



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 28th November 2025

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

... Another busy week at St Stephen's has come to a close - I can't quite believe there is only three weeks left of this term. This week has been Assessment Week - children have taken part in assessments in Maths and Reading. The children have worked extremely hard and I am so pleased with the progress they are making. These assessments help teachers to understand where there are gaps in learning and ensure children are progressing well with the curriculum. A huge well done to everyone!

We also had an Early Years (Nursery and Reception) review this week by our School Improvement Partner from Emmaus. It was extremely positive and they were very impressed with the teaching and learning across the phase. We are committed to giving children the very best start in their education journey and we are doing just that here at St Stephen's! Well done everyone!

Christmas season is upon us and I cannot wait to see the preparations for the various performances to start. This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season of hope, anticipation, and spiritual preparation. As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath - the Candle of Hope - we are invited to pause and reflect on God's promises and the light that Christ brings into a world longing for peace.

The First Sunday of Advent reminds us to stay awake, to watch, and to cultivate a hopeful expectation in our daily lives. In the midst of busy schedules and early holiday rush, Advent calls us to slow down and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ - both in the celebration of His birth and in the renewal He brings to our lives today.

May this season encourage us to live with renewed hope, to look for signs of God's presence around us, and to share that hope with others.

Christmas Fair - Thank you so much to our PTA and the Church Community for coming together to hold such a fantastic Christmas Fair. I am always so grateful for the hard work and dedication that goes into organising these events. A huge thank you to all involved and to you for your continued support in raising vital funds for school.

Year 3 - Thank you our Year 3 children for sharing a wonderful class assembly this week. As always, thank you for taking the time to attend. Class Assemblies will resume in the New Year and I will provide the dates in the final newsletter of the term.

Christmas Coffee Morning - Our Pupil Parliament Team have planned an event for our Parishioners and for families on Friday 5th December. Refreshments will be served from 9:00am in the School Hall and there will be a few songs performed from our Christmas Productions. Spread the word to your families.

Have a brilliant weekend, *Mr Lavin, Headteacher*

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



Dates for your calendar - Autumn 2

Week Beginning 1st December 2025

Date	Event
01.12.25	Y4HB Retreat in School
02.12.25	Y4HG Retreat in School
05.12.25	Y1, 2 and 3 Mass at 10am
05.12.25	Pupil Parliament Christmas Coffee Morning 9:00am School Hall

Week Beginning 15th December 2025

Date	Event
16.12.25	KS2 Carol Service 2pm in Church
17.12.25	Christmas Dinner Day
18.12.25	Christmas Party Day - Own Clothes
19.12.25	Whole School Mass at 10am
19.12.25	Christmas Holiday starts 1:30pm
06.01.26	School Reopens

Week Beginning 8th December 2025

Date	Event
09.12.25	Nursery Nativity School Hall 9:30am
10.12.25	Reception Nativity School Hall 9:30am for RAB Parents
11.12.25	Reception Nativity School Hall 9:30am for RNE Parents
11.12.25	Year 1 Carol Concert 2:30pm School Hall
11.12.25	Christmas Jumper Day
12.12.25	Y2 Play 9:30am School Hall



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Albert & Chance
RNE	Betsy
RAB	Rudy
Y1AL	Lily-Mae
Y1LB	William
Y2JL	Tommy
Y2LW	Blake
Y3MD	Hana
Y3LH	Deedee
Y4HG	Bella
Y4HB	Esme
Y5CP	Samuel
Y5LS	Lillie-Mae
Y6GB	Lola
Y6DF	Joshua

Readers of the Week



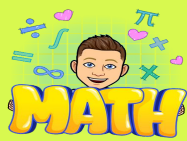
Nursery	Pearl
RNE	Bobby
RAB	Esmae
Y1AL	Nehneh
Y1LB	Alani
Y2JL	Noah
Y2LW	Bella
Y3MD	Berrie-Mae
Y3LH	Maisie
Y4HG	Valerie
Y4HB	Isabelle
Y5CP	Evelyn
Y5LS	Riley
Y6GB	Laicee
Y6DF	Moise

