



BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN... I hope you have had a great week! We began the week reflecting on the Gospel of Matthew, when St John the Baptist baptised Jesus. We set the children the mission of being children of God and how they could demonstrate our values each and every day.

Arbor Pay

I am pleased to inform you that we will be moving from ParentPay to Arbor as our new platform for managing school payments.

Why the change?

Arbor offers an integrated system that allows parents and carers to manage everything in one place – from school communications and payments. It provides a more streamlined and user-friendly experience.

What does this mean for you?

- You will need to set up your Arbor account before **Friday 30th January 2026**. Instructions for this are included on the next page.
- Any outstanding balances on ParentPay should be cleared, as far as possible, by **Friday 30th January 2026**.
- ParentPay will be disabled from **Friday 6th February 2026**. Do not make payments after this date as we may not be able to recover them.
- From **Wednesday 28th January 2026** we will work with ParentPay to make sure that any credits and outstanding balances on individual accounts are transferred to Arbor.
- If you make payments via tax free childcare vouchers please continue to do so, if these payments are received in time they will be credited to ParentPay, if not they will be credited to Arbor once setup is complete.
- As you are setting up and logging into your account before the data transfer has been completed your account balances will be wrong and may change during the period of time it takes us to complete the set up. Please avoid notifying school of any errors at this point.
- Please be patient, transferring the necessary data will take hours of work, we will notify all parents once setup is complete and Arbor is ready to be used. Please refrain from making any payments until this point.
- All new payments for meals, trips, and other school activities will now be made through Arbor.

How to get started:

You will receive an email invitation from Arbor shortly. This will contain a link to set up your account and password. Once logged in, you will be able to:

- View your child's profile
- Top up meal balances
- Pay for school trips and clubs
- Receive important school communications

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE...

**Our Values:
St Stephen's
CARES**

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service





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A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN CONTINUED...

You can access Arbor via a web browser or by downloading the Arbor App from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android).

Need help?

We understand that switching systems may bring questions, and we're here to help. If you experience any issues setting up your account or navigating the new system, please contact the school office via admin@stsrcp.co.uk.

We appreciate your support as we make this transition to improve our service and communication with you.

We're using the Arbor Parent App!

See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



- Log in in seconds with Face ID
- Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone
- Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings
- See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more
- Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in




Masses - I have removed the class masses from the calendar over the next two weeks - Father C is currently away. Class Masses will return on Friday 9th February for Reception and Year 6.

PTA - Our PTA are in need of more members to help raise funds for school. If you are able to offer any support please contact the school office for further information.

Have a great weekend, *Mr Lavin, Headteacher*

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Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

Week Beginning 19th January 2026	
Date	Event
22/1/26	Y2JL Class Assembly @ 9:05am School Hall

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

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

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

**Hot Chocolate Friday Winner**

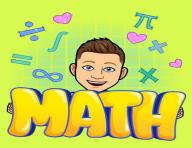
Nursery	Georgie-Joe & Tobenna
RNE	Favour
RAB	Arla
Y1AL	Eddison
Y1LB	James
Y2JL	Chester
Y2LW	Louie
Y3MD	Berrie
Y3LH	Ivy
Y4HG	Lexie
Y4HB	Sophie
Y5CP	Millie
Y5LS	Harrison
Y6GB	Elise
Y6DF	George

**1%
BETTER**

Readers of the Week

Nursery	Georgie W & Muhammed
RNE	Lennie
RAB	Alba
Y1AL	Phoebe
Y1LB	Hawraa
Y2JL	Harmony
Y2LW	Fabian
Y3MD	Odin
Y3LH	Bailey
Y4HG	Deanah
Y4HB	Isla
Y5CP	Ruby
Y5LS	Lani
Y6GB	Riley-James
Y6DF	India



**Maths Star**

Nursery	Aria & Aryan
RNE	Reeva
RAB	Harvey
Y1AL	Lucas
Y1LB	Ocean
Y2JL	Darcie
Y2LW	Gadiel
Y3MD	India
Y3LH	Alise
Y4HG	Valerie
Y4HB	Ava
Y5CP	Daley
Y5LS	Peyton
Y6GB	Mia Bella
Y6DF	Amelia

