



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 12th September 2025

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN

...I hope you have had a great week - we certainly have in school as we come to the end of our first full week back together. I have enjoyed spending lots of time walking around each classroom and seeing our children so engaged with their new topics! Our Nursery and Reception children are settling in beautifully and we cannot wait to see them flourish in the year ahead.

We began the week reflecting on last weekend's Gospel story. We were reminded that to be a friend of Jesus, we must put our loyalty to him before anything else. Being loyal to Jesus is not always easy, he asks us to take up our cross which sometimes means doing difficult things. Let us reflect as we think of ways we can show this such as, loving our neighbour, setting aside quiet time each day to pray or demonstrating our CARES values each and every day.

Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!

At St Stephen's, we believe that good attendance is the key to success. When children are in school every day, they build strong learning habits, develop friendships, and grow in confidence. Even one or two days of absence can mean missed lessons, gaps in understanding, and extra challenges for your child to catch up. A reminder that term time holidays will not be authorised under any circumstances and will most likely result in the Local Authority issuing a fixed penalty notice.

Our Whole School Target for the year is: 97%

We would also like to remind parents and carers about the importance of children staying in school until the end of the school day. Collecting children early, even by 15–20 minutes, can mean missing out on valuable learning time, instructions for homework, or end-of-day routines that help children feel prepared and organised. Early pickups can also cause disruption for teachers, other pupils, and our very busy office staff!

Please support your child by:

- Ensuring they arrive on time every morning, ready to learn.
- Booking medical and dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Keeping early collections to a minimum and only when absolutely necessary.
- Talking positively about school and encouraging regular attendance.

Together, we can give our children the very best chance to succeed, enjoy learning, and make the most of every school day.

Our Values: St Stephen's CARES

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service



#TEAMSTSTEPHENS

Mission Statement

'Love one another, as I have loved you.' John 13:34

WEBSITE: www.stsrcp.school TEL: 0161 370 2071



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A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN CONTINUED...

Mrs Pomfret

We are delighted to welcome our new Pastoral Leader, Mrs Pomfret, who joins our safeguarding team alongside myself, Mr Lavin, and our Safeguarding Lead, Miss Dempsey. In her role, Mrs Pomfret will be working closely with families, offering support and guidance, as well as signposting to appropriate services where needed. A key part of her role will involve monitoring and analysing attendance patterns, and she will be actively challenging attendance that falls below our whole school target of 97% to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed. Mrs Pomfret is approachable, supportive, and always here to help – please don't hesitate to contact her via the school office if you would like to speak with her.

A few notices/reminders:

- **Times Table Rockstars** - We are having a huge push on Times Table Rockstars at school at the moment. We would love for the children to access this at home too. Children should have their login details. It would be great if everyone could log on over the weekend and spend some time having a go!
- **Dinner Orders** - Please do try and pre-order your child's school meal with them in advance. It is really time consuming for teachers to do this each morning. If you need help with your login please contact the school office.

Next week:

Meet the Teacher - On Wednesday 17th September you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher.

Please do try and attend if you can; all the information will be emailed out to you if you are not able to attend. Please see the table below for the locations:

Nursery	Nursery Building
Reception	Reception Classrooms
Year 1	Infant Corridor
Year 2	Infant Corridor
Year 3	Mrs Herbert's classroom
Year 4	Mrs Bilic's classroom
Year 5	Miss Seville's classroom
Year 6	Year 6 Building

Have a fantastic weekend - c'mon City! Mr Lavin, Headteacher

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St Stephen's RC Primary School Calendar 2025-2026

Autumn 1 Term (38 days)		
Staff INSET (1)	Monday 1st September 2025	School Closed
Staff INSET (2)	Tuesday 2nd September 2025	School Closed
School reopens	Wednesday 3rd September 2025	School Opens
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 24th October 2025	Half term begins at 3:15pm

Autumn 2 Term (35 days)		
School reopens	Monday 3rd November 2025	School Opens
School closes for Christmas	Friday 19th December 2025	School closes at 1:30pm

Spring 1 Term (28 days)		
Staff INSET (3)	Monday 5th January 2026	School Closed
School reopens	Tuesday 6th January 2026	School Opens
Emmaus CAT Wide INSET (4)	Friday 6th February 2026	School Closed
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 13th February 2026	Half term begins at 3:15pm

Spring 2 Term (29 days)		
School reopens	Monday 23rd February 2026	
School closes for Easter	Thursday 2nd April 2026	School closes at 1:30pm

