



St Stephen's RCP Weekly Newsletter

'Every child, every chance, every day!'

Friday 6th March 2026

BE READY | BE RESPECTFUL | BE SAFE |

A MESSAGE FROM MR LAVIN...

Happy Friday! Wow, what a week it has been here at St Stephen's.

As you know we received the phone call on Monday to inform us that we would be having our Religious Education Inspection on Wednesday and Thursday. I want to thank the staff for working so hard and going above and beyond this week. Our children were incredible and worked so hard to demonstrate our school mission, vision and values. Thank you to those parents who spoke with inspectors and to those who filled in the questionnaire. I cannot share with you the final outcome just yet, but I look forward to publishing the report when I receive the final version in a few weeks.

Thank you for your understanding in postponing Parent's Evening. Our new date will be **Thursday 26th March 2026**. Unfortunately we cannot move the appointments that have already been booked. Therefore, on Monday at 7pm new bookings can be made via the Arbor App. Please do try and attend if you can.

Year 3 Sacramental Programme

Congratulations to our Year 3 children to made their First Forgiveness on Wednesday afternoon. The children were so respectful. This is an important Sacrament to make, in preparation for their Holy Communion. We keep all of these children in our prayers.

World Book Day

It was great to see children so enthusiastic about World Book Day today. Everyone looked amazing in their costumes. Children really enjoyed the variety to book related tasks they took part in! Thank you for your support with this event.

Easter Events

On the next page you will find details about our Easter Bonnet Parade/ Egg decorating competition. As always, your generosity in egg donations for prizes is always appreciated and thank you if you have already donated.

****A reminder message** 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 out last week or view the information on our school website.

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 TEL: 0161 370 2071



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EYFS/ Key Stage One

I am thrilled to confirm that our Annual Easter Bonnet Parade for Children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** is back this year! We invite all children to create an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it in for a Parade on **Friday 27th March**. It is a wonderful event and has been supported so well in past years. Parents are invited to attend.



Plan 1 will be for parents from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to gather on the playground after drop off. Children will then parade their bonnets on the playground for all to see - if the weather is bad, we will go to plan 2. We will inform you the day before when we know more about the weather!

Plan 2 will be in the school hall at the following times to watch your child walk down the catwalk. Please only attend during your allocated time, we will clear the hall before the next set of parents are allowed to enter so please wait outside until a member of staff signals for your time to come in:

Nursery and Reception: 9:00-9:15 am

Year 1: 9:20 am - 9:30 am

Year 2: 9:35 am - 9:40 am

We will allow you to take individual photographs of your child but you will not be allowed to photograph or film the parade for Safeguarding reasons.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)

For children in Key Stage 2, **Years 3 to 6**, we invite children to decorate an egg - we have had some incredible creations over the years and I cannot wait to see what comes in this year. We display the eggs in the school hall on the day (Friday 27th March) for all classes to come and look at the creations.

****Please can we ask for donations of Easter Eggs to help us with the prizes for the Bonnet and decorated eggs - these can be sent in with your child or left at the office.**

THANK YOU!**





Dates for your calendar - Spring 2

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
27/03/26	Easter Bonnet Parade/Decorate an Egg KS2

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	Aria & Tiago
RNE	Reeva
RAB	Ruben
Y1AL	Cole
Y1LB	Lincoln
Y2JL	Harmony
Y2LW	Michael
Y3MD	Rose
Y3LH	Natty
Y4HG	Valerie
Y4HB	Mahan
Y5CP	Evelyn
Y5LS	Emmanuella
Y6GB	Layla W
Y6DF	Jacob

Readers of the Week

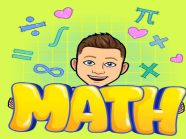


Nursery	Palmer & Ohemaa
RNE	Inaayah
RAB	Thomas
Y1AL	Lena
Y1LB	Alfie
Y2JL	Isabella
Y2LW	Lula
Y3MD	Jessica
Y3LH	Aaliyah
Y4HG	Bella
Y4HB	Hudson
Y5CP	Thomas
Y5LS	Bella
Y6GB	Luca
Y6DF	Donaeo





