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 20th 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

#teamststephens

Together
we learn
We belong
We flourish

A Message from Mr Lavin

Headteacher



It has been another busy and positive week at St Stephen's!
This week, I have spent time looking closely at children's writing and handwriting books across school, and I have been really pleased with the progress they are making. These foundational skills are so important, providing children with the building blocks they need to become confident and successful writers. It has been wonderful to see their hard work and the improvements being made.

Last night, we held our Governing Body meeting, where it was a pleasure to share the progress we are making against our School Development Plan. I would like to thank all our staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to making St Stephen's the very best it can be for our children.

🙏 Sacramental Programme Presentation Mass

This Sunday, 22nd November, at **10:30am**, we celebrate our Sacramental Programme Presentation Mass. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers as they embark on this very special journey of faith in preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion. We wish them every blessing as they take this important step in their faith journey.

🎄 Christmas Fair – THIS SUNDAY!

Our **Christmas Fair takes place this Sunday, 22nd November, from 11am–3pm!** Our wonderful PTA have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to organise what promises to be a fantastic event for our whole school community. I am incredibly grateful for the time, effort and enthusiasm they put into supporting our school. Please come along, bring your family and friends, and support this brilliant event! Every bit of support makes a difference, and we would love to see as many of you there as possible!

Looking Ahead – Next Week

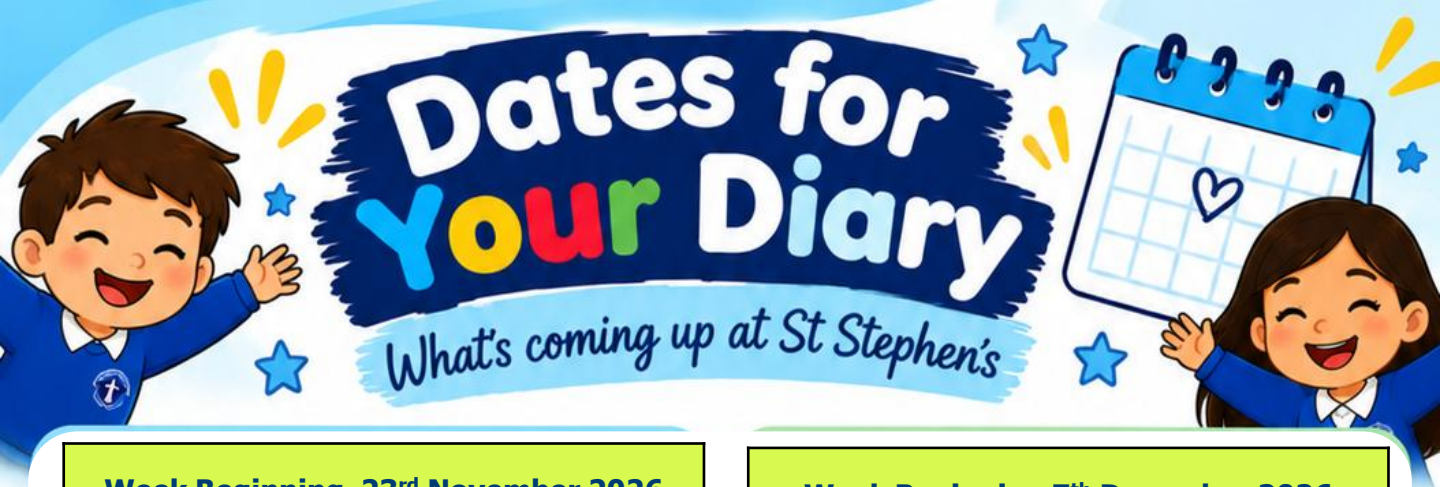
Thursday 26th November

- **9:05am** – Year 3LH Class Assembly in the school hall.
- **3:30–4:15pm** – EYFS Open Evening. Please spread the word to families looking for a Nursery or Reception place!

Friday 27th November

- **10:00am** – Reception and Year 6 Mass in Church. Families are warmly invited to join us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope to see lots of you at our Christmas Fair on Sunday! Mr Lavin, Headteacher.



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

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.

