



## St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

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

Friday 13th February 2026

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

### A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

As we come to the end of another half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful journey we have shared together as a school community. Guided by our school mission, "*Love one another as I have loved you,*" and our values of *Compassion, Ambition, Rejoice, Excellence, and Service*, it has been a joy to see these lived out so clearly in the daily life of our school. Our children continue to show kindness and care towards one another, to aim high in their learning, to celebrate each other's successes, to take pride in doing their best, and to serve others with generous hearts.

Over the past weeks, we have seen our children truly develop and flourish both academically and spiritually. In classrooms, children have shown growing confidence in their learning, resilience when faced with challenges, and real ambition to improve and achieve their best. Beyond academic progress, we have also seen beautiful moments of spiritual growth – thoughtful reflections in collective worship, children supporting one another in times of difficulty, and many small but meaningful acts of compassion and service across the school. These moments remind us that education is about nurturing the whole child, and we are incredibly proud of the way our pupils are growing in character as well as in knowledge.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff team for their unwavering hard work, care, and dedication. Each day, they go above and beyond to create a nurturing, inspiring, and supportive environment where every child feels valued and encouraged to succeed. Their commitment to our school mission and values is evident in all that they do, and the positive impact they have on the children's learning and wellbeing cannot be overstated. We are truly blessed to have such a passionate and committed team serving our school community.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support. Your partnership with us, your encouragement at home, and your commitment to the life of the school make a huge difference to our children's success and wellbeing. We are deeply grateful for the hard work and dedication you show to the school and to your children each day. Together, we are creating a caring, ambitious, and joyful community in which every child can thrive.

Today, we were delighted to celebrate a very special milestone with Miss Dempsey, our Deputy Headteacher, on her 40th birthday. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a very Happy Birthday!

Thank you for another successful half term. We wish you all a restful and happy break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next chapter of our journey together. You will find the dates for the next term later in the Newsletter.

Take care, 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 2

### Week Beginning 23rd February 2026

Date	Event
23/02/26	Return to school
27/02/26	Whole School Mass @ 10am

### Week Beginning 2nd March 2026

Date	Event
02/03/26	Y3LH Retreat in school
03/03/26	Y3MD Retreat in school
04/03/26	Y3 First Confession at 1:30pm in Church
05/03/26	World Book Day
05/03/26	Parent's Evening
06/03/26	Year 4 and 5 Mass at 10am

### Week Beginning 9th March 2026

Date	Event
11/03/26	Y4 Confession at 1:30pm in Church
12/03/26	Nursery Class Assembly 9:05am
13/03/26	Year 1, 2 and 3 Mass at 10am

### Week Beginning 16th March 2026

Date	Event
16/03/26	Y2LW Stay and Pray
17/03/26	Wear Green for St Patrick's Day Y2JL Stay and Pray
18/03/26	Y5 Confession at 1:30pm in Church
19/03/26	Y6GB Class Assembly 9:05am
20/03/26	Reception and Y6 Mass @ 10am

### Week Beginning 23rd March 2026

Date	Event
25/03/26	Y6 Confession at 1:30pm in Church
26/03/26	Y6DF Class Assembly 9:05am
27/03/26	Y3, Y4, Y5 @ 10am

### Week Beginning 30th March 2026

Date	Event
30/03/26	Whole School Lent Retreat
31/03/26	Y5 Passion Play 9:15am
02/04/26	Whole School Mass 10am
02/04/26	School closes for Easter 1:30pm



## Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



<b>Nursery</b>	Damien & Teni
<b>RNE</b>	Phoenix
<b>RAB</b>	Maddox
<b>Y1AL</b>	Harlow
<b>Y1LB</b>	Ocean
<b>Y2JL</b>	Brume
<b>Y2LW</b>	Nicholas
<b>Y3MD</b>	Keziah
<b>Y3LH</b>	Keoni
<b>Y4HG</b>	Kingsley
<b>Y4HB</b>	Pati
<b>Y5CP</b>	Bruce
<b>Y5LS</b>	Bella
<b>Y6GB</b>	Caelan
<b>Y6DF</b>	Moise

## Readers of the Week

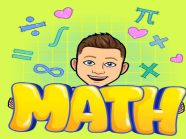


<b>Nursery</b>	Holly & Albert
<b>RNE</b>	Betsy
<b>RAB</b>	Maya
<b>Y1AL</b>	Ayrah
<b>Y1LB</b>	Annie
<b>Y2JL</b>	Chester
<b>Y2LW</b>	Raya
<b>Y3MD</b>	Lin Xi
<b>Y3LH</b>	Kinggreat
<b>Y4HG</b>	Adriel
<b>Y4HB</b>	Ava
<b>Y5CP</b>	Anaya
<b>Y5LS</b>	Tegan
<b>Y6GB</b>	Saul
<b>Y6DF</b>	Charles





## Maths Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Callie
<b>RNE</b>	Bessie
<b>RAB</b>	Neil
<b>Y1AL</b>	Chester
<b>Y1LB</b>	Isobel
<b>Y2JL</b>	Isabella
<b>Y2LW</b>	Louie
<b>Y3MD</b>	Rose
<b>Y3LH</b>	Myla
<b>Y4HG</b>	Kaiden
<b>Y4HB</b>	Thomas H
<b>Y5CP</b>	Alex
<b>Y5LS</b>	Jacob
<b>Y6GB</b>	Poppy
<b>Y6DF</b>	Daisy

## Writing Star



<b>Nursery</b>	Scarlet
<b>RNE</b>	Jayden
<b>RAB</b>	Ruben
<b>Y1AL</b>	Autumn
<b>Y1LB</b>	Erin
<b>Y2JL</b>	Ralphie
<b>Y2LW</b>	Faaizah
<b>Y3MD</b>	David
<b>Y3LH</b>	Maisie
<b>Y4HG</b>	Felix
<b>Y4HB</b>	Mahan
<b>Y5CP</b>	Olivia
<b>Y5LS</b>	Grace
<b>Y6GB</b>	Amella
<b>Y6DF</b>	Noah R

# 1% BETTER





St Stephen's RCP

# Attendance

## League

NAM	88.3%	Y3LH	96.7%
NPM	93.3%	Y3MD	94.4%
RNE	93.2%	Y4HG	95%
RAB	90.1%	Y4HB	96.5%
Y1AL	91.1%	Y5LS	92.4%
Y1LB	99.6%	Y5CP	95.8%
Y2JL	96.4%	Y6GB	94%
Y2LW	90.1%	Y6DF	100%

## St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	23	4th: 2LW	11
1st: 1LB	23	5th: NAM	6
2nd: NFD	16	5th: RAB	6
3rd: RNE	13		
3rd: 2JL	13		

## St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

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

**Wednesday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Good News for Families**  
**TOGETHER TIME** 

**1** Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

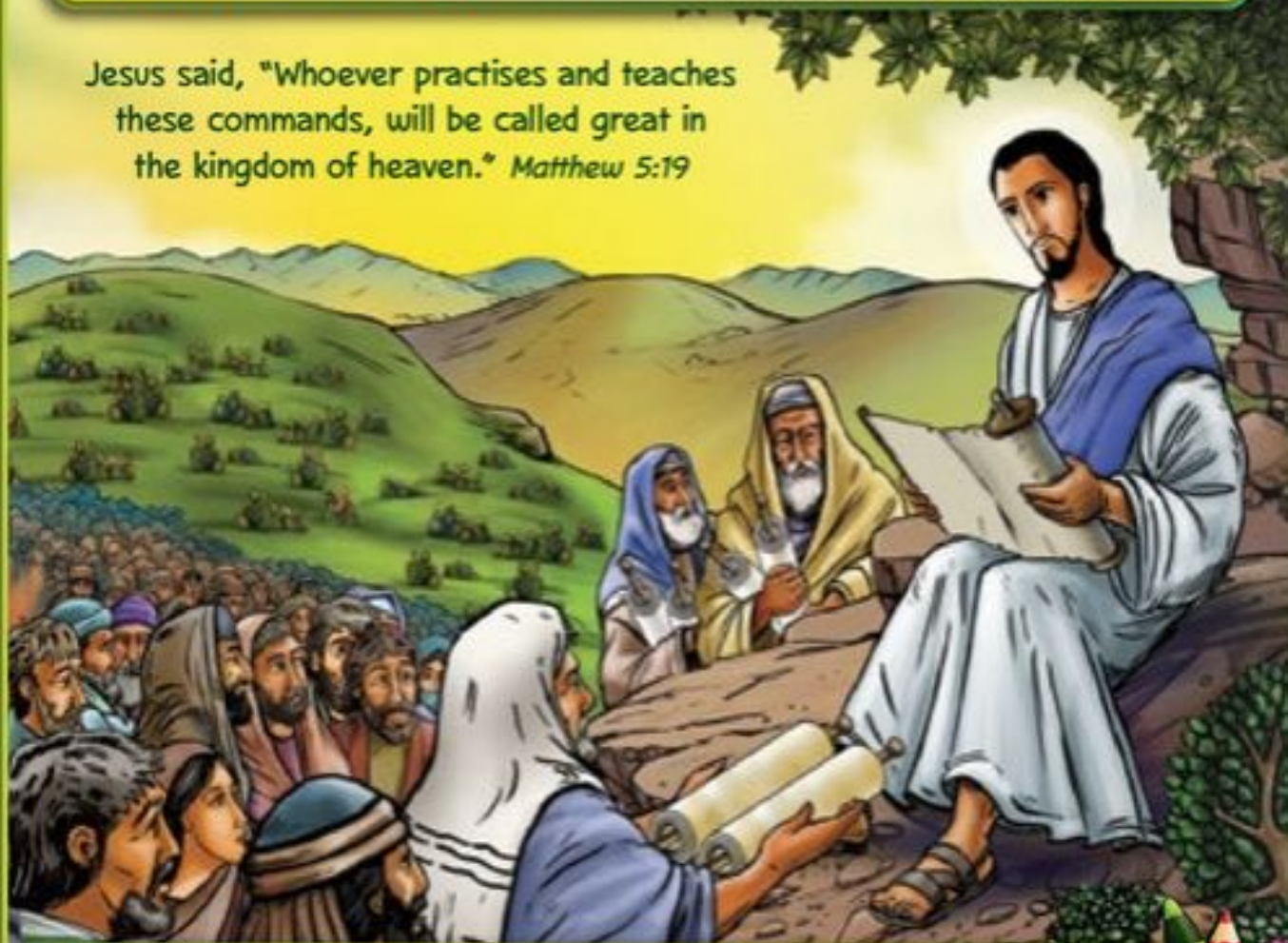
Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not imagine that I have come to destroy what the Law or the Prophets taught. No, I have come to make them complete - to show you what they meant. I tell you truly, until heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke of a pen, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."




Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Matt. 5:17-37 (the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time)

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

Jesus said, "Whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." *Matthew 5:19*



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page. 



**"The true teacher is within; Christ is the inner teacher of every soul."**

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

What did Jesus say that people who practise and teach God's commands would be called? In this Sunday's Gospel (taken from the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God's laws; our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same. Ask your child what the word 'teacher' means to them. Ask them which people teach them about God - at home, at school or in the community. What have they recently been taught about God? Who is their favourite teacher, and why? Perhaps you can tell your child about a person you know who is, or was, a good teacher, and say why.

**"The family is where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith. The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love."** *Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)*

It's important to have good teachers. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children - others can also teach us so much about what really matters in life. Each of you choose someone who teaches you good and right things, and say a prayer for them. How can we show our appreciation to all those who teach us? Perhaps we can: be a good learner by really listening to what they have to say; do the good and right things they have taught us; simply thank them for being a good teacher.

Dear Lord Jesus, please bless all the people in my life who **teach** me. Thank you for being my friend and **teacher**. Please help me to learn and grow in your love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY  
WORDSEARCH

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



**JESUS  
TEACHING**

**COMPLETES  
LAW**

**PRACTISE  
COMMANDS**

**GREAT  
HOLINESS**



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

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

Cross out the letters

**o d m**

in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

owimldl gormedat dotmhe tohmesed

"Whoever teaches \_\_\_\_\_ commands, \_\_\_\_\_ be called \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom of heaven."

**Jesus stood out as a teacher.**

Seeing the power and authority of God at work in Jesus' words and actions gave people confidence in his teachings. When we have Jesus as our teacher, we are being taught by God.

**Write** a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....  
 .....





## Nursery

We have had a wonderful week in Nursery learning all about Chinese New Year.

This year is the year of the horse- we have enjoyed learning about Chinese culture, explored traditions, danced to music, listened to stories, tasted new foods and created wonderful Artwork based on the Lunar New Year.

In RE, we completed our topic- Galilee to Jerusalem. We listened to the story of the 'Good Samaritan' and spoke about how helping others is the right thing to do. We then began learning a new prayer together- 'Glory Be' and carefully made the sign of the cross together.

Our Phonics rhyme this week was 'One, Two, Buckle my Shoe.' We have worked hard learning the rhyme, identifying different rhyming words and focusing on different sounds.

Our Sound of the week has been 'k' we know that- kit, kangaroo, kettle, ketchup and kite begin with this sound.

In Maths this week, we have continued our learning of the number 5, singing songs and subitising. We loved our Maths rhyme of the week- 'Alice the Camel.'

We ended the week with some lovely work on friendship, we spoke about what makes a good friend and made cards for our friends to thank them. We also enjoyed making friendship bracelets.

We also took part in Water Safety day- talking about the dangers we may come across when near water. We know that we need to stay with our adults when near water to help keep us safe.

*Question- Which animal won 'The Great Race'?*

## Reception

What a fantastic week we've had in Reception! The children have been full of enthusiasm and have worked hard across all areas of learning. In Literacy, we've been exploring *Handa's Surprise*, changing parts of the story and creating our own versions. The children loved adding new fruits, animals, and surprises, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow during our Talk for Writing sessions.

A huge well done for a fabulous class assembly. We loved showcasing our learning with you all. Thank you also to all the parents who joined us for our VIP sessions — it was lovely to share the children's work and see their pride in what they've done!

In Maths, we explored length using language like longer, shorter, and taller, and worked on developing our conceptual subitising skills. In RE, we recapped our learning about Jesus and began learning the *Glory Be* prayer.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year by tasting fortune cookies and pretending to be dragons — a fun way to learn about different cultures!

It's been another busy, exciting week, and we're so proud of how engaged the children are. Thank you for your continued support — looking forward to another great week ahead!

How can we be safe online?

*Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe*



## Year One

This week in Year 1, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning.

We marked Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme of *Belonging*. We talked about what it means to belong, who makes us feel safe and welcome, and how we can help others feel like they belong too. On Safer Internet Day (Tuesday), we explored the difference between humans and smart speakers. We discussed how smart speakers can answer questions but do not think or feel like humans do. The children had some thoughtful discussions about staying safe online. In Maths, we have been improving our fluency with number bonds and doubles. The children have been practising recalling these quickly and confidently to support their wider maths learning. In English, the children completed an independent write using pictures from our *You Choose* book. They worked hard to structure their sentences using subject-verb-object. In R.E., we listened to two stories from Luke's Gospel: Jesus meets the children and Jesus meets Zacchaeus. We talked about kindness, forgiveness and how Jesus treated everyone as important. In Science, we have been sorting animals into different groups based on their features. The children enjoyed discussing how and why animals are grouped in particular ways.

**Question: How did Zacchaeus change after meeting Jesus?**

## Year Two

What a fantastic final week of the half term in Year 2! We kicked off the week by exploring the theme of 'belonging' in honour of Children's Mental Health Week. The children engaged in meaningful discussions about the various communities they belong to and how it feels to be accepted. They also shared wonderful ideas on how we can help others feel a sense of belonging.

On Tuesday, for Safer Internet Day, we delved into the world of voice-assisted devices and Artificial Intelligence. The children learned about the benefits and limitations of these technologies, as well as the importance of keeping personal information safe online. They discovered that while these devices can be helpful, they cannot express emotions or provide reliable advice.

Finally, during Water Safety Day, our students identified potential dangers of a range of waterways and discussed safety measures to minimise risks. These awareness days are vital for helping our children understand the world around them and make safe and sensible choices in various contexts.

**Question: Name three ways voice-assisted devices can help us?**



## Year Three

It has been an exciting and productive week in Year 3!

In RE, the children completed their unit of learning. For our final lesson, the children explored the Our father prayer. They spent time finding the meaning behind the scripture, discussing what the prayer teaches us about the kingdom of God. As we prepare for Lent, the children have written their own Lenten promises. They reflected on ways they can make positive choices, thinking about how they can strengthen their relationship with God during this special time.

In English, the children worked incredibly hard to complete their independent write about Ancient Greece, comparing the Ancient Olympic Games with the modern-day Olympics.

In Design and Technology, the children enjoyed exploring different types of bread. They investigated taste, and appearance before making their own bread rolls. The children worked extremely hard to knead and prepare their dough carefully. Once baked, they evaluated their bread, considering what went well and what they might improve next time. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and teamwork during this hands-on learning experience.

**Question:** Why is it important to follow water safety rules?

## Year Four

Year 4 have enjoyed a really varied week. It has been Mental Health Awareness week. We talked about what it means to belong to a group or community and how this can help us to connect to others. This is a safe and happy place where we can help others feel that they belong too. The theme of belonging linked to our lessons on online safety where we explored the world of AI including its advantages as well as its drawbacks. On Friday we spent some time learning about water safety.

The whole school went to mass on Friday and the Year 4's were chosen to do the readings. The children read clearly and were very pleased to be given this role.

In our Religion lessons we looked in detail at the 'Our Father,' delving into its meaning. The children explored some artworks inspired by the prayer then created their own piece of art, explaining how it linked to the Lord's Prayer.

In English, we completed our independent write. The children had to create a new character for the story of Rock, Paper Scissors and write a chapter for him/her including both dialogue and narrative.

**Question:** Which are the values which exist in the Kingdom of God?

*Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe*



## Year Five

Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this week in RE completing their topic on Galilee to Jerusalem. This has covered The Good Samaritan, the Beatitudes and linked to the 10 Commandments.

Maths has seen the children finish their block of work on short division and this culminated in using short division and short multiplication to solve 2-step problems. The children have now started looking at area.

Today the children performed to the EYFS as part of the work they have been doing with the Halle Orchestra. They performed fantastically and will be receiving a certificate for their hardwork.

It has been a very good term and the children have worked hard to get through many challenging lessons.

**A baker has 48 cupcakes out for display and 327 ready to sell. She puts all the cupcakes into boxes of 5 at the end of the day. How many boxes does the baker need?**

## Year Six

Year 6 have had an incredibly positive and productive week to conclude the half term. In English, the children completed their independent writing task inspired by 'Romeo and Juliet', writing a formal letter to the Prince of Verona from Lord Montague's perspective. They impressed us with their thoughtful interpretations and confident use of conjunctive adverbs, parenthesis and appropriately formal language. In Maths, we continued developing our understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages, finding equivalents and successfully applying these skills to one-step problems with growing confidence. In RE, we brought our unit 'Galilee to Jerusalem' to a close by exploring the Beatitudes and the Our Father prayer, comparing these with scripture from Matthew's Gospel and reflecting on the seven petitions, considering how we can live these out in our daily lives. We also marked Children's Mental Health Week by exploring the theme of 'belonging' through meaningful discussions, and took part in the BBC Live Lesson on AI for Safer Internet Day. We ended the week with a fun 'Break the Rules Day' and wish everyone a well-deserved, restful half term.

**Question: Can you find the fraction and decimal equivalent for 84%?**