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 6th 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
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A Message from Mr Lavin

Headteacher



Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely half-term break and managed to spend some quality time together as families. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week. We have certainly hit the ground running, with lots of exciting learning opportunities, special celebrations and preparations for the busy weeks ahead.

Exciting Developments – Our New SEND Unit!

As many of you will have seen, our brand-new modular building has now been put in place, which will become the new home for our specialist SEND provision. This is an incredibly exciting development for St Stephen's and an important step forward in our commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to belong, thrive and flourish.

There is still plenty of work taking place, both inside and around the building, before it is ready to officially open in January. However, it is wonderful to see the project beginning to take shape, and we cannot wait to share further updates with you as work progresses.

We are very proud of our inclusive school community, and this new facility will be another important part of our journey in ensuring that every child receives the care, support and opportunities they deserve.

This Week at St Stephen's

World War One History Week - This week, children across the school have been learning about the First World War as part of our whole-school history focus. Through age-appropriate lessons, children have explored the events of the war, the experiences of those involved and the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by so many. This has been particularly meaningful as we approach Remembrance Day next week.

Year 4 Stay and Pray - It was lovely to welcome families from Year 4LS and Year 4GB into school for their Stay and Pray sessions on Wednesday and Thursday. These special moments of prayer and reflection are such an important part of our Catholic life, providing opportunities for children, families and staff to come together in faith. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us.

Year 5 Anti-Racism Workshops - On Wednesday, our Year 5 children took part in anti-racism workshops, exploring the importance of respect, equality, kindness and celebrating the differences that make each of us unique. These workshops support our continued commitment to ensuring St Stephen's is a school where everyone feels valued, respected and that they truly belong.

Whole-School Mass - Today, we came together as a school community to celebrate Mass. It was a truly lovely occasion and a wonderful opportunity for us to gather in prayer as we begin this new half-term. Our children represented our school beautifully, and it was a special reminder of the faith and values at the heart of everything we do at St Stephen's.

Looking Ahead – Next Week

Monday 9th November – Geography Spatial Sense Day

Children across the school will take part in our whole-school Geography Spatial Sense Day, developing their understanding of location, direction, maps and the world around them.

Continued on the next page…

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Monday 9th – Friday 13th November – Anti-Bullying Week - Next week, we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week, reinforcing the importance of kindness, respect and looking after one another. At St Stephen's, we want every child to feel safe, happy and valued. Throughout the week, children will be reminded of the importance of speaking up, including others and treating everyone with compassion.

Tuesday 10th November – Year 3 Sacramental Programme Meeting
Parents and carers of children in Year 3 are invited to attend a meeting about the Sacramental Programme at 3:30pm in the Year 3 LH classroom.

Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Day
On Remembrance Day, we will take time as a school community to remember and give thanks for those who have served and sacrificed their lives for others.

Thursday 12th November – Year 4GB Class Assembly
We look forward to welcoming families to Year 4GB's class assembly at 9:05am in the school hall.

Thursday 12th November – Early Years Open Evening
We are delighted to welcome prospective families to our Early Years Open Evening from 3:30pm to 4:15pm.

This is a lovely opportunity to explore our Early Years provision, meet members of our team and experience what makes St Stephen's such a special place to begin a child's educational journey. Please do share this information with any families who may be considering St Stephen's for their child.

Friday 13th November – Years 1, 2 and 3 Mass
Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 will celebrate Mass at 10:00am in church. Families are warmly invited to join us.

