



## St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

*'Every child, every chance, every day!'*

Friday 12th December 2025

**BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |**

### A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

WOW! What a week it has been here at St Stephen's!

School has been absolutely buzzing with Christmas plays and performances, and I could not be prouder of all our wonderfully talented children. This truly is one of the most magical times in school—and one of my favourite weeks of the year!

Our Nursery children began the festivities with a delightful performance of Wiggly Nativity. Their confidence shone through, and it was a beautiful celebration of the Christmas story. We then enjoyed two fantastic performances of The Bossy King from our Reception children. Their singing, acting and dancing were incredible. I always say to the parents and carers of our youngest pupils: treasure these moments—before you know it, you'll be back in the hall watching them in the Year 6 play!

Yesterday afternoon, our Year 1 children treated us to a wonderfully confident and heartfelt Carol Concert. And today, our Year 2 pupils wowed us all with their performance of Lights, Camel, Action! - what a talented group of actors and singers they are!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the children. Your presence means so much. My heartfelt thanks also go to our dedicated staff, who have worked tirelessly to prepare these performances and provide such enriching opportunities for our pupils. This week has been a shining example of our school values of Rejoice, Excellence and Service.

Our final Christmas performance will be from our Key Stage 2 children, who will lead us in an Advent Service on Tuesday, at 2pm, in Church. You are warmly invited to join us.

#### Thank you

A huge thank you as well for the fantastic donations to the Tameside Toy Appeal. Your generosity will make a real difference to children in need. Next week, our Pupil Parliament will deliver the gifts.

#### Next week:

- **Tuesday 16th December** - KS2 Advent Service, in Church at 2pm. Families are most welcome to join us
- **Wednesday 17th December** - Christmas Dinner Day - You will have received information on how to order a Christmas dinner in advance
- **Thursday 18th December** - Party Day! Children can come into school in their own clothes

A reminder that we break up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 19th December at 1:30pm.**

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](http://www.stsrcp.school) TEL: 0161 370 2071



## Dates for your calendar - Autumn 2

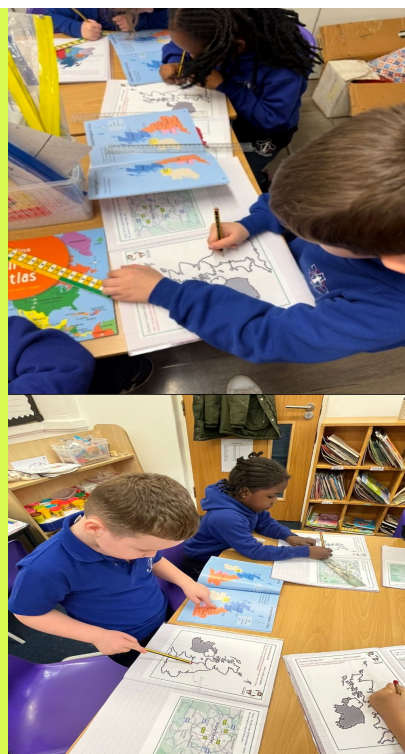
### Week Beginning 15th December 2025

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

### A special THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA, who have kindly purchased 60 atlases for our Early Years and KS1 children, as well as globes – one for each class. These fantastic resources are already making such a difference and are really helping to enhance our Geography learning.

The children of St Stephen's are so grateful for your support. Without the PTA's hard work and parents' generosity, we wouldn't have access to such valuable learning tools. Thank you for everything you do for our school! 🌍📚





## Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



<b>Nursery</b>	Holly & Alaragh
<b>RNE</b>	Bobby
<b>RAB</b>	Tommy
<b>Y1AL</b>	Chester
<b>Y1LB</b>	Pippa
<b>Y2JL</b>	Chester
<b>Y2LW</b>	Raya
<b>Y3MD</b>	Poppy
<b>Y3LH</b>	Arthur
<b>Y4HG</b>	Kaiden
<b>Y4HB</b>	Harrison
<b>Y5CP</b>	Luna
<b>Y5LS</b>	Tegan
<b>Y6GB</b>	Isla
<b>Y6DF</b>	Noah R

