



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 9th January 2026

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together. It has been a great first week back, despite the very cold weather. We began the week by reflecting on the Feast of the Epiphany. In class, children also revisited our school rules, values and mission, and discussed what it means to be part of the St Stephen's family. The children have settled back into their routines extremely well. It has also been great to see children move into their new classrooms. There has been a buzz of excitement around school which we love! We have also been delighted to welcome many new children to our school. They have settled in beautifully, and it has been lovely to see them exploring their new environment. A very warm welcome to our new families.

A reminder to ensure you apply for your child's Reception class place by 15th January — please spread the word.

Today, we attended Mass together as a school, which was a lovely celebration and a wonderful way to begin the new term and celebrate the Feast of St Stephen's.

A few gentle reminders:

- Please ensure your child's name is clearly labelled on all uniform items to avoid lost property.
- Hair below shoulder length must be tied back.
- School shirts and ties must be worn by children in Years 1–6. School ties are part of the uniform and can be purchased via ParentPay and collected from the school office.
- Nail polish and make-up are not permitted.
- Bracelets, rings and hoop earrings should not be worn.
- Watches may be worn; however, smart watches are not permitted.
- Footwear should be plain black shoes.
- As the weather changes, please ensure your child has a waterproof coat. Children may also bring a pair of spare trainers to change into for lunchtime and playtimes if they wish.
- PE kits should consist of a royal blue polo shirt and navy bottoms if the school-branded kit has not been purchased.

We have noticed an increase in children arriving late to school or being collected early. Where possible, please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours. We appreciate that this can sometimes be difficult. Also, as the office is now located at the top of the school, please be patient when waiting for your child to come across.

Finally, please take note of the term calendar dates on the next page. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and best wishes for the new year ahead.

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



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Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

Week Beginning 12th January 2026

Date	Event
15/1/26	Y2LW Class Assembly @ 9:05am School Hall
16/1/26	Year 1, 2 and 3 Mass @ 10am

Week Beginning 19th January 2026

Date	Event
22/1/26	Y2JL Class Assembly @ 9:05am School Hall
23/1/26	Year 4 and 5 Mass @ 10am

Week Beginning 26th January 2026

Date	Event
26/1/26	Y3LH Stay and Pray 9am Y6GB Class Retreat
27/1/26	Y3MD Stay and Pray 9am Y6DF Class Retreat
29/1/26	Y1LB Class Assembly @ 9:05am School Hall
30/1/26	Year 1, 2 and 3 Mass @ 10am

Week Beginning 2nd February 2026

Date	Event
02/2/26	Y2 RE Retreat Day
05/2/26	Y1AL Class Assembly @ 9:05am School Hall
06/2/26	School Closed INSET Day

Week Beginning 9th February 2026

Date	Event
09/2/26	Children's Mental Health Week
10/2/26	Safer Internet Day
11/2/26	Y3, 4, 5 Music Performance - Parents Welcome 9am School Hall
12/2/26	Reception Classes Assembly @ 9:05am
13/2/26	Reception/Y6 Mass @10am
13/2/26	Water Safety Day
13/2/26	Half Term begins 3:15pm

TERRIBLE TIMES

Fun Food Feast!

Pharaoh's Golden Chicken Nugget Bites (h)

Tasty treasures from the king's tomb

OR

The Mummy's Golden Sausage Roll (v)

Scrumptious and fit for a pharaoh!

Served With

**Sweet Honey & Tomato Dip, Nile River Mash,
Golden Carrot Coins & Ancient Village Peas.**

Victorian Workhouse Jam Sponge

*In Victorian times, children in workhouses often had very
plain food. Our sponge is much tastier!*



CENSUS Day - Thursday 15th January

Next Thursday, our Kitchen are offering a special meal for CENSUS Day - Terrible Times - Fun Food Feast! This is a great opportunity for your child to try a school dinner. Remember, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal - this would be the perfect opportunity for them to give it a try and it also helps to support school funding!



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Ronnie & Rory
RNE	Sardar
RAB	Thomas
Y1AL	Alyssa
Y1LB	Jasper
Y2JL	Ralphie
Y2LW	Faaizah
Y3MD	Frankie
Y3LH	Kinggreat
Y4HG	Felix
Y4HB	Esme
Y5CP	Brooke
Y5LS	Grace
Y6GB	Jacob
Y6DF	Charles

Readers of the Week



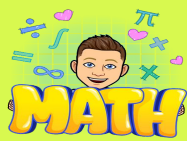
Nursery	Scarlet
RNE	Luca
RAB	Neil
Y1AL	Autumn
Y1LB	Natalia
Y2JL	Noah
Y2LW	Blake
Y3MD	Tissy
Y3LH	Rahilla
Y4HG	Anastazja
Y4HB	Bruke
Y5CP	Evelyn
Y5LS	Jeremiah
Y6GB	Tallulah
Y6DF	Hanna

1% BETTER





Maths Star



Nursery	Ohemaa
RNE	Betsy
RAB	Roman
Y1AL	Buddy
Y1LB	Alani
Y2JL	Harriet
Y2LW	Jake
Y3MD	Jessica
Y3LH	Ivy
Y4HG	Sajjad
Y4HB	Pati
Y5CP	Adam
Y5LS	Rocco
Y6GB	Isaac
Y6DF	Godwin

Writing Star



Nursery	Chance & Tiago
RNE	Penelope
RAB	Cameron
Y1AL	Dustie
Y1LB	Romie
Y2JL	Isabella
Y2LW	Louie
Y3MD	Octavia
Y3LH	Huckleberry
Y4HG	Bella
Y4HB	Milliane
Y5CP	Conor
Y5LS	Klayson
Y6GB	Layla B
Y6DF	India

1%
BETTER





St Stephen's RCP

Attendance League

NAM	94.1%	Y3LH	96.1%
NPM	95.6%	Y3MD	92.9%
RNE	100%	Y4HG	91%
RAB	89.5%	Y4HB	92%
Y1AL	93.8%	Y5LS	95.6%
Y1LB	94.1%	Y5CP	97.2%
Y2JL	88%	Y6GB	95.1%
Y2LW	91.7%	Y6DF	94.8%

St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	20	6th: 2LW	6
2nd: 1LB	18	6th: NAM	6
3rd: RNE	13	7th: RAB	5
4th: NFD	12		
5th: 2JL	8		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 4HG	25	6th: 4HB	5
2nd: 6DF	19	6th: 3LH	5
3rd: 5CP	12	7th: 5LS	3
4th: 3MD	7		
5th: 6GB	6		

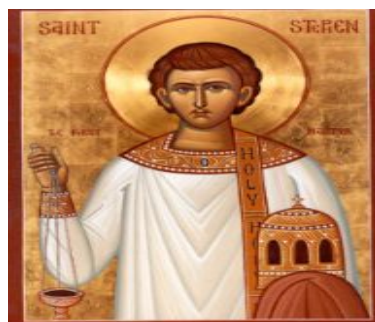
#TEAMSTSTEPHENS



Religious Education

St Stephen

During the Christmas Break, the Catholic Church celebrated the feast of St Stephen on 26th December. In school, we celebrated St Stephen's feast day this week. Father Callistus led a beautiful Mass where we learnt about how St Stephen's belief and trust in God. In class, the children have been completing pieces of work about St Stephen and thinking about how they can be trusting and forgiving like he was.



Prayer of the Week

Dear God,
Thank you for St
Stephen, who loved Jesus
and helped others.
Help us to be kind,
brave,
and to forgive like he
did.

Amen

Caritas Award

This week we have awarded two
Caritas Awards.

Keoni (3LH) has shown human
dignity and the common good by
being a good friend and role model
for new members of our school
community.

Adam (5CP) showed human
dignity over the holidays when she
showed bravery and care when he
was helping a friend in need.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to all.

January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a new start. In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast – The Baptism of the Lord.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community – to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow.

Wednesday 7th January 2026

Jesus, God's beloved Son, came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

Enjoy a special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's words, which are **NEW START**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
the Saints

*"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin." Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 11th January 2026



Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. "It is I who need baptism from you," he said, "and yet you come to me!" But Jesus replied, "Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands." At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."