Summer 1 Term (29 days)		
School reopens	Monday 13th April 2026	School Opens
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026	School Closed
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 22nd May 2026	Half term begins at 3:15pm

Summer 2 Term (30 days)		
School reopens	Monday 8th June 2026	School Opens
School closes for Summer	Friday 17th July 2026	School closes at 1:30pm
Staff INSET (5)	Monday 20th July 2026	School Closed
Staff INSET (6)	Tuesday 21st July 2026	School Closed

189 School days + 6 INSET = 195 days

Staff INSET - School closed for pupils

Monday 1st September 2025	School Closed for INSET
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	School Closed for INSET
Monday 5th January 2026	School Closed for INSET
Friday 6th February 2026	School Closed for INSET
Monday 20th July 2026	School Closed for INSET
Tuesday 21st July 2026	School Closed for INSET

Bank Holidays

Thursday 25th December 2025	Bank Holiday for Christmas Day
Friday 26th December 2025	Bank Holiday for Boxing Day
Thursday 1st January 2026	Bank Holiday for New Year's Day
Friday 3rd April 2026	Good Friday
Monday 6th April 2026	Easter Monday
Monday 4th May 2026	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 25th May 2026	Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 31st August 2026	Summer Bank Holiday

The table above shows 190 pupil school days and 5 INSET days. Any application for leave of absence during term time will only be considered by the headteacher if there are exceptional circumstances that warrant granting leave. Please note: Family holidays should not be taken during term time.



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Dates for your calendar - Autumn 1

Week Beginning 15th September 2025

Date	Event
17.09.25	Meet The Teacher 3:25pm
19.09.25	Year 1,2,3 Mass 10am

Week Beginning 22nd September 2025

Date	Event
22.09.25	Year 2 - Great Fire of London Workshop
25.09.25	6GB Class Assembly 9:05am
26.09.25	Macmillan Coffee Morning 9am School Hall Reception and Year 6 Mass European Languages Day - Spanish Theme Dress Up

Week Beginning 29th September 2025

Date	Event
30.09.25	Y5LS Retreat in school
01.10.25	Y5CP Retreat in school
02.10.25	Y6DF Class Assembly 9:05am
03.10.25	Year 4 and 5 Mass at 10am

Week Beginning 6th October 2025

Date	Event
09.10.25	5LS Class Assembly 9:05am
10.10.25	Year 1, 2 and 3 Mass 10am

Week Beginning 13th October 2025

Date	Event
13.10.25	6GB Stay and Pray
14.10.25	6DF Stay and Pray
16.10.25	5CP Class Assembly 9:05am
17.10.25	Reception and Year 6 Mass

Week Beginning 20th October 2025

Date	Event
20.10.25	Y4HG Stay and Pray
22.10.25	Y4HB Stay and Pray
23.10.25	Parents Evening
24.10.25	Whole School Mass 10am Fire Safety Day/Afternoon Half Term Begins



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Georgie & Mary
RNE	Elsie
RAB	Marnie
Y1AL	Flora
Y1LB	Isobel
Y2JL	Myles
Y2LW	Phoebe
Y3MD	David
Y3LH	Leo
Y4HG	Adriel
Y4HB	Isla
Y5CP	Ruby
Y5LS	Klayson
Y6GB	Davina
Y6DF	Serenity

Readers of the Week



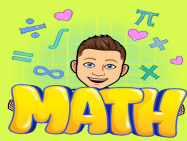
Nursery	Pearl
RNE	Layla-Mai
RAB	Skye
Y1AL	Lua
Y1LB	Erin
Y2JL	William
Y2LW	Leon
Y3MD	Sienna
Y3LH	Eli
Y4HG	Annie
Y4HB	Harrison
Y5CP	Kianna
Y5LS	Caoimhe
Y6GB	Charlotte
Y6DF	Godwin

1% BETTER





Maths Star



Nursery	Elsa
RNE	Luca
RAB	Ruben
Y1AL	Harlow
Y1LB	
Y2JL	Harper
Y2LW	James
Y3MD	Frankie
Y3LH	Sayo
Y4HG	Jake
Y4HB	Milliane
Y5CP	Samuel
Y5LS	Emily
Y6GB	Riley-James
Y6DF	Freya

Writing Star



Nursery	Ronnie
RNE	Bessie
RAB	Arla
Y1AL	Nova
Y1LB	Aahil
Y2JL	Tilly
Y2LW	Ivy-Beau
Y3MD	River
Y3LH	Muzaffar
Y4HG	Kaiden
Y4HB	Thomas F
Y5CP	Brooke
Y5LS	Poppy
Y6GB	Isla
Y6DF	Jacob

1%
BETTER





Attendance League

NAM	100%	Y3LH	98.3%
NPM	98.5%	Y3MD	98.5%
RNE	96.8%	Y4HG	92.3%
RAB	98.6%	Y4HB	92%
Y1AL	92%	Y5LS	91.8%
Y1LB	99.4%	Y5CP	98.6%
Y2JL	97.8%	Y6GB	88.5%
Y2LW	96.6%	Y6DF	94.6%

St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: NAM	3	5th: 1AL	0
2nd: 1LB	2	6th: 2LW	0
3rd: RAB	1	7th: 2JL	0
3rd: RNE	1		
4th: NFD	0		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 5CP	3	6th: 5LS	0
2nd: 3MD	2	7th: 6DF	0
3rd: 3LH	1	8th: 6GB	0
4th: 4HG	0		
5th: 4HB	0		

**Wednesday 10th September 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to you and to your family as we begin this new school year.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us. Jesus' great act of love, of self-giving, on the cross, has paved the way for people to share in the true richness of God's joy and love in this life, and also in the life to come.

God wants us to try to live like Jesus, to be 'self-giving', which is the opposite of being 'selfish'. To be 'self-giving' is to be very aware of others' needs or interests, and to put others' needs before our own.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough

**A Word from
the Saints**

"Love each other as Jesus has loved us. He has given nothing less than his life for us." St Teresa of Calcutta

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 14th September 2025

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven - that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved."

*Adapted from John 3:13-17
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

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**

It is self-giving which makes people truly great, warmly remembered and deeply loved. The happiest people on earth are actually those who are self-giving and serve others. So enjoy your week together - bring peace and joy into your home and community by sharing God's love, through your self-giving.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus said to Nicodemus (who was a teacher of the law), "No one has gone up into heaven except the one who came down from heaven - that is, the Son of Man. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have everlasting life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world; he sent him to save the world."

Why did God send his Son into the world?

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...

"It is in giving that we receive."

St Francis of Assisi

Ask your child what 'self-giving' means to them. Who are the most self-giving people that they know? In what ways are those people self-giving? Ask your child if they can remember the last time when they shared their sweets, their time, their toys, or gave something up to help make someone else happy. It may help your child if you can talk about someone you know to be self-giving, and say why.

How can we be self-giving, even in little ways, at home, at school or in the community? Perhaps we can: offer to help out at school or around the house before we're asked; be polite and let others go first; take time to offer praise where we can; be first to reach out and make friends again after an argument; give some of our leisure time to be with God in prayer; pray for someone in need.

SELF-GIVING



3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us, and for all the kind people in our community who show us your way of love and self-giving. Amen.

FINDING THREE

W O L R D T P D J E J S
P D O C S Z O U S E J O
G A V E S G D N S N S H
I P E T W Y L U F A S W
V T S E N A S W I N V J
E H O R N S D A L I F E
E T E R N A L V W P S S
O W E N W V R E O E N U
A T V L I E O R V D L S
E Y A A G P W O R L D E
O D G O O D L A F I S H
H W O H D A E F I L O P

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN



GOD LOVES

GAVE JESUS

SAVE WORLD

ETERNAL LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **i u k** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

guaviek Skouni kloviedu woukrild

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God _____ the
_____ so much that he _____ his only _____."

We prove our love by our actions. It's our self-giving which helps to make the world a much better place. To truly follow Jesus we must be kind and self-giving.



This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





Nursery

A warm welcome to St Stephen's RC Nursery.

The children this week have been busy settling into their new setting exploring their new classroom environment both indoors and outdoors.

We have loved getting to know each other and making friends.

We have focused on learning our Nursery rules and routine this week and have enjoyed listening to lots of stories, singing and dancing.

We have especially enjoyed singing 'Wind the bobbin up' during our morning carpet time session and learning each other's names.

In RE, we have been learning how to say our dinnertime prayer and how to make the sign of the cross.

Next week we are looking forward to starting our Literacy story focus 'The 3 Little Pigs'.

Question- What have you enjoyed about Nursery this week?

Reception

What a fantastic first full week in Reception – and it has definitely been a busy one! The children are settling well and are already beginning to get to know their new routines. Well done, Reception!

This week, the children have completed their first phonics sessions, where they learnt how to say, recognise, and form the letters s, a, t, p correctly. Some helpful sheets have been sent via Dojo to support practice at home.

