



BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

Welcome back! I hope you had a great half term break! It's been great to welcome everyone back this week. I am proud of how quickly the children have jumped straight back into their routines and they have produced some great work too!

SEND Inclusion Provision Consultation - St Stephen's RC Primary School is consulting on a proposal to open a dedicated SEND Inclusion Provision from September 2026, with specialist places for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans in both EYFS/KS1 and KS2. This aims to help more children with high level additional needs access high-quality, inclusive education within our school community. The consultation is open until Friday 13th March 2026, and parents and carers are encouraged to share their views. For full details, please refer to the email sent on Monday.

World Book Day - There is a slight change to the calendar - we are going to celebrate World Book Day on Friday 6th March instead of Thursday 5th March. Children are invited to dress up for the day as their favourite book character - please do not go to any expense.

Parent's Evening - A reminder that it is Parent's Evening on Thursday 5th March. We are using the Arbor App to book Parents' Evening times this year. I apologise for the disruption to the service earlier this week but all should be working now. If you have not booked a time yet, please do log onto the Arbor App to select a suitable time - if you are struggling to access the app, please contact the school office.

I am sure you will enjoy hearing about your child's progress, understanding their targets for improvement and love seeing some of their work (please remember to leave them a note on their name card). Please do make every effort to attend if you can.

Please **enter via the school hall** and you will be directed to your child's teacher. The plan is as follows:

- Year 6 will be in the school hall
- Year 5LS will be in Miss Seville's classroom
- Year 5CP will be in Mr Pownall's classroom
- Year 4HB will be in Mrs Bilic's classroom
- Year 4HG will be in Mrs Gibson's classroom
- Year 3LH will be in Mrs Herbert's classroom
- Year 3MD will be in the school hall
- Year 2LW will be in Mrs Williams' classroom
- Year 2JL will be in Miss Leishman's classroom
- Year 1 will be in the hall
- Reception will be in their classrooms
- Nursery will be in the hall

Have a great weekend, Mr Lavin **Headteacher**

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

Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service





Dates for your calendar - Spring 2

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	Parent's Evening
06/03/26	World Book Day Dress Up
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



Nursery	Toby & Alaragh
RNE	Lennie
RAB	Orla
Y1AL	Ayrah
Y1LB	Afia
Y2JL	Oreofeoluwa
Y2LW	Noah
Y3MD	Blake
Y3LH	Hazel
Y4HG	Henry
Y4HB	Aurora
Y5CP	Alex
Y5LS	Riley
Y6GB	Tallulah
Y6DF	Dolly-Rae

Readers of the Week

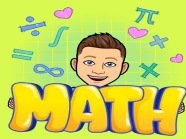


Nursery	Ella & Henry
RNE	Favour
RAB	Tommy
Y1AL	Christoforos
Y1LB	Ocean
Y2JL	Evie
Y2LW	Jaxon
Y3MD	River
Y3LH	Armaan
Y4HG	Kaiden
Y4HB	Emmanuel
Y5CP	Lydia
Y5LS	Grace
Y6GB	Lola
Y6DF	Harrison





Maths Star



Nursery	Rory
RNE	Yousuf
RAB	Noah
Y1AL	Lucas
Y1LB	Philippa
Y2JL	William
Y2LW	Bella
Y3MD	Noah
Y3LH	Deedee
Y4HG	Panagiotis
Y4HB	Raya-Mae
Y5CP	Conor
Y5LS	Adora
Y6GB	Laicee
Y6DF	Mehrsam

Writing Star



Nursery	Isobelle
RNE	Bobby
RAB	Marnie
Y1AL	Nellie
Y1LB	Julianna
Y2JL	Nancy
Y2LW	Evie
Y3MD	Berrie
Y3LH	Arthur
Y4HG	Jake
Y4HB	Bruke
Y5CP	Grace
Y5LS	Harrison
Y6GB	Joseph
Y6DF	Oscar

1% BETTER





St Stephen's RCP

Attendance League

NAM	96.8%	Y3LH	94.2%
NPM	99.5%	Y3MD	93.8%
RNE	97.7%	Y4HG	91.4%
RAB	90.7%	Y4HB	97.1%
Y1AL	96.4%	Y5LS	92.6%
Y1LB	94.9%	Y5CP	100%
Y2JL	93.8%	Y6GB	98.4%
Y2LW	94.7%	Y6DF	98%

St Stephen's Attendance League EY and KS1

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 1AL	23	5th: 2LW	11
1st: 1LB	23	6th: NAM	7
2nd: NFD	19	7th: RAB	6
3rd: RNE	15		
4th: 2JL	13		

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 6DF	31	4th: 3LH	7
2nd: 4HG	30	4th: 4HB	7
3rd: 5CP	16	5th: 5LS	3
4th: 3MD	9		
4th: 6GB	9		

Wednesday
25th February

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME 

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Peter, James and John went with Jesus to pray on a mountain top. While they were there, Jesus was transformed. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as dazzling as the light, whiter than any normal clothing could ever be. Suddenly Moses and Elijah, the great teacher and the great prophet of the Old Testament, appeared and were talking with Jesus. Then a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Then suddenly, when the disciples looked round, they saw only Jesus was left there with them.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 1st March 2026 Cf. Matthew 17: 1-9 (the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A)

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 **SACRED**.



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



"The invitation at the Transfiguration is to listen to Jesus and to follow him." Pope Francis (Pope from 2013 - 2025)

Where did Jesus go to pray? In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus through the change in the way he looked (his transfiguration). This sacred encounter took place on the Holy Mountain - Mt Tabor. Often in the Bible, mountains are described as sacred places. Ask your child what the word 'sacred' means to them. Our churches are sacred places, dedicated to the worship of God, but other places are sacred too: a home filled with the love of God. Where's your sacred space? Where do you pray or feel most at peace or closest to God (e.g. your house, your bedroom, your church, your garden or somewhere else)?

The Holy Mountain experience was a sacred moment. To be sacred is to be holy - to be dedicated to God. God wants us to be his sacred people - to be holy and to try to live and love like Jesus did. Praying at home helps us to recognise and respect our homes as sacred places, full of God's love. What else can help to remind us of God's sacred presence in our home (e.g. a Bible, candles, a cross, icons or something else)? As a family, talk about which sacred images you find most helpful. What can you do to help you recognise your home as a sacred place this Lent?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the **sacred** places where you are worshipped and praised, and for making our homes **sacred** through your presence among us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH



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



JESUS CHANGED

FACE SHONE

MOSES ELIJAH

CLOUD VOICE



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

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

Cross out the letters **a d k** in the jumbled words to find 4 real words.

acklothdes klidghat askund sahokned

Jesus' face _____ like the _____ and his

_____ became as dazzling as the _____.

This Friday is CAFOD'S Lent Fast Day.

Why not do something special this Lent and help some of the world's poorest people?

Find out more at:

cafod.org.uk/primary

CAFOD

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

.....





Religious Education

Lent in a Box

As part of our Lenten journey, our Lenten Boxes will be travelling around school during Holy Week and visiting the homes of our families.

Each evening, one child from each class will bring the Lenten Box home to share the events of Holy Week with their family. This is a special opportunity to gather together, reflect, and pray as we remember this important time in the Church's year. We would love to see photos of your family taking part. Please share any photos with your child's class teacher during the Lenten period.



Prayer of the Week



Caritas Award

This week our Caritas award has been awarded to Michelle (4HG) and Bruke (4HB) who displayed an excellent understanding of Human Dignity.

When asked about why it is important that we look after our bodies and keep them healthy, both answered with, "because they are a gift from God."



Nursery

Welcome back to Spring term Two! What a busy first week we have had in Nursery! We have loved listening to the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and we can already recall key facts about the story.

In Maths, we have consolidated our learning on the number 5, we have enjoyed subitising songs and activities using numicon this week.

In our Phonics sessions this week we have been learning the 'e' sound, we know that 'egg', 'elephant', 'envelope' and 'elbow' all begin with this sound.

We have sang the rhyme 'Wind the Bobbin up' and clapped syllables to our names.

We are also really working hard to recognise the sounds our names begin with.

Earlier on in the week, we visited our school allotment with Mrs Artingstall. We planted onions, broad beans and daffodils. We even went on a little hunt to find the Allotment Hedgehog! We are excited to visit again and see the progress of what we planted- we hope that the bulbs get plenty of sunlight and water to help them grow!

In our RE sessions, we have began our Fourth unit called 'Desert to Garden'.

We have been learning about Lent and in particular Ash Wednesday.

Question- What colour is our class altar during Lent?

Reception

WELL!! What a fantastic first week back we have had in Reception! We cannot believe we are now into the second half of our time in Reception. The children have definitely come back raring to go and eager to learn all that they can.

We started our new topic all about growing. We have been learning about what a plant or flower needs to grow. Mrs Artingstall kindly gave us some soil and seeds for us to use in our planting are so we have been planting away and are so excited to watch our living things grow. We wonder what they will grow into! We also started our new class text "That's MY Flower!" This is from the same book series as one of our Autumn texts "The Leaf Thief" and it links together growth of plants and animals as well as the season of Spring and the changes we will see in our environment over the next few weeks. In Maths we have been thinking about measures. We have learnt vocabulary linking to length and height and we have also thought about time. We have experimented with how long 30 seconds is and how long a minute is and the different things we can do in that amount of time. We also thought about the daytime and the night time and the different activities we do at different times. In RE we have began our 4th unit called "Desert to Garden." We have been thinking about the period of Lent and what this means to Christians around the world. We understand that this is a time to reflect, say sorry and grow closer to Jesus. Mr Lavin helped us to understand what charity means and why people give more during this time of year.

Well done, Reception! If you haven't yet done so, please make a parents evening appointment via Arbor. Thank you.

Question: What colour is associated with Lent and what do Christians call the first day of Lent?



Year One

It has been great to have the children back this week.

In English, we focused on compound nouns, reading *The Compound Noun Treasure Hunt*, completing missing compound word activities, and exploring examples and non-examples. In

History, we completed the *History of Flight* unit, learning how planes have changed over time. In R.E., we started our unit 'Desert to Garden'. We learned about Ash Wednesday and read the story of Jesus in the Wilderness, making links to Lent. In Science, we sorted animals according to their features. In Maths, we worked on addition and subtraction within 20, focusing on fact families and missing number equations. In PSHE, we identified good and bad secrets. During Forest School, the children created compound nouns using clay. We enjoyed a special CAFOD assembly about our Big Lent Walk.

Question: How many days was Jesus in the Wilderness?

Year Two

After a restful half term, the children have returned enthusiastic for the weeks ahead.

This week, in Maths, we concluded our work on money by calculating change and solving one and two step problems. We have now begun our unit on Multiplication and Division. The children have been using visual images to calculate groups of amounts, as well as exploring the concept of equal and unequal groups.

Our picture book in English is Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory by Elys Dolan. We have learned about singular and plural nouns and the importance of subject / verb agreement. The children also loved correcting our errors!

As we are in the season of Lent, we have made Lenten promises, as well as exploring the themes of temptation and forgiveness. The children were able to explain how we can resist temptation and the importance of asking for, and giving, forgiveness.

Question: What suffixes do we use when we make a singular noun plural?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Three

This week, Year 3 were excited to begin their new English unit based on *The Dark*. The children have been working incredibly hard to include prepositional phrases in their writing.

In Geography, the children started their new topic, *The Restless Earth*. During their first lesson, they explored the different layers of the Earth, carefully labelling each layer and explaining its features.

In RE, the children began their unit desert to the garden. They explored different Gospel stories from the Bible and discussed whether the events described could be considered miracles, supporting their ideas with reasons. Later in the week, they focused on the story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000, identifying and ranking the five most important events within the scripture.

On Friday, 3LH enjoyed their Computing Day. The children used their iPads to learn about emails, developing their understanding of digital communication and practising key computing skills.

Question: Can you name the different layers of the Earth?

Year Four

The children have settled back into school very well this week and they have been working very hard.

In RE, we read the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. The children picked out the most important parts of the story and wrote about them. We have been marking the days of Lent with prayer and discussion.

In English we have begun our new unit by revising verbs and beginning to look at Past Participles as sentence openers. This half term we will be basing our work on the wordless picture book, 'Journeys.' The children will be using the images in the book to interpret what the characters are experiencing. In Maths we have been working on our understanding of division and tackling word problems as well as recalling our 8 times tables. In History we looked at where the Vikings came from and why they invaded parts of Britain.

Question: Which three things do we try to do during Lent?



Year Five

It was wonderful to see the children back and ready to learn this week!

In English, they are excited to start *Dogman*, focusing on punctuating speech and using varied reported verbs.

In Maths, they explored the area of rectilinear shapes using both square unit counting and the formula $A=L \times W$.

Computing day was a hit, with children creating their own educational quizzes after learning about interactive features and question types.

In RE, we reflected on Lent, Ash Wednesday, and different ways to pray, writing Lenten promises and participating in the CAFOD National Assembly.

The week ended with Passion Play auditions—well done to all who learned their lines! Roles will be shared next week.

Question: What are 3 different ways we can pray?

Year Six

It's been another productive week in Year 6!

In Maths, we have completed our work on fraction, decimal and percentage equivalence by looking at percentages of amounts and some missing number problems. We then started the dreaded algebra unit. Although this usually strikes fear into the hearts of people, the children have risen to the challenge and hopefully feel reassured that algebra is not something to be afraid of!

Our English work has shifted to "The Final Year" by Matt Goodfellow. It is an outstanding book, which is particularly relevant for any child in Year 6. We concentrated on the metaphors used to describe "The Beast" and then worked on how to use apostrophes for possession accurately.

Our R.E. work centred around the relevance and importance of prayer, especially during the season of Lent. We looked into the significance of some of the imagery, symbols and traditions which surround Ash Wednesday and we are looking forward to CAFOD's Big Lent Walk.

We have also continued our Geography unit by looking at the reasons why renewable energy use has not completely replaced non-renewable sources just yet, as well as starting to look at timber production and deforestation.

Question: How does the positioning of the apostrophe change the meaning of the sentences below?

"The tree's leaves fell to the ground"

"The trees' leaves fell to the ground"