



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2

5th November 2013

Dear Parents,

All the children have had a really good first half term, settling into their new classes and working hard. Independence, team building and facing challenges were just some of the new skills that our Year 6 cohort faced on their visit to Fair Play House Outdoor Education Centre in September. I hope the children have particularly enjoyed the unique experience of West End theatre by our visits to the Lion King at the Lyceum.

We are all looking forward to a busy second half leading up to the Christmas break. As the winter nights draw in and it turns colder please ensure your children are wearing coats that can be fastened and gloves/scarves as necessary.

It was good to see so many of you at the parent meetings in September. We will be holding some individual parent meetings this term. In January we will be holding parent's evening- please see the dates section.

Please could I also request that parents ensure that the school has the correct emergency numbers for your children. We have had a few occasions already this term where parents needed to be contacted but none of the numbers on record at the school were responded to.

For those of you who are celebrating the many festivals taking place this term, the staff and I would like to wish you Eid Mubarak, Happy Diwali and a Merry Christmas!

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

I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Ms Neena Lall
Headteacher

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2013**NOVEMBER**

Tuesday 4 th November	School restarts at 8:55 am
Friday 15 th November	Disability Awareness Day
Wednesday 20 th November	Day care parents' meeting 5pm
Friday 22 nd November-Wednesday 27 th November	Scholastic book fair
Thursday 28 th November	Governors' Open Day
Thursday 28 th November	Krypton factor morning

DECEMBER

Friday 6 th December	Nursery and Reception Disco 5-6pm
Friday 6 th December	Years 1-6 Disco 6.15 -8.15pm
Thursday 12 th December	Year 1 visit to the Kenneth More Theatre-Aladdin
Friday 13 th December	Reception Class visit to the Kenneth More Theatre-Aladdin
Tuesday 17 th December	End of term Parent Assembly 9am
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Holiday - <u>School closes at 12:30 pm</u>

**Extended year Daycare and Children's Centre closes 1pm Tuesday 24th December
Re-Opens Thursday 2nd January 2014 8am**

JANUARY 2014 SPRING TERM

Monday 6 th January	Primary Pupils return 8.55am
Tuesday 7 th January	Maintained Nursery Pupils return Primary Parents evening 4-6.30pm
Thursday 9 th January	Nursery and Reception Class Consultation Day
Thursday 9 th January	Parents evening 5-7.30pm

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

STAFFING

Primary

- We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Kenneth Davis, our highly respected deputy head teacher at the end of term, but very pleased for him having secured a promotion as Headteacher in a school in Hampshire. Ken has worked at St Stephen's for 11 years and has been a senior teacher, Assistant Head Teacher and Deputy. During this time Ken has engaged and supported many families always with kindness and a passion to ensure the best for all children. Ken is an outstanding teacher and has played a full and effective role in the success, work and life of the school. We will miss Ken, his sense of humour and especially his outstanding work with staff, pupils, parents and wider members of the community. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him and his family all the best in his new role and relocation to Hampshire.
- We are also very sad to be saying goodbye to Natasha Radford as she will be leaving in December to concentrate on her new business. She has a real passion for children's books and has opened 'Chicken and Frog' a community-centred bookshop in Brentwood. During her time at St Stephen's Natasha has been a hard working, loyal and committed member of staff and we will miss her drive and high expectations for all. The staff at St Stephen's would like to wish Natasha and her family good luck in this exciting venture.

Maintained Nursery:

- We have appointed Leoni Bannis and Wendy Campbell 2 new nursery nurses.

Daycare:

- We have appointed 2 nursery officers Harsha Mesuria and Tammy Slater.

Children's Centre:

- We are delighted to have appointed Ruth Ansell as the Children's Centre Manager.
- We have appointed Nahida Aziz as an outreach worker and Shabanam Begum as a crèche assistant to join our Children's Centre team.

Premises:

- We have appointed Isaac Acquah-Mankoe as assistant site supervisor in preparation for the new build.

Parent Governors

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Parent Governors to you. The Governors and staff are dedicated to ensuring that all our children are safe, well supported, achieve their potential and enjoy school. If you have any concerns, or something which you are pleased about then let us know. Your feedback is extremely important to us.

Parent Governor	
Mrs Usma Ahmed	Parent of Mohammad Yousaf in Year R
Mr Mohammed Ismail	
Ms Nadia Mahmood	Parent of Ahil in Year 3 and Hamzah in Year R and Dayyan in Daycare
Mr Jayadevan Pillai	Parent of Ashwini in Year 6
Mrs Julia Weeden	Parent of Evelyn in Year 6
Mt Aamir Bashir	Parent of Hifza in Year 3
Mr Shashankar Jana	Parent of Siddarth in Year 4 and Utkarsh in Year 2

Their photographs are displayed in the front entrances of both the School and Nursery.

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS

PRIMARY- End of key stage Attainment 2012- 2013

We are pleased to report to parents that the pupils achieved very good end of key stage results.