## Readers of the Week



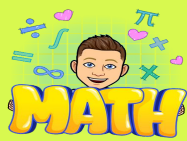
<b>Nursery</b>	Alby
<b>RNE</b>	Sardar
<b>RAB</b>	Noah
<b>Y1AL</b>	Flora
<b>Y1LB</b>	Ocean
<b>Y2JL</b>	William
<b>Y2LW</b>	Leo
<b>Y3MD</b>	Amelia
<b>Y3LH</b>	Seon
<b>Y4HG</b>	Arabella
<b>Y4HB</b>	Leo
<b>Y5CP</b>	Ruby
<b>Y5LS</b>	Bella
<b>Y6GB</b>	Charlie
<b>Y6DF</b>	Jacob

**1% BETTER**





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Rory
<b>RNE</b>	Layla-Mai
<b>RAB</b>	Maya
<b>Y1AL</b>	Darcy
<b>Y1LB</b>	Elliott
<b>Y2JL</b>	Ava
<b>Y2LW</b>	Jake
<b>Y3MD</b>	Declan
<b>Y3LH</b>	Kendrick
<b>Y4HG</b>	Jessica
<b>Y4HB</b>	Aurora
<b>Y5CP</b>	Grace
<b>Y5LS</b>	Ethan
<b>Y6GB</b>	Jacob
<b>Y6DF</b>	Zoe

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Aryan
<b>RNE</b>	Elsie
<b>RAB</b>	Roman
<b>Y1AL</b>	Wyatt
<b>Y1LB</b>	Hawraa
<b>Y2JL</b>	Harriet
<b>Y2LW</b>	Iremide
<b>Y3MD</b>	Jessica
<b>Y3LH</b>	Poppy-Kay
<b>Y4HG</b>	Anastazja
<b>Y4HB</b>	Hudson
<b>Y5CP</b>	Elvis
<b>Y5LS</b>	Charlie
<b>Y6GB</b>	Luca
<b>Y6DF</b>	Cleo

1%  
BETTER





St Stephen's RCP

# NEWSLETTER

## Attendance League

NAM	95.8%	Y3LH	91.4%
NPM	98.6%	Y3MD	85.3%
RNE	100%	Y4HG	98.6%
RAB	84.6%	Y4HB	89.5%
Y1AL	93.5%	Y5LS	90.4%
Y1LB	93.5%	Y5CP	90%
Y2JL	88.7%	Y6GB	92.6%
Y2LW	96.5%	Y6DF	93.1%

### St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 4HG	25	6th: 4HB	5
2nd: 6DF	19	7th: 3LH	3
3rd: 5CP	9	8th: 5LS	2
4th: 3MD	7		
5th: 6GB	6		

### St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	20	6th: 2LW	
2nd: 1LB	17	7th: RAB	
3rd: NPM	11	7th: NAM	
4th: RNE	10		
5th: 2JL	8		

#TEAMSTSTEPHENS





## Religious Education

### Travelling Nativity

Our travelling nativities have been making their way round all our families within St Stephen's. We have loved sharing your prayerful reflections and moments together as families. Here are a selection of the beautiful pictures shared by families.



### Prayer of the Week

Loving God,  
As we get ready for  
Christmas,  
help us to open our hearts to  
you.  
Teach us to be kind, to share,  
and to bring joy to others.  
May the light of Jesus guide  
us each day  
as we wait with hope and love.  
  
Amen.

### Caritas Award

Well done to Isabelle in 4HB who has been awarded the Caritas award for being a kind friend on the playground. Isabelle showed the Catholic Social teaching 'Solidarity'.



Wednesday  
10<sup>th</sup> December

Good News for Families  
TOGETHER TIME

# 1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

While John the Baptist was in prison, he heard what Christ was doing and he sent some of his followers to ask Christ, "Are you the one sent by God, or do we have to wait for someone else?" Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cured, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life. The Good News is being announced to the poor; and happy are those who do not lose faith in me." As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: "He is the one of whom scripture says: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you'. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, one greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is."



From the Gospel of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Matthew 11:2-11 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **CHRIST**.







