



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3

7th January 2014

Dear Parents,
Welcome to the start of a new year and a new term.

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

2014 is set to be an exciting time for all at St Stephen's. The school building works are in full swing and are on schedule for completion in the summer. This means that in September we will be able to take an additional 30 children in Year R.

We encourage you to visit our school website 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 will 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 2014**JANUARY 2014**

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 Primary Parents evening 5-7.30pm
Tuesday 14 th January	Year 6 SATs meeting 3.30pm in the school hall
Tuesday 21 st January	Year 1 Phonics test meeting 3.30pm in the school hall

FEBRUARY 2014

Monday 10 th February	Governors Open afternoon 1-3pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Friendship day
Wednesday 12 th February-Friday 14 th February	Year 5 residential at HayBay Barge

Friday 14th February-Half Term holiday - School closes at 3:15 pm

Children's Centre and Day care will remain open.

Monday 24th February -School restarts at 8:55 am

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

THIS TERM'S TOPICS

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Colours Animals	Homes and buildings	All about Africa	Adventure	Marvellous Monarchy	Being British	Blue Planet

JOY CUP

Last year we introduced 'THE JOY CUP'. This will be 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 Autumn Term 2013.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
RM Areej Patel RH Azwaa Bhullanhi	1SH Ilias Khan 1SL Zara Sheikh	2C Zain Ahmed 2A Neha Kulsum Umma	3L Ibraheem Mahmood 3E Zehrin Chowdhury	4A Abdul Quayum Taimani 4S Huraira Bin Hassan	5M Mahid Mazumder 5J Samih Kahn	6K Bisma Khokar 6D Uzma Khankhara

FUNDRAISERS

- Book Fair-Thank you for buying books we raised a fantastic £956.19
- Harvest Donations of food were gratefully received by Community Links.
- Poppy Appeal-we raised £75.55
- Philippines Appeal-£275.72
- Hamper - £118.89 for Community Links

Thank you for all your donations to these worthwhile causes.

STAFFING

Primary

- I am delighted to announce that Fozia Ramzan, one of our dedicated Assistant Head teachers has been appointed Primary Deputy Head Teacher for January 2014.
- We welcome 2 new teachers Jemma Kendrick and Sophie Johnson.

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.

NEW BUILD UPDATE

Thank you for your support during this transitional time of building works. The garden area is nearly complete and we will be using this area very soon. This means that the playground area will become out of bounds as demolition and construction begins. Therefore all children will congregate in the garden area at the beginning and end of the day.

Staff will be on hand to direct and guide as necessary.

ATTENDANCE

At St Stephen's we believe that good attendance is key to good attainment. Therefore we encourage children to attend school every day unless they are not well enough. Extended holidays are not encouraged and will not be permitted if your child's attendance is below the annual school target of 96%. We track attendance on a monthly basis and parents are notified if their child's attendance drops below our monthly target figures. Should your child's attendance drop below 85% for no acceptable reason or you take an extended holiday that has not been agreed by the school, you will be subject to a fine by the local authority. We thank you for your support on this matter.

CONTACT US

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PRIMARY

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Nursery and Children's centre

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