Writing Star

Nursery	Ella & Luke
RNE	Inaayah
RAB	Esmae
Y1AL	Lena
Y1LB	Mila-Mae
Y2JL	Bill
Y2LW	Lula
Y3MD	Cornelia
Y3LH	Sayo
Y4HG	Arabella
Y4HB	Emmanuel
Y5CP	Ebony
Y5LS	Caoimhe
Y6GB	Layla W
Y6DF	Leah

**1%
BETTER**





NAM	79.2%	Y3LH	94.2%
NPM	96.2%	Y3MD	97.3%
RNE	96%	Y4HG	100%
RAB	90%	Y4HB	92%
Y1AL	99.6%	Y5LS	95.7%
Y1LB	94.1%	Y5CP	97.5%
Y2JL	95.4%	Y6GB	97.2%
Y2LW	98.4%	Y6DF	98.3%

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 4HG	28	6th: 4HB	5
2nd: 6DF	21	6th: 3LH	5
3rd: 5CP	13	7th: 5LS	3
4th: 3MD	7		
5th: 6GB	6		

St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	23	5th: 2LW	7
2nd: 1LB	18	6th: NAM	6
3rd: RNE	13	7th: RAB	5
3rd: NPD	13		
4th: 2JL	8		



Religious Education

St Francis Tunnel of Peace

This week, Mrs Artingstall led all classes in a beautiful Celebration of the Word to mark the opening of our new outdoor spaces. Our St Francis Tunnel of Peace now guides the children through the Stations of the Cross, with each station thoughtfully linked to themes from *Laudato Si'* and stewardship of creation.

During the celebration, Mrs Artingstall invited the children to reflect on these connections and to consider how small actions in their everyday lives can make a difference in caring for our Common Home. As a school community, we are delighted to have this special Tunnel of Peace, particularly as Pope Leo has announced this year as a celebration of St Francis.



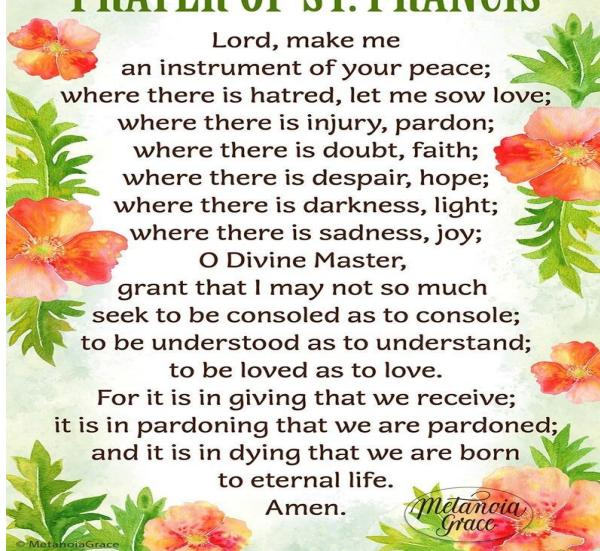
Prayer of the Week

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me
an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.
Amen.



Caritas Award

This week we are awarding the Caritas Award to Mrs Artingstall. Mrs Artingstall works endlessly caring for God's gifts in our school environment. Mrs Artingstall shares messages of Stewardship beautifully with the children and we are lucky to have her in school! Well done and thank you Mrs Artingstall!



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we return to the beginning of Jesus' mission. The humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen.

John the Baptist is one of the best known saints. He never pushed himself forward. He encouraged his own followers to leave him and become followers of Jesus. His life (and death) witnessed to the truth about Jesus and, because of him, many people came to know and follow Jesus.

