



## St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

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

Friday 30th January 2026

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

**A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...** I hope you are well and have had a really positive week! Our children have been working extremely hard and my office has been full of children visiting to show off their amazing work! We had our Governor's Meeting last night and I am pleased to confirm our term dates for the academic year 2026/27 have been approved. You will find them on the next page.

**Year 2** - Over the past two Thursdays, Year 2 LW and Year 1 LB children have delivered their class assemblies. It's so lovely to see their hard work and wonderful singing being shared with parents/carers. Well done to both classes. Next up with Year 1AL on Thursday morning - 9:05am in the school hall.

**Year 6** - Both our Year 6 classes took part in a beautiful retreat day this week, with the theme of 'Moving on'. Both classes participated wonderfully and Mrs Farmer was very impressed. Year 2 have a retreat in school next week. These retreats play an important part in our children's spiritual development.

### Reminders

#### 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.

- 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.
- If you have not been able to access the Arbor App yet, please email the school office at [admin@stsrcp.co.uk](mailto:admin@stsrcp.co.uk) so we can send you a password reset link.

A reminder that school is closed on Friday 6th February for our Trust wide INSET day. Have a great 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

# St Stephen's RC Primary School Calendar 2026-2027

<b>Autumn 1 Term (33 days)</b>		
Staff INSET (1)	Tuesday 1st September 2026	School Closed
School reopens	Wednesday 2nd September 2026	School Opens
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 16th October 2026	Half term begins at 3:15pm

<b>Autumn 2 Term (35 days)</b>		
School reopens	Monday 2nd November 2026	School Opens
School closes for Christmas	Friday 18th December 2026	School closes at 1:30pm

<b>Spring 1 Term (29 days)</b>		
Staff INSET (2)	Monday 4th January 2027	School Closed
School reopens	Tuesday 5th January 2027	School Opens
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 12th February 2027	Half term begins at 3:15pm

<b>Spring 2 Term (24 days)</b>		
School reopens	Monday 22nd February 2027	
School closes for Easter	Thursday 25th March 2027	School closes at 1:30pm

<b>Summer 1 Term (34 days)</b>		
School reopens	Monday 5th April 2027	School Opens
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027	School Closed
School closes for mid-term break	Friday 21st May 2027	Half term begins at 3:15pm

<b>Summer 2 Term (35 days)</b>		
School reopens	Monday 7th June 2027	School Opens
School closes for Summer	Friday 23rd July 2027	School closes at 1:30pm
Staff INSET (3)	Monday 26th July 2027	School Closed
Staff INSET (4)	Tuesday 27th July 2027	School Closed
Staff INSET (5)	Wednesday 28th July 2027	School Closed

**190 School days + 5 INSET = 195 days**

## Staff INSET - School closed for pupils

Tuesday 1st September 2026	School Closed for INSET
Monday 4th January 2027	School Closed for INSET
Monday 26th July 2027	School Closed for INSET
Tuesday 27th July 2027	School Closed for INSET
Wednesday 28th July 2027	School Closed for INSET

## Bank Holidays

Friday 25th December 2026	Christmas Day
Saturday 26th December 2026	Boxing Day
Friday 1st January 2027	New Year's Day
Friday 26th March 2027	Good Friday
Monday 29th March 2027	Easter Monday
Monday 3rd May 2027	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 31st May 2027	Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 31st August 2027	Summer Bank Holiday

The table above shows 190 pupil school days and 5 INSET days. Any application for leave of absence during term time will only be considered by the headteacher if there are exceptional circumstances that warrant granting leave. Please note: Family holidays should not be taken during term time.



## Dates for your calendar - Spring 1

### 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	Break the Rules Day
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



<b>Nursery</b>	Esme & Pearl
<b>RNE</b>	Ivy
<b>RAB</b>	Maya
<b>Y1AL</b>	Nova
<b>Y1LB</b>	Alfie
<b>Y2JL</b>	Harriet
<b>Y2LW</b>	Noah
<b>Y3MD</b>	Frankie
<b>Y3LH</b>	Freddie
<b>Y4HG</b>	Freddie
<b>Y4HB</b>	Milliane
<b>Y5CP</b>	Ebony
<b>Y5LS</b>	Anopa
<b>Y6GB</b>	FiyinfoLuwa
<b>Y6DF</b>	Godwin

## Readers of the Week

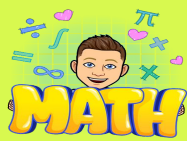


<b>Nursery</b>	Valentina & Arlo
<b>RNE</b>	Rinsola
<b>RAB</b>	Arla
<b>Y1AL</b>	Mazeedah
<b>Y1LB</b>	Emily
<b>Y2JL</b>	Harper
<b>Y2LW</b>	Faaizah
<b>Y3MD</b>	Ronnie
<b>Y3LH</b>	Poppy-Kay
<b>Y4HG</b>	Gavriel
<b>Y4HB</b>	Jack
<b>Y5CP</b>	Anaya
<b>Y5LS</b>	Zaarah
<b>Y6GB</b>	Frances
<b>Y6DF</b>	Elijah





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Alby & Lyla
<b>RNE</b>	Lennie
<b>RAB</b>	Cameron
<b>Y1AL</b>	Nehneh
<b>Y1LB</b>	Fifi
<b>Y2JL</b>	Tilly
<b>Y2LW</b>	Bella
<b>Y3MD</b>	Tissy
<b>Y3LH</b>	Bobby
<b>Y4HG</b>	Annie
<b>Y4HB</b>	Lano
<b>Y5CP</b>	Kacper
<b>Y5LS</b>	Ethan
<b>Y6GB</b>	Samson
<b>Y6DF</b>	Serenity

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Faheemah
<b>RNE</b>	Olivia
<b>RAB</b>	Harvey
<b>Y1AL</b>	Darcy
<b>Y1LB</b>	Peggie
<b>Y2JL</b>	Tommy
<b>Y2LW</b>	Jake
<b>Y3MD</b>	Keziah
<b>Y3LH</b>	Luke
<b>Y4HG</b>	Evelyn
<b>Y4HB</b>	Isla
<b>Y5CP</b>	Clark
<b>Y5LS</b>	Harrison
<b>Y6GB</b>	Charlotte
<b>Y6DF</b>	Freya

# 1% BETTER







St Stephen's RCP

# Attendance League

NAM	75%	Y3LH	93.8%
NPM	91.4%	Y3MD	96.3%
RNE	84.7%	Y4HG	99%
RAB	90%	Y4HB	97.5%
Y1AL	89.7%	Y5LS	94.8%
Y1LB	95.1%	Y5CP	96.3%
Y2JL	97.4%	Y6GB	93.5%
Y2LW	92.7%	Y6DF	100%

## St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	23	5th: 2LW	11
2nd: 1LB	20	6th: NAM	6
3rd: NFD	15	7th: RAB	6
4rd: RNE	13		
5th: 2JL	11		

## St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 4HG	30	6th: 4HB	6
2nd: 6DF	27	7th: 3LH	5
3rd: 5CP	13	8th: 5LS	3
4th: 3MD	9		
5th: 6GB	7		

#TEAMSTSTEPHENS



## Religious Education

### Relics of Saint Carlo Acutis

Today, our pupil leadership team had the opportunity to venerate the Relics of Saint Carlos Acutis at St Patrick's Church. The diocese led the children through a beautiful Celebration of the Word which was shared with all staff in school. This allowed all children to participate in the prayer from their classroom.

Saint Carlo Acutis is a special saint because:

**He loved computers and Jesus** 🖥️

Carlo was very good with computers and made a website about miracles, but he also loved praying and going to church.

**He was kind and helped others** ❤️

Carlo shared his pocket money with poor people and always tried to be friendly and helpful.

**He became a saint when he was very young** ☀️

Carlo died when he was only 15 years old, and the Church made him a saint because he lived a very loving and holy life

### Prayer of the Week

God our Father,  
we thank you for the  
example of  
**Saint Carlo Acutis.**  
He loved You and wanted  
to be with you in Heaven.  
Help us to be like him:  
to love the Eucharist,  
to pray the rosary  
and to help those in need  
in our school  
and our community.  
To the glory of your Name.  
Amen

### Caritas Award

We are awarding this to Gary and Martin for their amazing display boards in the hall.





Dear Parents and Carers,

Out of his great love for us, God created us to be happy with him forever. The blessings in this Sunday's Gospel, which promise true, lasting happiness, are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and are known as the Beatitudes.

To be gentle and to mourn means to share the sorrows of others and help them. To hunger and thirst for what is right, and to be prepared to be persecuted for it, needs courage and good judgement. 'Meek' really means un-pompous, genuine.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The merciful don't insist on their rights, but have strength to see the point of view of others and to think of the needs of others as well as their own needs.

Jesus' words would have turned upside down the thoughts that most of his listeners had about true happiness, and maybe they challenge our own ideas too.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HAPPINESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Whoever possesses God is happy!" St. Augustine

"The Beatitudes are Jesus' way of life and they are the way of true happiness."

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026



Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: "How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people mistreat you and persecute you and speak all kinds of slander against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Adapted from Matthew 5:1-12  
The 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overlay ▶

Good News for Everyone

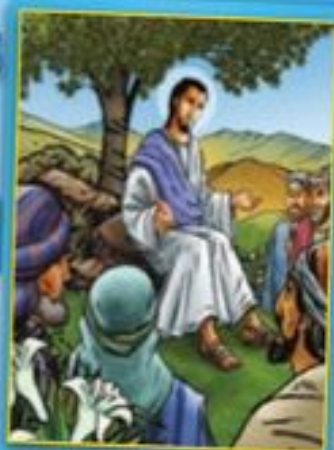
We all want to be happy, to have a sense of well-being and inner joy. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount teaches us how to discover the true happiness for which we were created. Living in the way that Jesus taught us, knowing that we are loved forever by God our Father and responding to that love by loving others, is the path to everlasting happiness – to live forever with God.





# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



### 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?

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

Jesus' disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them. "Happy are people who know they need God, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Happy are people who are gentle. Happy are people who show mercy, for they will have mercy shown to them. Happy are the people whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. Happy are people who make peace, for they will be called children of God. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

### Who did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven belongs 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.

## 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"The goal of our life is to experience God's own happiness - a gift to every person."

*Adapted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos 1718-1719)*

## HAPPINESS



Ask your child what they think true happiness is. When or where are they usually most happy? What is their happiest memory? When did your child last make someone truly happy? It may help your child if you can tell them when they most recently made you happy (or when you are most happy). True happiness comes from knowing and loving God. Sharing God's love is the happiest way to live.

Each of you choose some little, simple thing to do which will help to create a better atmosphere of happiness in school, the community, or at home this week. Perhaps you can: volunteer to give someone a helping hand; serve your parents and teachers by cheerfully doing what you are asked to do at home and at school; forgive someone who has upset you, and make a fresh start with them; give someone a kind message or a gift.

## 3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us how to be truly happy. May our family be filled with the happiness which comes from following your ways, so that we can share it with others. Amen.

## FINDING THREE!

S E D U T I T A E B R  
S T A U G H T U T G H  
E E H E A V E N E D A  
N R J G R E W A R D P  
I N E E U P L A V B P  
P A S P J A W C S E I  
P L U P N E T J V A N  
A H S R R S U S E J E  
H S E L P I C S I D S  
C T D I S C I P L E S  
E B E A T I T U D E S

### WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- ☐ JESUS
- ☐ TAUGHT
- ☐ DISCIPLES
- ☐ BEATITUDES
- ☐ REWARD
- ☐ HEAVEN
- ☐ ETERNAL
- ☐ HAPPINESS

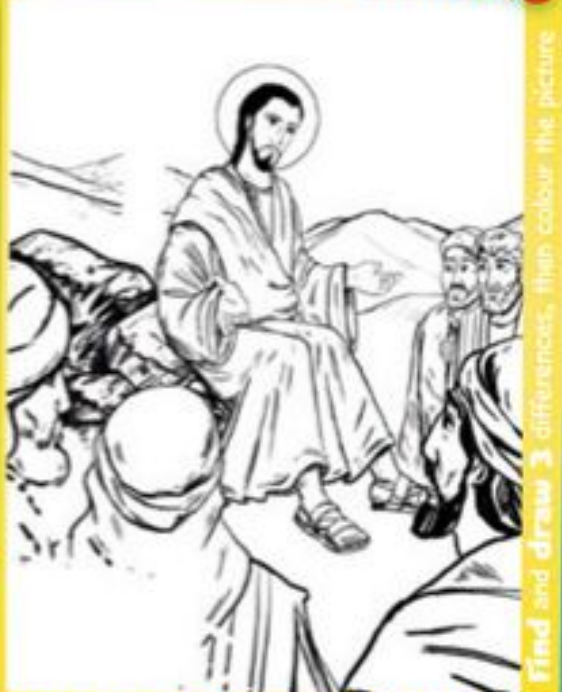
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **b c u** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

kibnugdocm cheabuvon Habpucy pebocpule

"\_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ who know they need God,  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to them."

A happy heart is a sign of God's Spirit within us. This Sunday's Gospel shows us how to be happy. We don't have to search around for happiness: it comes from within. When we listen to Jesus and follow his ways we are filled with happiness!



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

Our Nursery Rhyme of the week in phonics has been 'Round and Round the Garden'. We have loved creating actions to this song this week. Our sound focus this week has been 'O' and we are confident in naming things that begin with this sound- 'Otter, Ostrich and Orange.' We have been very excited to listen to our new story 'Whatever Next!' and have created some wonderful Art work around the theme of Space.

In Maths we have continued our focus on the Number 4 and learning about the different ways it is represented.

We can recall key information about the story and we particularly loved the middle of the story where Baby bear had a picnic on the moon with his friend the Owl.

In our RE sessions this week we have listened attentively to the story 'Jesus feeding the 5000'.

We know that Jesus is loved by everyone and that he fed the people with 5 loaves and 2 fish. In our Celebration of the Word sessions, we have identified key symbols such as a heart, candle and bible and spoke about the importance of them and what they represent.

We have also made the sign of the cross on our foreheads using water.

The children were very respectful during this time.

### Questions

What items from around the home did Baby bear use to make his rocket?  
What mode of transport did Baby bear pass in the sky as he was going to space?

## Reception

This week, we have started our new class text *Handa's Surprise*, and the children have absolutely loved exploring the story. We have been learning all about the characters and events, talking about what happens first, next and at the end, and developing our understanding of the story through discussion and activities.

Next week, we will begin retelling the story using a story map that we will create together, helping the children to recall events in order and use story language confidently.

In maths, we have been learning about making pairs and exploring what happens when numbers are even or odd. The children have been focusing on the numbers 6, 7 and 8, counting carefully, making pairs and checking to see if any are left over. This has helped them to understand the composition of numbers and explain their thinking clearly.

In RE, we revisited the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and built on this by learning about Mary's Meals, a charity that helps provide food for children around the world. We talked about the meaning of the word charity and discussed how Jesus showed kindness and generosity by giving to others. The children have worked really hard this week and should be very proud of themselves.

True or false? 7 is an odd number because when you make pairs, one is left over.

Can you explain why?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe





## Year One

A huge well done to 1LB for their wonderful Class Assembly yesterday themed around our Mission Statement, 'Love one another, as I have loved you.'

In R.E this week, we have wondered about Jesus' early life and we have learnt how he started to spread the Good News.

In English, we have started our new text, 'You Choose', where the children have been writing sentences including a direct object.

In Maths, we have completed our place value to 20 unit, and the children have been ordering and comparing numbers.

Our History lesson this week was how the Wright brothers invented the first successful aeroplane.

**Question: What did the first aeroplane have that modern planes still have?**

## Year Two

Another fantastic week has flown by in Year 2!

In English this week, we have explored our new text 'The Disgusting Sandwich', from which we have begun focussing on imperative verbs to give commands.

In Maths, we have been introduced to coins and notes, and have begun to add values of money to find a total.

This week in RE we have learnt the stories of Jesus healing a paralysed man, along with Jesus calming a storm. The children completed some beautiful work responding to these stories of miracles.

We ended the week with a beautiful Celebration of the Word.

Question - Can you list five imperative verbs?





## Year Three

Another exciting week in Year 3! In English, the children have continued their learning about Ancient Greece, focusing on developing their writing skills using compound sentences. They have been learning how to use coordinating conjunctions effectively, as well as adverbials of time and manner. The children have shown great enthusiasm and creativity when applying these skills to their work.

In Maths, we have begun our new unit on adding three-digit numbers. The children have been exploring different methods, including partitioning and adjusting strategies. They have worked hard to explain their thinking and are growing in confidence when tackling more challenging number problems.

In RE this week, the children explored the story of Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man (Matthew 9:1–8). Through discussion and reflection, they deepened their understanding of Jesus' miracles and the messages within the scripture. The children also compared themselves to Jesus, gaining an understanding that Jesus shares many qualities with us all, such as kindness, compassion, and the ability to help others. This led to some thoughtful conversations and meaningful learning.

**Question:** What is a coordinating conjunction?

## Year Four

**The children have been working very hard this week.**

**In English all our work on direct speech has started to be used in context now as the children wrote their own short text based on an animation linked to our book 'Rock, Paper, Scissors.' They did a good job of creating dialogue with all the necessary elements. In Maths we began a new unit which involves investigation times tables: patterns, divisibility and square numbers. It was great to see the children using their reasoning skills.**

**In History we continued with Anglo-Saxons by looking at the life of Alfred the Great and explaining if and why he deserves the title 'Great.'**

**In RE, we continued with our work on parables by exploring the story in Matthew of Jesus Healing a Paralysed Man. Our Celebration of the Word was a special one based on the life of Saint Carlos Acutis who inspired love for Jesus in the modern world.**

**Question:** How did St Carlos show his love for Jesus during his lifetime?



## Year Five

Another busy week for Year 5!

In Maths the children have moved on from multiplication to division and have made a fantastic start to the informal methods of division.

In English the children have been getting a deeper understanding of how to add extra information to compound and complex sentences. They have been using both relative clauses and appositives.

In RE the children have learnt about the Parable of The Good Samaritan and it's link to the Greatest Commandment. They have learnt that Pope Francis chose to use this parable in his encyclical, a letter in 2020 called Fratelli Tutti.

In PE they have been working on Health Related Fitness and are learning to push themselves

**What should be at the start and end of an appositive?**

## Year Six

What a week we have had in Year 6!

In Maths, our focus has been on Ratio and proportion. This started with understanding the language and symbol used in ratio, which led us on nicely to ratio problems. We have also been looking at scale factors and similar shapes, which has involved plenty of drawing and measuring!

In English, we have been editing and publishing our diary entries from the perspective of Romeo. The children have been demonstrating their critical eyes as well as their excellent handwriting and attention to detail, which has resulted in some display-worthy pieces being produced!

Our R.E. work has centred on The Good Samaritan and making links between this parable and our previous learning around The Greatest Commandment. We also discussed the relevance of the parable today, especially within the Fratelli Tutti encyclical written by Pope Francis.

We were also extremely grateful for our R.E. Retreat Days which were earlier on in the week. The children learned all about what it meant to be "Faith-Filled", and produced some exceptional artwork, prayers and interpretations of what this means for us. We would like to thank Mrs. Farmer for providing us with such a wonderful experience!

**Question: How does the parable of The Good Samaritan link to The Greatest Commandment?**