



BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

Happy Friday! We've had a great week here at St Stephen's and we hope you have had one too!

Holiday Camps

We are delighted to introduce Fifth Movement - they are offering holiday camps that are packed with exciting, high-energy activities that keep children active, motivated and having fun. Led by expert coaches, every session is creative, inclusive and designed to inspire confidence and curiosity. They go beyond the usual camp experience to ensure every child leaves smiling, energized and eager to come back.

Browse upcoming parent-paid Holiday Camps below.

<https://fifthmovement.co.uk/holiday-camps/>

Free places are also available through the HAF programme for eligible children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals.

<https://eequ.org/book/fifth-movement-february-games-camp-with-fifth-movement-23226>

Arbor Pay

A reminder that we will be transitioning to use Arbor Pay instead of Parent Pay very school. You will need to set up your Arbor account before **Friday 30th January 2026**.

- 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.

Should you need any help in setting up your Arbor account, please contact the school office and they will be happy to help!

Message from Mrs Artingstall

As part of our Climate Action Plan, we would like to invite all the families of St. Stephen's School to take part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch. This is an annual citizen science event where participants record and report bird sightings. This initiative helps develop observation skills, raises awareness of biodiversity, and contributes valuable data for conservation efforts.

Please see the information on the next pages of the Newsletter. These will also be emailed out. Please send any pictures to your child's class teacher via dojo!

Have a great weekend! Mr. Lavin **Headteacher**

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

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service



Mission Statement

'Love one another, as I have loved you.' John 13:34

WEBSITE: www.stsrcp.school TEL: 0161 370 2071



Your how-to-guide and tally chart

Taking part is as easy as 1, 2, 3

- 1 Count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 23 and 25 January 2026.

Use the tally boxes on the next page to count and record the birds you spot. Transfer your count to the results form. This chart shows some birds you might see. You may see others, if so record those on the results form too. Where only one bird is shown on the ID Chart, both male and female birds look similar but are not always identical.

- 2 Following these simple rules makes it easy to count the birds you see.

Only include birds that land, not those flying over. Count the highest number of each species you see at any one time, otherwise you could count the same bird twice. For example, if you saw a group of eight Starlings but then towards the end of your hour you saw six together, record '8' as your final Starling count.

- 3 Go online and tell us what you saw at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

Submitting online is quick and easy and it means we can spend more on saving nature as it reduces our costs. Whatever you saw – even if nothing at all – please tell us. The more results we have, the better the picture will be of how garden birds are faring.

If you are unable to submit your results online, please complete and send us the print-from-home form.

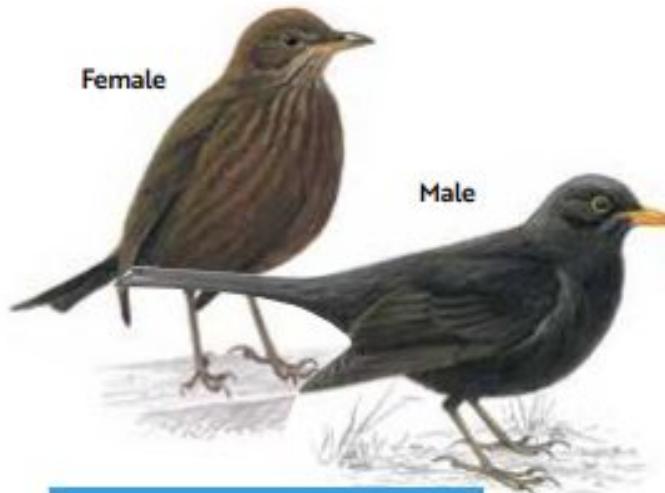
Helping you make your Big Garden Birdwatch count

Get involved on our social channels

Throughout the Big Garden Birdwatch long weekend, you can join in the conversation on our social channels. See what other nature lovers are spotting across the UK and you can upload pics and comments about your Birdwatch. Go to #BigGardenBirdWatch