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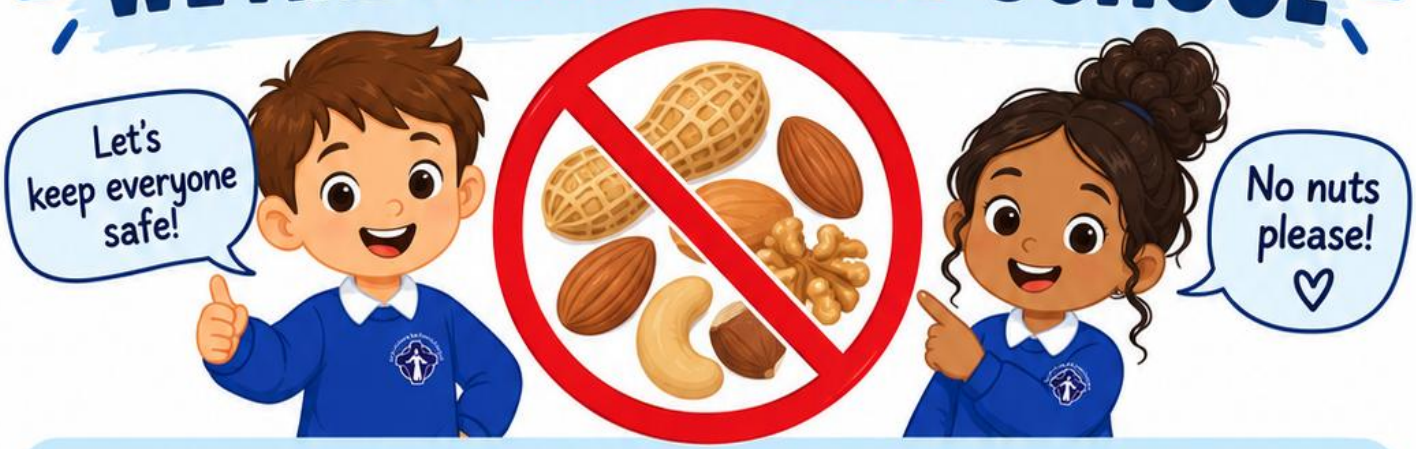
#teamststephens

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	Liam & Luca
RNE	Damien
RAB	Isaac
Y1CP	Rinsola
Y1LB	Thomas
Y2MA	Kirsty
Y2DS	Romie
Y3OR	Peyton
Y3LH	Divine
Y4GB	Poppy
Y4LS	Hassan
Y5LT	Bruke
Y5AL	Deanah
Y6HG	Eva
Y6DF	Ethan
TLC Thrive	Felicity
TLC Foundations	Evie



Hot Chocolate Friday Winner

Nursery	Carlos &Cian
RNE	Alessi
RAB	Hudson
Y1CP	Favour
Y1LB	Ellie
Y2MA	Flora
Y2DS	Adrian
Y3OR	Raya
Y3LH	Tommy
Y4GB	Luke
Y4LS	David
Y5LT	Thomas H
Y5AL	Kaiden
Y6HG	Kacper
Y6DF	Hollie
TLC Thrive	India
TLC Foundations	Makai

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More of Our Stars

Celebrating brilliant learning



Writing Star

Nursery	Sophina
RNE	Alastair
RAB	Leah-Rose
Y1CP	Inaayah
Y1LB	Alba
Y2MA	Olivia
Y2DS	Annie
Y3OR	Gadiel
Y3LH	Harmony
Y4GB	Rose
Y4LS	Leon
Y5LT	Isabelle
Y5AL	Felix
Y6HG	Eliza
Y6DF	Rocco
TLC Thrive	Freddie
TLC Foundations	Honey

Maths Star

Nursery	Jayden B
RNE	Chance
RAB	Arlo
Y1CP	Phoenix
Y1LB	Harvey
Y2MA	Coby-Ray
Y2DS	Mila-Mae
Y3OR	Iremide
Y3LH	Brume
Y4GB	Kabhier
Y4LS	Bailey
Y5LT	Ava
Y5AL	Annie
Y6HG	Clark
Y6DF	Noah
TLC Thrive	Kinggreat
TLC Foundations	Asa