A Word from the Saints

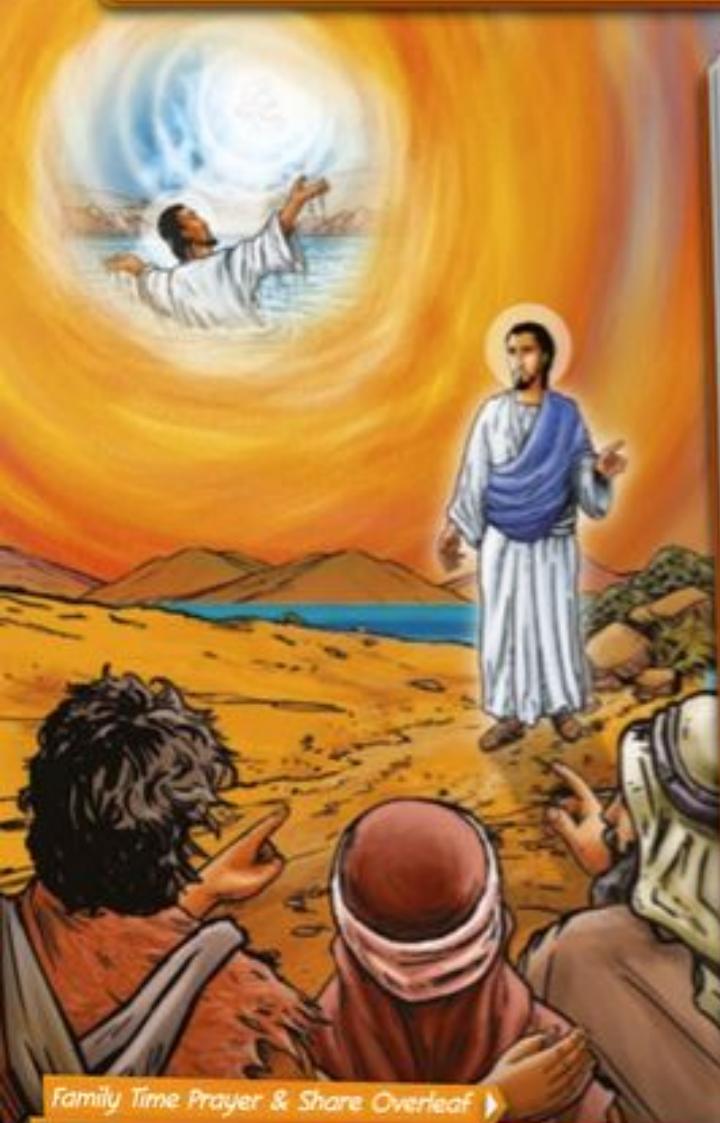
"Example makes a much greater impression on the mind and heart than just words." St John Baptist de la Salle

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Our schools and parishes are founded in the name of Jesus and they continue to share Jesus' message, giving witness to God's love for all people.

Today, we too can be great witnesses. Enjoy spending a special time together exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **WITNESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 18th January 2026



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water." John also declared, "I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God."

Adapted from John 1:29-34
The 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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.

Good News for Everyone

John the Baptist gave witness to what Jesus did and who Jesus really was. Now we too are called to be God's witnesses through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. Everywhere we go we can give witness to God's love - spreading joy and peace.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME

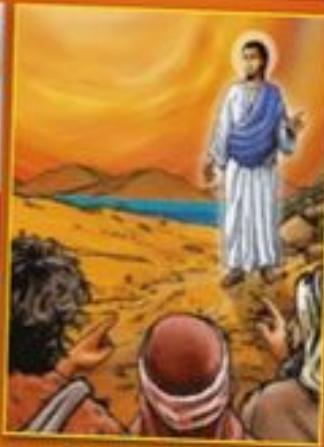
10

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

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God! He is the one who will take away the sin of the world. When I baptised him, I saw the Spirit come down on him from heaven like a dove. God had said to me, 'One day, when you are baptising with water, you will see the Spirit come down and rest upon a certain man. He will be the one who will baptise people with the Holy Spirit.'" Then John said, "I saw this happen and I am the witness that Jesus is God's Chosen One."

What did John the Baptist say that he was the witness to?

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...

"People today listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

Pope Paul VI (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*)

Ask your child what the word 'witness' means to them. Which well-known people or saints does your child know who have been great witnesses for Jesus (e.g. Mary his mother, St Joseph, St Teresa of Calcutta, St David, St Patrick)? Who does your child know to be a great witness today (e.g. our present Pope - Francis, a family member, a priest, a teacher, a friend)? Who has recently brought the message of Jesus to your child at home, at school or in the parish?

WITNESS



Through our words and especially through our actions, we can be God's witnesses, through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. Choose a special way to be God's witnesses - sharing and showing love to everyone you meet this week. Perhaps you can: be kind and loving in your simple everyday words and actions; pray for help to be a good witness; tell others about the hope, goodness and peace that Jesus can bring into their lives; be fair and generous with everyone you meet.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be your witnesses by our love, so that others will come to know the joy of knowing you. Amen.

