



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1

10th September 2014

Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the families of all of our children at St Stephen's Schools and Children's Centre. I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break and feel re-energised for the start of a new school year. A particularly special welcome to all the new families who have joined us at St Stephen's, in the Nursery School, Reception class and other year groups in school. I hope that your child's first days in school will be happy ones and they quickly feel at home in their new environment.

I am enormously proud to be Head Teacher at St Stephen's.

"Staff care deeply for the children who blossom in the warm, caring relationships that enable them to become confident enquiring learners."

"All staff share a passion for excellence, as can be seen in all they do to promote children's outstanding learning."

Ofsted - May 2014

I attribute this to the dedication and commitment of our excellent staff and the strong relationship that we nurture between staff, children and their families. Our aim is for all of our children to realise their full potential, strive to achieve high levels of attainment, become good citizens and prepare well for their future.

The main purpose of this first newsletter is to provide you with some key information. Please look out for class curriculum newsletters, explaining what the children will be studying this term, which will be given out during the 'meet the teacher' evenings this and next week.

You may have heard that this year a new curriculum has been introduced by the current government. We have worked very hard to embed this into our creative curriculum and as a result, there are some new and exciting topics for your children to enjoy.

This is an exciting time for the school as we settle into the new building and facilities that give us a learning environment ideally suited to 21st Century education. The new areas include 7 new classrooms, an extension to the dinner hall, a new ICT suite, an outdoor roof classroom, a new crèche area in the Nursery and complete landscaping of the whole site to make all outdoor areas useable all year round. We will let you know of further opportunities to visit these new areas.

As always, if you have any other queries or questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or to our friendly office staff who will do their very best to be of help and assistance. My door is always open so please feel free to contact me. We regularly update school news on the website so please look there for new information.

Ms Neena Lall -Headteacher



AUTUMN TERM DATES 2014**SEPTEMBER**

Monday 8 th September	School restarts at 8:55 am
Tuesday 9 th September	Meet the teacher Open afternoon for Years 1,3 and 5 at 3.30pm
Wednesday 10 th September	Maintained Nursery School opens
Wednesday 10 th September	Meet the teacher Open afternoon for Years 2 and 4 at 3.30pm
Thursday 11 th September	Meet the teacher Open afternoon/ secondary school transition meeting for Year 6
Monday 15 th September	Meet the teacher Open afternoon for the Reception classes 2.30pm

OCTOBER

Monday 6 th October	Maintained Nursery and Day Care closure- staff training
Wednesday 8 th October	Year 2 Visit to Technopop atTIQ Stratford City (The International Quarter) London
Thursday 9 th October	Year 3 Visit to Technopop atTIQ Stratford City (The International Quarter) London
Thursday 9 th October	Full Governing Body Meeting 6pm
Friday 10 th October	Year 4 Visit to Technopop atTIQ Stratford City (The International Quarter) London
Wednesday 15 th October	Year 5 Visit to Technopop atTIQ Stratford City (The International Quarter) London
Thursday 16 th October	Year 6 Visit to Technopop atTIQ Stratford City (The International Quarter) London
Friday 17 th October	Half Term holiday - School closes at 3:15 pm Children's Centre and Day Care will remain open.

Monday 3rd November -Primary School restarts at 8:55 am
Nursery School 9am/12.30pm

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

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Please note that the school keeps strictly to the National and Newham Policies regarding extended holidays:

1. Parents need to apply to the school for any leave
2. The school will only permit leave under **exceptional** circumstances
3. The pupil's place will be closed if the above steps are not taken and may incur a fine from the Local Authority
4. Parents should **not** request leave for pupils in **Year 6**

Leave will not be granted if your child's attendance is below the school target of 96%.

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2014

First day of term	Monday 8 th September 2014
Half term	Monday 20 th October 2014 to Friday 31 st October 2014
Last day of term	Friday 19 th December 2014 12.30pm finish for pupils

SPRING TERM 2015

First day of term	Monday 5 th January 2015
Half term	Monday 16 th February 2015 to Friday 20 th February 2015
Last day of term	Thursday 2 nd April 2015 12.30pm finish for pupils

SUMMER TERM 2015

First day of term	Monday 20 th April 2015
May Day	Monday 4 th May 2015
Half term	Monday 25 th May 2015 to Friday 29 th May 2015
Last day of term	Wednesday 22 nd July 2015 12.30pm finish for pupils

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

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

Please note:

The Primary School times are **8.55 a.m. - 3.15 p.m.**

There are staff in the Primary playground at 8.45am.

The school rules apply as soon as the children enter the school grounds.

The Nursery School times are morning **-9am-12 noon** and afternoon **12.30pm-3.30pm.**

It is important that your child arrives at school and is collected on time.

SCHOOL DINNERS

We encourage that all children remain at school during lunchtime where we provide them with a balanced and nutritious school meal. However, if you would like your child to go home for their lunch it is important for their safety and well being that the school is made aware of this. We therefore ask that parents provide the school with a written letter at the beginning of each week stating the days that their child is going home for their dinner.

If a child has not been collected, a member of the office staff will phone home to see if someone is on their way. If there is no reply, a school dinner will be provided for them.

STAFFING

Primary

- I am delighted to inform you that Chetan Patel and Jenna Chapman are now Assistant Head Teachers at St Stephen's for curriculum and assessment respectively.
- We welcome Zahira Khonat and Sapna Halai as permanent teachers who have started this term.
- We have four students for the whole year. Tom Newnham, Esther Williams, Rosie Chissick and Vinisha Kurup who are working throughout the school.
- We welcome Nagini Dabbara who will be supporting Maths across the school.
- We welcome Wendy Campbell and Lamia Boukir to help support the new reception classes.

Nursery:

- We welcome Sradha Joshi as the red room teacher.

Daycare:

- We have appointed Gurjeet Lall as a new Nursery officer.

Children's Centre:

- We are delighted to inform you that Janet Patterson will be our new Children's Centre manager.
- We welcome Selina Dhesi and Rubinder Kaur as Children's Centre Nursery Nurses.

AWARDS 2013-2014

Pupil of the year

- Reception- Aisha Moosa
- Year 1- Tayiba Iffat
- Year 2- Aaishia Abdul Hakeem
- Year 3- Sarbjit Bal
- Year 4- Alesha Khan
- Year 5- Tasnim Rahman
- Year 6- Gerda Kirveleviciute

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the children for all their hard work, efforts and achievements and thank all parents for their support for the school and their children.

JOY CUP

'THE JOY CUP' is awarded to a member of each class each term. 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 Summer Term 2014.

RM- Rayyan Qazi RH-Ismea Shams	1SL- Rayyan Afini 1SH- Sadiya Muzahir	2A Aqsa Mahmood 2C- Bethel Azeta	3E- Mayuddin Imran Namaji 3L-Sidhdhi Patel	4A-Yazmin Sultana 4S- Nahimul Islam	5M Hamna Ali 5J- Taufeeq Faqin	6K- Bilal Ali 6D -Darija Dauksaite
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SAFEGUARDING-Stranger danger

In the summer term, our Community Police Officers led an assembly with all our children on the theme of 'Stranger Danger' and reminded them of what to do in the unlikely event of being approached by an adult they don't know, when they are out alone. They advised a **Run-Yell-Tell** approach to keep our children safe. **Run** to a safe place like a shop or an adult or home you know. **Yell**, "Stranger Danger," as you go to alert passers-by who may be able to help. **Tell** an adult you trust what has happened. Please take this opportunity to share this advice with your children.

PARENT SURVEY

You may be aware at the end of last term we asked you to complete a questionnaire about various aspects of school life. I would like to thank you for returning the survey and will inform you of the results and actions taken in the next newsletter.

At St Stephen's we feel that education is a partnership between the child, you as parents and the school. We believe that children achieve more, are happier and thrive when schools and parents work together. Your views are very important and will be taken into consideration for any planning that takes place about future developments in the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION

The school is required to keep up to date records and signed consent forms. The following documents will be given to your child in the next few days. Please would you ensure these are completed, signed and dated and returned to school by Friday 26th September.

1. Personal information update/Data protection agreement/ Local visits consent form
2. Home school agreement

If any of your personal information changes during the year e.g. mobile phone number, please inform the school offices immediately.

CONTACT US

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PRIMARY

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Nursery and Children's centre

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.