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Attendance Matters

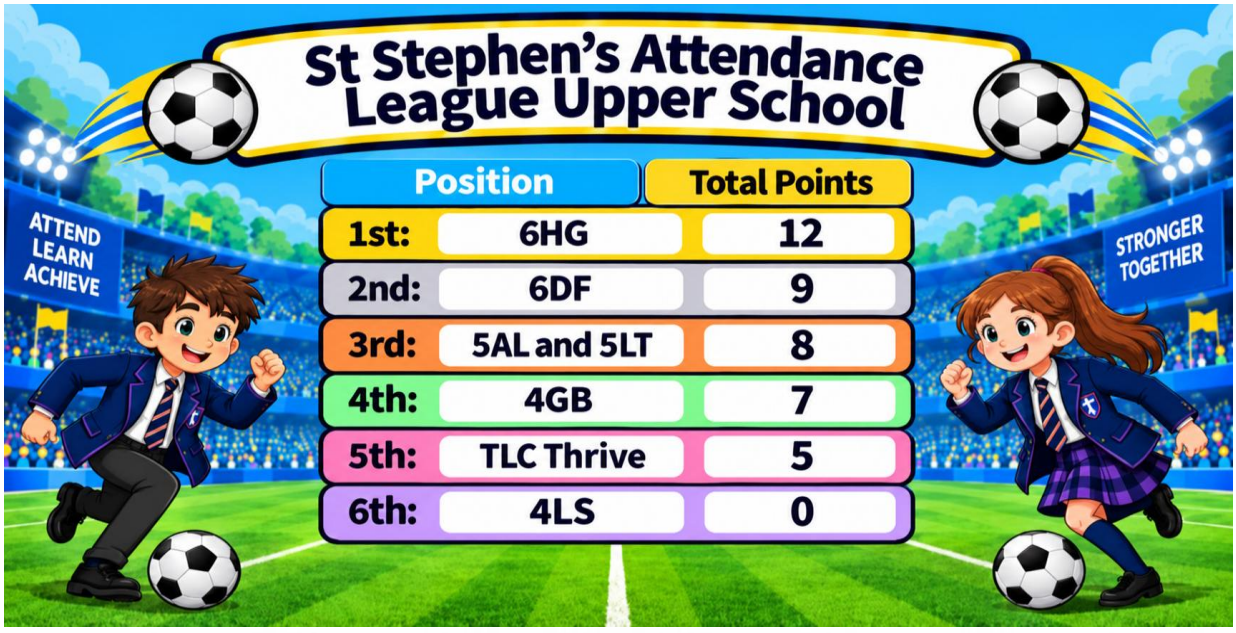
Every day counts!

Class Attendance

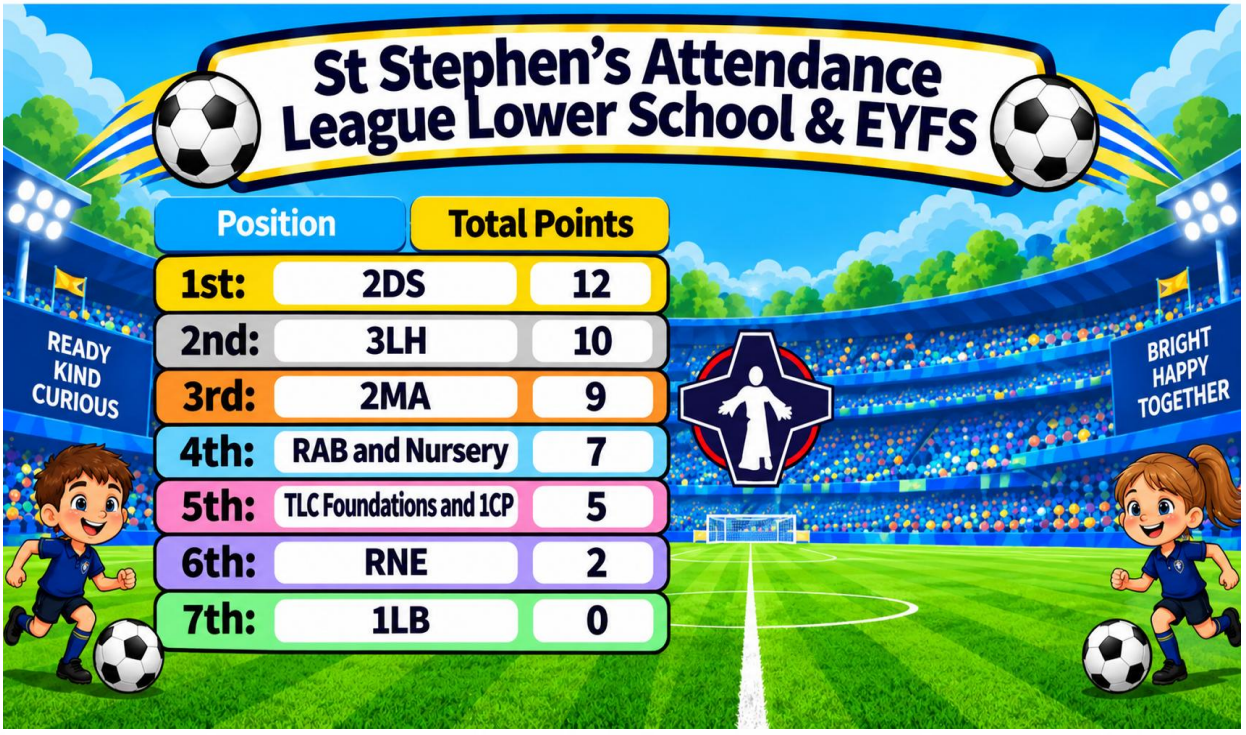
Nursery	95.3 %	Y4GB	94.4 %
RNE	88.3 %	Y4LS	91.4 %
RAB	89.6 %	Y5LT	92.5 %
Y1CP	97.4 %	Y5AL	96.5 %
Y1LB	85.6 %	Y6HG	94.2 %
Y2DS	92.9 %	Y6DF	96.7 %
Y2MA	94 %	TLC Foundations	81.5 %
Y3OR	92.2 %	TLC Thrive	98.4 %
Y3LH	97.2 %		

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Attendance League



Position		Total Points
1st:	6HG	12
2nd:	6DF	9
3rd:	5AL and 5LT	8
4th:	4GB	7
5th:	TLC Thrive	5
6th:	4LS	0



Position		Total Points
1st:	2DS	12
2nd:	3LH	10
3rd:	2MA	9
4th:	RAB and Nursery	7
5th:	TLC Foundations and 1CP	5
6th:	RNE	2
7th:	1LB	0

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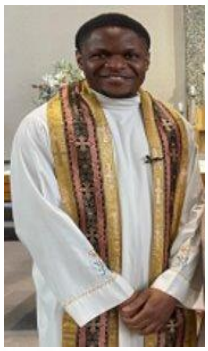
Religious Education

Faith ♥ Friendship ♥ Service

Love one another

Heart to Heart with Fr Callistus: What Kind of King is Jesus?

When we think of a king, we probably imagine someone sitting on a throne, wearing a crown and surrounded by people serving him but Jesus gives us a very different picture of kingship. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the final judgement. He tells us that whatever we do for someone who is hungry, thirsty, lonely, sick or in need, we do for Him.



I find this quite powerful because Jesus is reminding us that He is not only to be found in the church or in our prayers. He is also present in the people we meet every day, especially those who need our help. Think about it. A child who sits alone because nobody wants to play with them, someone who is struggling at home, a neighbour who needs a little help, or a classmate who is often left out. These may seem like ordinary situations, but they are opportunities to show the love of Christ. And this is something our children can learn from a young age. Being a good Christian is not just about knowing our prayers or going to Mass. It is also about how we treat people. As we celebrate Christ the King, perhaps we should ask ourselves: If Jesus is the King of my heart, can people see it in the way I treat them? God bless you and your families. **Fr Callistus.**

A brighter world together

Caritas Award

This week, our Caritas Award goes to all our Year 3 children. To the children preparing for the Sacramental Programme, we are proud of their maturity on beginning the next stage of their faith journey. To the children not on the programme, we are so proud of the support and kindness shown towards their friends. Both are beautiful examples of Human Dignity. Well done Year 3!

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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THE Wednesday WORD

SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

A Gift to You & Your Family from Your Catholic School

Wednesday 18th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is the last in the Church's year. It is the day we celebrate the feast of Christ the King.

In the Gospel, Jesus (using the language and imagery of his time) describes what will happen when he comes again at the end of time. Like a shepherd who calls his sheep to follow him, Jesus invites people to be with him forever. Jesus emphasises that we should love our neighbour: that is, we should look after our neighbour in need.

The Gospel reminds us that every act of kindness done to someone else is also done to Jesus, and it will be rewarded accordingly.

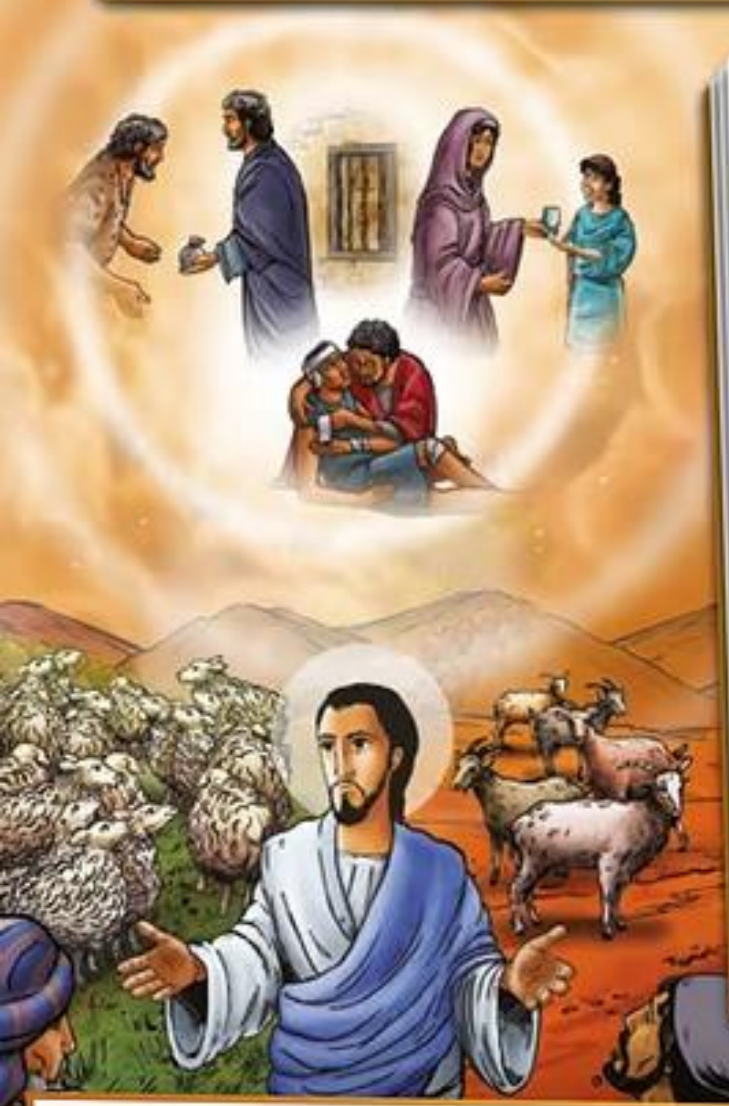
Just follow the simple steps overleaf to enjoy a very special time together, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **KINDNESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Give something however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing." St Gregory Nazianzus



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 22nd November 2026



Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in majesty, all people will be gathered before him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. And he will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom which has been prepared for you. For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.' Then these people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and take care of you?' And the king will reply, 'Whatever you did for my brothers and sisters in need, you did for me.'"

Adapted from Matthew 25:31-46
The Feast of Christ the King

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

Good News for Everyone

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is present in all people, especially in the sick, anyone in need, and also he is present in you and in me. What we do for others, we do for Jesus – even small, everyday acts of kindness are most valuable in God's eyes.

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Good News for Families TOGETHER TIME

1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes at the end of time, all people will be gathered before him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, and will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. And he will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom which has been prepared for you. For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and you visited me; for whatever good you did for others in need, you did for me.'"*

What did Jesus say the people on his right hand would inherit?

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.



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?