FINDING THREE



WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- JOHN
- WITNESSED
- HEAVEN
- OPEN
- JESUS
- BAPTISED
- CHOSEN
- ONE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

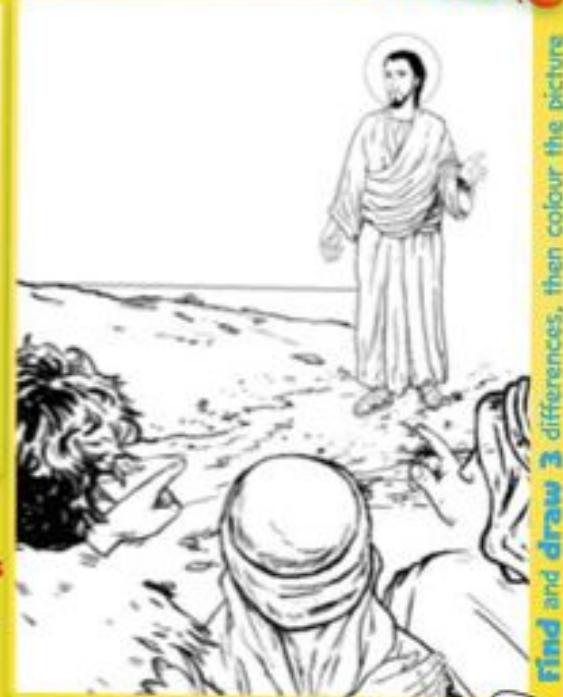
Cross out the letters **b d f** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

Jebsfuds Chofbsend sfabwud wiftnbedss

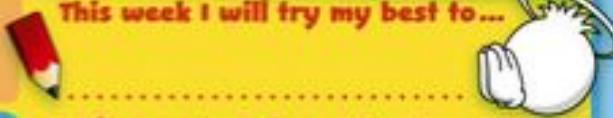
"I _____ this happen and I am the _____
that _____ is God's _____ One."

Within the Catholic Church, this Sunday (18th January 2025) is known as Peace Sunday. This special day reminds us of the need to be witnesses to peace around our world.

Find out more at paxchristi.org.uk



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have continued our learning about the Naughty Bus! We have even had a special visit from the Naughty Bus who has been up to lots of mischief in our Nursery classroom after Nursery has finished for the day!

We have created story maps for the story and focused on what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story.

We have been very creative this week in Nursery and created some amazing pictures of buses for our class display. We enjoyed using paint, glitter and collage to create our Art work.

On Monday, we visited our School Peace garden and Pope Francis Forest School with Mrs Artingstall who led us in a special Celebration of the Word. We talked about how we could look after our environment, sang songs together and said a prayer, it was a lovely experience.

In Maths, we continued our learning of the number 3 and learnt all about Triangles too.

In our PSHE lesson, we engaged in discussion that- Jesus cared for others and wanted them to live good lives like him. We spoke about how we could follow in Jesus' footsteps- the children said 'We can be kind to each other' and 'We can help each other.'

Question- How many sides does a triangle have?

Reception

This week in Reception, we continued exploring the story *The Train Ride* in literacy, where the children retold the story using actions, story maps and key vocabulary, talked about beginning, middle and end and began writing simple words and sentences linked to journeys.

In maths, we investigated mass and capacity, using practical resources to compare heavier and lighter objects and explore filling and emptying containers.

In RE, we learned about the first followers of Jesus – Simon, Andrew, James and John – and discussed what it means to follow and help others. During snack time, children revisited our sticky knowledge about transport, maps and holidays through recall questions.

We looked at these 4 important statements:

1. There are different types of transport (Examples)
2. Aeroplanes (and other vehicles) are used to get me to...
(A plane wouldn't take me to school)
3. This is a map and it shows people where something is.
4. I have been on holiday to ...

Question: Who did the little girl go to visit on her train ride?



Year One

In English, the children completed activities including Fix the Error, Complete the Sentence, and Use the Vocabulary, all linked to our story Unplugged. In Maths, we explored teen numbers and the number 20, with a focus on understanding tens and ones.

