



ST STEPHEN'S WEEKLY

OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th October 2026

Our Vision

Every child,
every chance, every day.



Our Mission

Love one another,
as I have loved you.



Belonging



Inclusion



Flourishing



TOGETHER



Our Values – St Stephen's CARES



Compassion



Ambition



Rejoice



Excellence



Service

BE READY • BE RESPECTFUL • BE SAFE



#teamststephens

Together
we learn
We belong
We flourish
♥

A Message from **Mr Lavin** Headteacher



As another busy week at St Stephen's draws to a close, I am reminded once again of what makes our school community so special. From celebrating achievements and sharing our faith to looking after one another and welcoming new members to our school family, there is always so much to be proud of at St Stephen's. With just one week to go until half term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and partnership.

Hello Yellow Day ♥

Today, our school was filled with sunshine as we celebrated Hello Yellow Day, raising awareness of children's mental health and wellbeing.

A huge thank you for your incredibly generous donations and for supporting such an important cause.

Year 5 Spiritual Retreats

This week, our Year 5 children enjoyed a wonderful spiritual retreat led by Mrs Farmer. The children spent time reflecting on how we can care for our beautiful world and the responsibility we all share in looking after God's creation. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to reflect, pray and think about the small actions they can take to make a positive difference.

Year 5AL Class Assembly

A massive well done to Year 5AL for their lovely class assembly this week!

It was wonderful to see the children sharing their learning with such confidence and enthusiasm. They certainly made us all very proud!

Year 6 Bikeability Success

Congratulations to Year 6HG, who successfully completed their Bikeability training this week!

The children demonstrated fantastic determination, resilience and responsibility as they developed their cycling skills and learned how to keep themselves safe on the roads.

Some Wonderful Baby News!

We have some very special news to share with our St Stephen's family!

A huge congratulations to Miss Leishman, who has welcomed her beautiful baby girl, Lyla, into the world! We are absolutely delighted for Miss Leishman and her family and send them all our love and very best wishes as they enjoy this precious time together.

Welcome to the world, little Lila! ♥♥

Welcome to St Stephen's, Miss Kirkham!

We are also delighted to welcome Miss Kirkham, who has joined our school family as our new Administrative Assistant in the school office. Miss Kirkham will be working alongside our office team and will be one of the friendly faces welcoming parents, carers and visitors into school. I am sure you will all join me in giving her a very warm St Stephen's welcome. We are delighted to have her as part of #TeamStephens!

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We belong
We flourish
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A Message from **Mr Lavin** Headteacher



Parents' Evening – Thursday 15th October

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school next Thursday for our Parents' Evening.

This is an important opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements, discuss their progress and talk about how we can continue working together to support their learning.

To help the evening run smoothly, please take note of the following arrangements.

All parents and carers must enter school through the School Hall entrance on Chappell Road, regardless of where their appointment is taking place.

Appointments in the School Hall:

- Nursery
- Year 1
- Year 5LT – Miss Tracy
- Year 6 – Mrs Gibson and Mr Fitch

Appointments in Classrooms:

- Reception – Both classrooms
- Year 2 – Year 2 classrooms
- Year 3 – Both classrooms
- Year 4 – Both classrooms
- Year 5AL – In the classroom
- TLC Foundations – In the classroom
- TLC Thrive – In the classroom

Important – Funtasia After School Club

Please note that, due to Parents' Evening, Funtasia will operate from the Year 1 building on Thursday 15th October. We appreciate your cooperation with these arrangements and look forward to seeing you all.

Friday 16th October – Break the Rules Day!

Next Friday, we will be having some fun as we celebrate Break the Rules Day!

It promises to be an exciting day for the children as we head towards our half-term break.

Please look out for further information about the arrangements and which rules the children will be allowed to break!

Whole School Mass – Friday 16th October

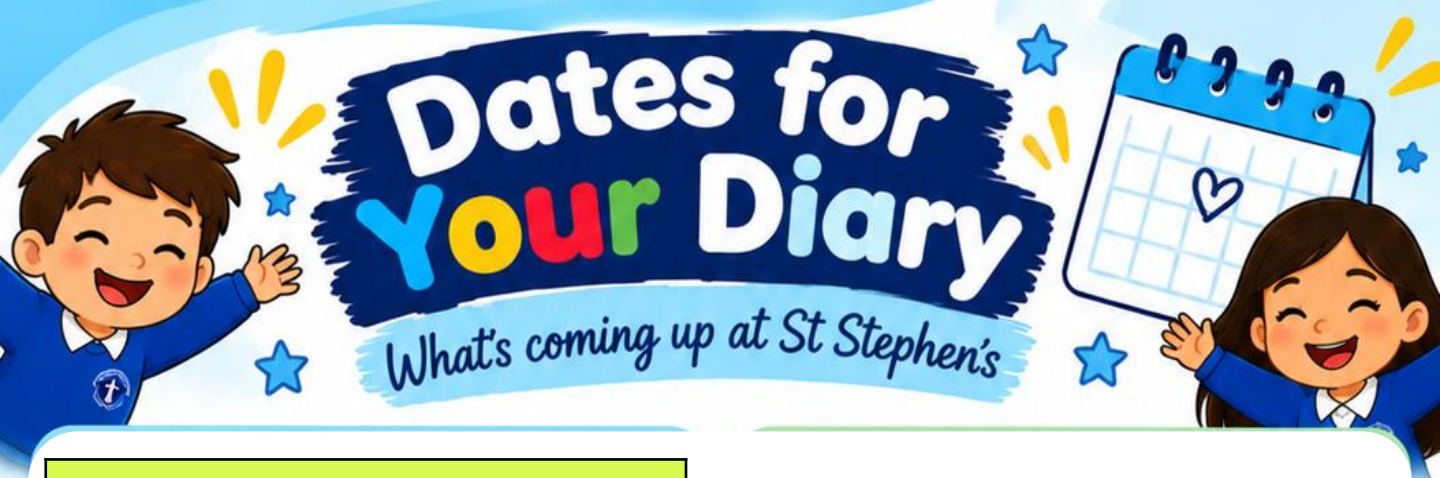
On Friday 16th October, children in Years 1 to 6 will attend Mass at 10:00am in Church. As always, parents and carers are warmly invited to join us.

Half-Term Holiday Reminder

A reminder that school will close for the half-term holiday at 3:15pm on Friday 16th October 2026 and we return to school on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Mr. C Lavin, Headteacher



Week Beginning 12th October 2026	
Date	Event
13.10.26	Stay and Pray – 6HG
14.10.26	Stay and pray – 6DF
15.10.26	Parents Evening
16.10.26	Whole School Mass
16.10.26	Years 3 Poetry Trip (AM)
16.10.26	Break the Rules Day
16.10.26	School closes for half term



Love
one another,
as I have
loved you.
♡



Every child,
Every chance,
Every day.
♡

WE ARE A **NUT-FREE** SCHOOL

Let's
keep everyone
safe!



No nuts
please!
♡

Please help us keep every child safe.

We have children in school with serious nut allergies.
Even a small amount of nuts can cause a severe allergic reaction.



Please **do not send**
nuts or products
containing nuts
into school.



This includes
packed lunches, snacks,
treats and food brought
in for special occasions.



Please check
food labels carefully
before sending items
into school.

Please avoid:



Peanuts



Tree nuts
(e.g. almonds, hazelnuts,
cashews, walnuts)



Nut bars



Nut spreads
(e.g. peanut butter,
Nutella)



Nut-containing
chocolates, cakes
and biscuits

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP EVERY CHILD SAFE



— Every child, Every chance, Every day. —



EMMAUS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

ST STEPHEN'S RC PRIMARY



Call us for more info

0161 370 2071

☀️ Nursery September 2026 Intake ☀️

We're excited to share that we have places available in our Nursery Class for September 2026! 🎉

We would love to welcome you and your family to St Stephen's, show you around, and give you a feel for our happy and nurturing school community 😊

Please get in touch with the school office to arrange a visit—we can't wait to meet you! 📞 ✨



Chappell Road, Droylsden



www.stsrcp.school



admin@stsrcp.co.uk



Celebrating Our Stars

We are so proud of you!



Readers of the Week



Nursery	Imogen
RNE	Henry
RAB	Hudson
Y1CP	Luca
Y1LB	Noah
Y2MA	Aryel
Y2DS	Axel
Y3OR	Lula
Y3LH	Noah
Y4GB	Leo
Y4LS	Harper
Y5LT	Elijah
Y5AL	Jacob
Y6HG	Luna
Y6DF	Hollie
TLC Thrive	James
TLC Foundations	Evie



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Italia
RNE	Aryan
RAB	Isabella
Y1CP	Caitlyn
Y1LB	Danvit
Y2MA	Lena
Y2DS	Afia
Y3OR	Violet
Y3LH	Evie
Y4GB	Bobby
Y4LS	Keziah
Y5LT	Grace
Y5AL	Kalani
Y6HG	Conor
Y6DF	Aart
TLC Thrive	Isla
TLC Foundations	Merlin

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More of Our Stars

Celebrating brilliant learning



Writing Star



Nursery	Luca & Ryleigh
RNE	Lyla
RAB	Luke
Y1CP	Betsy
Y1LB	Harvey
Y2MA	Mazeedah
Y2DS	Pippa
Y3OR	Michael
Y3LH	Ralphie
Y4GB	Sayo
Y4LS	Berrie-Mae
Y5LT	Sam
Y5AL	Michelle
Y6HG	Elvis
Y6DF	Riley
TLC Thrive	Freddie
TLC Foundations	Honey



Maths Star



Nursery	Liam
RNE	Albert
RAB	Alby
Y1CP	Jayden
Y1LB	Rudy
Y2MA	Lily-Mae
Y2DS	Natalia
Y3OR	Phoebe
Y3LH	Victoria
Y4GB	Luke
Y4LS	Declan
Y5LT	Coby
Y5AL	Felix
Y6HG	Boma
Y6DF	Charlie
TLC Thrive	Kinggreat
TLC Foundations	Asa

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Attendance Matters

Every day counts!

Class Attendance

Nursery	85.9 %	Y4GB	98.2 %
RNE	95.4 %	Y4LS	93.8 %
RAB	99.2 %	Y5LT	98.2 %
Y1CP	88.8 %	Y5AL	94 %
Y1LB	87.5 %	Y6HG	97.1 %
Y2DS	96.7 %	Y6DF	99.2 %
Y2MA	99 %	TLC Foundations	87.8 %
Y3OR	96.3 %	TLC Thrive	92.2 %
Y3LH	93.3 %		



BE READY

• BE RESPECTFUL

• BE SAFE





Attendance League



St Stephen's Attendance League Upper School

Position		Total Points
1st:	6HG	8
2nd:	5AL	7
3rd:	6DF	7
4th:	5LT	4
5th:	4GB	3
6th:	TLC Thrive	2
7th:	4LS	0

STRONGER TOGETHER

St Stephen's Attendance League Lower School & EYFS

Position		Total Points
1st:	2DS	8
2nd:	RAB	7
2nd:	2MA	7
3rd:	3LH	6
4th:	Nursery	3
5th:	TLC Foundations	2
6th:	3OR	2

Position		Total Points
7th:	RNE	1
8th:	1LB	0
9th:	1CP	0

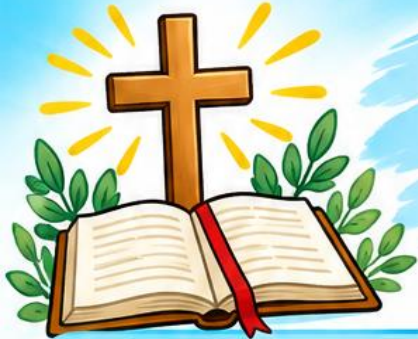
BRIGHT HAPPY TOGETHER

★ BE READY

● BE RESPECTFUL

● BE SAFE





Religious Education

Faith ♥ Friendship ♥ Service



Heart to Heart with Fr Callistus: Are we too busy for the invitation?