**"Gaze upon Christ, consider him, contemplate him  
and desire to imitate him"** *St Clare of Assisi*

What did John send some of his followers to ask Jesus? In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist had heard about Jesus Christ's miracles and all the other wonderful things that he was doing. Christ was offering people forgiveness and healing, both physical and spiritual. Forgiving and healing was his task all those years ago and, if we put our trust in him, this is what he can do for us even today. Ask your child what they think the word 'Christ' means (parent help: the word 'Christ' means 'the anointed one', the one who is sent to save the world). It may help your child if you share something that you know and like about Christ.

**"For those who love, nothing is too difficult, especially when  
it is done for the love of Jesus Christ."** *St Ignatius of Loyola*

Jesus Christ came to draw everyone into his love - to joyfully share in God's own life. How can we live and love more like Christ as we journey through Advent? Perhaps we can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need; as a family, resolve to support a local or national good cause in the coming new year; make a special effort to let other family members know how much we love them. Find out more about Jesus Christ in church this Sunday. All are warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, please help us to be open to your love and healing and to grow in faith as we celebrate your birth this Christmas. Amen.



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



**JOHN  
PRISON**



**SENT  
FOLLOWERS**



**CHRIST  
HEALING**



**GOOD  
NEWS**



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

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

Cross out the  
letters

**u f b**

in the 4 jumbled  
words to find  
4 real words.

huebartd mitrabclues Jothunb buwats

While \_\_\_\_\_ the Baptist \_\_\_\_\_ in prison,  
he \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.

**This Sunday - the third Sunday of Advent - is known as Gaudete Sunday  
and we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The word 'Gaudete'  
in Latin means Rejoice!'. We rejoice that Christ is coming.**





## Nursery

Nursery has been full of excitement this week, we performed our first nativity 'A Wiggly Nativity' and had a fantastic time singing and dancing in front of all our families and friends.

We have continued our learning in class about the First Christmas. We are confident in talking about the main events and can answer questions about Baby Jesus and his birth.

We have loved sharing your special prayerful moments from home in class with the 'Travelling Nativity.'

In RE, we have continued our learning about Advent.

We have been learning about the traditions behind the Advent wreath and what the candles on the wreath symbolise in the lead up to Christmas.

We have enjoyed lots of creative activities this week in preparation for Christmas.

We can't wait to have lots more creative fun next week as we prepare for the Christmas break.

Please note that next Wednesday **17th December** is Christmas Dinner Day and Thursday **18th December** is Christmas Party Day.

Have a wonderful festive weekend.  
Miss Taylor, Miss Whittaker and Mrs Parkinson.

## Reception

WOW! What a week! We are so incredibly proud of our little superstars. They have come such a long way since their very first day in September, and now they are singing, dancing and acting on a stage in front of their friends, teachers and families. Thank you to everyone who came to watch our performances — we truly hope you enjoyed the play as much as we enjoyed performing it for you all. We really are the proudest team. Well done, Reception! In Literacy, we wrapped up our work on our class text Jesus' Christmas Party and focused on understanding the sequence of events in the story.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our learning on recognising and representing numbers 0–5.

In RE, we explored the meaning of Advent. We learned that Advent means preparing for the coming of Jesus. We went on a walk around school to look for signs of our preparations. The children spotted Christmas trees, purple prayer focus cloths, Advent wreaths, Advent calendars and nativity scenes without Baby Jesus.

A big thank you to everyone who has sent in their celebration photos. We have loved sharing them as a class. It has been really special learning about different celebrations such as Eid, and we feel very lucky to have friends who can teach us about these important times.

Have a lovely weekend!

Question: What name did the angel use for Jesus when talking to the shepherds?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



## Year One

A huge well done to all the children this week for their roles in our Carol Concert. All the children have practised extremely hard with their singing and lines and it was beautiful to see them perform so confidently for you yesterday. We hope you enjoyed it!

Alongside this, we have been completing some of our units for this term. We have been writing sentences in the past tense about how The Grinch stole Christmas.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of addition and subtraction and applying these skills to solve balanced equations.

In R.E, we described ways that we celebrate Christmas in school and in the community.

We have started our D&T unit by designing our own capes and we have been starting to make these towards the end of the week.

**Question: How do we celebrate Christmas in the community?**

## Year Two

It has been an extremely busy week in Year 2 preparing for our production of Lights, Camel, Action. The children have all been amazing, working hard to learn lines, songs and dances. We are very proud of their achievements, as we are sure you are.

In RE this week, we have been exploring the symbolism of the Advent Wreath and waiting in hope for the birth of Jesus. We also investigated the traditions of Las Posados, which is a festival celebrated during Advent in Mexico. During the celebrations, people dress as Joseph and Mary and create paper bag lanterns (luminaries) to light the path for Jesus.

In Maths this week, we have been subtracting a two 2 digit numbers across a 10. Using base 10 and place value charts, the children exchanged tens to ones to complete the calculations.

This week also saw the completion of our English unit of work. Applying their work on list sentences, compound subjects, compound sentences and common and proper nouns, the children retold the story of Little Robin Red Vest using picture prompts. They are all working so hard in all areas of the curriculum.

**Question: How can we look after our oceans?**





## Year Three

We have had another busy yet enjoyable week in Year 3. Today was 3LH's last swimming session at Medlock. Mrs Herbert has been so proud of how hard the children have worked to improve their skills and confidence in the water. It is 3MD's turn next and their swimming lessons will start in January!

In English, we have been working very hard writing a setting description of the Dream Forest, inspired by the Tin Forest book. We have included different types of sentences, such as exclamation sentences and statements, along with different types of adjectives (such as comparative and superlative adjectives). We have been so impressed with the children's vocabulary choices and their independence when writing. In RE, we have been looking at the symbols associated with Advent, and the children had some fantastic ideas explaining which symbols they thought were most important and why. In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of the 3 and 4 times tables, applying our knowledge to solve word problems.

**What type of punctuation comes at the end of an exclamation sentence?**

## Year Four

It's been a very busy week in Year 4. We have been exploring the symbols and signs of Advent and talking about their significance. The children had to write about which objects connected with Advent were most important for them.

In English, the children wrote a text about the character of the witch from our story 'The Lost Happy Endings,' doing their best to include a range of conjunctions and to use punctuation accurately.

In Maths we completed our unit on multiplication and division which involved the children solving a range of problems and puzzles which challenged their thinking.

In Geography we identified some of Spain's major cities and compared their populations. The children located them on a map of Spain and linked some of the most famous football stadiums to these cities.

The children are continuing to work hard on their times tables every day.

**Question: Which city is the capital of Spain?**



## Year Five

We've had a great week in Year 5!

The children have been working hard to complete their independent write on the impact of pollination on the city, inspired by *Bee and Me* by Alison Jay.

In Maths, they have been practising how to compare and order fractions with different denominators, showing fantastic focus and perseverance. Please continue to support them at home by practising their times tables regularly.

In Religion, we explored the story of David and Goliath, reflecting on the leadership qualities David showed and looking closely at the covenant he made.

We have also been practising our Christmas carols for our carol service, which will take place on Tuesday next week.

5LS have also been working hard during their cornet lessons to learn a Christmas song for you to hear. We hope to share it on class dojo next week.

A highlight of the week was watching Year 2's wonderful Nativity performance.

We are very much looking forward to our final week before Christmas!

Question: Which qualities of leadership did David show?

## Year Six

Year 6 have had another wonderful week!

In Maths, we have been working our way through units of measurement. Initially, this focused on metric measures of length, mass and capacity, however we then moved on to converting measure into other units. We finished the week by looking at imperial units of measure and realised why it is much easier to work with metric measures!

In English, the children have produced some excellent monologues from the perspective of Scrooge during the visit of the Ghost of Christmas Future. Writing monologues can feel unusual and unnatural at times but we have been so impressed with the work that the children have produced.

Our R.E. work has centred on King David, looking specifically at his Psalms and how he acted as a king.

We were particularly good at analysing the scripture to see why David was thankful to God.

Finally, the highlight of the week was watching our Special Friends in their nativity dress rehearsal - we were so impressed!

Question: What is a psalm?