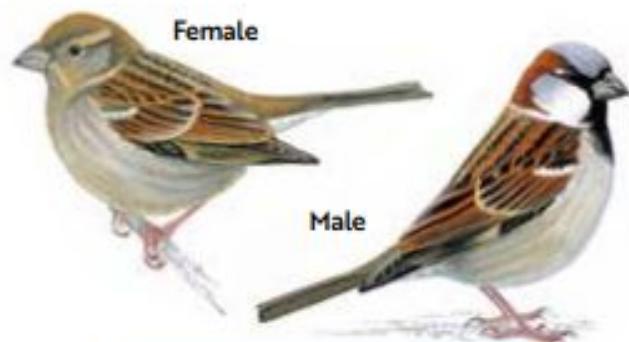
Get ID tips and expert advice

You'll find lots of advice on identifying birds by sight and sound, as well as expert insights into garden wildlife at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

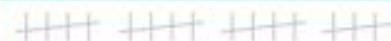
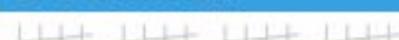


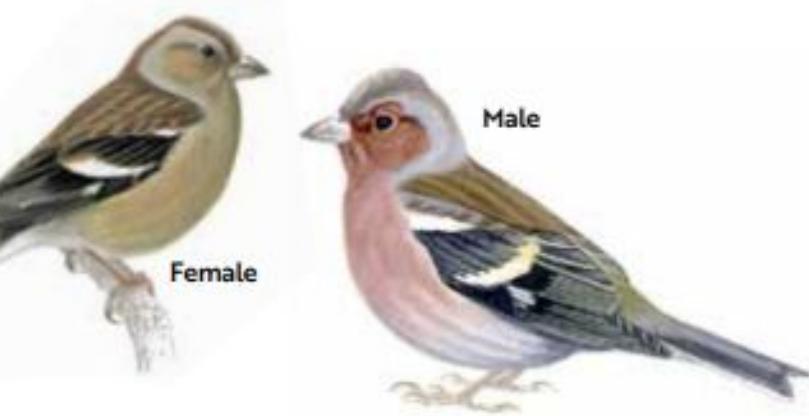
Blackbird

Blue Tit



House Sparrow





Chaffinch



Coal Tit



Long-tailed Tit



Collared Dove



Robin



Woodpigeon



Starling



Together, let's make it count

Connect to nature. Play your part.



Big Garden Birdwatch

BWMNAM0101

Record your results

What will you see?

Enjoy an hour in nature and count the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park.

How to record your results

- 1 Count the birds for one hour in your garden, from your balcony or local park **between 23 and 25 January 2026**.
- 2 Use the ID chart to tally the total for each bird and then record the number in the boxes below.
- 3 Count the most birds of a particular species you see at any one time. So, if you see a group of eight Starlings, but later see six together, please write down eight as your final count.
- 4 If you don't see any of the birds on the chart, record '0' as your final count – it's important for us to know which birds are 'no shows'.
- 5 Only include birds that land, not those flying over.
- 6 Even if you saw nothing make sure you tell us – it still counts.

Name of bird

Most seen at one time

Blackbird	<input type="text"/>
Blue Tit	<input type="text"/>
Chaffinch	<input type="text"/>
Coal Tit	<input type="text"/>
Collared Dove	<input type="text"/>
Dunnock	<input type="text"/>
Goldfinch	<input type="text"/>
Great Tit	<input type="text"/>
Greenfinch	<input type="text"/>
House Sparrow	<input type="text"/>
Long-tailed Tit	<input type="text"/>
Magpie	<input type="text"/>
Robin	<input type="text"/>
Starling	<input type="text"/>
Woodpigeon	<input type="text"/>
Other birds	<input type="text"/>

Discover more about Birdwatch

You can simply use the chart opposite to take part, but if you would like to know more go to www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

You'll find expert advice, tips and features on how to attract birds onto your patch for a busy Birdwatch.

And you can share your pics and stories on social media using **#BigGardenBirdWatch**

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654.

BGBW-26

23–25 January 2026

Let's keep in touch on your terms

Thank you for taking action for nature.

We're working hard to do all we can to save it. You can play your own, very important part, which is why we'd love to let you know about the conservation, campaigning, research and fundraising work that we're doing.

