



St. Stephen's School
and Children's Centre
Learning for Life

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4

20th February 2012

Dear Parents,

The term seems to be gathering pace and 2012 is now well underway!

We had a very successful curriculum evening where many parents braved the cold to listen to staff share their expertise to support your child's speaking and listening. Thank you, your attendance is much appreciated.

I am really pleased with the number of positive comments from parents about this newsletter and the fact that communication is regular. All previous newsletters are archived on the website, so you can catch up on anything you may have missed. Key dates and the latest school news are also available to view on the school website. Please let me know if you can think of ways of further improving communication between school and home.

Please don't hesitate to come in and talk if you need to. As you well know the mornings are often a busy time and I would appreciate it if you can catch me at the end of the day. Of course if it is a pressing issue then see me at any time. Kenneth Davies and Janet Mantey my deputies are also available at these times.

Ms Neena Lall
Headteacher

SPRING TERM DATES 2012

Monday 20th February -School restarts at 8:55 am

FEBRUARY

Thursday 23rd February-Governors' meeting

Monday 27th February-year 6 residential visit to Fairplay House

Tuesday 28th February-year 6 residential visit to Fairplay House

Wednesday 29th February-year 6 residential visit to Fairplay House

MARCH

Thursday 1st March -World book day-Dress up as your favourite book character

Thursday 1st March -Parents' evening for nursery, Years R to 5 -4-7pm

Thursday 1st March -Day care parents' meeting 5pm

Tuesday 6th March -Governors' open afternoon-1pm-3pm

Wednesday 14th March-Year 5 residential at HayBay Barge

Thursday 15th March-Year 5 residential at HayBay Barge

Friday 16th March-Year 5 residential at HayBay Barge

Week beginning 19th March Nursery visits to the Natural History Museum

Friday 23rd March- Year 3 and 4 Aspirational visit to Cool Aeronautics

Monday 26th March-Disability awareness day

Wednesday 28th March -Parents assembly 9am

Friday 30th March- Easter Holiday - **School closes at 12:30 pm**

Extended year Daycare and Children's Centre closes on Friday 6th April and Monday 9th April

See Children's Centre for stay and play activities..

Monday 16th April -School restarts at 8:55 am

I will inform you of any additional dates and events that may be set during the term.

STAFFING

Primary

- Kristina Waller our Year 4 teacher will be leaving us at Easter to take on an international teaching post in Thailand. We wish her well with her new appointment and her exciting future overseas. We have appointed an experienced class teacher Chetan Patel to take her class.
- I am delighted to inform you that Adam Bennett has been appointed AHT for curriculum development from April 2012.

TIMESTABLETHON

We also had a fund raising timestablethon where the children competed against each other to recite their times tables

Well done to Reda Ferose: 1K, King Ibrah Kimbugwe: 1K, Jamerra Suresh: 1S, Fawsiyah Lawal: 1S, Siddarth Jana - 2J, Aleeza Malik - 2J, Pratham Patel - 2S, Maliha Uddin - 2S, Sannah Akhtar: 3D, Fatima Khatun: 3E, Murrium Mahmood in 4J (Year 3 and 4 winner), Rafsan Ahmed: 4K, Mukrram Nazir 5D, Tayari Leadette-Williams 5L, Zaynab Mohammodally 5L, Hasnain Ahmed: 5D (Year 5 winner), Inyanne Tamijarassane: 6G (Year 6 winner) and Eesa Raja: 6A.

We raised £803.71 which will go towards playground resources linked to maths.

CAR SAFETY

The safety of our children is paramount to me and therefore it concerns me that we have noticed that some children are not wearing seat belts in the rear of the car. This means they are not as safe as they should be. Please remember that by law, you have to wear a seat belt if one is fitted, even in the back seat.

Children under 12 are not allowed to sit in the front seat unless they are properly restrained and using the correct child booster seat.

HOMEWORK

On a Friday, pupils will be given a weekly sheet that clearly lists the homework activities for each day. These activities are based on work that has been introduced by the class teacher. Homework is set to consolidate the learning and practice key skills. Homework should not take any longer than 20 minutes each school day.

Please ensure your child takes responsibility for their homework and check that it is given in on a daily basis.

Our school policy states that if a child does not complete their homework on three occasions the class teacher will the contact a parent for a formal meeting.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Pupils are expected to attend school each day unless ill. If your child is absent due to illness please would you inform the school as soon as possible. Your child will also need a letter from you on his/her return confirming the reason for his/her absence.



Please note the nursery times:

	Gates open	Morning session	Gates open	Afternoon session
Nursery Classes	8.50 am	9am -12 noon	12.20pm	12.30-3.30pm

Please note the school times:

	Gates open	Morning session	Lunch time	Afternoon session
Reception Classes	8.45 am	8.55am -11.45am	11.45am-12.40pm	12.40-3.15pm
Years 1 and 2	8.45 am	8.55am -12.00	12.00-12.55pm	12.55-3.15pm
Year 3 and 4	8.45 am	8.55am -12.15pm	12.15pm-1.10pm	1.10-3.15pm
Years 5 and 6	8.45 am	8.55am -12.30pm	12.30pm-1.25pm	1.25-3.15pm

The School Office and the Head teacher monitor pupil attendance and punctuality regularly.

Lateness

A reminder that the ringing of the school bell in the morning denotes the beginning of the school day. The bell is rung at 8.55 and therefore the children should be here in the playground ready to line up **before** 8.55. We have noted that several children are repeatedly coming into school late. This is disruptive for both them and the rest of their class. There is supervision in both playground areas from 8.45am, please ensure that your child has arrived at school and ready for the bell at 8.55.

LEARNING LIBRARY

There is a school learning library which takes place every Friday morning between 8.40am and 9.15am in the school hall. It is run by the learning mentors who can offer support and advice regarding your child's learning. We encourage parents to borrow books, educational games and DVDs. Also there is a shop that sells stationary and other learning equipment. Pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 can use the library without their parents before school. We look forward to seeing you there.

SHOES

At St Stephen's we pride ourselves in the way the children behave, the way they look and their respect for each other. It is for these reasons that I know that the school has your support for the rules about uniform. Uniform was requested by you as parents and I now need your support to ensure the children look clean, smart and presentable every day.

I have noticed an increase in the amount of children wearing trainers and would like to remind you that trainers are not part of our school uniform. Plain, black school shoes are required. Shoes must be well fitted and have enclosed heels and toes for health and safety purposes.

Trainers may be worn for sporting activities at break times but children need to bring them in a bag and change into them as appropriate.

To ensure that the correct footwear is being worn the names of children who arrive in school wearing trainers will be recorded and a letter sent home.

If it continues a member of staff will contact you to request that you bring in a pair of suitable shoes. I thank you for your support in this matter.

CONTACT US

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