2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." *St Teresa of Calcutta*

KINDNESS

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us about the true value of kindness. Ask your child what the word 'kindness' means to them. To be kind is to be considerate and helpful – to have concern for others. Each of you speak about a kind person: at school, at work, or in the community. How do they show their kindness? Who has been especially kind to you? Have you done anything especially kind recently?

We learn to be kind by receiving kindness – and our homes are great places to learn: families can be schools of kindness. In this coming week, in what ways can we show kindness to each other or to those who really need help? Perhaps we can: be more helpful around the house; share more and donate to a local food bank; as a family, show compassion through visiting or sending a card to someone who is lonely, sick or housebound; support a charity that helps the homeless.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to see you in everyone I meet, and be **kind** to all, especially to those that I sometimes find it difficult to love. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture



WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

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

- JESUS RETURNS
- PEOPLE GATHERED
- SHEEP GOATS
- KINDNESS HEAVEN

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

Cross out the letters **u l n** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

lumen nothleurs lugonod nusalid

Jesus _____ to his disciples, "Whatever _____ you did for _____ in need, you did for ____."

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Sunday's Gospel reminds us that we can help Jesus' kingdom to grow on earth through acts of kindness and charity. In the Church these are known as 'Works of Mercy'.

This week I will try my best to...

.....

Write a promise & **draw** a big smile on Smiley

More about the Catholic Faith: **wednesdayword.org** & **cbcew.org.uk**

fifth MOVEMENT

Tameside HAF

FREE HAF Holiday Camp At St Stephen's Primary School



December Holidays

Monday 21st - Wednesday 23rd December

Book your child's space now via EEQU!

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

Age 5-11

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www.fifthmovement.co.uk

info@fifthmovement.co.uk

FREE HAF SPACES ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE TARGETED BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

fifth MOVEMENT



Nursery



Small Steps Big Futures

This week in Nursery, we've loved singing our rhyme of the week, *A Sailor Went to Sea*. In phonics, we listened for the 't' sound at the beginning of words such as *tiger*, *tap*, *toast* and *teddy.*

As part of our Autumn topic, we learned about animals that hibernate. Our squirrel puppet got the children talking, and they came up with some thoughtful questions of their own, including "Where do you live?" and "What do you like to eat?" In Maths, we began by recognising numbers and putting them in order up to 5, then challenged ourselves to go all the way to 10!

In RE, we continued learning about God's world and talked about how God created everything.

We've also been busy rehearsing our songs and dance moves for *A Wriggly Nativity* and can't wait to share our performance with you on Tuesday 8th December at 9.30am in the School Hall!



Reception



Creative Curious Confident

This week in Reception the children have been very busy! We have been learning compositions of 5 and subitising. We have learnt to tell the story of 'The Leaf Thief' through talk for writing. The children have also been super busy learning new songs for their nativity.

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We have had another busy week in Year 1. In Maths, we used part-whole models to explore numbers to 5, focusing on how 3 and 4 can be split into different parts. In Phonics, we learned the split digraphs a-e, i-e, o-e and u-e, practising them in our reading and writing.

In English, we completed an independent write, using the simple past tense and the -ed suffix to write sentences. In Science, we explored our five senses and discussed how they help us understand the world around us. In RE, we were introduced to the story of the birth of Jesus, while in PSHE we talked about nicknames and the importance of calling people by appropriate names. We have also started practising for our Christmas Carol Concert. The children are learning their lines and songs with great confidence, and we are very proud of their enthusiasm.

Question: Can you name all five of our senses?



It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 2! In Science, we have been exploring the different parts of a flowering plant and learning about the important jobs each part does to help the plant grow and survive. In RE, we have been learning about the Annunciation, exploring Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and the Visitation between Mary and Elizabeth through Luke's Gospel. In English, the children have been busy planning and beginning to write their own imaginative stories inspired by *The Mystery of the Missing Cake*, developing their ideas and creating their own exciting mysteries. In Maths, we have been finding the difference between numbers and practising subtraction using the bridging to 10 method. Finally, in Geography, we have been exploring the world map, identifying the seven continents and five oceans and learning about where they are located in relation to one another.

Question: What did Elizabeth say to Mary in the Visitation?