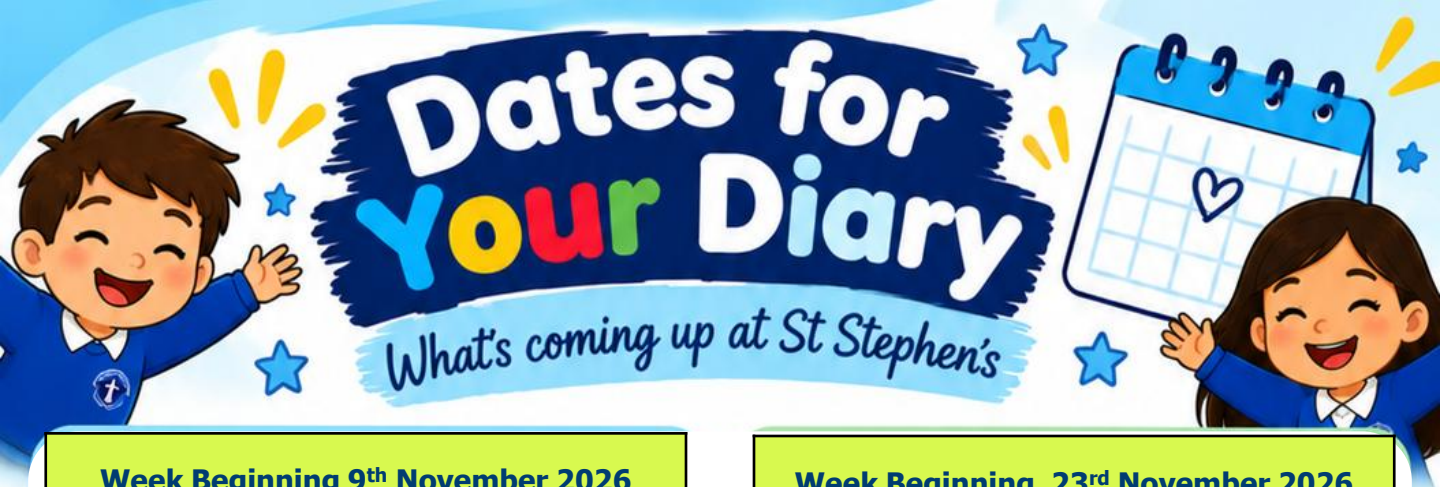
Friday 13th November – Own Clothes Day: Christmas Fair Donations
Children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes in exchange for a bottle donation for our Christmas Fair. Donations might include bottles of soft drinks, toiletries or other suitable bottled items. We are grateful for your generosity and continued support.

Christmas Fair – Save the Date!
Our Christmas Fair will take place on **Sunday 22nd November, from 11:00am to 3:00pm**.
We are looking forward to a wonderful festive event bringing our school community together. Please save the date and come along to support us!

A Final Word
As we begin what promises to be a busy and exciting half-term, I want to thank you all for your continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend with your families.

Mr C Lavin, Headteacher



Week Beginning 9th November 2026	
Date	**Event**
9/11/26	Anti-Bullying Week
10/11/26	Sacramental Programme Meeting 3:30pm Y3LH
12/11/26	Y4GB Class Assembly
12/11/26	EYFS Open Evening
13/11/26	Year 1,2 & 3 Mass
13/11/26	Own Clothes Day – bring a bottle for Christmas Fair Tombola

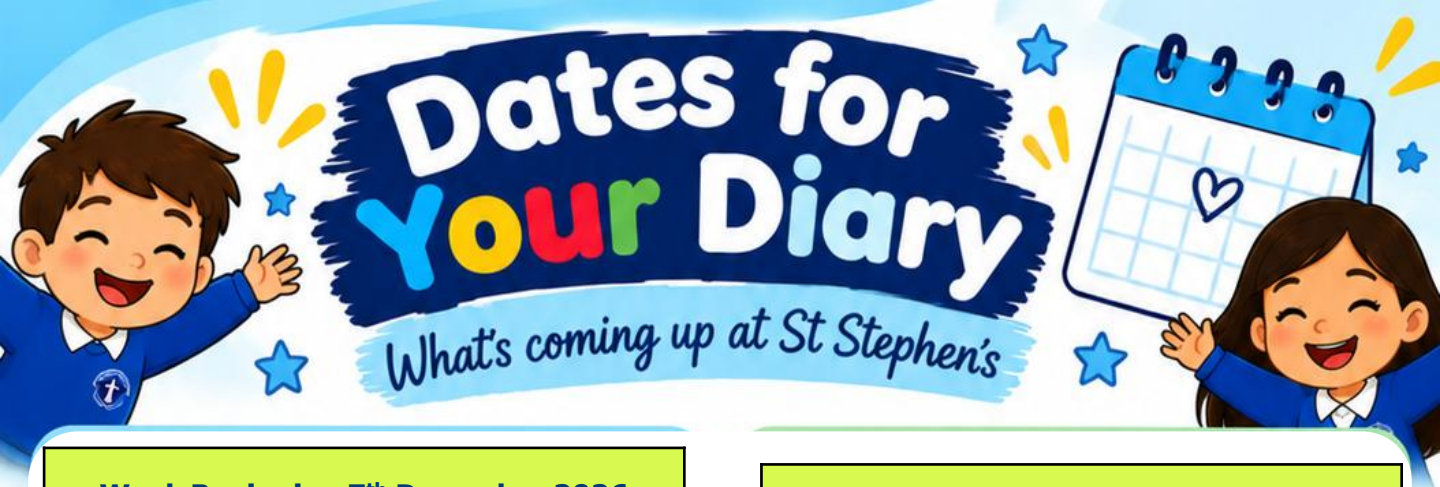
Week Beginning 16th November 2026	
Date	**Event**
17/11/26	Y5AL Stay and Pray
18/1126	Y5LT Stay and Pray
19/11/26	Y4LS Class Assembly
20/11/26	Year 4 and 5 Mass
22/11/26	Sacramental Programme Presentation Mass 10:30am Christmas Fair