Adapted from Matthew 3:13-17
The Baptism of the Lord, 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.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

**Good News
for Everyone**

Regardless of our past, God invites each one of us to make a new start, each and every day. Families who make a new start with God find that they grow closer together and begin to know and share the joy that Jesus brings.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus went to the River Jordan to be baptised by John the Baptist. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven saying: "This is my beloved Son and with him I am very pleased."

What happened when Jesus came up from the water?

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 Words...

"Every day we must begin anew. Have patience with all things – but first of all with yourself." St. Francis de Sales

NEW START



This new year presents an opportunity for us to make a new start. Each of you say what is the best thing that you've ever started. What did you like about it? Ask your child if they have made any new starts in 2026. If so, how is it going? It may help your child if you mention any new starts or resolutions which you have made for 2026 and tell them how it's going for you. How does your new start help you or others?

As we begin this new year, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God? Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home before having to be asked; remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; be peacemakers and try to make friends with someone we've fallen out with. You may like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and with each other as we start this New Year. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN



JOHN BAPTIST

BAPTISED JESUS

HEAVEN VOICE

BELOVED SON

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

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

hueatvenk betlokvedu skonuf voticuke

And a _____ spoke from _____ saying:

"This is my _____."

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus makes a new start and begins his mission to the world. We can be sure that our efforts will always be rewarded when we take the time to make a new start with Jesus. Spending time with him (through prayer) helps us become the best we can be. Happy New Year!



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





Nursery

Welcome back to Spring term 1 in Nursery.

This term our Main Topic focus is Transport and we will learn all about the story 'Naughty Bus' and the journey that the Red bus takes. We will create a story map of the text as a class using our Talk for Writing learning.

We will learn that-

1. Vehicles can be sorted by how they move (land, air and water)
2. Vehicles carry people or objects to different places.
3. Vehicles make different sounds and move in different ways.
4. Vehicles help people and things to get from one place to another.

We will also be learning all about Winter, we will learn all about the weather, the animals that live in cold environments and how to stay safe in the cold weather.

This week we have loved activities that are strengthening our fine and gross motor skills, we have enjoyed taking part in our daily dough dances, practiced our pencil grasp and control and taken part in dance and movement sessions using our arms to create lots of different movements and shapes.

In Phonics this week we have loved singing the rhyme 'The Wheels on the Bus' and in Maths we have focused on the 'Number 3 and Subitising'.

In RE, we focused on the Wise Men's visit to Baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12).

We know that they brought him gifts because he was special and that they followed the star to find Baby Jesus.

Question- Can you name the gifts that the 3 Wise Men brought to Baby Jesus?

Reception

WOW! What a lovely first week back we have had! It has been wonderful to welcome all of our little superstars back to school after the Christmas break. The children have settled back into routines beautifully and have been full of enthusiasm, smiles and excitement as we started our new learning together.

In Literacy, we began our new class text The Train Ride. The children enjoyed exploring the story, talking about the different places the train travels through and sharing their own ideas and observations. We have started to develop our speaking and listening skills by describing what we can see and making links to our own experiences.

In Maths, we have started learning about the composition of 5. The children have been exploring different ways to make 5 using practical resources, counting carefully and beginning to explain their thinking.

In RE, we marked St Stephen's Feast Day, learning about our patron saint and why he is important to our school community. We also began our new branch, Galilee to Jerusalem, where the children are starting to learn more about Jesus' life and journey.

We are so proud of how well the children have returned to school and the positive attitude they have shown towards their learning this week. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Question- How many different ways can you make 5?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year One

A fantastic first week back in Year 1, enjoying our new classrooms.

This week, we began our new English book *Unplugged* and completed activities focusing on maintaining the past tense.

In Maths, we worked on counting to 20 and back, as well as developing our understanding of 10. In R.E., we learned about the Epiphany and listened to the *Noisy Christmas* story. In Geography, we completed a check-out task based on our recent unit about the United Kingdom. During PSHE, we talked about people we trust. We ended the week by coming together for Mass.