1% BETTER





Maths Star



Nursery	Georgie
RNE	Olivia
RAB	Eleanor
Y1AL	Wyatt
Y1LB	Kofi
Y2JL	Jeremy
Y2LW	
Y3MD	Noah
Y3LH	Freddie
Y4HG	Michelle
Y4HB	Sophie
Y5CP	Jensen
Y5LS	Emmanuella
Y6GB	Daisy
Y6DF	Angel

Writing Star



Nursery	Pearl
RNE	Lennie
RAB	Maddox
Y1AL	Ayrah
Y1LB	Natalia
Y2JL	Harper
Y2LW	
Y3MD	Rose
Y3LH	Hazel
Y4HG	Annie
Y4HB	Raya-Mae
Y5CP	Eliza
Y5LS	Jacob
Y6GB	Caelan
Y6DF	Serenity

**1%
BETTER**





St Stephen's RCP

NEWSLETTER

Attendance League

NAM	87.5%	Y3LH	88.8%
NPM	97.6%	Y3MD	96.6%
RNE	88.6%	Y4HG	94.7%
RAB	70.3%	Y4HB	92.5%
Y1AL	94.1%	Y5LS	91.8%
Y1LB	93%	Y5CP	96.7%
Y2JL	86.4%	Y6GB	81.7%
Y2LW	93%	Y6DF	90.5%

St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: IAL	20	5th: RAB	5
2nd: ILB	14	5th: 2LW	5
3rd: NPM	9	6th: NAM	3
4th: 2JL	8		
5th: RNE	6		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 4HG	19	5th: 6GB	5
2nd: 6DF	15	6th: 3LH	3
3rd: 5CP	8	7th: 5LS	2
4th: 3MD	7		
5th: 4HB	5		

#TEAMSTSTEPHENS



Religious Education

Sacramental Programme

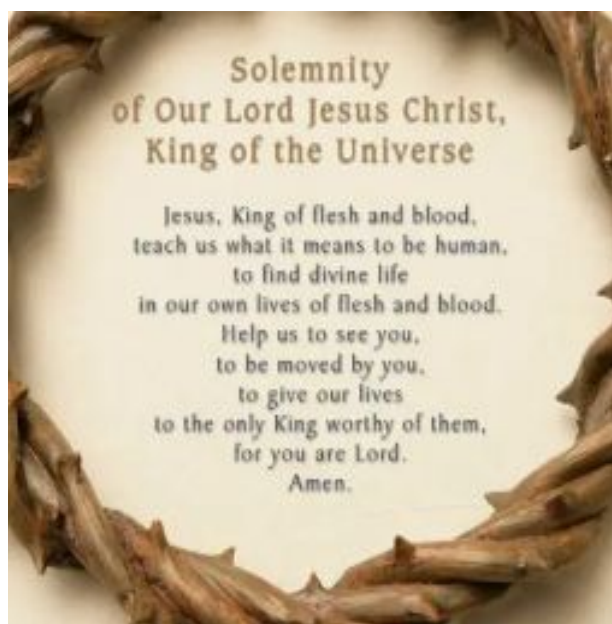
On Sunday, our amazing Year 3 children were presented to the parish in preparation for them to begin the Sacramental Programme. The children led the readings in Mass and sang beautifully.

Please pray for our children as they continue to grow their faith and prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Christ the King

Christ the King is a special celebration in the church calendar that reminds us that Jesus is our leader and guide. On this day, we think about how we can show kindness, love and fairness to others, just as Jesus taught. It is the final Sunday of the Church year, helping us to look back with thanks and look forward with hope. As a school, we celebrate by reflecting on how we can follow Jesus' example every day.

Prayer of the Week



Caritas Award

All our Year 6 children have been awarded the Caritas Award for their amazing effort in Safety Squad.

They displayed a great knowledge of their rights and responsibilities and all participated! Well done!





Dear Parents and Carers,

The season of Advent begins this Sunday.

Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth - God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

Advent is also the season of hope: a time to think deeply about Jesus' return at the end of time, which we read about in this Sunday's Gospel.

Wednesday 26th November 2025

So let's use this season of Advent to be open to welcome the Lord, to make a fresh start and to draw closer to God. The message is clear for all of us: we are to stand ready!

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ADVENT**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from
the **Saints**

"Advent is like a springtime, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 30th November 2025



Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking and having a good time, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this: that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because you do not know when the Son of Man is coming."

