St. Stephen's R.C Primary School

Together we learn
We belong
We flourish

TLG
THE LEARNING CENTRE

ST STEPHEN'S WEEKLY

OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th November 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

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Together we learn
We belong
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A Message from Mr Lavin

Headteacher



What another lovely week it has been at St Stephen's! It has been wonderful to see our children enjoying their learning and continuing to demonstrate the kindness, enthusiasm and care that make our school such a special place.

This week, we have been celebrating Anti-Bullying Week, reminding our children of the importance of kindness, respect and looking after one another. At St Stephen's, we want every child to feel safe, happy and valued, and our focus on belonging and inclusion remains at the heart of everything we do.

On Monday, we also enjoyed our Whole School Geography Spatial Sense Day, giving children the opportunity to develop their geographical knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

As we move further into November, Christmas is certainly getting closer, and we have lots of exciting events to look forward to!

Dates for Your Diary

- **Tuesday 17th November:** Year 5AL Stay and Pray – 9:00am, classroom.
- **Wednesday 18th November:** Year 5LT Stay and Pray – 9:00am, classroom.
- **Thursday 19th November:** Year 4LS Class Assembly – 9:05am, hall.
- **Friday 20th November:** Year 4 and 5 Mass – 10:00am, Church.
- **Sunday 22nd November:** Sacramental Programme Presentation Mass – 10:30am.
- **Sunday 22nd November:** Christmas Fair – 11:00am–3:00pm.

Christmas Fair 🎄

Thank you for your donations today for our Bottle Tombola! A special reminder that our Christmas Fair takes place on Sunday 22nd November, from 11:00am until 3:00pm. This is always a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish community to come together, and we would love to see as many families there as possible. Please come along and support this lovely event as we begin our Christmas celebrations!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to see our children growing, learning and flourishing each day. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, and I look forward to another busy and exciting week ahead!

Mr Lavin
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

What's coming up at St Stephen's

Week Beginning 16th November 2026	
Date	**Event**
17/11/26	Y5AL Stay and Pray
18/1126	Y5LT Stay and Pray
19/11/26	Y4LS Class Assembly
20/11/26	Year 4 and 5 Mass
22/11/26	Sacramental Programme Presentation Mass 10:30am Christmas Fair

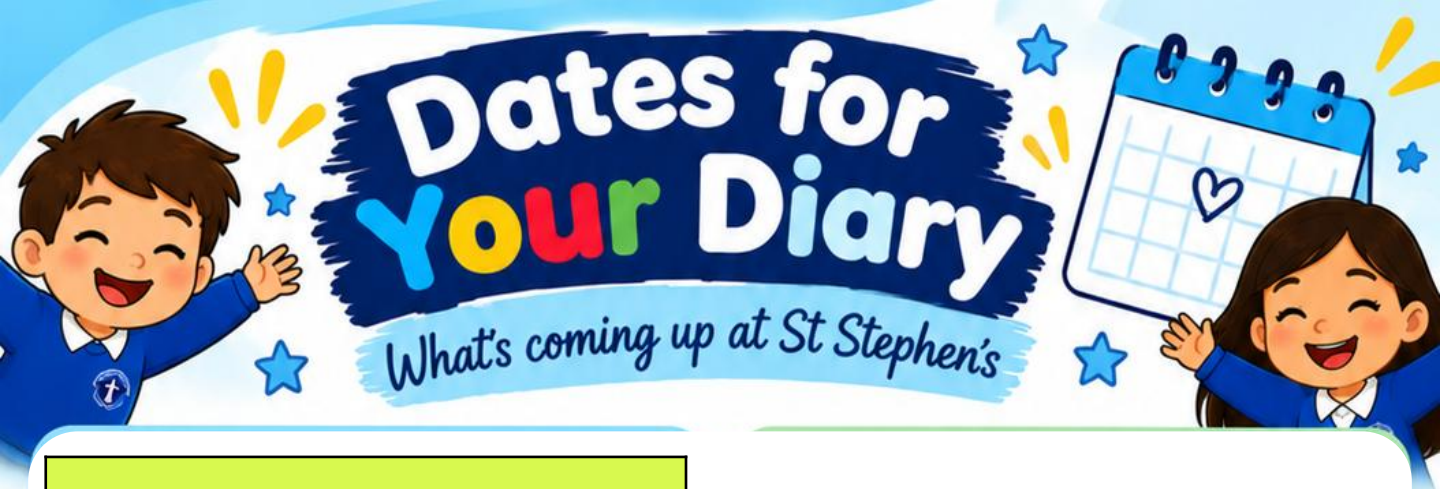
Week Beginning 23rd November 2026	
Date	**Event**
26/11/26	Y3LH Class Assembly
26/11/26	EYFS Open Evening
27/11/26	Reception and Y6 Mass