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We have had another busy yet enjoyable week in Year 3. In Maths this week we have begun a new unit of work exploring the place value of 3 digit numbers. We have identified hundreds, tens and ones in 3 digit numbers and located different numbers on number lines. In English, we completed our work on superlative adjectives and moved on to planning our setting description of the journey a pebble might take over millions of years. So far, our pebble has been formed by cooled magma in a volcano and was shaped by the movement of a glacier in a frozen landscape. We can't wait to start our independent write and describe where the pebble will end up next! In RE, we continued looking at the parts of the Mass, focussing on the Liturgy of the Word and the actions and symbols associated with listening to the word of God. In Geography, we continued our exploration of the UK by identifying the seas which surround our island nation.

Question: What is the name of the body of water which separates southern England and France?



It has been another brilliant week in Year 5, with lots of hard work and fantastic learning taking place across the curriculum! In Maths, the children have been practising rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 before consolidating their understanding of column addition by adding three- and four-digit numbers together. In English, we have been applying our knowledge of complex sentences to collaboratively write the opening sections of our own interpretations of the narrative *The Lost Happy Endings*. In Science, we have been exploring evaporation and setting up an experiment which we will observe over time. During Religion, we explored scripture about John the Baptist from Matthew's Gospel and used our own interpretations to draw what we imagined he might have looked like. In Art, we looked at the work of artists Laura Carlin and Shaun Tan, exploring how they use illustrations to tell stories before creating our own visual notes about their work. On Thursday, 4LS performed their class assembly all about identity. The children were absolutely amazing and made Miss Seville incredibly proud! We finished our week by attending Mass on Friday, where the children joined in beautifully.

Question- What is evaporation?

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Another busy week of learning in Year 5!
In Maths, we have been exploring positive and negative changes, developing our understanding of negative numbers and how they are used in everyday life, such as in lifts and when reading temperatures below zero.
In English, we have been learning about fronted adverbials of time, place and manner. We have been using these to add more detail to our writing and help the reader picture the scenes we create.
In PSHE, our focus has been on integrity. We explored different scenarios and discussed the importance of honesty, making good choices and doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching.
Finally, in Spelling, we have been looking at suffixes and how adding different endings to words can change their meaning.
Question of the Week:
Where does the fronted adverbial belong in a sentence?



It has been another busy and productive week in Year 6!
In **Maths**, we have been composing numbers using thousands, ten thousands and hundred thousands, applying our understanding to count forwards in multiples.
In **English**, we have been developing our sentence construction, focusing on using relative clauses to add extra detail and cohesive devices to improve the flow of our writing.
In **PSHE**, we have explored the concept of authority, discussing who holds positions of authority and why these roles are important in our communities.
In **RE**, we have continued our learning about the Sacrament of Baptism, exploring the meaning behind the different symbols and reflecting on the promises made during the celebration.
Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week of learning!

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Communicate
Explore
Play
Build
Belong

TLC Foundations

Small Steps ♥ Bright Futures

Nurture
Support
Develop
Thrive

This week in TLC Foundations, we have been exploring our topic **'My Senses'** through lots of fun, hands-on activities. The children have enjoyed exploring different textures, smells, tastes, sounds and visual experiences, helping to develop their sensory awareness and curiosity. We have also been developing our fine motor skills through Dough Disco, mark-making, threading and creative activities. During our Attention Autism sessions, we have continued to encourage shared attention, engagement and interaction. Our core word this week has been **'WAIT'**, which we have practised throughout our daily routines using visuals and communication boards. We have also enjoyed Forest School, outdoor learning and sharing our story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

Learn
Develop
Grow
Achieve
Belong

TLC Thrive

Believe ♥ Progress ♥ Thrive

Inclusive
Confident
Independent
Successful

This week, we have finished reading and writing about The Colour Monster and have really built on our understanding of emotions.

In Maths, we have continued our work on recognising 2D and 3D shapes and have been making patterns with them. We have also been building our counting and addition skills.

We have used our photographs to start our timelines in History and have really enjoyed sharing these!

In Science, we used our senses to explore textures, tastes and smells – everyone was very brave and tried different things!

In PSHE, we have been talking about how we are all unique; our likes/dislikes, strengths and fears.

A lovely week, all topped off with an exciting trip to Tesco and baking treats for Funday Friday! Have a great weekend.

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