There is something quite interesting about this Sunday's Gospel. The king prepares a great wedding feast and invites people to come, but they are too busy. One has a field to look after, another has business to attend to, and they simply don't have time. It made me think about how easily this can happen to us. Life can get very busy such that we forget to make time for the things that really matter. Our children can experience this too. They need our time, not just the things we provide for them. Sometimes they don't need another activity or another lesson. They just want us to sit with them, play with them, listen to them and give them our attention. And the same is true of our relationship with God. God continues to invite us, but we can easily say, "I'm too busy today." Perhaps this week, we can make a little space. A few quiet minutes to pray. A meal together without our phones. A conversation with our children. A little more time for Mass, for family or simply for one another.

If you love someone or something, you will give them your attention.

Fr Callistus.




A brighter
world together

Caritas Award

This week our Caritas Award has been awarded to 6DF who showed great compassion during their Special Friends Visit.


Compassion
in Action

Prayer of the Week

How to Say a Decade of the Rosary

1 Say the Our Father.



2 Say 10 Hail Marys.



3 Say the Glory Be.



4 Say the Fatima Prayer.



5 Think about the mystery.



6 Repeat for the next decade!



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Dear Parents and Carers,

At different times throughout our lives, we and our children will receive various invitations – some more important than others. However, the most important invitation is the one that is offered to us in the Gospel below.

Throughout the Bible the joyful images of weddings are often used to describe how much God loves us. When Jesus told this story he was thinking of the Chosen People, the people of Israel, but many of their leaders did not respond to God's invitation when Jesus came.

Wednesday 7th October 2026

God's invitation is not just for certain people but for all of us, regardless of our past or present situation. God's banquet starts here on earth and continues right into heaven.

You are invited to enjoy spending a short, special time with your child exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **INVITATION**.

Dom Henry Warsbrough



A Word from
the Saints

"The Gospel is an invitation to the fullness of life."
St John Paul II

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 11th October 2026



Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like when a king held a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to summon those who had been invited, but they didn't want to come. He sent other servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared the meal, everything is ready, come to the feast.' Some of those invited took no notice, but others seized the king's servants. The king was very angry and sent his soldiers. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go out into the streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.' The servants went out and gathered together everyone they could find, both bad and good alike. The wedding hall was now filled with guests."

Adapted from Matthew 22:1-10
The 28th Sunday in 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 Overleaf ▶

**Good News
for Everyone**

In this Sunday's Gospel God is like the king, inviting us to the feast. We are reminded that we are invited to share in God's life: to celebrate belonging to the family of God forever, living in peace with everyone.



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 said, "The kingdom of heaven is like when a king held a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to summon those who had been invited, but they didn't want to come. Then the king said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Now go out into the streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.' The servants went out and gathered together everyone they could find, until the wedding hall was filled with guests."

What did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven 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...

"Jesus invites us to build the civilization of love together."

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

Ask your child what the word 'invitation' means to them. Then each of you tell one another about the best invitation that you've ever had. What was good about it? Have you ever refused an invitation? How does it feel when you invite someone to a party? How does it feel when someone invites you for tea, to play or to a wedding? It may help your child if you tell them about an invitation which you would most like to receive, and say why.



Every moment God is inviting us into a loving relationship. We accept God's invitation through loving him and all those around us. As a family, think about someone you could invite to your home for a meal or to play (when the time is right) - to make them feel especially valued and loved. This week, why not accept Pope Francis' invitation (above) to learn to pray every day - inviting God to guide you in all you do and in all you say?

INVITATION



3 . Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to remember that every moment of the day you * are **Inviting** us into your love, to share in your happiness and peace. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- ☐ KINGDOM
- ☐ HEAVEN
- ☐ WEDDING
- ☐ FEAST
- ☐ UNWORTHY
- ☐ GUESTS
- ☐ EVERYONE
- ☐ INVITED

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

Cross out the letters **a b m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

fimband mehverayone stremebtas bomufa

"Now go _____ into the _____ and invite
_____ you _____ to the feast."

God's invitation is for right here - right now! When we put our faith in Jesus and invite him into our lives, he can help us. We also discover the happiness that comes from knowing that God is our Father and that we are God's children.