Maths Star



Nursery	Chance
RNE	Rinsola
RAB	Rudy
Y1AL	Christoforos
Y1LB	Vivian
Y2JL	Ava
Y2LW	Gadiel
Y3MD	Harry
Y3LH	Bailey
Y4HG	Evelyn
Y4HB	Ava
Y5CP	Ruby
Y5LS	Rocco
Y6GB	Isla
Y6DF	Isla

Writing Star



Nursery	Esme
RNE	Caleb
RAB	Maya
Y1AL	Aryel
Y1LB	James
Y2JL	Victoria
Y2LW	Betti
Y3MD	Ronnie
Y3LH	Gabriella-Rose
Y4HG	Adriel
Y4HB	Jack
Y5CP	Alex
Y5LS	Charlie
Y6GB	Daisy
Y6DF	Leraya

1% BETTER





St Stephen's RCP

Attendance

League

NAM	100%	Y3LH	94.6%
NPM	91.8%	Y3MD	91.5%
RNE	94.9%	Y4HG	96%
RAB	93.1%	Y4HB	97%
Y1AL	95.4%	Y5LS	99.6%
Y1LB	94%	Y5CP	97.9%
Y2JL	97.4%	Y6GB	97.2%
Y2LW	94.8%	Y6DF	99.6%

St Stephen's Attendance League KS2

Position	Total Points	Position	Total Points
1st: 6DF	33	6th: 3LH	7
2nd: 4HG	30	6th: 4HB	7
3rd: 5CP	18	7th: 5LS	6
4th: 6GB	10		
5th: 3MD	9		

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	10
2nd: NFD	19	7th: RAB	6
3rd: RNE	16		
4th: 2JL	15		

#TEAMSTSTEPHENS



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel we have a witty dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman drawing water at the well, where each seems to be teasing the other.

Water is a sign of life. The 'living water' is the sign of everything that Jesus offers us to satisfy our need of God's love and guidance. With its serious message, this Sunday's Gospel is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people just as they are - and that includes us too!

Wednesday 4th March 2026

God has no favourites; we are all loved equally by God. The season of Lent presents a great opportunity for everyone to enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's words, which are **GOD'S LOVE**.

Dom Henry Warsbrough



A Word from
the Saints

"God's love is a spring of living water which flows constantly into the hearts of those who pray." St Louis de Montfort

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 8th March 2026



Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat straight down at Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." She was taken by surprise because Jews and Samaritans rarely spoke to each other. She replied, "What? You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans don't have anything to do with each other?" Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: 'Give me a drink,' you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket, sir," she answered, "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life." "Sir," said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

Adapted from John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, 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 Overleaf ▶

**Good News
for Everyone**

The living water which Jesus talks about in this Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the powerful way that God's love flows into people when they are baptised. As we hear of Jesus' love for people throughout the Gospel stories, we can be certain of God's love for each one of us today.



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 came to a town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat down besides Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to fill her jug with water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink and said: "Whoever drinks the water from this well will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the living water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will be like a spring of flowing water inside them that gives everlasting life." "Sir," said the woman, "please give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

What is special about the water that Jesus offers?

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 Words...

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love." *St Augustine of Hippo*

God is love and all love comes from God. Ask your child what the words 'God's love' mean to them. We can often see God's love at work through the goodness in people around us. Where does your child see God's love in action? Who does your child know who stands out as someone who shares God's love with others? How does that person show love? It may help your child if you can give an example of your own.



The more we experience and share God's love, the happier we become. Each of you say how you usually experience God's love. Perhaps it is through: the love of your family or other people; help from others; the sacraments; spending time with Jesus in prayer, at home or in Church. Then each of you choose a way in which you will especially share God's love with someone in this coming week.

GOD'S LOVE



3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to grow in your love and to share your love with others through the way we live our lives. Amen.

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

SAMARITAN
JESUS
GIVES
LIVING
WATER
EVERLASTING
LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **o l m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

wolaterm thimrsolty lodrimnks gimovel

"Anyone who _____ the living _____ that I shall _____ will never be _____ again."



Through the person he was, and through his teaching and miracles, Jesus showed people that God's love is for everyone. God shares his love with us and calls us to share it with others too.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Religious Education

Lenten Deanery Mass At St Stephen's Church

On Wednesday 11th March, St Stephen's Church will be hosting the Lenten Deanery Mass at 7.30pm. For the final hymn, we would love to have children singing for the parish and visiting parishes of the Deanery. If your child can attend this, please let Mrs Gibson know.



Prayer of the Week

God of love,
We pray for peace in our world,
and an end to war.
Instead of hatred, let there be
love.
Shelter your children and
protect us.
Guide us and keep us from
harm, so we can build a world of
love and live our lives in peace.

Amen.

Caritas Award

This week our Caritas award to the whole school, pupils and staff, for showing solidarity during our Section 48 RE Inspection.



Showing we care
Solidarity



Nursery

This week in Nursery we have continued our story focus of 'Jasper's Beanstalk'.

We have been inspired by Jasper and his love of gardening and have loved exploring our nursery outdoor area for worms, slugs and snails!

The weather has been kind to us this week and we have been able to enjoy our activities outdoors.

We have loved the Mud kitchen and have started to make our own digging area just like Jasper's!

In Phonics this week we have been learning the rhyme- 'Ring a Ring a Roses'. Our sound of the week has been 'u' we have identified that 'up', 'under' and 'umbrella' all start with this sound.

In Maths this week our focus has been the number '6' we have been subitising and learning all about the number 6 number block.

In our RE sessions this week, we recalled our knowledge about Lent. our Nursery children can recall some amazing information about Lent- we are very proud of them!

We then explored prayer symbols and have learnt about how a 'pretzel' is a symbol of prayer.

We can also identify other ways of prayer such as going to church, reading the bible, kneeling and placing our hands together.

We created pretzels in the playdough area, created thoughtful pretzel collages and tasted some real pretzels.

In this weeks celebration of the word we spoke about 'Jesus being the Light of our World' we spoke about Jesus and how he cares for others, how he is kind, and caring.

We ended the week celebrating World Book Day, we had lots of fun dressing up and taking part in World Book Day activities with our friends.

Question: Can you show your family how to make the pretzel symbol of prayer?

Reception

Reception have had a wonderful week full of learning and exploration! In Literacy, we retold our story "That's MY Flower!" using a story map and our Talk for Writing actions, helping us remember the story together. We also carefully followed instructions to plant our own broad beans. Ask your child what seeds need to grow – can they remember how we will look after them? In Maths, we have been building numbers 9 and 10 by creating picture maths stories.

For example, we worked out that if there are 5 sheep in the pen and 4 sheep in the field, there are 9 altogether, and we drew our stories to show that 5 and 4 makes 9. We will continue this next week. In RE, we explored prayer symbols and learnt why the pretzel is special at this time of year, as well as learning about Palm Sunday. Mrs Artingstall kindly sent us some frog spawn to care for in our outdoor area, and we are very excited to watch it grow! She also shared some lovely plants from the allotment for us to enjoy. We finished the week with a fantastic World Book Day – the children looked amazing in their costumes and loved sharing stories with our Year 6 special friends and talking about their favourite books together.

Have a lovely weekend!

*Question: What did the people say to Jesus when he entered Jerusalem on the donkey?
What did they wave? What did they lay on the ground?*

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year One

Year 1 have worked extremely hard this week and have been displaying our school values in class and around school

In R.E, we learnt Luke's Gospel of the widow's offering. The children engaged with how she gave two coins to the temple and made links to our actions during Lent. We learnt about how we can fast to help others during Lent by giving money to charities like CAFOD, or making time to help those in need.

In English, we have continued using compound nouns as subjects and objects, developing our independence of sentences including these.

In Maths, we have started our Place Value to 50 unit, looking at the value of tens and ones. We have also started our new Geography unit, 'Wonderful Weather'. We have looked at different types of weather and next week, we will observe daily weather patterns.

We ended the day with a fantastic celebration for World Book Day; the children all looked amazing in their costumes!

Question: How many tens are in the number 47?

Year Two

The children have worked extremely hard this week. They have behaved beautifully during our RE inspection, and children who took part in sharing their thoughts have made us so proud.

We began our week with a lovely Celebration of the Word led by Mrs Artingstall in our Prayer Garden. We heard scripture about the Stations of the Cross, and the children walked a model of Jesus around the hut.

In RE this week, we have learnt about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We explored reconciliation in art around the world, and thought about what it means to reconcile. We learnt the four stages of this special Sacrament.

In English we have been using singular and plural nouns to write sentences about our book 'Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory.'

We have begun to introduce multiplication this week in Maths, exploring equal groups and repeated addition.

To conclude our week, we enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day! Everybody looked fabulous. We enjoyed getting together with our Reading Buddies in Year 5, and completing some themed activities.

Question - What is the repeated addition for three equal groups with two in each group?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Three

On Monday, 3MD took part in their Purple Mash Computing Day. Throughout the day, the children completed a variety of tasks, including sending and replying to an email to a friend. By the end of the session, the children were able to identify the key features and characteristics of an email and understood how digital communication works.

In English this week, the children have continued their work on *The Dark*. They have been working extremely hard and showing great enthusiasm during lessons. A key focus has been identifying and using prepositional phrases in their writing, and the children are becoming increasingly confident applying these to improve their descriptions.

This week, both Year 3 classes also took part in their RE Retreat Day with Mrs Farmer, focusing on the Sacramental Programme. The children engaged thoughtfully in a range of reflective activities, including writing their own prayers to the Holy Spirit. It was a meaningful and reflective experience for everyone involved.

Question: In the number sentence $7 + 5 = 12$,

What are the addends? What is the sum?

Year Four

This week has seen Year 4 working very hard indeed.

In Religion, we looked again at the Feeding of the Five Thousand but this time we looked at how it links to The Last Supper. The children were great at seeing similarities and messages in both stories. They were then able to link these to the Holy Mass.

In Science we learnt about the Water Cycle. The children acted out the process of evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

In History, we looked at the daily life of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, noting the similarities and differences in the way they lived including housing, culture and the roles of men and women.

Today the children enjoyed a range of activities to celebrate World Book Day. We watched the BBC World Book Day lesson, made bookmarks and spent time with our Reading Buddies.

Question: How many baskets of leftover food were there when Jesus fed the 5000?

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe



Year Five

Another busy week in Year 5!

The children have been working on direct speech in English. They are perfecting being able to use reporting clauses at the beginning or end of a sentence. They are using reporting verbs to ensure the reader gets a better idea of how the character is saying the spoken words. We are using Dog Man to help the children convert speech bubbles into direct speech.

In Maths the children are looking further into Area and how to use multiplication to calculate the area of rectangles. They have learnt that the formula is $A = L \times W$. This has brought back knowledge of the varying ways to help them work out the multiplication, either by partitioning, expanded multiplication or short multiplication.

In RE the children have been learning all about Ash Wednesday and Lent.

What is the Area of a shape that has a Length of 8cm and Width of 3cm?

Year Six

Year 6 have had another busy and productive week this week. In English, we completed our modelled planning and writing of the narrative "Oh, so you wanna know about the beast, right?" from the perspective of the Beast in *The Final Year* by Matt Goodfellow. Throughout the week, the children focused on strengthening their writing by incorporating parenthesis, metaphors and emotive language to bring the character's thoughts and feelings to life. We are very much looking forward to seeing the children apply these skills in their independent narrative writing next week. In Maths, we began our new unit on algebra, starting with function machines before progressing to two-step function machines, expressions and using substitution to calculate given expressions. While this was challenging at first, the children showed excellent determination and resilience as their confidence grew. In Geography, we completed our research on deforestation and timber production and used this knowledge to produce detailed double-page spreads, which look fantastic. We can't wait to share these with you at Parents' Evening. In RE, we explored Ash Wednesday and the symbols of Lent, annotating scripture and discussing the importance of developing a humble and meaningful relationship with God. Well done Year 6!

Question: What was impressive about the lyre bird in geography?