Week Beginning 30th November 2026	
Date	**Event**
30/11/26	Y4GB Retreat in School
1/12/26	Y4LS Retreat in School
3/12/26	Y3OR Class Assembly
4/12/26	Year 1, 2 & 3 Mass
4/12/26	Pupil Parliament Christmas Coffee Morning 9am School Hall

Week Beginning 7th December 2026	
Date	**Event**
8/12/26	Nursery Nativity in the School Hall at 9:30am
9/12/26	Reception Nativity in school hall at 9:30am for parents/carers of RAB
10/12/26	Reception Nativity in school hall at 9:30am for parents/carers of RNE
10/12/26	Y1 Carol Concert School Hall at 2:30pm
10/12/26	Christmas Jumper Day
11/12/26	Year 2 Play at 9:30am in the School Hall

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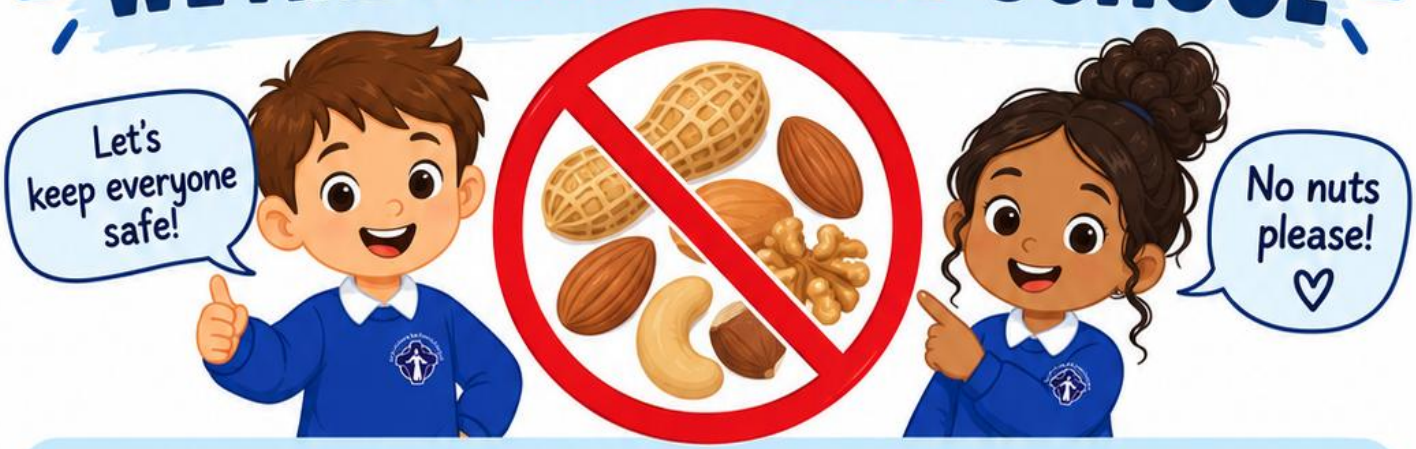
Week Beginning 14th December 2026	
Date	**Event**
15/12/26	Y3. 4, 5, 6 Carol Service 2pm in Church
16/12/26	Christmas Dinner Day
17/12/26	Christmas Party Day – Own clothes
18/12/26	Whole School Mass at 10am
18/12/26	School closes for Christmas at 1:30pm.