If you're happy for the RSPB and RSPB Shop to keep in touch, please let us know how you would like to hear from us:

Post	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes please	<input type="checkbox"/> No thanks
Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes please	<input type="checkbox"/> No thanks
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes please	<input type="checkbox"/> No thanks
Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes please	<input type="checkbox"/> No thanks

You're in control. If you'd like to change your choices at a later date, all you have to do is call us on 01767 693680 or go to www.rspb.org.uk/preferences. If you decide to stay in touch, we'll also keep you up to date with news about membership, products, offers and competitions. Your details will be kept safe and secure, only used by us, or those who work for us, and will not be shared with anyone else. We analyse information you provide, and about how you've helped us, to decide what communications will be of interest to you (and so that we can save our resources for conservation work) and to help us understand our supporters. We also use this information to run our charity's operations, e.g. if you place an order or make a donation, we'll need your details to process those. If you would like to know more or understand your data protection rights, please take a look at www.rspb.org.uk/privacypolicy

Please use CAPITAL letters.

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Mx etc)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Your address	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
County/Council area	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mobile	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email (over 18s only)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of birth if under 18	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
How many people took part?	<input type="text"/>	Adults	<input type="text"/>
Children	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
If you didn't do your Big Garden Birdwatch at home, where did you do it? Postcode (if different from above)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

How to submit your results

When you've done your Birdwatch, go to www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch and submit your totals using the online results form. **Submit your results by 22 February 2026.**

If you'd rather send us your results by post, send this completed form to us in an envelope addressed **FREEPOST RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH** by **17 February 2026**. This is a short address, but it will definitely reach us.



Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

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 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



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner

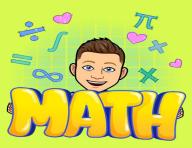


Nursery	Elsa
RNE	Arthur
RAB	Eleanor
Y1AL	Dustie
Y1LB	Kofi
Y2JL	Harmony
Y2LW	Evie
Y3MD	Noah
Y3LH	Armaan
Y4HG	Parker
Y4HB	Sam
Y5CP	Elvis
Y5LS	Sofija, Peyton Caoimhe
Y6GB	Luca
Y6DF	Zoe

Readers of the Week



Nursery	Damien & Millie
RNE	Caitlyn
RAB	Imoleoluwa
Y1AL	Nellie
Y1LB	Elliott
Y2JL	Sienna
Y2LW	Iremide
Y3MD	Zainab
Y3LH	Leon
Y4HG	Kalani
Y4HB	Elijah
Y5CP	Jensen
Y5LS	Emmanuella
Y6GB	Davina
Y6DF	Angel

**Maths Star**

Nursery	Leah-Rose
RNE	Caleb
RAB	Alba
Y1AL	Coby-Ray
Y1LB	Adrian
Y2JL	Myles
Y2LW	Leon
Y3MD	Louie
Y3LH	Eli
Y4HG	Jacob
Y4HB	Sophie
Y5CP	Hudson
Y5LS	Adora
Y6GB	Evianna
Y6DF	Joshua

Writing Star

Nursery	Isobelle
RNE	Favour
RAB	Lily
Y1AL	Harlow
Y1LB	Lincoln
Y2JL	Brume
Y2LW	Vinnie
Y3MD	Ylan
Y3LH	Jessica
Y4HG	Linen
Y4HB	Thomas F
Y5CP	Kiana
Y5LS	Zahraa
Y6GB	Avaya
Y6DF	Mehrsam

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%



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community.

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect - even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness.