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





ST STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • DROYLSDEN

PRAISE

Night



FRIDAY
16TH
OCTOBER 2026



7:00PM - 8:30PM



RECEPTION FOLLOWS
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
IN DROYLSDEN
CATHOLIC CLUB

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY



ST STEPHEN'S
CHOIR



ANGELIC
VOICES CHOIR



BORN TO
WORSHIP CHOIR



INSTRUMENTAL
MEDLEY

EVERYONE IS INVITED



*"Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord." – Psalm 150:6*

ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Droylsden,
Manchester M43 7NA
0161 370 1505



St. Steph
Bienvenije
Keabo
Benvenuto
Welkom



Nursery



This week in Nursery, our phonics rhyme has been 'Incy Wincy Spider'. We have loved creating actions to accompany the rhyme, clapping syllables and listening carefully to environmental sounds. In Maths, we have been learning to match items according to their size, shape or colour. Matching buttons, socks and trainers has encouraged lots of lovely discussion about the features that make them the same or different.

During our Celebration of the Word sessions, we have been exploring special words and pictures associated with church, including the Bible, candles, a heart, Jesus, Mary and the church itself, and talking about why they are special.

We have also enjoyed developing our mark-making skills through dancing with scarves, making marks to music, pencil control activities, dough discos and 'Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle'.

Our creative activities have included making spiders using paint and collage materials. We ended the week supporting 'Hello Yellow!' to raise awareness of young people's mental health, talking about how we can show kindness and sharing lovely compliments with our friends. What a wonderful week of learning together!



Reception



This week in Reception, we have continued exploring our story *My Grandpa*. The children have created a story map to help us remember the key parts of the story and worked together to create actions to go alongside each part. This has helped us to retell the story in order while developing our speaking and listening skills.

In maths, we have been learning about repeating patterns. The children have explored different patterns and have enjoyed creating their own using a range of resources. We have been developing our ability to spot what comes next and explain the patterns we have made.

In RE, we have been learning about Baptism and thinking about what happens during a Baptism. We explored some of the special symbols and actions involved and finished our learning by having our very own Reception Baptism together.

We finished our week by celebrating Yellow Day for World Mental Health Day. The children looked fantastic dressed in yellow and enjoyed talking about feelings, kindness and looking after our mental health.

BE READY • BE RESPECTFUL • BE SAFE


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Year 1

Learn ♥ Grow ♥ Belong



Year 1 have had another busy week of learning! In Maths, we have been learning about decade numbers, counting forwards and backwards in tens, and recognising groups of ten. In English, we have continued our work on 'I like it when...' sentences, correcting errors, completing sentences and developing our vocabulary. In Science, we became 'leaf detectives' and sorted different leaves into groups, thinking carefully about their similarities and differences. In RE, we made pledges about how we can look after our common home and care for others. In History, we learned about some of the monarchs we have studied and what they are remembered for. In PSHE, we explored the idea of belonging and thought about the different groups and communities that we are part of. The children have worked hard and shown great enthusiasm for their learning this week!

Question: Where do you belong?



Year 2

Be Positive ♥ Be Respectful ♥ Be Your Best



It has been another busy week in Year 2! In English, we have been learning about adjectives and using them to make our writing more descriptive. In Maths, we have been practising adding and subtracting within 10, as well as exploring doubles and near doubles. In History, we have been learning about how London was rebuilt following the Great Fire of London by Sir Christopher Wren, and the changes that were made to help prevent such a disaster from happening again. In RE, we have been learning about the Sacrament of Baptism and exploring the meaning behind the different symbols used during the sacrament. If you have any photographs from your child's baptism that you would be happy to share with us, please send them into school as we would love to use these to support our learning. In PE, we have been developing our fundamental movement skills, including skipping, galloping and dodging.

Question: What changes were made when London was rebuilt after the fire?

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♥
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Year 3



Curious ♥ Confident ♥ Capable



Kind
Brave
Inquisitive
Ready
♥

Year 3 have had another busy week. In R.E. we have looked at Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical and thought about the ways we can show love to God, show love to others, and show love for our planet as stewards of Creation. Inspired by St Therese's Little Way, we thought of 5 things we could do daily to show love and care towards our environment. In Maths, we continued our work on place value and used Base 10 to count on and back in tens, and add and subtract multiples of 10. In English, we used coordinating conjunctions to complete a short burst write inspired by pictures from the Stone Age. We have planned two paragraphs for our modelled write and started to write about the impact of farming on the Stone Age way of life. In history, we learnt about Skara Brae and what artefacts were found by archaeologists excavating there.