Love one another, as I have loved you.

St. Stephen's R.C Primary School

Every child, Every chance, Every day.

WE ARE A NUT-FREE SCHOOL



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.



Celebrating Our Stars

We are so proud of you!





Readers of the Week

Nursery	Nellie
RNE	George
RAB	Bobby
Y1CP	Bobby
Y1LB	Lily
Y2MA	Nova
Y2DS	Adeoluwa
Y3OR	Peyton
Y3LH	Nancy
Y4GB	Sayo
Y4LS	Noah
Y5LT	Grace
Y5AL	Lexie
Y6HG	Eliza
Y6DF	Lillie-Mae
TLC Thrive	Isla
TLC Foundations	Asa



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner

Nursery	Layla-Blue & Yohan
RNE	Isobelle
RAB	Abdulgafar
Y1CP	Lennie
Y1LB	Rudy
Y2MA	Nehneh
Y2DS	Ocean
Y3OR	Jake
Y3LH	Harper
Y4GB	Valentina
Y4LS	Rahilla
Y5LT	Pati
Y5AL	Henry
Y6HG	Olivia
Y6DF	Rumaisha
TLC Thrive	Freddie
TLC Foundations	Honey

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More of Our Stars

Celebrating brilliant learning



Writing Star

Nursery	Hakam
RNE	Habriel
RAB	Scarlet
Y1CP	Caleb
Y1LB	Marnie
Y2MA	Theodore
Y2DS	Julianna
Y3OR	James
Y3LH	William
Y4GB	Arhur
Y4LS	Jessica
Y5LT	Esme
Y5AL	Evelyn
Y6HG	Thomas
Y6DF	Alex T
TLC Thrive	India
TLC Foundations	Daniyal

Maths Star

Nursery	Imogen
RNE	Isla
RAB	Max
Y1CP	Ivy
Y1LB	Maya
Y2MA	Mazeedah
Y2DS	Alani-Grace
Y3OR	Jaxon
Y3LH	Oreofe
Y4GB	Bobby
Y4LS	Poppy-Kay
Y5LT	Elijah
Y5AL	Sajjad
Y6HG	Ebony
Y6DF	Sofija
TLC Thrive	James
TLC Foundations	Lucius

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Attendance Matters

Every day counts!

Class Attendance

Nursery	85.7 %	Y4GB	97.6 %
RNE	95.4 %	Y4LS	96.3 %
RAB	95.7 %	Y5LT	97.4 %
Y1CP	96.1 %	Y5AL	95.5 %
Y1LB	91.3 %	Y6HG	97.5 %
Y2DS	96 %	Y6DF	95.4 %
Y2MA	91.1 %	TLC Foundations	100 %
Y3OR	95.4 %	TLC Thrive	91.1 %
Y3LH	95.2 %		

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Attendance League

St Stephen's Attendance League Upper School

Position		Total Points
1st:	6HG	12
2nd:	5LT	8
3rd:	5AL, 6DF and 4GB	7
3rd:	TLC Thrive	2
4th:	4LS	0

ATTEND LEARN ACHIEVE

STRONGER TOGETHER

St Stephen's Attendance League Lower School & EYFS

Position		Total Points
1st:	2DS	12
2nd:	2MA	9
3rd:	3LH	8
4th:	RAB	7
5th:	Nursery	3
6th:	TLC Foundations	5
7th:	RNE and 1CP	2

Position		Total Points
8th:	1LB	0

READY KIND CURIOUS

BRIGHT HAPPY TOGETHER

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Religious Education

Faith ♥ Friendship ♥ Service

Love one another

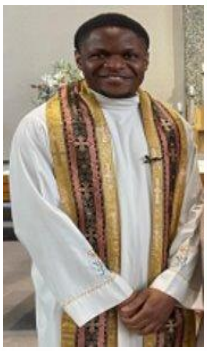
Heart to Heart with Fr Callistus: Don't leave everything until the last minute.