End of Foundation Stage Assessments

	% of pupils expected or exceeding	2011	2012	2013	
				%	APS
Prime Learning goals	Communication and language	63%	76%	81.7%	2.18
	Physical Development	90%	86%	85.0%	2.44
	Personal, Social and emotional Development	73%	81%	88.3%	2.50
Specific Learning goal	Literacy	NA	NA	85.0%	2.23
	Mathematics	70%	80%	78.3%	2.18
	Understanding of the world	80%	76%	81.7%	2.14
	Expressive arts and design	81% (CD)	85% (CD)	81.7%	2.2

End of Key Stage 1

% of pupils achieving Level 2	2011	2012	2013
Reading	89%	93%	95%
Writing	89%	92%	90%
Mathematics	89%	95%	95%
% of pupils achieving Level 3			
Reading	31%	34%	31.7%
Writing	25%	20%	23.3%
Mathematics	27%	31%	35.0%

End of Key Stage 2

% of pupils achieving Level 4	2011	2012	2013
Reading	93%	87%	98%
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling			95%
Writing	88%	86%	90%
Mathematics	88%	93%	97%
English and maths combined	88%	88%	90%
Average APS	28.1	29.5	31.0
Writing 2+levels of progress	89%	92%	95%
Reading 2+levels of progress	89%	92%	96%
Maths 2+levels of progress	89%	94%	96%
% of pupils achieving Level 5			
Reading	39%	64%	80%
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling			83%
Writing	18%	26%	38%
Mathematics	46%	71%	80%
English and maths combined	18%	42%	32%
% of pupils achieving Level 6			
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling			12%
Mathematics	-	6%	8%

School Development Plan (SDP)

SDP SECTION 1:PRIMARY

- a) To utilise the skills of children, families, and governors to promote interaction and initiative.
- b) STANDARDS
 - EYFS and KS1-to provide a challenging curriculum to raise the attainment in maths
 - KS2-to raise L5+ writing to 42%+
 - To maintain outstanding teaching at 50%+
- c) To develop imaginative composition and effect within writing across the school

SDP SECTION 2:NURSERY

- a) To utilise the skills of children, families, and governors to promote interaction and initiative.
- b) To use the outdoor environment to promote the characteristics of learning.
- c) To raise boys attainment in reading and writing
- d) To develop and monitor the provision for 2 year olds.

SDP SECTION 3:DAY CARE

- a) To utilise the skills of children, families, and governors to promote interaction and initiative.
- b) To develop and use the outdoor environment to promote children's problem solving and resilience in learning.
- c) To develop a programme of project based enrichment visits.

SDP SECTION 4: CHILDREN'S CENTRE DAY

- a) To utilise the skills of children, families, and governors to promote interaction and initiative
- b) Prime target group- to target disengaged families
- c) Child Development and school readiness -to target support for NEG2 families-to develop the quality of childminder provision
- d) Parenting aspirations and parenting skills -to increase awareness of training and employment opportunities
- e) Child and family health and life chances -to increase the uptake of childhood immunisations

Primary Parent Survey results

A total of 253 questionnaires were returned. The school had 419 pupils on roll with a large number of families containing siblings.

The following is the analysis of the results based on returns.

Main outcomes from the questionnaire replies

- A large majority of 95% of the parents who returned questionnaires were in agreement that their child enjoyed school, 98% holding the opinion that their child was well cared for and in a safe environment.
- 99% stated that their child was making good progress.
- A large majority of 99% agreed that behaviour in school was good and 98% viewed the school as well led and managed.
- 97% viewed the school as open and welcoming to the community, 95% agreed that the school listened to the views of the children and 97% agreeing that the school seeks the views of parents and carers, taking into account their suggestions.

- 3% or under of the parents who returned the questionnaires disagreed with the statements.

Parents made the following suggestions for further improvements that could be made to our outstanding school. Underneath each suggestion is how the school plans to improve these areas.

- Improve PE lessons. The school has appointed a specialist PE teacher to teach sports and fitness across the school.
- Have a wide range of after school clubs including: sports, fitness, learning and homework. The school's clubs co-ordinator is reviewing club allocations for 2013/14.
- Numeracy or Literacy extra support. The school's inclusion team has created a map of inclusion for 2013/14, targeting key children to ensure progress across the school.
- More variety of school dinners including a bigger range of sandwiches. The school leadership team is working with the school cook to review menus for 2013/14 including sandwich options.
- Develop the playground and the school site. See expansion display in the entrance hall.
- Let children wear sandals in the summer. Children will be able to wear white or brown sandals from September 2013.
- More visitors within school. The school enrichment co-ordinator is working with co-ordinators and teachers to ensure a wide range of enrichment is enjoyed by all children at St. Stephen's.
- Develop a library for children to use. The school has invested heavily in new books for class libraries alongside taking year groups to local libraries to encourage reading.
- Parent English classes. We hope to continue to run the Newham family learning classes this academic year.
- More cooking. Cooking has been introduced into all year groups through the DT curriculum.
- Teaching of good manners. This is always a high priority at St. Stephen's.
- Increase child safety measures especially at home time. The school leadership have undertaken additional duties at the end of the school day from September 2013.

CONTACT US

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