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

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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

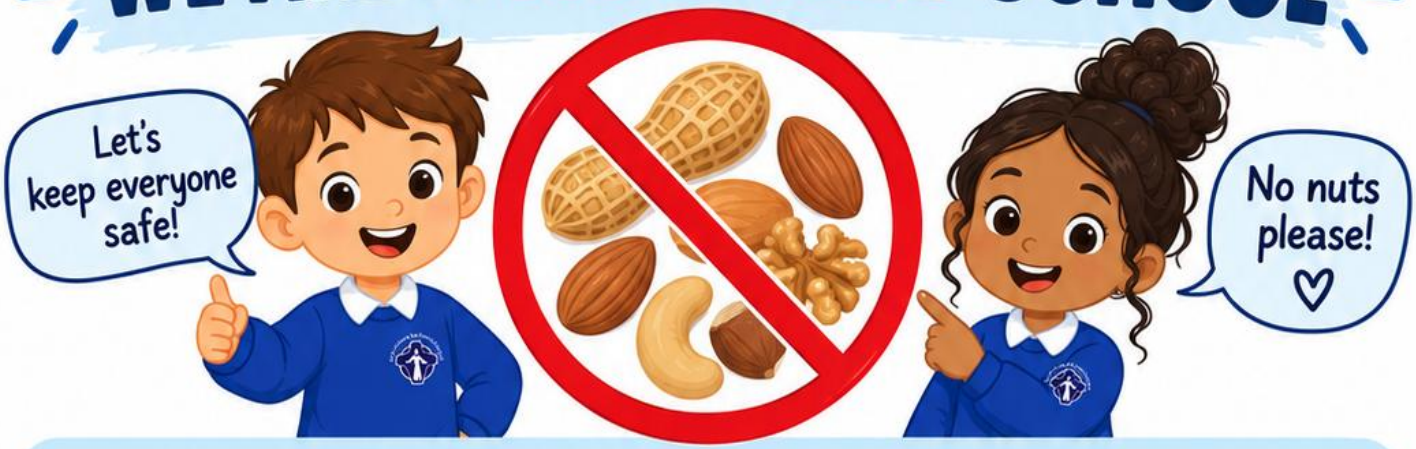
Week Beginning 14th December 2026	
Date	**Event**
15/12/26	Y3. 4, 5, 6 Carol Service 2pm in Church
16/12/26	Christmas Dinner Day
17/12/26	Christmas Party Day – Own clothes
18/12/26	Whole School Mass at 10am
18/12/26	School closes for Christmas at 1:30pm.

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.



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	Georgie Joe & Athiea
RNE	Millie
RAB	Palmer
Y1CP	Jack
Y1LB	Cameron
Y2MA	Flora
Y2DS	Maximus
Y3OR	James
Y3LH	Darcie
Y4GB	Rose
Y4LS	Rahilla
Y5LT	Grace
Y5AL	Kingsley
Y6HG	Oscar
Y6DF	Muwaffaq
TLC Thrive	James
TLC Foundations	

Hot Chocolate Friday Winner



Nursery	Jayden T & Melody
RNE	Teni
RAB	Rory
Y1CP	Bobby
Y1LB	Thomas
Y2MA	Kirsty
Y2DS	Ophelia
Y3OR	Imran
Y3LH	Myles
Y4GB	Huckleberry
Y4LS	Abigail
Y5LT	Jack
Y5AL	Deanah
Y6HG	Ruby
Y6DF	Caoimhe
TLC Thrive	Amelia
TLC Foundations	Merlin

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More of Our Stars

Celebrating brilliant learning



Writing Star

Nursery	Dylan & Jayden B
RNE	Holly
RAB	Ohemaa
Y1CP	Penelope
Y1LB	Eleanor
Y2MA	Christoforos
Y2DS	James
Y3OR	Evie
Y3LH	Aurora
Y4GB	Poppy
Y4LS	Harry
Y5LT	Ava
Y5AL	Kaiden
Y6HG	Daley
Y6DF	Oscar
TLC Thrive	Isla
TLC Foundations	Evie & Arthur

Maths Star

Nursery	Freya & Hakam
RNE	Pearl
RAB	Taaliah
Y1CP	Bessie
Y1LB	Ruben
Y2MA	Theodore
Y2DS	Isobel
Y3OR	Peyton
Y3LH	Hugo
Y4GB	Shannel
Y4LS	Keziah
Y5LT	Raya- Mae
Y5AL	Linen
Y6HG	Hudson
Y6DF	Ethan
TLC Thrive	India
TLC Foundations	Honey

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Attendance Matters

Every day counts!

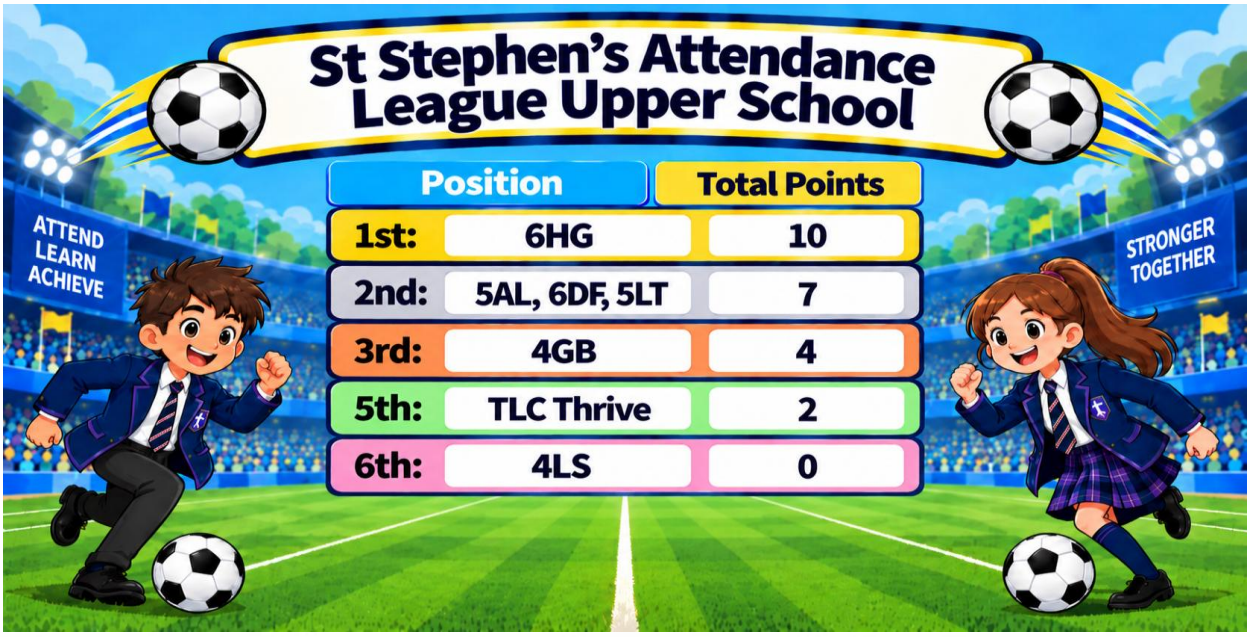
Class Attendance

Nursery	98.4 %	Y4GB	93.1 %
RNE	95.8 %	Y4LS	94.1 %
RAB	98.8 %	Y5LT	95.8 %
Y1CP	94.7 %	Y5AL	92.8 %
Y1LB	88.2 %	Y6HG	96.7 %
Y2DS	91.5 %	Y6DF	91.7 %
Y2MA	88.4 %	TLC Foundations	100 %
Y3OR	94 %	TLC Thrive	93.6 %
Y3LH	99 %		

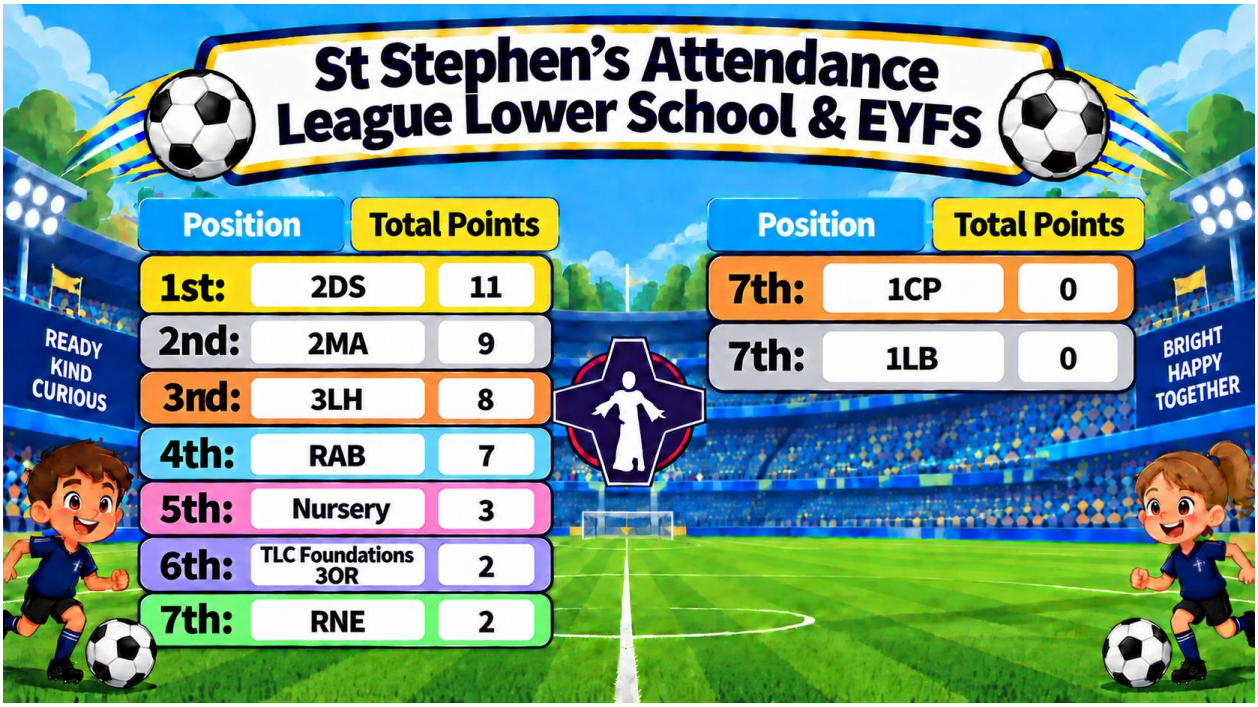


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Attendance League



Position		Total Points
1st:	6HG	10
2nd:	5AL, 6DF, 5LT	7
3rd:	4GB	4
5th:	TLC Thrive	2
6th:	4LS	0



Position		Total Points
1st:	2DS	11
2nd:	2MA	9
3rd:	3LH	8
4th:	RAB	7
5th:	Nursery	3
6th:	TLC Foundations 3OR	2
7th:	RNE	2

Position		Total Points
7th:	1CP	0
7th:	1LB	0

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Religious Education

Faith ♥ Friendship ♥ Service

Love one another

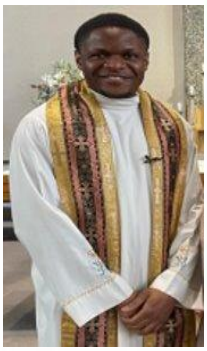
Heart to Heart with Fr Callistus: Don't leave everything until the last minute.

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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Wednesday 4th November

Good News for Families TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The sensible girls took extra oil so they would be able to refill their lamps, but the foolish ones did not. The bridegroom was late, and they all fell asleep. When the bridegroom arrived, they woke up and the wise bridesmaids refilled and lit their lamps and went to the wedding hall with the bridegroom, and the door was closed. But the lamps of the other bridesmaids were almost empty, so they went off to try and get some more oil. They arrived much later but couldn't get in to the wedding because the door was already locked.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 8th November. Matthew 25:1-13 (The 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **WISDOM**.



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.

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2 Wednesday's Word WISDOM

"God alone is infinitely wise. He is wisdom, power and love."

St Maximilian Kolbe

Which bridesmaids joined in the wedding feast? Wisdom is a gift from God which helps us to see things more clearly and make the right choices in life. Ask your child what the word 'wisdom' means to them. Who do they know to be a wise person? What makes a person wise? You may want to remind your child about a time when they made a wise choice – something which pleased you and made you proud of them. Loving our neighbour as ourselves is a powerful way to show that we are growing in wisdom.

"Wisdom is kind and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good." *St James*

God loves us and sent Jesus to help us to grow in wisdom. Each of you choose a way in which you will try to grow in God's wisdom in these coming weeks. Perhaps it is through: not rushing when making decisions; thinking before we speak; being open to correction; trying to consider what effect our words and actions might have on ourselves and others; reading the gospels together; going to church and listening carefully; praying to God for the gift of wisdom; listening to parents, carers, teachers and other truthful or wise people.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to grow in **wisdom**, to be kind and loving, and so one day to share with you in all the joys of heaven. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- BRIDESMAIDS
- OIL
- FOOLISH
- WISE
- EMPTY
- FULL
- KINGDOM
- HEAVEN

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

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

Cross out the letters **o u d** in the jumbled words to find 4 real words.

ladmupos redfoilul senusiboled deuxtora

The _____ girls took _____ oil so they would be able to _____ their _____.

Wisdom is a real treasure, a virtue for us to nurture. True wisdom is discovering what God wants us to do, then trying our best to do it. It's about using knowledge well – having good judgement.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

.....



Nursery



Small Steps Big Futures

What a wonderful first week back we have had in Nursery!
In Phonics, our nursery rhyme has been 'Hickory Dickory Dock'. We have loved singing along and adding actions. Our sound of the week has been 's', and we have enjoyed exploring words that begin with this sound, including sun, sock, snake and star. We have also been working hard to identify rhyming words from a selection of pictures.
In Maths, we have been practicing subitising numbers to five—recognising how many objects we can see without counting each one.
Our themes this week have been Diwali and Bonfire Night. We have been learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and enjoyed creating Rangoli patterns, singing and dancing. Our Bonfire Night activities have included painting colourful firework pictures and dancing to music with ribbons. We also made some yummy cakes and chocolate sparklers decorated with star sprinkles to enjoy at snack time!
We have made a lovely start to Autumn Term Two and look forward to lots more exciting learning together. Have a wonderful weekend!



Reception



Creative Curious Confident

What a fantastic first week back we have had in Reception!
This week in Literacy, we have been learning all about Bonfire Night, exploring the story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. The children were fascinated to discover why we remember the 5th of November and enjoyed discussing the history behind our Bonfire Night celebrations.
In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of the composition of numbers 1, 2 and 3, exploring the different ways these numbers can be made. We have also been investigating one more and one less, using practical resources to help us understand how numbers change when we add or take away one.
In RE, we finished exploring the Creation story and reflected on the wonderful world God has made. We discussed how God created each one of us in His image, making us all unique, special and loved. The children enjoyed thinking about what makes them special and how we can show God's love through kindness and respect towards others.
It has been a lovely week of learning, and we are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and hard work!

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What a fantastic and busy week we have had in Year 1! In English, we started our new story *The Bumblebear* and practised using the suffix **-ed** to write in the past tense. In Maths, we explored length, height, mass and capacity through practical investigations, measuring, predicting and carrying out experiments.
In Science, we learned the correct names for different parts of the body and why it is important to know them. In RE, we listened to and discussed the story of the Annunciation. As part of our WW1 remembrance learning, we discovered how animals helped during the war and learned about a very special dog. In Phonics, we have been introduced to the new sounds **ir, ie, ue** and **u**, and the children have been brilliant as they continue to grow their phonics knowledge.
What a wonderful start to the term!

Question of the Week:
What was the name of the famous dog from WW1?



Welcome back to a new term! It has been lovely to see the children return and settle back into their learning. In Maths, we have been exploring adding three addends, using first, then, then and now stories to help us write addition equations. We have also discovered that we can change the order of the addends without changing the total. In English, we have started our new text, *The Mystery of the Missing Cake*. The children have really enjoyed exploring the story and sharing their experiences of dressing up. We have begun by learning about different sentence types, starting with statements. During this month of All Souls and Remembrance, we have been saying the prayer 'Eternal Rest' and learning about the life and bravery of Edith Cavell. In RE, we have started our new unit, *Prophecy and Promise*, where we will be learning about the prophet Isaiah and exploring the promises made about the birth of Jesus as we begin to prepare for Christmas.

Question: Why was Edith Cavell brave?

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Year 3 have had a great first week back after the holidays. In Maths, we have started our new unit on measurement. The children have been looking at objects we can measure in meters, centimeters and millimeters. In English, we have started our new text, The Pebble In My Pocket. The children have been looking at expanded noun phrases, to add detail and make our writing more descriptive. In Religion, we looked at why Sunday is an important day for Christians and how we can give thanks to God. We have also been learning about the Christmas Truce of 1914, exploring how soldiers from opposing sides came together in a remarkable moment of peace during the First World War.

Question: What game did the soldiers play on Christmas day?



Year 4 have had a fantastic first week back after the break! In English, we have begun our new text, *The Lost Happy Endings*. The children have been working hard to analyse complex sentences and use subordinate clauses at the beginning of their sentences, experimenting with a range of subordinating conjunctions.

In Maths, we have been exploring bar charts, developing our understanding of the place value of four-digit numbers, ordering and comparing numbers, and rounding to the nearest 10.

In Religion, we learnt about the life and work of Oscar Romero and created our own Romero crosses, which were absolutely beautiful!

We also explored the inspirational story of Henry 'Box' Brown, learning about the challenges he faced and the incredible determination he showed in overcoming them.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Stay and Pray sessions. It was lovely to welcome you into our classroom and share our worship together. On Friday, we also celebrated our whole-school Mass, where the children joined in beautifully and participated wonderfully throughout.

Question: Who was Henry 'Box' Brown?



We hope everyone had a lovely half-term break! It has been a fantastic first week back in Year 5, full of exciting learning and activities. In Science, we carried out experiments to investigate thermal insulators, using thermometers to measure temperature changes. We also finished our unit on the Maya civilisation and enjoyed a creative Art Day on Friday, focusing on typography. This week, we took part in an anti-bullying workshop with Show Racism the Red Card, who shared the real-life story of Winston, exploring his experiences of deportation and the Windrush Generation. The children then performed their own raps, poems and short plays, sharing the powerful message that although we may come from different places and backgrounds, we are all equal and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. What a wonderful start to the half term!



Welcome back, Year 6! We have had a wonderful first week back in school, with the children showing great enthusiasm for our new learning. In English, we have been enjoying our new class novel, *Letters from the Lighthouse*, set during World War II, and exploring how modal verbs can change the meaning of a sentence and influence the reader. In Maths, we have continued to develop our understanding of efficient mental strategies and have begun our daily arithmetic sessions. In RE, we have been exploring the covenants God made with prophets in the Old Testament. Finally, in History, we have been learning about D-Day by reading first-hand accounts from soldiers, helping us to gain a deeper understanding of this significant historical event.

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This week in TLC Foundations, the children have settled beautifully back into their familiar routines after the half-term break! We have had a fun-filled week exploring exciting firework-themed activities, including creating our own colourful firework pictures. The children have also enjoyed exploring shapes, number recognition and colours through a range of engaging activities. We have been busy developing our fine motor skills through lots of hands-on activities and mark making. It has been a wonderful first week back, full of fun, creativity and learning!

We hope you all have a lovely weekend! 🎆



It has been lovely to see everyone back after our half term break and to hear what Thrive have been up to over the TWO weeks!

This term, we are continuing with the topic of Ourselves until Christmas and have started our new book The Colour Monster, which we will be using for our reading and writing for the next few weeks.

We have been working hard on counting and finding parts and wholes of numbers and have revisited 2D shape in Numeracy.

In Science this week, we have looked at functions in the human body and have looked at ourselves as babies in our History lesson. We have also learnt about expected and unexpected behaviours in PSHE.

We are continuing to enjoy our messy bucket sessions and have produced some brilliant artwork for our gallery, including some beautiful poppies for Remembrance and fantastic firework displays!

We are looking forward to more fun-filled learning next week – have a good weekend!

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