I think many of us are familiar with leaving things until the last minute. We remember an assignment that needs to be completed, something we need to buy, or an important job that we keep putting off. And then, suddenly, the deadline is here! In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom. Five were prepared and had brought extra oil for their lamps, while the other five had not. When the bridegroom finally arrived, those who were prepared were ready to welcome him.

There is a little lesson here for all of us. Some things in life cannot be done at the last minute. Our relationship with God is one of them. We cannot keep postponing prayer, kindness, forgiveness or spending time with God, thinking we will get round to them someday. Faith grows through the little things we do every day. It is a bit like looking after a friendship. We cannot ignore someone for months and expect the friendship to remain strong without making any effort. So, perhaps this week, let us ask ourselves: What am I doing to keep my faith alive? Am I making time for prayer? Am I making an effort to be kind and forgiving? Am I helping my children grow in their relationship with God?

We don't have to do anything extraordinary. Sometimes, a little prayer, a kind word or a visit to church is a good place to start. Let's not wait for tomorrow to do the good we can do today.

God bless you and your families.



A brighter world together

Caritas Award

This week, our Caritas Award goes to Millie, Evelyn, Jensen and Samuel in Year 6. They have been fantastic role models for our KS1 Nature Group, showcasing their knowledge and understanding of stewardship. They have also been wonderful friends to our younger children, demonstrating compassion, kindness and patience throughout. We are very proud of them!

Compassion in Action

Prayer of the Week

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.Amen."

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Nursery



Small Steps Big Futures

This week in Nursery, our rhyme of the week has been '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive', and our sound of the week has been 'a'. We have enjoyed identifying words beginning with this sound, including ant, apple, astronaut and arrow. We have also continued practising identifying rhyming words and clapping syllables in words.

In Maths, we have been exploring the numbers 1 and 2, developing our subitising skills with quantities up to 10 and singing some lovely number rhymes.

We have been learning about Remembrance Day, finding out why we wear poppies and how we remember those affected by war. The children enjoyed creating poppies through colouring and playdough activities, and we were very proud of how respectfully they took part in the two-minute silence.

Our creativity has continued as we retold 'Owl Babies' and 'Wow! Said the Owl', creating some wonderful artwork for our classroom displays.

Next week, we look forward to exploring hibernation and discovering which animals hibernate. Have a lovely weekend!



Reception



Creative Curious Confident

What a busy and exciting week we have had in Reception! In maths, the children have been practising subitising numbers up to 4 and 5, learning to recognize quantities without counting them one by one, alongside lots of energetic counting and chanting. During literacy, we introduced our delightful new story, *The Leaf Thief*, exploring how the autumn wind makes the leaves change colour and fall from the trees. In RE, we shared the story of the Annunciation, where the children learned more about Mary, Jesus, and the message brought by Angel Gabriel. To round off our week, we also reflected on Remembrance Day by making our own beautiful poppies.

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Year 1 have had a busy and exciting week of learning! We started the week with our Geography Spatial Sense Day, where children explored different maps, identified points on a compass and created their own maps of the classroom. In Maths, we explored part-whole models, splitting quantities into parts and finding missing parts. In English, we continued our work on Bumblebear, identifying the subject in sentences and using new vocabulary to build our own sentences. In Science, we explored the five senses and how we use them to understand the world around us. In RE, we learned about the Annunciation and the Visitation, finding out about Mary's special role in God's plan. We also began our new Geography topic, Where We Live, locating Manchester and Droylsden on a map and developing our understanding of our local area. We finished the week by coming together for a lovely Mass. Well done, Year 1, for another fantastic week of learning!

Question: What are our five senses?



What a busy and fantastic week of learning we have had! This week, the children have been learning all about the oceans in Geography and exploring which continents are closest to each of the oceans. They have enjoyed developing their geographical knowledge and discovering more about our wonderful world.In English, the children have been exploring different types of sentences and have been working really hard to develop their writing skills. They have also been putting lots of effort into their Maths learning, showing great enthusiasm and determination during our lessons. We are so proud of how hard everyone has been working!**Our question this week is: Can you remember all the different number bonds to 10?** Why not practise these at home and see how many you can remember?