*Adapted from Luke Matthew 24: 37-44
The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year A*

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

2025 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf ▶

Having Hope
in our **Families**

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditional Advent wreaths have a candle to light on each Sunday of Advent which reminds us of the light that Christ brings into our world.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay alert! Nobody knows when I will come back so you must always be ready. You can be sure that if the owners of a house knew at what time of night a thief was coming, they would stay awake and wouldn't let the thief break in. So, you must always be ready, because you do not know when I shall return."

What did Jesus say we must always be?

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 the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in each one of us memories of goodness." Pope Benedict XVI

Advent helps us get ready for Christmas and reminds us that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into our world. Ask your child what else they know about Advent. What do they like best about this season which leads up to Christmas? Advent is an opportunity to be spiritually refreshed and helps us get ready for Christmas. You may want to share with your child what you know and like best about the season of Advent.



Advent is a time to make an extra effort to be more loving towards God and our neighbours. As a family, how can you prepare well through Advent - to 'stay awake', to be ready to welcome Jesus? Perhaps you can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need; be a peacemaker; put up a crib, Advent wreath and Advent calendar; make a special effort to let other family members know how much you love them - through your words and actions.

ADVENT



3 Dear Lord Jesus, help us to 'stay awake' and to be aware of your presence in the people that we meet in this Advent season. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

THIS SUNDAY

ADVENT BEGINS

ALWAYS READY

JESUS RETURN

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

Cross out the letters **ifl** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

bafclik refadily knolwifs Sittfayl

"_____ alert! Nobody _____ when I will
come _____ so you must always be _____."

Advent is a time to do more good deeds.
Even small good deeds bring more of Christ's light into our world and make us ready to welcome Jesus at any time.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Nursery

This week in Nursery we have completed our learning about Autumn.

We have consolidated our learning and have worked really hard learning lots of new vocabulary such as hibernate and nocturnal.

In Maths, we completed our learning of the number 2. We can recognise this number, sing songs and subitise. We loved going on a number hunt around our nursery outdoor area earlier on in the week looking for different coloured numbers 2s. It was lots of fun! Our number recognition was great too!

In Phonics we have been busy learning the nursery rhyme 'Hickory, Dickory, Dock' and creating actions for the rhyme also. Our sound focus this week has been the 'P' sound- we know that pizza, pen, pencil, pin and penguin all begin with this sound.

We have enjoyed learning about Christ the King in our focused carpet time sessions, we know that it is a special time to celebrate Jesus, that Jesus teaches us to love, Jesus is Kind and Jesus is always with us.

We shared with each other who we all love and the special reasons why we love them.

In RE, we have been learning about the Annunciation, we know that God sent Jesus to love us and that Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his Son.

Our Christmas Nativity rehearsals are well underway!

We can't wait to perform for you on **Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am** in the School Hall.

This years nativity is called 'A wriggly nativity!'

*Question- If an animal is nocturnal, when does it sleep? In the day time or at night time?
Can you name any nocturnal animals?*

Reception

The weeks are flying by! This week, we have started our new topic all about Christmas and celebrations.

Our new class text is "Jesus' Christmas Party" and we have really immersed ourselves in the story. The children have written story summaries, sequenced the events, and explored how the innkeeper felt at different moments.

In our snack and recall sessions, we have begun learning our key statements:

1. Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

2. Mary is Jesus' mother.

3. Not all people celebrate Christmas.

In maths, we have been learning about shapes with four sides and shapes that do not have four sides. The children have been using key vocabulary such as sides and corners to explain their thinking.

In RE, we moved on to the next part of the first Christmas story, when the shepherds came to visit baby Jesus. We sequenced this part of the story and learnt what the host of angels sang to them:

"Glory to God." We also enjoyed a lovely class mass in church all about winter.

We are now well under way with our nativity rehearsals. If your child has a speaking part, please do continue to practise at home.

Have a lovely weekend!

Question: A circle is a 2D shape with 4 sides. True or false? Why?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year One

This week has been assessment week and we are so proud of the resilience our Year 1 children have shown during this.

In R.E, we examined artwork of the birth of Jesus and reflected on what they tell us about Jesus. We also listened to the words of Luke's Gospel describing the angels' message to the shepherds.

