



St Stephen's RCP
'Together we can achieve our best'

NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th January 2022
Issue 15

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A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I wish you and your families the very best for 2022, may it be filled with love, success and good health. From all of us here at St Stephen's, we wish you all the very best.

We have loved welcoming children back to school this week and hearing their stories about what a great Christmas break they had! You have all been certainly busy and I hope you enjoyed these treasured moments together.

We do have a number of families who have been impacted by COVID over the break; we wish you all the best and a swift return to good health, especially those children that have yet been able to return to school due to having COVID. We cannot wait to welcome you back soon.

I feel very privileged to write to you as the Acting Headteacher of our great school. My commitment to you is that I will do everything to continue the great work here at St Stephen's during its next chapter. The Governors process of appointing a new headteacher has begun; the advert is now live and applicants are able to apply over the next few weeks. Regardless of the outcome, I will be in the position of Acting Headteacher until the end of the academic year and I am honoured to do so.

During our staff INSET on Tuesday, the leadership team shared with staff our new vision for St Stephen's, it is:

'A world class school for children who want to make the world a better place as God intended.'

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

13/01/22	KS1 Mass
18/01/22	Year 5DF Retreat in School
19/01/22	Year 6HG Retreat in School
20/01/22	Y3/4 Mass
27/01/22	Y5/6 Mass
3/02/22	KS1 Mass
04/02/22	Numbers Day - children can dress up.
08/02/22	Year 2 Retreat in School
10/02/22	Y5/6 Mass
17/02/22	Y6 and Reception Mass
18/02/22	Half term begins at 3:15pm



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Over the course of this week, staff have talked to the children about this vision, including what it means to be 'world class'. We have established 'world class basics' with children, and staff, as we continue to strive to become the very best school possible.

I am committed as the leader of our great school to ensure that each child achieves what they are capable of. With your support, we can ensure that children receive the very best education possible, academically, socially /emotionally and spiritually.

Communication is key – your first point of contact should always be your child's class teacher – either in person or via class dojo. There are a number of key roles and responsibilities across the school and (if required) your concerns will be passed to an appropriate senior leader of the school. Following this process will ensure that all concerns are dealt with swiftly by the appropriate member of staff. Our school leadership team is made up of the following members:

- Mrs Williams and Mrs Healey are our two Assistant Head teachers
- Mrs Finn is our Early Years lead
- Mrs Gibson is our Curriculum Lead and RE Lead
- Miss Dempsey is our full time SENDCo and is also responsible for behaviour
- Mrs Khan is our School Business Manager

If you have any concerns regarding the welfare of a child, or you are looking for help or support for family life, Mrs Frimston is our Pastoral lead and is always at the end of the phone. Alongside Mrs Frimston, Mrs Healey, Miss Dempsey and myself are also our Designated Safeguarding Leads so you can also contact us in Mrs Frimston's absence.

As always, thank you for your continued support and well wishes. This is an exciting time to be a part of the St Stephen's family and I look forward to continuing to celebrate all of our successes in the weeks and months ahead.

Enjoy your weekend and God bless you all,

Mr Lavin Acting Headteacher



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Hot Chocolate Friday Winners



Nursery	Evie / Mary
RKF	Halle
RCL	Kaiden
Y1LD	Leila
Y1J00	Ruby
Y2SH	Samson
Y2AL	Cleo
Y3LW	Rocco
Y3CS/DH	Orla
Y4DS	Vincent
Y4HB	Yong
Y5LS	Louie
Y5DM	Jayden
Y6HG	Kyrah
Y6DF	Leyland

Readers of the Week



Nursery	Noah
RKF	Hudson
RCL	Felix
Y1LD	Peyton
Y1J00	Pippa
Y2SH	Avaya
Y2AL	Noah V
Y3LW	Sam
Y3CS/DH	Charlie
Y4DS	Alica-Mae
Y4HB	Toby D
Y5LS	Harley
Y5DM	Jessica
Y6HG	Alisha
Y6DF	Mason

Handwriters of the week



Nursery	Harper
RKF	Leo
RCL	Evelyn
Y1LD	Charlie
Y1J00	Samuel
Y2SH	Esme
Y2AL	Noah R
Y3LW	Ted
Y3CS/DH	Bobby & Jensen
Y4DS	Carter
Y4HB	Toby H-H
Y5LS	Ruby-Ann
Y5DM	Charlotte
Y6HG	Ethan
Y6DF	Damiete



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Mathematicians of the Week

Nursery	Cornelia
RKF	Milliane
RCL	Panagiotis
Y1LD	Poppy
Y1J00	Jensen
Y2SH	Yasmin
Y2AL	Harrison
Y3LW	Evie
Y3CS/DH	Freddie
Y4DS	Zach
Y4HB	Louie
Y5LS	Charlie
Y5DM	Ruby
Y6HG	Archie
Y6DF	Analise

Sports Stars of the Week

Nursery	
RKF	
RCL	
Y1LD	
Y1J00	
Y2SH	
Y2AL	
Y3LW	
Y3CS/DH	
Y4DS	
Y4HB	
Y5LS	
Y5DM	
Y6HG	
Y6DF	

Sports Stars will resume next week. As we have a short week in school, not everyone has had their PE lessons.

