



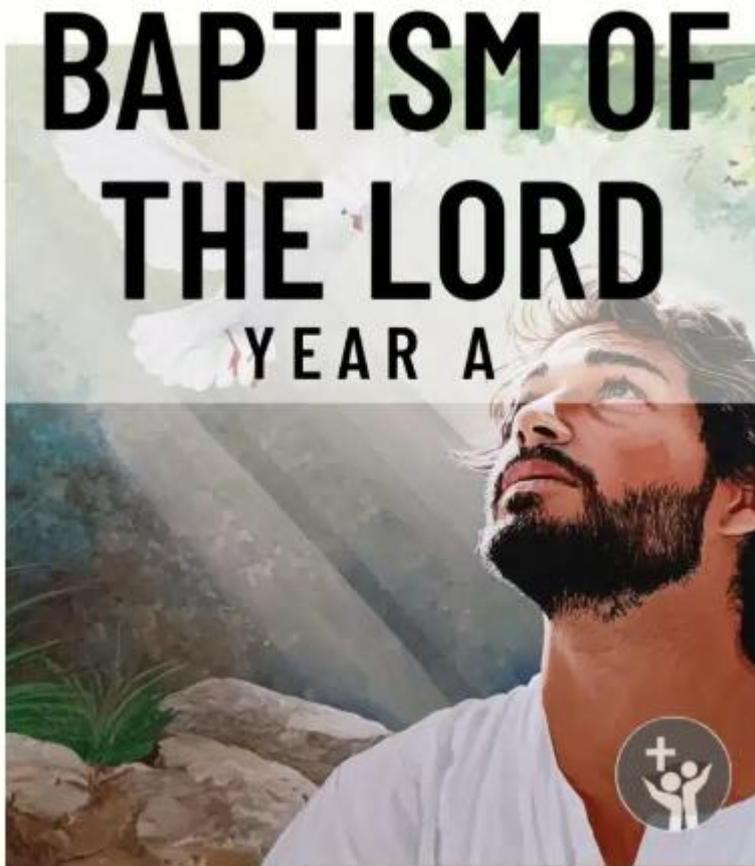
Welcome back, and if I haven't seen you in person "Happy New Year!". It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this January, and we are delighted with how exceptionally well they have settled back. They have returned with enthusiasm, quickly re-establishing routines and engaging positively with their learning from the very first day. Classrooms are once again full of energy, curiosity, and focus, setting a wonderful tone for the term ahead.

As always there is lots of exciting and interesting things happening this term, please do check the fortnightly 'Looking Ahead' dates at the end of the newsletter along with the website diary which is regularly updated [here](#).

Have a super weekend and keep warm!

Mrs McBrown

Sunday 11th January – Baptism of the Lord



The Baptism of the Lord reminds us who Jesus is and what He came to do. He walks into the Jordan River, not because He needs to, but to show us the way. This moment tells us that Jesus is ready to serve. He stands with us, not above us.

As He comes out of the water, something amazing happens. The Holy Spirit comes down like a dove. God speaks from heaven and calls Jesus His beloved Son. This is the first clear sign that Jesus is sent by God to bring peace and healing.

The Baptism of the Lord is not only about what happened that day. It also points to our own baptism. Like Jesus, we are called to live with love and to follow God's path each day.

Heavenly Father,

At the baptism of your Son you revealed your love and called Him your beloved. As we remember the Baptism of the Lord, renew in us the grace of our own baptism. Help us to listen to your voice, to walk faithfully in the light of Christ, and to live as your children each day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Epiphany Mass

On Tuesday Key Stage 2 joined the parish at 11.15 to celebrate the Mass of the Epiphany, when the 3 wise men came to visit Baby Jesus. Father Anthony reminded us of following the light of Christ as the Three Wise Men followed the star.

EYFS and Key Stage 1 enjoyed a special liturgy where we role played the visitation of the Three Wise Men to support our understanding of this special feast day.



Traffic

As we are all aware the traffic on the school run is tricky enough without the plethora of roadworks we're currently experiencing! The gate opening and closing times will remain the same, however we do acknowledge the challenges we are currently facing.

Communication

We are committed to ensuring that all communications you receive are timely, clear, and accurate. We recognise the importance of effective communication and have carefully considered, and acted upon, the feedback we have received.

During the school day, teaching staff are not usually available to speak with as they are engaged in teaching and supporting the children. If you wish to speak with your child's class teacher, we kindly ask that you arrange an appointment so that your enquiry can be given the necessary time and attention; alternatively, the office team are able to pass on a message for you if this is more appropriate.

Similarly, members of the Senior Leadership Team (which includes the SENCo) are not always immediately available due to teaching responsibilities, work with pupils, or meetings with other professionals. If you need to speak with a Senior Leader, we ask that you make an appointment via the school office. Alternatively, please email the school office and a member of the team will arrange for a return call at a mutually convenient time.

We appreciate that some queries require a prompt response and will always endeavour to address all enquiries in a timely and accurate manner.

Star Rugby Workshops

As per Mr Stephens' letter earlier this week, the children will be taking part in Rugby Workshops on Monday starting with Year 6. This is a super exciting opportunity for the children to experience a different sport which encourages discipline, teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. If your child is interested in taking this further please contact Thurrock Rugby club [here](#) for information on their minis and youth teams.



Inspired by Christ, Working Together, Achieving Our Best

Looking Ahead... Spring term

Note for your diary – Parents' Evening 9th and 10th February 2026 + SEND reviews will be held after half term.

Monday 5 th January 8.40am	Back to school!
Monday 12 th January	Star Rugby – Y6 PE Kits please – see letter for further detail.
Monday 19 th January	Star Rugby – Y5 PE Kits please – see letter for further detail.
Tuesday 20 th January	Reception Class Liturgy 9am
Wednesday 21 st January	SEND Coffee Morning 8.45-9.30am Please come and meet Mrs Stephens, our new SENCo.

Please remember to check the school website [here](#) for further dates and details.