



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 5th December 2025

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN... Happy Friday! Another busy week at St Stephen's comes to the close! Our younger classes are putting the final touches to their performances and are very excited to show you all!

Second Sunday of Advent - This Sunday's Gospel invites us to do more than just prepare our homes - it calls us to prepare our hearts. In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist encourages everyone to "repent" — to turn back toward God, to reflect, and to make space for Christ in our lives. This kind of "repentance" isn't about guilt — it's a positive, hopeful act: an opportunity to change, to re-orient ourselves, and to grow in love and kindness. As we step closer to Christmas, let's use this season to welcome God's love more fully into our lives. Let's be ready to receive - and to share - that love with everyone we meet.

Advent Prayer Trail - I'm delighted to share that this week we were selected - along with only two other schools across the entire diocese - to host a Prayer Trail created by the Laudato Si Centre based in Wardley Hall. This was a wonderful honour for our community and an exciting opportunity for our children to take part in a meaningful and reflective experience. A huge thank you to Mrs Artingstall for supporting the Laudato Si children in leading this year's Prayer Trail.

Year 6 Visit to Little Sisters of the Poor - Year 6 had a heart-warming visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor Care Home, where they shared some of their poetry. Their thoughtful words and confident delivery brought joy and companionship to the residents, and we are grateful for the warm welcome we received. Thank you to Miss Leigh for organising this opportunity.

Year 4 Advent Retreat Days - Mrs Farmer led Year 4 in two beautiful retreat days focusing on the season of Advent. These reflective sessions provided the children with time and space to prepare spiritually, deepening their understanding of this special time of year.

Class Mass for Years 1, 2, and 3 - Years 1, 2 and 3 celebrated a lovely class Mass together. The children participated reverently and prayerfully, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence in their faith.

Christmas Coffee Morning - Thank you to all parents and families who attended our Christmas Coffee Morning, organised and led by Miss Seville and our Pupil Parliament. Your support helped make the event joyful and successful, and it was a lovely way for our community to gather together as we move closer to Christmas. Miss Seville is still taking donations for toys for the Tameside Christmas Toy appeal. Please send in any further donations to the school office. Thank you!

Next Week: Next week proves to be a very busy week with the various plays and productions starting, so please do look over the calendar on the next page for key dates.

Have a lovely 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 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

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



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Henry & Palmer
RNE	Penelope
RAB	Lily
Y1AL	Christoforos
Y1LB	Alice
Y2JL	Nancy
Y2LW	Vinnie
Y3MD	Octavia
Y3LH	Myla
Y4HG	Jacob
Y4HB	Thomas F
Y5CP	Thomas
Y5LS	Freya
Y6GB	Saul
Y6DF	Oscar

Readers of the Week



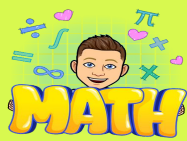
Nursery	Teni
RNE	Phoenix
RAB	Marnie
Y1AL	Dustie
Y1LB	Romie
Y2JL	Victoria
Y2LW	Noah
Y3MD	Finley
Y3LH	Natty
Y4HG	Linen
Y4HB	Oscar
Y5CP	Eva
Y5LS	Emily
Y6GB	Layla B
Y6DF	Bobby

**1%
BETTER**





Maths Star



Nursery	Arlo
RNE	Jayden
RAB	Thomas
Y1AL	Cole
Y1LB	James
Y2JL	Aurora
Y2LW	Fabian
Y3MD	Abigail
Y3LH	Evie-Rose
Y4HG	Gavriel
Y4HB	Leo
Y5CP	Ivy
Y5LS	Muwaffaq
Y6GB	Amella
Y6DF	Freddie

Writing Star



Nursery	Mary
RNE	Jack
RAB	Matilda
Y1AL	Eddison
Y1LB	Emily
Y2JL	Kayson
Y2LW	Evie
Y3MD	Zainab
Y3LH	Aaliyah
Y4HG	Lexie
Y4HB	Pati
Y5CP	Luna
Y5LS	Alex
Y6GB	Poppy
Y6DF	Isla

1%
BETTER





Attendance League

NAM	95.8%	Y3LH	91.4%
NPM	94.2%	Y3MD	90.5%
RNE	94.3%	Y4HG	97.3%
RAB	92.3%	Y4HB	87.4%
Y1AL	90.7%	Y5LS	89.5%
Y1LB	99.1%	Y5CP	91.7%
Y2JL	84.8%	Y6GB	88.9%
Y2LW	81.1%	Y6DF	97%

St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1			
Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	20	6th: RAB	5
2nd: 1LB	17	6th: 2LW	5
3rd: NPM	9	6th: NAM	5
4th: 2JL	8		
5th: RNE	7		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2			
Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 4HG	22	5th: 6GB	5
2nd: 6DF	17	6th: 3LH	3
3rd: 5CP	9	7th: 5LS	2
4th: 3MD	7		
5th: 4HB	5		

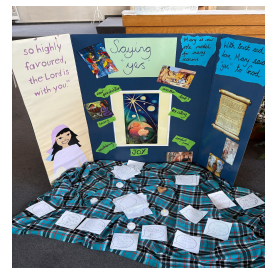


Religious Education

Prayer Trail

Thank you to our Laudato Si team for leading us in a beautiful Advent Prayer Trail.

- ✨ We thought about what it means to say "yes" – just like Mary said yes to God.
- ✨ We talked about the special journeys we make, just like Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem.
- ✨ We remembered the real reason for Christmas – celebrating Jesus' birthday together.
- ✨ And we reflected on the journey Mary, Joseph and Jesus made to Jerusalem, thinking about how Joseph kept his family safe even with no time to pack. It reminded us how lucky we are to be able to prepare for our own journey



Prayer of the Week

Prayer during Advent

Loving God, you have always loved us,
since the beginning of time
and long before we were born.
As we light our Advent candles, we look forward
to welcoming Jesus, our brother and your Son.
He is your gift to us.
Thank you for sending Jesus to us.
Amen



Caritas Award

Well done to our Year 6 children
who shared poetry with residents
of the Little Sisters of the Poor
care home.
They displayed Human Dignity
beautifully!





Dear Parents and Carers,

Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all these festivities. It's important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) and to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival.

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Christian 'repentance' is a wholly positive experience when we invite God into our lives and take a grip on ourselves, changing some of our ways or even, maybe, our direction in life.

So let's listen to John the Baptist and prepare our hearts well - being ready to receive and share God's love with all we meet as part of this week's Christmas **PREPARATIONS**.

Dom Henry Warsbrough



**A Word from
The Saints**

"Prepare a path for God so that he can enter your heart."

St John Baptist De La Salle

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 12th December 2025**



In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judea and this was his message: "Repent, change your ways; for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said, 'A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John said to the people, "I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

*Adapted from Matthew 3:1-12
The 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A*

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 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf

Having Hope
in our **Families**

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us to look into our hearts this Advent and see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better. This is how we can prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed. Let's not miss out!



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME

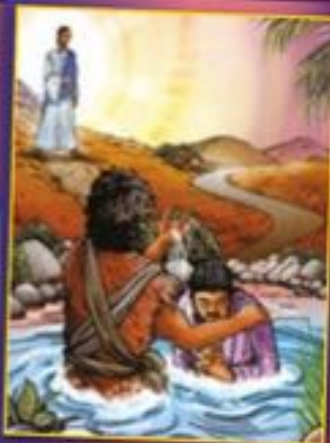


1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

John the Baptist was a prophet who lived in the desert. He wore clothes made of camel-hair and he ate locusts and wild honey. The people came to him to be baptised and confess their sins. John said to the people, "Repent; change your ways! Think about how you live and get ready to welcome the Lord! I baptise you with water, but someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am, and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

What did John tell the people to do?

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...

"God wishes us to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus with love; let us clear our hearts of all that could displease Him."

St Alphonsus Liguori

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Ask your child what the word 'preparation' means to them. When did your child last prepare for something particularly well or for something special? It may help your child if you can share something about a time when you prepared particularly well for something. How is your child preparing at school for the celebration of Jesus' birthday at Christmas?

Now is the time to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth - God's arrival into our world in the person of Jesus. As a family, how can you prepare well for Christmas? Perhaps you can: slow down and try to remember the real reason for Christmas - regularly giving thanks to God for the gift of Jesus; read the Bible's Christmas story together; go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession); make an extra effort to consider other people's needs.

PREPARATION



3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to prepare well for Christmas and show us how we can help others to do the same. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

☐ JOHN
☐ PROPHET
☐ LIVED
☐ DESERT
☐ BAPTISED
☐ PEOPLE
☐ CONFESSED
☐ SINS

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **c f o** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

refacdo y Recopefnt fowacys clifove

"_____; change your _____; think about how you _____ and get _____ to welcome the Lord."



John the Baptist prepared the people to receive Jesus. We too can prepare our hearts for Jesus by being busy doing the things that Jesus told us to do: loving God and loving one another.



Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





Nursery

Nursery have had such a busy week preparing for 'A Wiggly Nativity.' The children have worked so hard learning songs and dances and they look amazing in their costumes! We are so proud of all their hard work and can't wait to perform it to you on

Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am in the School Hall.

In class this week we have been learning all about Advent.

We know that an Advent wreath has three purple candles, one pink and one white candle.

A new candle is lit each Sunday during Advent until all four are burning.

Each candle has a different meaning.

We know it is a time when we start to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and reflect on his life.

We have also been learning about the Nativity, we can talk about the main people in the story and discuss why they are important and their role in the story.

In our focused RE sessions, we have been learning that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that the Shepherds visited the Manger.

We have enjoyed decorating our Nursery environment for Christmas this week and in our continuous provision we have enjoyed lots of Christmas themed activities.

Question- What gifts did the 3 Kings give to Baby Jesus?

Reception

We are so proud of the children this week – you are in for such a treat with our class nativity. They are working so hard and we cannot wait for you to watch their performance.

As always, we have been super busy in Reception. In Literacy, we have retold our class text "Jesus' Christmas Party" using a story map. In Maths, we have been thinking about zero, what it means and how we can represent it. In RE, we learnt about St Francis and the tradition of the Christmas crib. We also really enjoyed our time in church following the Laudato Si Prayer Trail.

We finished off the week by performing at our Christmas coffee morning, giving everyone a little sneak peek of what to expect next week.

Have a great weekend!

Question: What did St Francis want people to remember?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year One

We have had a busy and exciting week in Year One!

This week in English, we began our new story, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. The children enjoyed exploring the characters and events, and we focused especially on recognising and using irregular past-tense action verbs. In Maths, we have continued to consolidate our mental arithmetic skills within 10. In Geography, the children successfully located Manchester and Droylsden on the map and talked about what they know about these places. This week in Science we focused on materials. The children explored the classroom and identified objects made from wood, metal, plastic, and fabric. In R.E., we ordered stories from Luke and learned how Christians sing the *Gloria* like the angels did, celebrating God's presence. Year One have also been completing their phonics assessments. At this point in the year, we expect children to be reading Phase 4 Set 2 / Phase 5 Set 1 to be on track to meet the expected level in reading. Thank you for supporting reading at home—it makes a big difference.

The children were fantastic singing some of the songs from our carol service at the coffee morning. They made everyone very proud! We finished the week beautifully with a lovely Mass.

Question: Can you name a story from the bible written by Luke?

Year Two

What a busy week we have had in
Year 2!

In Maths this week, the children have impressed us with their resilience with addition and subtraction of 2 digits from another 2 digit number. In English, we have been solidifying our knowledge of commas in lists, and identifying where they should be in sentences about Little Robin Red Vest. In Geography, we have identified and located oceans from across the globe on a map. As we approach Christmas, we have been hearing the stories of the birth of John and the birth of Jesus, and using artwork to retell them from the account of Luke's Gospel. We also explored the Advent Wreath and lit our candle in Celebration of the Word. We ended the week by performing some songs from our upcoming Nativity at our coffee morning, and enjoyed attending a beautiful Mass along with Year 1 and Year 3.

Question - When did Zechariah regain the power to speak?



Year Three

This week, we attended Mass with Father C and participated in an Advent prayer trail around our church which the children really enjoyed. In RE, the children explored the Penitential Rite, learning about its significance and how it is part of our mass. They reflected on the importance of forgiveness, deepening their understanding of this essential part of the liturgy.

This week, Year 3 has been working on their times tables during our multiplication and division unit of learning. They've been exploring different strategies to help them understand and memorise the 3, 4 and 6 times tables.

In English, the children have been finishing their modelled writing on *The Tin Forest*. They've been using superlative adjectives, exclamation sentences, and adverbial phrases of time and manner to make their writing descriptive.

Question: What is the highest populated country in the United Kingdom?

Year Four

This week Year 4 enjoyed a retreat day in class with Mrs Farmer. It was a lovely time for the children to think about the season of Advent and how they can prepare for the coming of Jesus. This was done through prayer, song and quiet reflection. The children made Advent promises too. In RE we looked at 'The Gloria' prayer and discussed its meaning.

In English the children completed a piece of writing modelled by the teacher. This was all about the main character in our story, Jub. The writing had to include some of the subordinating conjunctions we have been working on.

In Maths we have worked hard on the 7 times table and the children are practising their recall of all the tables every week.

Continuing with our Geography work on Spain, we used atlases to locate some of the country's physical features.

On Wednesday the children enjoyed following the Advent Prayer Trail in church, It was a lovely opportunity to immerse themselves in Advent scripture.

Question: How do you say the 4 seasons in Spanish?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Five

This week Year 5 have been to church for the Advent Prayer Trail, which the children enjoyed. It got them to really think about the meaning of Advent. In RE we have been looking at leaders, and what characteristics they display and what makes a good leader. They have been understanding how and why David was to become the new anointed King and how Samuel felt during this transition.

In Maths the children have continued with their learning of fractions, understanding mixed number and improper fractions. They are also now starting to learn how to compare fractions less than 1.

We have been learning about the physical geography of three areas of Brazil: The Amazon Basin, The Pantanal and the Brazilian Highlands.

In English the children have been putting their knowledge of relative clauses, expanded noun phrases and prepositional phrases into their writing.

Can you guess roughly how long the Amazon Basin is?

Year Six

Year 6 have had a very productive and engaging week. In Maths, the children have strengthened their understanding of decimals, confidently multiplying and dividing them before applying these skills to a range of problem-solving questions. Their hard work has been excellent.

In English, we revisited similes and metaphors in preparation for writing monologues from Scrooge's perspective. The children took part in a modelled write and contributed thoughtful ideas, helping to create a strong example to support their independent writing next week.

In RE, we explored the story of David and Goliath, linking it to our discussions about the qualities of a good leader. On Wednesday, we visited church for a prayer trail led by Mrs Artingstall and the Laudato Si' champions; the children were respectful and reflective throughout.

On Thursday, some pupils visited the Little Sisters of the Poor care home to share their poems about celebration with the residents. They represented our school wonderfully. A massive well done to all involved!

Question: How old was David when he was anointed King?