House Points

Blue
2311



Red
4437



Yellow
1987



Green
5841



Totals So Far!

Blue 62, 588
 Green 71,421
 Red 62, 475
 Yellow 59,045



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Attendance

Whole School	93.6%
Nursery AM	100%
Nursery Full Day	97.5%
RKF	93.2%
RCL	92.1%
Y1LD	87.5%
Y1J'OD	93.3%
Y2AL	96%
Y2SH	93.6%
Y3LW	94.8%
Y3CS/DH	89.7%
Y4DS	98.1%
Y4HB	90.3%
Y5DM	100%
Y5LS	89.3%
Y6HG	89.7%
Y6DF	100%



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance Challenge!

If you are in school everyday this Half term then your name will be entered into a draw for a **100%** very special prize!

Good Luck!



St Stephen's Attendance League

St Stephen's Attendance League EYFS & KS1			
Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 2AL	22	5th: NurAM	10
2nd: 1JO'D	15	6th: RKF	8
3rd: 2SH	11	6th: NurFD	8
4th: RCL	11		
5th: 1LD	10		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2			
Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: Y6DF	23	5th: Y5DM	9
2nd: Y3LW	16	6th: Y5LS	5
3rd: Y3CS/DS	14	7th: Y4HB	3
4th: Y6HG	13		
4th: Y4DS	13		

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Religious Education

The Epiphany

Yesterday, we celebrated the Epiphany in school. Years 3 and 4 participated in a beautiful Mass led by Father Wilson in Church whilst the other classes spent time in prayer in their classrooms.

"After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east... And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."



Matthew 2:1, 9-12



Ask your children:

How do you think the Wise men felt when they saw Jesus?
What gifts did the wise men give Jesus? Why did they choose these gifts?

What gift would you give to baby Jesus? Why?

Prayer of the Week

Dear Jesus,

The wise men followed a star in the sky.

It led them to Bethlehem and you.

Sometimes we follow the wrong things, and instead of getting closer to you,
we get further away from you.

Help us always stay focused on you, just like the wise men were.

Never allow us to put things in front of us that will keep our eyes off you.

You are our shining star.

Shine for us so the path to you is always lit.

Amen



Nursery

Happy New Year!!

We have had a lovely first few days back this half term. We have been busy spending time with our new teacher, Mrs Lowe and getting to know her. We have started a fun new activity called 'Play Doh Disco'. This is going to help us with our fine motor skills and our writing.

We have been down to the allotment to Mrs Artingstall to plant our very own Daffodils - we will be doing something extra special with them later on. We also enjoyed our Bikeability session with Joe this week. We are getting extremely confident using the balance bikes now.

We have been excited to explore what our new topic is, I wonder... what is out there? First we are going to look at Space!

It has been a fantastic start back to the New Year.

Reception

Happy New Year!

On Wednesday morning it was wonderful to see the children happy, rested and excited to be back in school. We have had a very busy week. This half term we will be reading and learning about fairytales. This week we began with The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We have also listened to the story "The Colour Monster". In the coming weeks we will be exploring feelings. The Colour Monster is going to help us understand different emotions. We will be learning lots of new vocabulary as we talk about and name different emotions.

We have started thinking about mindfulness by doing some breathing activities. The children have loved it! We have had a perfect visit to the woods where we sat together weaving with wool and sticks.

The children have listened carefully as we talked about The Epiphany. They enjoyed relating it to their own Nativity performance.

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Year 1

It was great to see all the children back at school- all excited with their stories of Christmas fun.

We took part in a winter walk around the school grounds and talked about the changes that take place in winter. Our Autumn tree in the corridor has now lost all its leaves and has become a winter tree. We have also been reading and writing Winter poems. In maths we have been reviewing our counting and ordering skills- using number lines to find 1 more and 1 less. Here is a game you can play at home. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/chopper-squad>

As Thursday was Epiphany, we met together for our collective worship, sang songs and acted out the story of the three wise people visiting Jesus. We decorated stars with our hopes for the new year. The children all now have new phonics groups. Many children are making lots of progress. They will all have a new reading book from their phonics teacher. Thank you for all the support at home. Please return any reading books that you still have at home and keep reading a little every day. In our jigsaw lessons we are exploring our similarities and differences, and developing our speaking and listening skills with the help of Jigsaw Jack.