A Word from the Saints

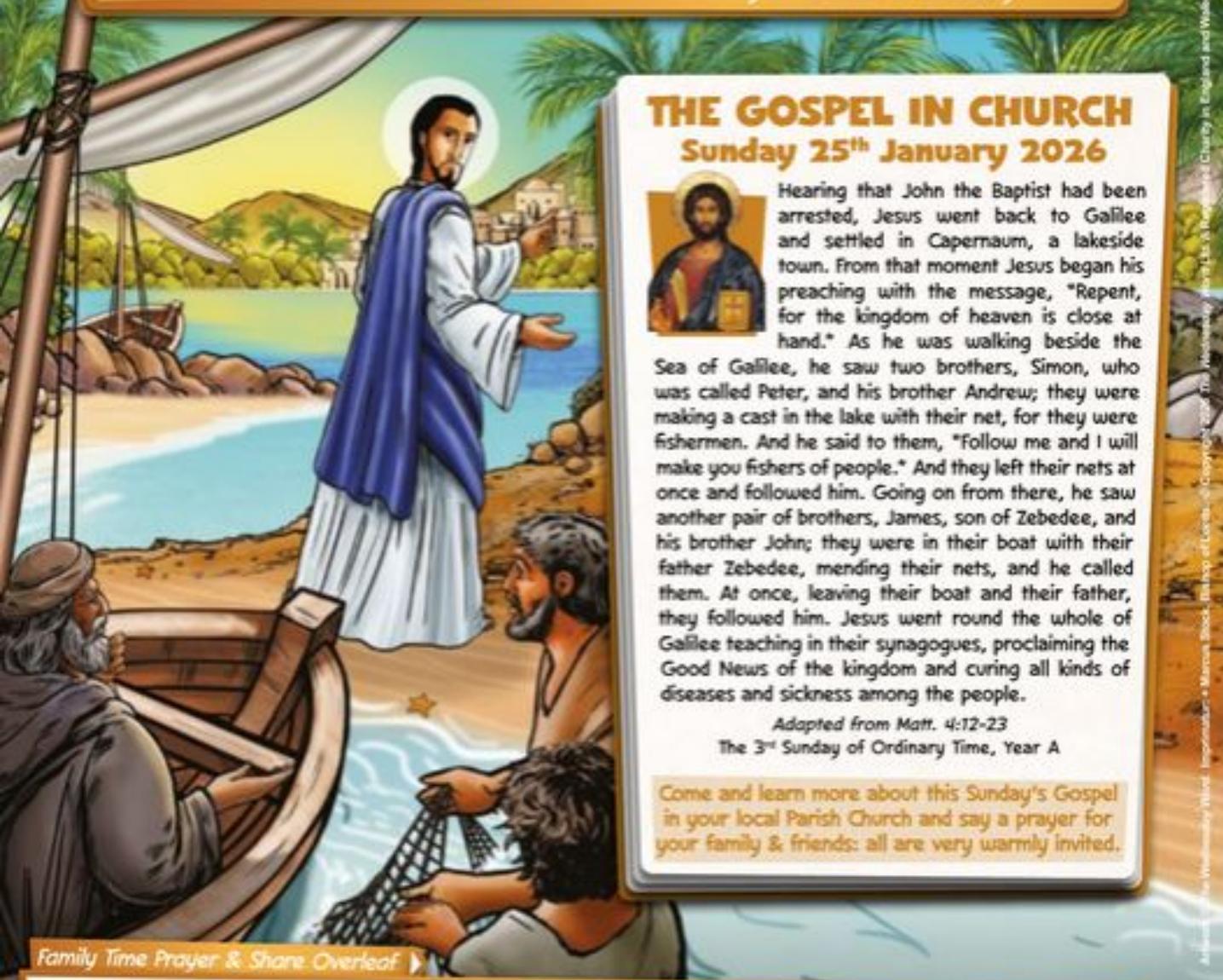
"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community." St Baldwin of Canterbury

Wednesday 21st January 2026

People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school - together.

Enjoy a special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMMUNITY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 25th January 2026



Hearing that John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." As he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there, he saw another pair of brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Adapted from Matt. 4:12-23
The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf

Good News for Everyone

When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus gathers round him a community which receives his word, follows it, shares in his journey and becomes his family. Jesus came for everyone and with him we, and our children, will never be on our own.



Good News for Families

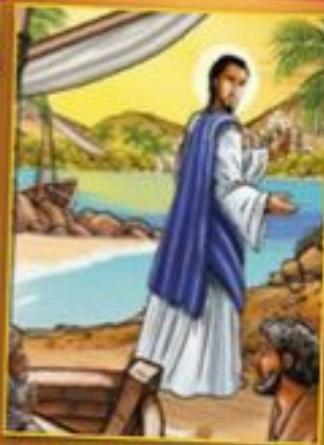
TOGETHER TIME

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

One day, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew. They were fishing and Jesus called to them, "Follow me. From now on you will be gathering people instead of fish." Straightaway they left their nets and followed Jesus. Then Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John, who were also fishermen. When Jesus called them to follow him, they were in a boat with their father, Zebedee. But they too followed Jesus at once.