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It has been another busy week in Year 3! In maths we completed our unit on measurement ready to move onto representing three-digit numbers. In English, we have continued to look at The Pebble In My Pocket. We have been exploring comparative and superlative adjectives and learning how to use these within our writing. In RE, we have continued looking at our unit Prophecy and Promise. We have been learning about the different stages of Mass, exploring what happens during each part and understanding their importance when we attend church. We also attended the Cenotaph to pay our respects on remembrance day. We laid our poppies down and performed our poem that we have been looking at in Guided Reading, 'In Flanders Fields'. In science, We have been learning about Mary Anning and exploring how her incredible fossil discoveries changed our understanding of science and the prehistoric world.

Question: Who was Mary Anning?



Another busy week in Year 4! On Monday, we enjoyed our Spatial Sense Day, where we explored Ordnance Survey maps and learnt how to use four-figure grid references. We then investigated historical maps of Droylsden, using our mathematical and geographical skills to make inferences about what life might have been like in the past. We particularly enjoyed comparing people's lives then with our own today! In Maths, we have concluded our unit on rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. In English, the children have worked incredibly hard to write complex sentences inspired by 'The Lost Happy Endings', focusing on placing a subordinate clause at the beginning of a sentence to add flair and detail to their writing. Next week, we look forward to our modelled write before beginning our independent writing. In Science, we have carried out two experiments, working scientifically to conduct fair tests and investigate how the presence of ice and salt affects the temperature of water. Finally, 4GB did a fantastic job during their class assembly yesterday! We are incredibly proud of them. Next week, we look forward to welcoming parents to watch 4LS's class assembly on Thursday 19th November.

Question: What jobs would be common in historic Droylsden, thinking back to our map on Monday?

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Some lovely learning has taken place in Year 5 this week! On Wednesday, the children were extremely respectful in observing the 2 minutes silence. They made some beautiful poppies and learnt about life in the trenches, writing an emotive letter home from a soldier's perspective!

Another highlight of the week was our introductory lesson to our Brazil Geography topic. Miss Tracey shared some artefacts from her time living there, and the children sampled different types of food.

As well as this, we completed our Spatial Sense day by learning about contour lines and we used these to show elevation using card.

In English, the children have continued using fronted adverbials and they are building up to using these with increased independence.

In Maths, we have completed our decimals unit and we have started learning about negative numbers by being introduced to positive and negative change.

Question: If I put 3 balls in a bag and took out 5, is this a negative or positive change?



This week has flown by in Year 6! We have thoroughly enjoyed reading our novel, *Letters from the Lighthouse*, and delving deeper into life in Devon alongside Olive and Cliff. We have used our understanding of the story to write an honest postcard home from Olive, incorporating the subjunctive form. In maths, we have explored multiples of 1,000, how to compose 10,000 and Roman numerals. To mark Remembrance Day, we created beautiful poppies and selected the most powerful verses from the poem *Dulce et Decorum Est* that we have been analysing, reflecting on the poignant imagery and powerful message of the poem.

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This week in TLC Foundations we have enjoyed lots of fun and exciting activities! The children have been busy making their own police badges. We have also explored lots of sensory activities, including farm-themed messy play and dinosaur gloop, which the children loved getting their hands into! We have also been learning about skeletons through fun, hands-on activities. It has been a lovely week filled with exploring, creativity and lots of sensory fun!



This week, in Literacy, we have seen our Colour Monster go from feeling yellow to blue then black, filling his jar with different colours and have then done some brilliant reading and writing about it.

In Numeracy, we have practised number sentences and have investigated which 3D shapes stack.

Continuing our History, we have looked at what a timeline is, ready to make our own next week.

We have learnt about why Hindus celebrate Diwali, crafted our own Diva lamps and created and painted Diva lamp holders out of saltdough.

We have also spent time with a different member of staff this week and have managed the change well and even got cakes!

Well done, Thrive, we are proud of you!

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