Question: Where can the Stone Age settlement of Skara Brae be found?



Year 4



Challenge ♥ Persevere ♥ Achieve



Resilient
Thoughtful
Determined
Proud
♥

Year 4 have had a fantastic week! In English, we have been learning about complex sentences, using subordinating conjunctions and identifying main and subordinate clauses. In Maths, we have been subtracting from 1000, solving problems and exploring units of measure, including kilometres. In Guided Reading, we have enjoyed echo reading and answering retrieval questions about Moomins and the Great Flood. In Religion, we have been learning about Abraham and exploring what his covenant with God means for us today. We also celebrated a wonderful Mass, where the children were respectful and joined in beautifully. Finally, we enjoyed Hello Yellow Day, thinking about positive wellbeing and sharing tips to help and support one another.

Question: What is your positive wellbeing tip?

BE READY • BE RESPECTFUL • BE SAFE



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Year 5

Inspire ♥ Challenge ♥ Succeed



Brighter
Bolder
Kinder
Stronger
Together

We've had a busy week in Year 5 this week! In English, we have been learning all about direct speech and are working towards writing our own independent narratives, using dialogue to bring our stories and characters to life.

In Maths, we have been exploring multiplying and dividing by 100, as well as developing our understanding of hundredths and place value in context with length. In History, we have continued our learning about the Maya civilisation, discovering just how advanced they were. We have explored their number system, hieroglyphs, calendars and impressive buildings, thinking about the achievements that made Maya civilisation so remarkable.

We also enjoyed a special RE Retreat with Mrs Farmer. Our focus was God's creations, and the children created thoughtful posters about the things in creation they are thankful for and ways we can all help to look after and protect God's wonderful world.



Year 6

Believe ♥ Achieve ♥ Flourish



Ready
Respectful
Responsible
Role Models

We have had another busy and productive week in Year 6!

In English, we have been developing our formal writing skills in preparation for writing our non-chronological reports. We have also been learning how colons can be used to introduce lists.

In Maths, we have been exploring how to adjust calculations to make our methods more efficient.

Our RE lessons have continued to explore the Fall. We considered the choices made by Adam and Eve and the consequences of these choices. We also thought about how the story might have been different if they had made a different decision.

Finally, in History, we have explored a range of historical sources to help us learn more about the Blitz and what life was like during this significant period of the Second World War.

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♥
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TLC Foundations



Small Steps ♥ Bright Futures



Nurture
Support
Develop
Thrive
♥

This week in TLC Foundations, we have enjoyed exploring number, colour and pattern sequencing. We are also beginning to trace over our names, developing our early writing skills.

We have been exploring *The Gruffalo*, with activities including creating our own Gruffalos, listening to the story and exploring a woodland tuff tray. During Forest School, we have also started making our own Gruffalos using clay.

We have seen lovely progress in the children's attention during Bucket Time, with the children enjoying watching and participating. We have also loved singing and copying the actions to "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and "Old MacDonald Had a Farm".

The children have been busy making their own creations in the mud kitchen and exploring sea creatures in the water. They have particularly enjoyed tipping, pouring and watching the water fall. It has been a wonderful week of learning through play!

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend!



TLC Thrive



Believe ♥ Progress ♥ Thrive



Inclusive
Confident
Independent
Successful
♥

This week, we have continued our work around our book *Whatever Next* and have been focusing on space and rockets during Bucket Time.

In Numeracy, we have been practising counting backwards with aliens and rockets as well as working on weighing, measuring and comparing within our saltdough/baking session.

We have become more familiar our Lightning Squad reading intervention this week and are doing brilliantly!

We are continuing to work hard on our social skills when choosing, including turn taking and regulation strategies when interacting with our new resources.

We have introduced a new set of communication boards to enable us to express needs and wants more specifically/clearly and are already putting them to good use!

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