What did Jesus say the fishermen would be gathering from now on?

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...

"Community is the place where love is proven, where we learn to forgive, to begin again, and to serve one another."

St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus starts to form a community. Ask your child what the word 'community' means to them. Which communities do they belong to (e.g. family, cubs, brownies, football, etc.)? Another word we could use for our school is 'community'. What does your child enjoy most about their school community? Can they remember who made them feel really welcome when they started school?

COMMUNITY

Each of you name at least one thing that other family members are good at, which could help strengthen the family community. Without our own unique contribution to our community, something valuable will be missing. How can we also use our gifts for the good of the different communities we belong to? Perhaps we can: join a school team; welcome new people into our community; volunteer to use a gift or skill to help out with a project; join with others to organise a family fun night at school; support a fundraising event.

3 *Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our school and parish communities. Please help me say 'Yes' to you, and enrich the communities to which I belong. Amen.*

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GALILEE
<input type="checkbox"/>	FISHERMEN
<input type="checkbox"/>	LEFT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NETS
<input type="checkbox"/>	FOLLOWED
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS
<input type="checkbox"/>	GATHERING
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEOPLE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **U N M** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

nuemren **camlulend** **Fomlunlow** **uhinsm**

Peter and _____ brother Andrew _____ fishing

and Jesus _____ to them, " _____ me!"



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him. Today, Jesus calls people, like you and me, to help him - to build his community - a community built on love.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





Nursery

It's been a busy week in Nursery and we have thoroughly enjoyed our learning of 'The Naughty Bus.'

Next week, we will begin our new book 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy a story about Baby Bear wanting one last adventure before bedtime- to go to Space!.

In our Phonics this week we have really enjoyed the Nursery rhyme 'Mary, Mary, quite contrary' we have sang the rhyme beautifully together. We especially liked recognising rhyming words- grass and glass and bee and knee.

We have been working hard during our Fine Motor sessions, enjoying dough dances, mark making and pencil control activities.

In Maths, we have been learning about the number 4, we have also been naming and discussing properties of squares and rectangles.

We engaged in a lovely Celebration of the Word too, singing our favourite songs- 'Magic Penny' and 'Jesus loves me this I know' the children sat beautifully as we spoke about Jesus and how he is a good Role Model for everyone.

Question- How many sides does a Square have?

Reception

What a fantastic week we have had in Reception! The children have been full of enthusiasm and have worked incredibly hard across all areas of learning. In maths, we have been exploring the numbers 6, 7 and 8, representing them in lots of different ways using practical resources, pictures and talk to deepen our understanding. The children enjoyed showing what these numbers look like in different forms and explaining their thinking.

In literacy, we have been busy changing our story map for *The Train Ride* and retelling our own new version of the story. The children loved adding their own ideas, using actions, key vocabulary and growing confidence when speaking and listening as part of our Talk for Writing work.

In RE, we learned about the well-known story where Jesus fed the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish. The children were fascinated by this story of sharing and generosity — and even better, we shared some delicious Lidl bakery bread together while retelling the story, which made the learning extra special and memorable!

It has been such a fun, joyful and busy week in Reception, and we are so proud of how engaged and excited the children have been in their learning. Thank you for your continued support — we are looking forward to another brilliant week ahead!

Question: What two numbers can you use to make the number 7?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year One

We have had a lovely week in Year 1!

In English, we have been completing our independent write where the children have written 2 sentences each day re-telling what Blip did when she became unplugged. We have been focusing on maintaining a consistent past tense, and we are amazed at the standard of our children's writing when doing this.

In Maths, we have been strengthening our understanding of numbers within 20, with the focus being on using a number line this week.

In R.E we thought about how we can let our light shine, and we learnt the Bible story of finding Jesus in the temple.

In History, we learnt about how humans have attempted flight through time.

We ended the week at Runway Visitor Centre. We all had a fantastic time and it was an incredible enhancement to our learning of The History of Flight.

Tell your adults at home about what you learnt on our school trip to the airport.

Year Two

It has been an extremely busy and exciting week in Year 2!

In English, we've been diving into the present progressive tense and mastering the spelling rules for adding the suffixes -ing, -er, and -ed. The children did a fantastic job identifying grammatical errors, incorporating relevant vocabulary, and describing actions with picture prompts.

In Maths, we explored the world of 3D shapes, identifying and recording the number of faces, edges, and vertices, and sorting shapes by their properties. We even had fun recognising and continuing patterns in both 2D and 3D shapes!

Our History lessons took us back in time as we discussed women's rights, exploring views from the past and present, and understanding the cause and effect of the Suffragettes' actions.

Finally in RE, we analysed artwork depicting the baptism of Jesus, answering questions about the symbols of God the Father and the Holy Spirit. The children also wrote insightful questions for the artist and shared their favourite elements of the artwork.

Question: In what year were women over the age of 21 granted the right to vote?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Three

We have had another busy week in Year 3. In Maths we have been investigating the properties of rectangles and squares, and we enjoyed cutting these shapes on the diagonal to see what new shapes were made. Following this, we cut out different shapes and made patterns with them, joining 4 right angles around a fixed point to make a full turn.

In English, we are continuing our work on compound sentences, using different coordinating conjunctions to write about the role of women in the Ancient Greek Olympic Games. This tied in nicely with our History lesson, which was all about the female-only Heraean Games. We learnt about the history of the Heraean Games and the kinds of events women could participate in.

In RE, we have continued looking at Jesus' parables. This week we read The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the children thought very carefully about its meaning and what the Kingdom of God might be like.

Question: Which events at the Heraean Games could women participate in?

Year Four

In Year 4 we have been working very hard this week. In RE, the children have continued exploring the parables of Jesus. This week we looked at 'The Mustard Seed' which involved some interesting discussions about The Kingdom of God - where it is and what it is like.

In English we continued with our work on writing direct speech by identifying when to begin a new paragraph in a dialogue. The children also did an outstanding job of inserting thoughtful reporting clauses to show characterisation.

In Maths we are coming to the end of our unit on Perimeter. This week we practised finding perimeters of regular polygons by multiplying the length of one side by its number of sides. In History we have begun our new unit on Anglo Saxons and Vikings by placing the invasion of the Anglo Saxons on a timeline with other historical events well known to the children. The children also learnt when and why the invasion occurred.

Question: What is a parable?



Year Five

Year 5 have had a fantastic week! In Maths, the children worked hard exploring different methods to find the most efficient way to solve multiplication calculations and word problems. In English, they continued developing their use of appositives, correctly punctuating them with dashes and brackets, before adding them into compound sentences and experimenting with moving them to different positions within a sentence. During Religious Education, the children deepened their understanding of the Transfiguration, showing empathy with the disciples, before analysing the story of the Good Samaritan. We also thoroughly enjoyed our Celebration of the Word, which was thoughtfully and confidently planned entirely by representatives from our class. We also have continued our sessions with the Halle Orchestra and the children are thoroughly enjoying experimenting with instruments.

Homework- Please complete the following pages:

Year Six

Year 6 have had a highly productive week, and we are extremely proud of their effort and enthusiasm. In English, pupils completed an independent diary entry recounting Romeo's first meeting with Juliet from his perspective, demonstrating excellent use of ambitious vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, active and passive voice, and a range of adverbials of time and time connectives to create cohesive and engaging writing. In Maths, we began our unit on ratio, where children compared quantities using "for every..." sentences before being introduced to the ratio symbol; they also explored the relationship between fractions and ratios and were introduced to scaled drawings. In RE, pupils learned about The Transfiguration and examined the parable of The Good Samaritan, analysing scripture and artwork to identify key messages and reflect on important moral lessons — their insights were thoughtful and mature. On Friday, we launched our new Geography unit with a Natural Resources Day, where pupils learned about renewable and non-renewable energy, analysed maps to locate natural reserves, and explored how fossil fuels are used to generate energy.

Overall, Year 6 have worked exceptionally hard — well done!

Question: The ratio of cows to sheep is 4:6, what is the ratio if I have 12 cows?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe