



St Stephen's RC Primary School, A Voluntary Academy

Every child! Every chance! Every day!

Headteacher: Mr C Lavin

admin@stsrcp.co.uk

www.stsrcp.co.uk

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic first few days back at St Stephen's!

It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to school and to see the building full of life again. I have spent lots of time this week visiting classrooms, speaking to children and seeing them settle into their new classes and routines. There has been a genuinely lovely atmosphere across school, and I have been incredibly impressed by how quickly the children have got back into the swing of things.

Rather than repeat everything from my welcome-back letter, I wanted to share a little of the message that we have started the year with as a school.

In our first whole-school assembly on Wednesday, I spoke to the children about three things that I want **every child at St Stephen's** to be able to say:

I belong here.

I am included here.

I can flourish here.

Our message to the children was simple: **Everybody belongs. Everybody matters. Everybody can flourish.**

For us, belonging means that every child knows there is a place for them here; inclusion means that **everyone really does mean everyone**; and flourishing means helping our children grow into the people God created them to be. We talked about being brave enough to try difficult things, learning from our mistakes, sharing our gifts and using those gifts to help others.

Of course, all of this comes back to our school mission:

♥ ***"Love one another, as I have loved you."***

At St Stephen's, we want our children to understand that love isn't simply something we talk about. **It's how we live.** We include everyone, listen to one another, help each other and help other people to flourish.

That same message was at the heart of our INSET work with staff before the children returned. We have incredibly high expectations because we believe in what our children are capable of. We will continue to focus on the things that make St Stephen's special: excellent learning, beautiful manners, smart uniform, strong attendance, caring for our environment and taking pride in ourselves and our school.

And, of course, our three school rules remain wonderfully simple:

- 📖 Be Ready.
- 💙 Be Respectful.
- 🛡️ Be Safe.

Address: St Stephen's RC Primary, Chappell Road, Droylsden, Tameside, M437NA
Telephone: 0161 370 2071





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We have made a brilliant start. Thank you for your support in helping us make it such a positive one.

A Busy Summer at St Stephen's!

While our children have been enjoying their summer holidays, there has been **a huge amount happening behind the scenes at St Stephen's!**

We have continued to invest in our buildings and learning environments so that our children return to a school that they can be proud of.

Over the summer:

-  **Our Peace Tunnel has been relocated**, helping us make even better use of our outdoor space.
-  **A new Prayer Garden and outdoor classroom has been created on the field**, giving our children another beautiful space for prayer, reflection, worship and outdoor learning.
-  **Work has begun on our brand-new TLC building!** It is really exciting to finally see this project taking shape, with the new building due to be delivered around the October half-term.
-  **Our original TLC space has been refurbished** and has become the new home of our **TLC Thrive** children.
-  **Reception Classes has had new flooring and carpet**, creating a fresh and welcoming environment for our youngest children.
-  **Our Year 3 classrooms have also received new carpets** as part of our continued work to improve our learning environments.

These improvements aren't simply about making our school look better. Our environment sends an important message to our children about how much we value them and their education.

We want every corner of St Stephen's to be somewhere our children feel:

They belong. They are included. They can flourish.

There is plenty more to come – particularly as our new TLC building begins to take shape – and we will keep you updated over the coming weeks.

Everybody Belongs Here

I gave the children a little challenge during our assembly this week:

Do ONE thing that helps somebody feel they belong.

That could be inviting somebody to play, saying hello, helping someone, celebrating somebody else's success or simply noticing somebody who might need us and asking, **"Are you okay?"**

It would be lovely if families could continue this conversation at home. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference to another person.



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☀️ We CARES at St Stephen's!

Our **CARES values** remain at the heart of school life:

- ❤️ **Compassion** – We notice. We care. We help.
- ★ **Ambition** – We aim high and help others succeed.
- 👏 **Rejoice** – We celebrate the good in ourselves and others.
- 🏆 **Excellence** – We give our best in everything we do.
- 👏 **Service** – We use what we have to help others.

We want the children to understand that CARES isn't simply something written on our walls. It's how we live at St Stephen's.

🏛️ Class Masses – Autumn Term

We are delighted that our Class Masses will begin again next week. These are always very special occasions and **families are warmly invited to join us in church.**

- Friday 11th September** – Year 4 & Year 5
- Friday 18th September** – Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3
- Friday 2nd October** – Reception & Year 6
- Friday 9th October** – Year 4 & Year 5
- Friday 16th October** – Whole School Mass

🕒 **10:00am** 🏛️ **In Church** ❤️ **Families Welcome** - We would love to see you there!

🏃 PE Days 2026/27

A reminder that children can come into school **wearing their school PE kit** on their PE days.

- Monday:** Year 1, 5AL & Year 6
- Tuesday:** Year 2, 3OR, Year 4 & Year 5
- Wednesday:** Nursery, Reception & Year 3
- Thursday:** Year 2, Year 4, 5LT & Year 6
- Friday:** TLC Foundations, TLC Thrive, Year 1 & 3LH Swimming

Please help us by ensuring that children come to school in the **correct St Stephen's PE kit** on these days. Looking smart and having the correct kit is all part of being **Ready**.

💙 The St Stephen's Way

As we begin the new year, we are spending lots of time reminding children what our school rules actually look like in practice.

Being Ready means being prepared to do our best.

Being Respectful means showing other people that they matter.

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Being Safe means looking after ourselves and one another.

You'll probably hear children talking about **"The St Stephen's Way"** quite a lot this year. It is about the little things: holding a door open, saying please and thank you, walking beautifully around school, looking after our environment, being kind, working hard and doing the right thing **because it is the right thing to do**.

Those little things, done consistently by all of us, create a very special school.

What a Start!

There is already so much to celebrate after just a few days.

Our children have returned looking incredibly smart, our classrooms are buzzing with learning, our youngest children are beginning their St Stephen's journey and our new pupils and members of staff are already becoming part of our school family.

At the end of Wednesday's assembly, I reminded the children of the promise behind the words we use every day:

-  **EVERY CHILD.**
-  **EVERY CHANCE.**
-  **EVERY DAY.**

Not some children. Not only when it is easy. Every one of us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping us to make the start of 2026/27 such a positive one.

Have a wonderful weekend with your families.

Mr Lavin
Headteacher