued building upon our 9 and 10 knowledge. We have revisited subitising and have also been learning the number bonds to 10.

Next week we will begin our new minibeast topic and we are very excited to start our new text "The Woolly Bear Caterpillar." This will carry over into the new half term where we will welcome caterpillars of our own.

Thank you as always for your continued support. We love working with your children. Have a lovely weekend.

Question: is 7 and 4 a number bond to 10?



Year 1

This week we have enjoyed celebrating Shakespeare Week. The week started with a drama workshop where the children learned lots about Shakespeare, his plays and the Globe theatre. We spent time learning about the play, "The Tempest" and the children thoroughly engaged in the story. We then went on to describe the creature known as Caliban. In maths, we have started our unit on mass and volume. The children weighed objects using non-standard units of measure. In R.E, we read the story of Palm Sunday and discussed its importance. The children then sequenced the story with pictures. This week we have also been completing our Spring assessments. The children have been completing tests in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, as well as Mental Arithmetic. Next week, the children will be completing their Maths Reasoning paper and will be assessed on their phonics. We ended the week with a lovely Mass.

Question: What was William Shakespeare famous for?

Year 2

It has been a lovely week in Year 2. Both classes had their Stay and Pray sessions at the start of the week; we hope you enjoyed joining the children in their Celebration of the Word.

We have started to complete some of our termly assessments this week. We are very proud of the children's resilience and determination in doing these.

For Shakespeare Week, we engaged in an exciting drama workshop and we have been studying Ella Bella Ballerina: A Midsummer Night's Dream in English. The children have been summarising events using hashtags.

In Maths, we have been completing some fantastic learning about length and height. We are confidently able to measure in centimetres, metres and compare and order different measurements.

In R.E, we deepened our analysis of the scripture of Palm Sunday by re-telling the events in the form of a diary entry.

In Geography, we built on our learning from last week and identified the poles as the coldest places on earth.

To end the week, we had a lovely Mass. We started our D&T unit about puppets and practised a running stitch. We also made some beautiful Mother's Day cards.

Question: How many centimetres are in 1 metre?



Year 3

It has been a lovely week in Year 3.

We have been spending time preparing for First Reconciliation by examining our consciences and recognising the wrong choices we have made. As part of our preparations we have been reading and learning the Act of Contrition and thinking about what it means to us personally.

This week was Shakespeare Week and the the children enjoyed reading the story of King Lear. They acted out the roles of the King and his daughters and wrote a letter of apology from the King to Cordelia. We also had Altru Drama Company in school and Year 3 enjoyed a fun and informative workshop. This week was also assessment week and the children tried very hard to show their learning. In Art, we continued working on our 'drawing with scissors' unit recreating an Ancient Greek scene. Year 3 also helped out in the fantastic Year 4 singing assembly, singing their song loud and clear.

Question: Can you say the Act of Contrition? *Oh my God,...*

Year 4

Year Four have had another busy week this week.

The children have worked incredibly hard on their assessments this week and should all be very proud of themselves.

On Wednesday, the children held their joint singing assembly, performing hymns and songs from their weekly sessions with Miss Bradley and were absolutely brilliant, there is some wonderful talent in the year group! The children in 4SM have also been making progress in their drumming sessions with TMS which is great to see!

As it was Shakespeare Week this week, the children have also been putting their learning into practice - taking 'Macbeth' off the page and exploring Shakespeare and his life dramatically! The children also really enjoyed their Forest School session with Mrs Artingstall looking at the witches' spell!

In RE, the children revised the order of the Communion Rite, and in science, the children have been looking at electrical safety and conductors and insulators.

Question: who betrayed Jesus at The Last Supper?



Year 5

We've had a fantastic week in Year 5! We've been celebrating Shakespeare Week by diving into *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The children explored a range of book covers and images to make predictions about the play. They also had an exciting drama workshop where they discovered more about Shakespeare's life and explored the names of different plays.

In Maths, we've been focusing on short division and using it to solve a variety of problems.

In Religion, the children have been studying the Eucharistic prayer, linking it to the Last Supper, and writing a beginner's guide to the consecration of the Eucharist..

We've also been hard at work on our play, *The Passion*, and can't wait to share it with you in the coming weeks!

Question: What links can we make between the Eucharist and the Last Supper?

Year 6

As always, it has been a busy week in Year 6. In Maths, we completed our unit on Area, Perimeter and Volume. This included looking at the area of parallelograms and then the volume of cubes and cuboids. The children then applied their knowledge from this unit to work with compound shapes and reasoning problems.

In English, we continued our work on *Romeo and Juliet*. This centred on their secret marriage and the fight scene between Romeo, Tybalt and Mercutio. The children analysed the features of newspapers and then set out their plans for writing their own articles which will cover these tragic events.

We were also fortunate enough to be a part of the Shakespeare workshop this week. The timing of this was perfect and allowed the children to be fully immersed in the story. They certainly demonstrated their creative sides and were engaged throughout!

Our R.E. work this week was all about reading and dissecting scripture around Jesus' death. We looked at the Gospels of John and Luke, then looked at artwork from different cultures which represented the events. The children then annotated the artwork and made links to the scripture we had read.

Question: Why was Romeo reluctant to fight Tybalt?