



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

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3

7<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new year and a new term.

**THE STAFF JOIN ME IN WISHING ALL OUR FAMILIES A HAPPY, SAFE, VERY PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

The term ahead is set to be a busy time for everyone. Your continued support and interest in the school is paramount to our success and on-going developments and I look forward to this continuing.

We encourage you to visit our school website [www.st-stephens-school.org.uk](http://www.st-stephens-school.org.uk). The site is regularly updated to keep you informed of all the news and events happening in school. Your child's weekly homework is available to view on our classes and curriculum page, diary dates are displayed to keep you informed and much more. In the drop down menu on the parent's links section, you'll see a link for OFSTED questionnaire website. There is also a link to the Nursery and Children's Centre website and school policies for your information.

Please look out for the range of services and activities for families with young children in the Children's Centre. Pick up our Activity Calendar from reception in both the school and nursery.

Please read this letter carefully as it contains useful information about school events and dates for the rest of this term.

Ms Neena Lall  
Headteacher

### SPRING TERM DATES 2013

#### JANUARY

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January -School restarts at 8:55 am

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January-Maintained Nursery restarts 9am and 12.30pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January-Year 6 SATs meeting 3.30pm in the school hall

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January -Year 1 Phonics test meeting 3.30pm in the school hall

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January-Governor Finance committee meeting 9am

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January-Careers Evening 7-8pm

#### FEBRUARY

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February-Governors Open afternoon 1-3pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February-Half Term holiday - School closes at 3:15 pm

Children's Centre and Day care will remain open.

Stay and play sessions for 0-8 will run daily during half term in the Children's Centre.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February -School restarts at 8:55 am

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

### LATENESS

It is so important that your child gets to school on time. Learning begins straight away in the classes and even a few minutes late could make a big difference. Children need to be in their lines, ready for the bell at 8:55am. Children learn best when they arrive at school in a calm state and feel part of everything that is happening. There are times when being late is unavoidable, however for the most part we ask our parents to ensure their children arrive at school on time, with all their necessary books and kit, ready for the day ahead.

Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount of learning lost.

Attending school on time establishes good habits that will help your child be more successful in later life.

School begins at 8.55am. Please help your child to be punctual.

### LATE COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Children should always be collected punctually at 3.15pm. If a child is not collected they are taken to our Office at 3.25pm and their name is recorded in the late collection book. Parents/carers will be asked to record a reason for their lateness. Emergency contact numbers will be used if we are unable to contact parents/carers.

If parents/carers have an emergency that means they are going to be significantly late, school should be informed as soon as possible.

#### LATE COLLECTION AFTER CLUBS

Parents/Carers will be informed of the importance of collecting their children on time.

If parents/carers are frequently late the child's place will be withdrawn.

#### **THIS TERM'S TOPICS**

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Colours New life	Living Art Amazing Animals	All about Africa	Adventure and dinosaurs	British Kings and Queens	Being British	Blue Planet

#### **JOY CUP**

This year we are introducing 'THE JOY CUP'. This will be awarded to a member of each class each term along with a certificate.

The cup will be returned to school at the end of the following term ready to be awarded to the next child.

The joy cup is awarded to those children who have a joy for coming to school and embrace all that St Stephen's has to offer.

I would like to congratulate the joy cup winners for the Autumn Term 2012.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Farzan Abubaker Abdulahi Ahmed.	Taiya Wheatle Uzair Patel	Bansi Patel Misbah Nadeem	Sumaiya Islam Zara Master	Musa Aftab Rumana Begum	Afeefah Thawa Erika Snook	Naafi Malik Muhammad Patel

#### **FUNDRAISERS**

- One World Day-We raised £215.31 for UNICEF
- Book Fair-Thank you for buying books we raised a fantastic £956.19
- Family Disco-I'd like to thank all the children and parents, who attended this year's fundraising event. The School Disco and Bazaar raised a total of £1003.87 for the school fund. The leadership team are especially grateful to all parents who ran stalls; it was great to see such entrepreneurial spirit within the community. A special thanks to parents who donated their profits to various charities. The money raised on the night will be used to buy playground equipment and support sustainability projects around the school.

Thank you for all your donations.

#### **STAFFING**

##### **Primary**

- We welcome Meera Menon our new Year 1 teacher
- We also welcome Husnah Bhatti and Jewel Miah to our support staff team.

##### **Nursery**

- We welcome Anna Diaper our new Blue room teacher in the Nursery.

##### **Children's centre**

- Nabila Naseem has been appointed our new childminding network coordinator.

#### **WINTER WEATHER CLOTHING**

Please ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day, now the weather is getting colder and wetter!

- Dress your child in layers of clothing that can be easily put on and removed.
- Make sure your child wears a hat and long trousers in very cold weather.
- Protect hands with mittens or gloves for warmth.
- Remember, if your child's feet and hands are warm, it's usually a sign that they are dressed appropriately for winter weather.

#### **CONTACT US**

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##### **PRIMARY**

Deputy Head Teacher-Mr Kenneth Davies

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##### **Nursery and Children's centre**

Deputy Head Teacher-Mrs Janet Mantey

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