Question: What changes are taking place in nature now that it is Winter? Perhaps you could go on a winter walk with your family.

Year 2

Happy New Year! It has been so lovely to welcome the children back into school this week and they have made a great start to 2021. Miss Leigh and Mrs Healey have been so impressed with the children's maturity and attitude towards learning. Yesterday, we celebrated the Feast of Epiphany in class and we participated in a lovely Collective Worship. We then learnt about the significance of the gifts that the Three Kings presented to Baby Jesus and we talked about what gifts we would give to him. We have been completing our Geography Unit, 'Comparing Manchester and Nairobi' and we have been comparing aerial views and looking at the human and physical features of Nairobi. We have also been continuing with our Science unit, 'Animals Including Humans' and we have been grouping animals based on their offspring. We have got lots of exciting things planned for this half term and we are looking forward to starting our new topics next week!

Question: What is meant by human and physical features? What are the human and physical features of Nairobi?



Year 3

What a fantastic start to 2021! All of the children have returned to school with vigour and excitement for their learning. What more could we ask? In English, the children have written some superb newspaper reports about the Troll throwing the Truth Pixie to Helsinki. They incorporated witness statements, adverbials of time, expanded noun phrases and eye-catching headlines, as well as many other essential features. In Maths, we have been exploring the relationship between the products in the 4 and the 8 times tables. The children could recognise that the products in the 8 times tables are double those of the 4 times tables, as well as identifying that every other multiple of 4 corresponds to the 8 times tables and that all of the products are even. They could also relate these facts to the multiples of 2. In RE, we learned about the Epiphany and created a wanted poster for the three kings from Herod. We were also extremely proud of the children's behaviour, listening skills and respect in Church during mass on Thursday to celebrate the Epiphany. We are looking forward to beginning our comparison of Ancient Civilisations in History and Nutrition in Science. Later in the half term, we will also be exploring, designing and creating moving monsters. An extremely busy, yet enjoyable, half term ahead.

Question - Why do we celebrate the Epiphany?

Year 4

Year 4 have come back to school raring to go! All the children have settled in well and are keen to get started. We began the week by reflecting on last term and deciding on some New Year's Resolutions and motivational words to inspire us in our learning this year.

Our lessons started with a revision of our previous learning in English grammar and punctuation, followed by times table activities. The children did well in recalling the rules and facts.

We all enjoyed talking about the books we have read over the holidays.

The children are eager to describe more about their books and to recommend them to others through our regular 'Book Boasting' sessions.

On Thursday we went to mass to celebrate the Epiphany. The children were very attentive and sang the hymns beautifully.

Question: Why did God appear to the wise men in a dream?

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Year 5

In Year 5 this week, we have used the short week to get lots done! We have started our new English unit of work which is based on the Bollywood movie 'Chak de India'. We have really been excited to watch the beginning and do some work on the opening scenes. In math we have begun by working on our times tables to prepare us fully for the multiplication work ahead. In RE we have researched the epiphany celebration in different countries around the world. It has been really interesting. Lastly, in Design and Technology we have had the challenge of building bridges using different resources to hold a specific weight. We worked well in teams to achieve the goal.

Question

In Italy, to celebrate epiphany, why do children leave shoes and stockings out on the evening of January 5th each year?

Year 6

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful seeing the children this week and hearing about what they have been up to during the holidays.

We started this week by thinking about how we can be world class pupils. We looked at people who we thought were world class and what made them world class. We then used this as inspiration for our New Year's Resolutions which will be displayed in our corridor.

We got straight into our Maths work on Wednesday by revisiting short division. The children realised the importance of knowing their multiplication and division facts fluently whilst using this method.

In English, we are continuing with Wonder focusing upon the character of Jack Will. We have reflected upon his actions and wrote both formal and informal letters.

On Thursday, we celebrated the Epiphany in school and participated in collective worship within our classes. We then reflected upon the significance of the gifts the three wise men gave to Jesus and how they illustrated the wise men's expectations of Jesus.

Question: Why was Jesus given Gold? What was the expectation of Jesus?



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THIS WEEK IN PICTURES

It's been another remarkable week!
Here are some photographs to show some
wonderful learning experiences.
Featuring are a few of the children and
staff saying their farewells to
Mr Marley!



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