



# 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 "forgiveness"

#### Value of the Week

As Easter approaches, we have used the period of Lent to revisit the value of forgiveness. We learned the story of Esau and Jacob. Jacob did a bad thing and tricked Esau out of his birthright. This made Esau so angry that he wanted to kill Jacob. Thankfully, Esau chose not to hate but to forgive Jacob and the two brothers could once again live in peace.

Year 3 performed their class assembly yesterday and they explained how key leaders have chosen to forgive, rather than live in hate. We learned that Nelson Mandela forgave those who punished him for standing up to the Apartheid regime and this helped to bring peace to South Africa. What a great example of forgiveness!



As Easter approaches, we learn that forgiveness is a key part of the Easter story. Over the next two weeks, children will learn more of the Easter story and how God's forgiveness is an important message. We will celebrate the festival as a whole school and we hope that families will join us in the Easter Celebrations on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. See below for more details!

#### Easter is Coming!

As Easter draws near at the end of March, we will, in every class, celebrate the festival with our annual Easter enrichment work. During our R.E. lessons, we will be learning themes from the Easter story. 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.

We are using a text called The Easter Story by Brian Wildsmith. You can read it with your child [here](#) The Easter story is told through the eyes of a donkey and we are celebrating this in our Easter Enrichment this year. The classes are creating Easter artefacts for a special treasure hunt in the Environmental Area and which will be signposted with donkeys. The donkeys and artefacts when found, reveal a letter which will spell out a message (when written in the order of the Easter story). There will be 15 donkeys to find altogether and we look forward to seeing families come down for the fun!

Here are some of the donkeys you will be looking out for:



During the last week of term families are invited to do the trail for themselves after school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. A small Easter prize will be given to those who complete the trail and staff will be on hand to help. We hope to see you there.

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 children will be accompanied by 3 members of the SACRE team. The team work with the Local Authority to monitor and advise on Religious Education so it will be fantastic to welcome them to view the wonderful Easter work that is shared between church and school.

On the final day of term, Maundy Thursday (28<sup>th</sup> March), Bishop Jill will visit school for our Easter assembly. We shall reveal a wonderful mosaic which is currently being worked on in school. Mrs Garstang has done a tremendous job with the children and the mosaic is nearly complete. We hope to show pictures of the finished mosaic before the end of term!

### Ramadan Mubarak!

We know that Ramadan has now started and many families are fasting for a month. We wish our community a blessed Ramadan as this time of deepening faith and religious observance takes place.



### Bee Kind to the Environment

This week has been British Science week and the children were invited to learn about the importance of Bees when a visiting speaker came to school yesterday. Protecting bees is an important aspect of helping the environment as bees pollinate plants and ensure crops and flowers grow. We hope that all children will be more knowledgeable about these insects as they study plants and animals as part of Scientific enquiry.





### Happy Red Nose Day!

Thank you for supporting Red Nose Day today. The donations will be going to this worthwhile charity which seeks to support the most underprivileged in society. Children in all classes have had extra fun and there have been smiles all round!



### Hothersall Lodge

Upper Key Stage 2 are off to Hothersall Lodge next week for outward bound activities. Year 5 children will attend on Tuesday and Year 6 children on Wednesday. Pupils may wear non uniform and suitable clothing for the range of physical activities provided. There will be lots of outdoor adventure and the children will learn team building and problem solving skills.

## Welcome to our attendance update!

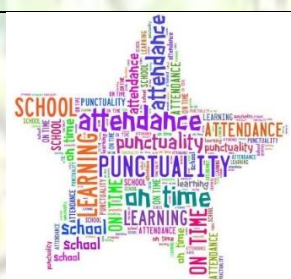


**Is my child too ill for school? ...** It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school.

If your child is too unwell to attend school then please ring the school office on 01772 556306 before 9am.

You can also leave a voicemail when reporting an absence but please include your child's name, class **and reason for absence**.

Last Week's Attendance w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	
Our School Target is 96%	
Class Reception Explorers	<b>97.3%</b>
Class Reception Inventors	81.3%
Class Y1	80.7%
Class Y 1/ 2	95.5%
Class Y2	93.2%
Class Y 3	94.7%
Class Y3/ 4	90.7%
Class Y4	<b>96.9%</b>
Class Y5	95.5%
Class Y 5/ 6	<b>97.9%</b>
Class Y6	92.3%



**Well done classes Reception Explorers, Class Y4 and Class Year 5/6!**

## Sport News This Week

A team of Year 3/4 footballers entered the Tom Finney tournament this week. They took part in several nail-biting matches which had everything you could ever want in a football match - penalty shootout-outs, last minute goals and fun for everyone. They were very successful and ended the tournament in 4th place, narrowly missing out in the 3rd place play off.

## Dates for Your Diaries

Tues and Wed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March: Hothersall Lodge trip for Upper Key Stage 2 Pupils

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March: Easter Enrichment week begins

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March: Easter Treasure hunt for families after school in the environmental area  
Easter experience for KS2 at St Stephen's Church.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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. on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**



VIP Winners who have “Aspired to Greatness”

These children “Achieve Highly” and Trust God for the future

Shefki B - Reception Inventors Aaishah S - Reception Explorers

Roisin C - Y1 Anisa A - Y1/2

Teon C D L C – Y2 Ellie J – Y3 Sienna M – Y3/4

Khadijah A – Y4 Story C - Y5 Mason S – Y5/6 Asma’u H - Y6

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

Aiden D - Reception Inventors Omar H - Reception Explorers

Kimberly A - Y1 Gurbani K T - Y1/2

???Ella B – Y2 Ciara T - Y 3 Amelia C – Y3/4

Madara S – Y4 Taylah-Jo H – Y5 Elon K - Y5/6 Jayden S - Y6

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

Sofia B L - Reception Inventors Umar Q - Reception Explorers

Harper W - Y1 Irewamiri G - Y1/2 Bryan E – Y2 Mohammed H - Y3

Paul B – Y3/4 Ethan K – Y4 Rejoice P - Y5

Param P – Y5/6 Skylar W – Y6