In Science, we continued our learning about materials, exploring their properties and how different materials are used for different purposes.

In History, we began our History of Flight unit, where the children learned to identify the main parts of an aeroplane. In Religious Education, we explored the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple from Luke's Gospel, learning about Simeon and Anna and the important role they played in the story.

We also enjoyed a very special Celebration of the Word held in our new Pope Francis Forest School, making it a meaningful and memorable experience for the children.

Question: What did Simeon say about Jesus?

Year Two

We have had another lovely week in Year 2.

In Maths this week, we have been focussing on symmetry, identifying vertical and horizontal lines of symmetry and completing shapes using rulers to help us.

In English, we have used our book 'Lizzie and the Birds' to support us in identifying sentences that include present tense verbs. The children have worked really hard with this, and practiced writing sentences and fixing errors.

The children have also worked so hard in their spelling lessons this week, adding suffixes -ing and -er to root words with accuracy.

As we continue our new RE unit, we heard the story of John preparing for the Messiah, and baptising Jesus. We thought about what advice John might give to us in our world today, and retold the stories using story strips.

In History, we compared the differences between women and men's rights from the early 1900s to present day. We had thoughtful discussions about the positive changes made for women across our country.

We enjoyed a wonderful Celebration of the Word with Mrs Artingstall exploring our new and exciting St Francis Prayer Garden.

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Three

This week in Year 3, children have been learning to identify triangles and quadrilaterals in Maths. Some of the key vocabulary the children used was vertices, right angle and quarter turn. In English, they have begun an exciting new unit linked to Ancient Greece, focusing on using adverbials of time, place and manner in their sentences. In RE, the children explored parables, with a particular focus on The Lost Sheep and The Good Samaritan, discussing their meanings and messages. Year 3 also had the opportunity to take part in a collective worship, the St Francis Tunnel of Peace celebration, led by Mrs Artingstall which the children all enjoyed.

Question: Can you name a sport from the Ancient Greek Olympics?

Year Four

This week has been extremely busy as the children settled down to their new units of work. In RE, we explored two parables: The Lost Sheep and The Good Samaritan. The children thought about the messages of love and forgiveness that Jesus wanted to convey through these stories. On Wednesday, Mrs Artingstall took each Year 4 class out to see the new Peace Garden where they participated in a Celebration of the Word. In Maths, we continued with our unit on Perimeter. The children loved the practical activities, measuring perimeter of shapes with straws and string before using standard units of measure. In English we have continued working on using direct speech with reporting clauses at both the start and the finish of speech. The children did a good job of checking punctuation and capitalisation. We are now beginning to revise all our times tables from the beginning, aiming for quicker and accurate recall.

Question: What is a polygon?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Five

Another busy week for Year 5. The week started with the Halle Orchestra coming in to work with the children, building on their musical knowledge. This will continue over the next few weeks and will culminate in a performance piece.

In Maths the children are working on expanded and short multiplication. They are using their skills of partitioning to help understand how to complete 3 digit numbers multiplied by a 1 digit number.

We have begun our next English topic and the children have been revisiting relative clauses and have been introduced to appositives and how to use them.

In RE the children have been learning about the 10 Commandments and the Greatest Commandment and also The Transfiguration.

Question - does the following multiplication require a regroup in the ones column
435 x 3

Year Six

In Year Six, we have continued to work extremely hard this week! We are coming to the end of our Mathematics unit on fractions, concentrating on calculating fractions of amounts and then doing the inverse to find the whole when given fractions of amounts. This required a considerable amount of concentration and a good understanding of the Bar Model representations.

Our English work has continued to delve into the story of Romeo and Juliet. We have consolidated our understanding of the effectiveness of time adverbials and connectives to move the story along. We also looked at how best to group relevant ideas into paragraphs to ensure our writing is logical throughout. Our modelled plan and writing of a diary entry from Juliet's perspective should give the children a great platform from which to produce a similar piece of writing from Romeo's viewpoint.

In R.E., we have looked at The Ten Commandments and The Greatest Commandment again, paying attention to the different ways these were covered in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We also started our work on The Transfiguration by analysing scripture and annotating artwork. We now have a greater understanding of what mysteries are in the Bible and why they can be difficult to understand fully.

Question: $\frac{4}{5}$ of = 20