In Celebration of the Word, we reflected on this week's Gospel through meditation as we enter the first week of Advent.

In Geography, we have built on our knowledge of the four countries of the United Kingdom by naming the capital cities of these countries.

We ended the week with a PSHE lesson where we thought about how God loves us. Alongside this, we have been practising our carol service; we are so impressed with how the children are learning their lines and the songs!

Question: What did the angels tell the shepherds?

Year Two

This week has been assessment week across school. The children have been working hard to complete assessments in Reading, Maths and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. We are very proud of their achievements. Well done Year 2!

In English, we have started our new unit of work based on 'Little Robin Red Vest' by Jan Fearnley. Using colourful semantics, the children explored creating list sentences incorporating both conjunctions and commas. They identified examples and non-examples and fixed errors in punctuation and structure.

In Geography, we used compass points to identify the location of continents and oceans in relation to each other. We also explored climates across all seven continents before drawing weather symbols on a map of the world. The children could understand and explain that the climate is hotter in continents closer to the equator. They also recognised that large continents, such as Asia, can experience very different climates in the north and south.

RE this week has centred around what we know about Mary and her various titles. The children made links to the Hail Mary and Elizabeth's realisation that Mary is the Blessed One during the Visitation.

Which continent has the coldest climate? Why?



Year Three

It has been another busy week in Year 3.

This week has been assessment week and all children have worked hard and tried their best as they completed assessments in Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. Well done to Year 3 for their mature attitude towards their work!

Yesterday was our first class assembly of the year and we were so proud of how well the children showcased their work in R.E., History and Art. Everyone read and sang so beautifully. Thank you to all parents, grandparents, carers and friends who attended our assembly.

In R.E. this week we have been looking at what happens during mass and we enjoyed writing about what happens during each part.

In English, we have been looking at different adverbials to add more detail to our sentences.

Question: What happens in mass during the Liturgy of the Word?

Year Four

The children have all worked hard this week to complete assessments in English and Maths.

We also began our first Geography unit which is about Spain. In the first lesson we looked at Spain's location and noted the countries and seas surrounding it.

In Spanish, we completed our unit on 'The Seasons' by writing a sentence for each one and saying which our favourite season is.

In RE, we looked at what happens during the mass, noting in detail what both the congregation and the priest do during different parts of service.

In Science we began a new unit on States of Matter. In the first lesson we learnt the characteristics of solids, liquids and gases, giving examples of each one.

In English we planned and began to write our own pieces of writing. The children had to rewrite the beginning of the story 'The Lost Happy Endings.'

Question: What is a 'monstrance'?



Year Five

This week the children have been completing the Maths, Reading and GAPS assessments, working incredibly hard showing how much they have already learnt this term.

The children have started a new topic in RE called Prophecy and Promise and already learnt about some of God's chosen leaders. We have looked at Samuel, Joseph and Saul, leading to David being anointed the new King.

In Maths the children have started looking at fractions, they are revisiting equivalent fractions at present.

In English the children are about to start their own independent write and have been learning how to include expanded noun phrases, prepositional phrases and relative clauses to make their sentences more interesting.

And finally the children have started a new topic in Geography - Brazil. They have learnt where Brazil is and how to locate it on a map.

Which Continent is Brazil located in?

Year Six

What an excellent week we have had in Year 6!

Firstly, we had a visit from Safety Squad, who talked with the children about Digital Safety, Fire Safety and Peer Pressure. All of the children joined in with the discussions and behaved impeccably throughout. The sessions were extremely informative and should be extremely useful for the future.

In Maths, we have concentrated on decimals this week. Initially, this focused on the place value of decimals and then moved on to adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals.

Our English work has been centred around our class reading book, which is A Christmas Carol. We have looked at modal verbs, semicolons and fronted adverbials. The children did a fantastic job of applying their learning into writing about Scrooge and the ghosts who visited him.

Finally, our R.E. work on leaders has continued this week. We have particularly looked at Joshua, Samuel and Saul who were all leaders in the Bible but to different levels of success. We created fact files and interpreted scripture in the lead-up to David being anointed as King.

Question: Why did Samuel grieve Saul even though he was still alive?