Question: Can you count backwards from 20?

Year Two

A wonderful first week back has been enjoyed by all in Year 2. The children have settled well into their new routines and 2LW are loving their new classroom.

This week, in English, we began our unit of work on '*Lizzie and the Birds*' by Dawn and Mick Robertson. We identified verbs and explored their tense, focussing on spelling patterns for past and present tense action verbs.

In Maths, the children identified and sorted 2d and 3d shapes, comparing sides and vertices and recognising relationships. They also investigated lines of symmetry.

On Tuesday, we celebrated the feast of St Stephen, which is celebrated on 26th December each year. We also sequenced the events of the Epiphany and the meaning behind the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Finally, in History, we learned about the Suffragettes and their importance in fighting for women's rights and equality.

Question: What is the relationship between sides and vertices in a polygon?



Year Three

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas break and they have settled back into school routines wonderfully. This week we have celebrated our school's patron saint, St. Stephen, and produced a lovely piece of work which described St. Stephen's qualities. In RE, we read scripture from Matthew's Gospel about the Epiphany, and re-told the story of the Magi worshipping baby Jesus in the form of a Wanted poster from King Herod's point of view.

In Maths, we have started a new unit of work on angles. We learnt that an angle was a measure of a turn, and we looked at the difference between clockwise and anticlockwise. We also studied right angles, and enjoyed finding examples of right angles in our classroom environment. In PHSE, we thought about the importance of saying sorry when we have done something wrong. We described a time when we said sorry to someone and described how we felt after we said sorry. Today we ended our busy first week back by taking part in our first whole school mass of 2026.

Question: St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. What does this mean?

Year Four

The children have settled really well into their classroom routine and have begun to engage well with their new learning.

They have taken in particular to our new English text: 'The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors.' They enjoyed writing some dialogue between the characters and then acting out their ideas. We completed our Geography unit on Spain by looking at Spanish culture and exploring why it is so appealing to tourists. This week we recalled and practised the 11 times table. The children are showing great improvement in their times table recall.

In RE, we remembered the Feast of St Stephen on 26th December by reading about his life and understanding why he is called the First Martyr. We also marked the Epiphany of Our Lord by reading the story of the Magi and thinking about what gifts we ourselves could bring to Jesus. It was lovely to be part of our whole school mass today.

Question: What gifts did the Magi bring for Jesus?



Year Five

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to all our children and families! The children have settled back into school life beautifully and are already engaging enthusiastically in their learning.

In English, we have started reading *The Right to Learn*—Malala Yousafzai's inspiring story—and we are excited to begin our new English unit based on it next week. In Maths, the children have been exploring multiplication, focusing on partitioning and developing an understanding of the term *partial product*. In Religion, we have been learning about the life of St Stephen and reflecting on the Epiphany, thinking deeply about the symbolism of the gifts and the Magi's expectations of Jesus. On Thursday, we were fortunate to take part in a *Show Racism the Red Card* workshop, where the children were thoroughly engaged and learned valuable ways to stand up against racism. We ended the week by attending our first whole-school Mass of 2026. The children were, as always, respectful, joined in beautifully with the responses, and sang wonderfully throughout.

Question: What is a partial product?

Year Six

What a fantastic time to be a part of Year 6! Our new classrooms are incredible and we feel extremely lucky to be in our shiny, new surroundings. The children have adapted well to the new settings and have already settled in.

In Maths, we have been concentrating on multiplying and dividing fractions. This has involved calculations with two fractions as well as problems with a fraction and an integer. We have been really impressed with how much the children have remembered over the Christmas holiday, which has made for a smooth transition.

Our English work has moved on to *Romeo and Juliet*. This is always a very enjoyable unit, with a dramatic and well-known tale. We have been focusing on using active and passive voice, along with using expanded noun phrases effectively to set the scene and convey emotions in our writing.

As the Feast of St. Stephen was during the Christmas break, our first R.E. lesson was to learn more about the patron saint of our school. We then moved on to The Epiphany, with a specific focus on why the wise men chose the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Question: Why did Lord Capulet stop Tybalt from fighting Romeo at the masquerade party?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe