



St. Stephen's C.E. Primary School

Aspire to Greatness



For we are the handiwork of God, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

This Week's Worship Value was "Trust" as we explored A for Achieve

Value of the Week

This week we celebrated the value of "trust" as we learned about Ruth who, when her husband died, stayed with her mother-in-law Naomi. It was usual for women to return to their birth family on these occasions but Ruth chose to stay with Naomi so that they could support one another. They moved to Bethlehem to begin a new life. It wasn't easy for them to find food and support in their new home but Ruth was hardworking and caring. A relative of Naomi's came to know Ruth and he saw that both women were looked after. His name was Boaz and he became Ruth's husband.

The story tells us to trust God that He will be there when new challenges come. The big picture of what could happen in our futures isn't known to us but we can trust God in all things. Boaz became a support to the women and we like to support all newcomers to our school by extending friendliness and care.

We also learned about Tyrus Wong who travelled to the USA from China with his father when young. His father worked very hard and Tyrus also worked hard and it was very difficult for them to settle and make a living in the USA. However, he showed a talent for painting. He was an aspiring artist whose talents were eventually used in the production of the Disney film "Bambi". Whilst his welcome to the USA was very frosty, Tyrus proved that he and his father had skills which benefitted others. We have reflected on the skills and talents that can be brought by those who travel to the UK and we believe that we can welcome newcomers with joy at what they can offer to our community. Our Year 3/4 class presented a wonderful assembly today where they shared the value of trusting God when new challenges arise and when change comes. Thank you year 3/4!



Shrove Tuesday and Lent Begins after Half Term!

St Stephen's Church have invited children and families to a special pancake party on Tuesday next week from 1 – 2 p.m. Kate Traynor and members of the church will be celebrating Pancake Day down at the Hut on Hartington Road and families are very welcome! There are fun and games on offer including a pancake race!



During Lent the Eco-councillors and the Values Leaders will be working hard to encourage children and families to give something up which helps the planet. So many children bring food and snacks to school in single use plastics. Much of this food isn't healthy for our bodies. We will also be encouraging walk, cycle or scooter to school to cut down on emissions as well as improve our physical health.

“Healthy Earth Healthy US” will be our slogan for the weeks leading up to Easter.

If your child would like to produce a piece of Art work to promote this slogan then we would love to receive it after the half term holiday!



Chinese New Year



Our Reception children had great fun today making Chinese lanterns to celebrate the Chinese New year. 2024 is the Chinese Year of the Dragon. We would like to wish our Chinese families a very Happy New Year.

There are free and fun activities taking place at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane this Sunday 12-3pm to celebrate the Chinese New Year. There will be dragon puppet-making workshops, calligraphy and Chinese tea-tasting. All are welcome.



Easter is Coming

After the half term holiday, we will all be learning themes from the Easter story in our R.E. lessons. Each class will also be “getting vocal” in their learning, using oracy skills (speaking and listening) to share their understanding of a small section of the story. The classes will be creating some artefacts for a special treasure hunt in the Environmental Area. The artefacts when found, reveal a letter which will spell out a word (when written in the order of the Easter story). We have bought a small fairtrade chocolate egg for each child who visits the trail during the last week of term and families are invited to do the trail for themselves after school on Wednesday 27th March.

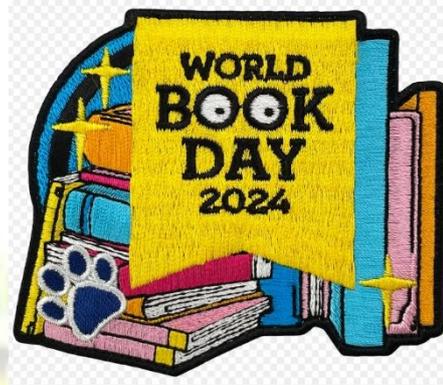
Junior pupils will also visit church for a special Easter experience. A “Question Time” panel of Easter characters will tell them more about the Easter story and children will receive a drink and a snack. The Easter experience is always a real treat!!

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

World Book Day will take place after half term and the Class Librarians met with Miss Booth to discuss their ideas. They will launch a competition, like last year, where children model a character and enter it into a competition. The prize will be hot chocolate, a book mark, book and popcorn or cookies!

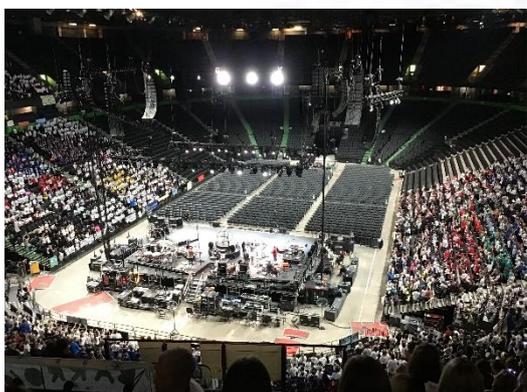
Children may come to school on World Book Day wearing/bringing 3 items to hint at a book character. We will then spend the day trying to work out who the characters are. For example, red shoes, a blue bow and a basket might represent Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. A scar, a wand and a wizard’s hat would clearly be “Harry Potter”.

There are a few weeks to go so that families and children can put on their thinking caps! Staff will also share 3 clues with the children so that they can guess their book character too!



Young Voices

The Young Voices Concert was another huge success and our children had a fantastic time in Manchester on Wednesday. The largest children’s choir in the UK never ceases to fail and the experience gives our children such joy. Thank you Mrs Devitt and team for organising the trip!



Staff News

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Crowe today. She will be moving to Chester to work and live nearer her family. Miss Crowe has been chosen as a VIP Winner by her Y4 class. They have nominated her: ‘for being brave and trusting God to help her on her new adventure. We will all miss you from Y4!’. This sentiment is reflected by everyone at St Stephen’s.

Year 5 Brass Performance

Our Year 5 children performed for families and Upper KS2 pupils today. The children have been learning a brass instrument for just a few months. They did really well – there was some very confident playing!

Opportunities with Lancashire Music Service in Preston

[Preston Music Centre](#) - Thursday evenings, at Fulwood Academy. There is a variety of different activities and ensembles to join.

[Inspire Ensemble](#), held at Lostock Hall Academy on Saturday mornings.

Attending an ensemble at a music centre costs £27.50 per term, and information about help with these costs can be found at [this link](#).

Please do contact us with any questions you might have.

Mark.waltho@lancashire.gov.uk

Sport at St Stephen's

After Half Term, the following sports will take place at School:

PNE (Wednesday morning) Explorers and inventors fundamental skills.

Cricket Taster Day - 19th Feb (Y1, Y1/2, Y2, Y3)
 26th Feb (Y3/4 Y4, Y5, Y56)
 11th March (Y6, Y5/6, Y5, Y4)

Girls' football league after school at UCLan 29th February, 7th March, 21st March

Dodge ball disco – Upper Juniors on Wednesday after school

Attendance Update

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Welcome to our attendance update!

Do we have your correct contact details? Have you changed your mobile number or address recently? If so, please pop in to the school office and we can update your details, should we need to contact you especially if your child is sick.

LATE GATE

Reminder about late gate as we continue to have a lot of late children each morning!



Let's get children in on time after half term, especially now the morning are getting lighter.

If families need further support with getting their child to school on time, please let us know – we can help.

Parents' Evenings

Parents and carers are invited to meet with teachers after the half term holiday on Wednesday or Thursday 21st or 22nd February. The appointment times are now available on School Spider.

Dates for Your Diaries

- Wed and Thurs 21st/22nd Feb: Parents' and carers' evenings after school
- Friday 1st March: Y5 girls taster day at Penwortham High School.
- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day
- Monday 25th March: Easter Enrichment week begins
- Wednesday 27th March: Easter Treasure hunt for families after school in the environmental area.
Easter experience for KS2 at St Stephen's church.
- Thursday 28th March: Bishop Jill to visit for our Easter Assembly and to unveil our Mosaic in the outdoor Worship Area
School finishes for the end of Term at 2 p.m.

**It's half term next week and school is closed until
Monday 19th February**



VIP Winners who have "Aspired to Greatness"

These children "Achieve Highly" and Trust God for the future

Maleeha A - Reception Inventors Aaishah S - Reception Explorers

Ibrahim A - Y1 Rebecca R - Y1/2

Fifoluwa A – Y2 Rukky T – Y3 Destiny E – Y3/4

Miss Crowe – Y4 Karen M - Y5 Sienna T W – Y5/6 Ella I - Y6

Golden Book winners who have “Aspired to Greatness” in their Work

Safiyyah A - Reception Inventors Szymon L - Reception Explorers

Ibrahim A - Y1 Vandan L - Y1/2

Efia M-S – Y2 Amber F - Y 3 Amelia C – Y3/4

Georgia K – Y4 Pearl G – Y5 Saanvika B - Y5/6 Nahara S - Y6

Lunchtime VIPs – who have “Aspired to Greatness” and excelled at lunchtimes in their behaviour

Toluwani A - Reception Inventors Omar H - Reception Explorers

Nethran B - Y1 Leah Sharon K R - Y1/2 Wayne Z – Y2 Maseeha S - Y3

Esther C – Y3/4 Doug W – Y4 Faith U - Y5

Lilly M-C – Y5/6 Bridie M – Y6