In Maths, we explored our counting skills with the help of Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons.

In Literacy, we started our first core text, Monkey Puzzle. We summarised the story, sequenced the events, and thought about the baby monkey's feelings at different points. Emojis helped us to show how the monkey was feeling.

In RE, we talked about the things in God's world that make us say "WOW!" We went on a WOW walk and spotted so many wonderful things. Can you find any WOW things near where you live?

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Question:

What do we slither down to form the letter s?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year One

What a fantastic start a new school year our Year 1 children have made! We began the new academic year by focusing on one of our core values, 'Compassion'. We read and re-told the story of the Good Samaritan, and we linked this value to the work of Mother Teresa. This week in R.E, we have been learning the Creation Story and recalling what God made that was good.

In English, we have been building on our Reception knowledge of 'I can see' sentences. We have been describing a beach scene using these and building up to writing our own sentences.

In Maths, we have been counting within 10. We have looked at how to represent numbers using objects, and counting on from given numbers.

In Science, we identified and labelled different parts of the human body.

Question: What did God make that was good?

Year Two

What a fantastic start to the academic year in year 2! The children have been enthusiastic, hard-working and conscientious. We couldn't be more proud of them!

In RE, we have been exploring our school mission and identifying what 'Love one another as I have loved you' means to us. We also researched our core value of 'Service'. We read John 13: 1-17, identifying how Jesus served others and how we can emulate him in our everyday lives. Finally, in RE, we linked our learning to the life of St Martin De Porres, who dedicated his life to serving others.

Our grammar unit in English this week has focused on common and proper nouns. The children sorted nouns into the two categories, converted common to proper nouns and applied their skills to writing sentences using colourful semantics.

Place value has been the focus for learning in Maths, with the children identifying missing numbers and partitioning two digit numbers into tens and ones, supported by equipment and images.

Finally, we enjoyed a superb Forest School session with Mrs Artingstall. This was linked to our Science unit of Animal Survival and included a visit to our new Hedgehog Hideout.

Question: What do animals need to survive?



Year Three

It has been a pleasure to welcome Year 3 back to school and we have made a brilliant start to the year. The children have all been working very hard and showing us how 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' they are being around school.

In R.E. this week we have been researching the life of the 'Joyful Saint', Saint Philip Neri, who believed that joy and laughter brought us closer to God. The children wrote a fantastic set of instructions on how to lead a joyful life, inspired by Saint Philip.

In our Grammar lessons this week, we have been revising identifying common and proper nouns, using them in sentences alongside the correct punctuation.

In Science, we have been looking at the human skeleton and its function. We were all surprised to learn that babies are born with more bones than an adult has when they are fully grown!

Question: In which part of the body would you find the femur?

Year Four

We have really enjoyed our first full week of school. The children have all settled in very well and are working hard.

Today was very special as we enjoyed a Celebration of the Word themed around Hope in Creation. This was to celebrate the Season of Creation. The children have enjoyed learning all about St Catherine of Siena and exploring how she showed excellence throughout her life.

In Maths we have made a good start on Place Value which included looking at what a thousand is made up of. Times tables are very important this year so the children have already revised their 2's and 3's. In English, we have been revisiting basic sentence construction as well as parts of speech. We have begun our History topic on Egypt by comparing what was happening in Egypt with what was happening in Britain at a similar time.

Question: What were pyramids used for in Ancient Egypt?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Five

We have made a flying start to life in Year 5, with the children settling in well.

They have started their learning with RE looking at the Parable of the Talents and wrote a diary note as Saint Paul explaining his miracle.

In English we have revisited independent clauses and then how to super size our sentences by adding a further independent clause all joined together by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS).

In History we have stepped back in time to learn all about the Ancient Maya and all their fantastic creations.

Science this term is Forces and the children have started with learning about Friction.

Question: In which part of the world would you find the Ancient Maya?

Year Six

Wow - what a wonderful start to Year 6! This week, the children have completed their baseline practice SATs assessments. Completing these has highlighted the children's resilience as well as their fantastic efforts and attitudes as they strive for excellence. Well done Year 6!

In PSHE, we have completed work around the Zones of Regulation. The children had a fantastic understanding of the Zones, which emotion correlated to each zone as well as developing coping strategies they can utilise to support them regulating their own emotions effectively.

RE has focused on Bishop John and his role in the Salford Diocese. The children produced some wonderful fact files - highlighting his impact, his connections to Laudato Si and his impact.

Question: Can you explain two different breathing techniques to help self regulation?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe