



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

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4

24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy first half of the spring term. Many visits have taken place including the Year 6 visit to Arvon House Writing residential. The children worked very hard, creating poems and redrafting their writing to the highest quality. Although the week's focus was writing, the children had many opportunities to draw, sing and perform. The year 6 pupils were also in charge of cooking the evening meals and looking after their 'home' for the week. The staff at Arvon wrote the following about your children.

*"The children were a complete delight.*

*They were respectful, really well behaved, creative, hard-working, bright, engaged and engaging and in short a joy to have with us.*

*The tutors were really impressed with the standard of their progress during the week."*

In addition, Year 4 visited Tate Britain to view their class photos taken whilst in Year 3. This is a project that was led by the multi-talented artist, photographer and award winning film director - Steve McQueen. McQueen's vision was to capture the class photographs of Year 3 pupils from across London. The exhibition is available for viewing until 3rd May 2020 and it is completely free!

In January, we were very honoured to welcome almost 20 Japanese visitors to our school. They were teachers and head teachers from different schools in Japan. They explained how beautiful and tidy the school was and agreed that the pupils were calm, clever and welcoming. They were very impressed with everything St. Stephen's has to offer and wished that they could have stayed longer!

I am delighted to announce some permanent appointments to our Leadership Team. Mrs Jenna Chapman and Miss Georgia Dawson are Primary Deputies and Ms Janet Patterson is the Nursery Deputy. The school is lucky to have such strong and dedicated individuals within the team and I am sure you will join me in congratulating them on their new roles.

Finally, I would like to personally thank all those individuals who have congratulated me. I am overwhelmed with the good wishes, cards, and gifts from yourselves. I am in awe of your



support, sincerity and warmth and know how fortunate I am to lead this school within such a dedicated and very special community.

My sincerest and heartfelt thanks

Ms. Neena Lall OBE -Headteacher

### CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

We are very fortunate to live in such a multicultural part of the country where we celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of each and every child. Please talk to your children about why it is important to play with and build friendships with all children, regardless of background.

Our school reflection is:

This is our school  
May we all here live happily together  
May we work hard  
May we be kind to one another  
May happiness, respect and tolerance dwell here  
May we make this school a safe and happy place to be

### HEALTH EVENT

On Monday 27th January we held a GP Information session for parents of both the Nursery and Primary School. Elizabeth Goodyear is one of our Governors and also a local GP - she addressed some of the issues that impact upon children's health, for example how spending time being active and outdoors supports your immune system, how drinking water can prevent constipation, and when it might be appropriate to take your child to A&E. Parents had opportunities to ask questions at the end of the session.

The health event on January 30th brought together various services offered by St. Stephen's Children's Centre in conjunction with professionals and support groups that we work with. All parents and children across the school and Children's Centre were invited to come in and enjoy healthy activities.

The Health Visitors were on hand to talk to parents about whether or not they were eligible for free vitamins and if their children were up to date with their immunisations. The Dental Team gave out free toothbrushes and demonstrated how to effectively brush their children's teeth. On the Mindfulness stall there were lots of ideas and strategies to support adults and children's mental health, including how to introduce relaxation and meditation into the daily schedule. Some parents enjoyed a head and shoulder massage and there were lots of recipes and ideas to support healthy lifestyles. Out in the garden, staff were encouraging parents and children to take part in active sessions to promote fitness and a healthy heart.

Thank you for your participation! Please feel free to approach staff at the Children's Centre if you require assistance or guidance on any matters and we will be more than happy to help.



## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

This year, our School Development Plan is to embed Speech and Language throughout the curriculum to develop future global citizens.

We feel that encouraging our pupils to speak with confidence and fluency in different situations, with a range of different children and adults, is a critical skill that they must be encouraged to practise, learn and use.

Please ensure that you take the time to talk to your children both individually and as part of family discussions. This will support them in understanding the key skill of turn taking as well as responding appropriately. Please encourage your children to answer in full sentences as well as reminding them to look at the person they are talking to.

If you need any more support or advice please speak to your class teacher or ask the office for a copy of the St. Stephen's Parent's Guide, which you may have received when you attended the Headteacher Q&A.

## SHOE SHARE

### Unicef Shoe Share

**Article 28 states that 'Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this'.**

This term, we took part in a 'Shoe Share.' We asked everyone to clear out their shoe racks and donate any unwanted shoes. We have been overwhelmed with your generosity and the number of shoes that have been donated. We collected more than 1000 pairs of shoes, of all sizes and colours. Our 'Article 12' group were busy sorting the shoes and putting rubber bands round them.

The shoes have been taken to our local Clarks stores. For every tonne of shoes, a donation is made to Unicef which goes towards education programmes and equipment for children around the world.

Once again, thank you to everyone who donated a pair of shoes.

## PARENT'S EVENING ATTENDANCE

I hope you found the parent's evenings this term a useful starting point to helping your child reach their targets. 592 out of 600 children's parents attended; that is 98%. At the end of this term you will receive your child's annual report on progress. There will be an opportunity to discuss this with the class teacher at the parent's evenings after the Easter break. The reception classes will receive their report at the end of the summer term as it is a report for the end of the 'Early Years' as required by the Government.

In the Nursery we hope it was informative for you to attend parent consultation day. The report cards should help you to work with your child at home on their targets. The next parent consultation day is Thursday April 30th when we will be beginning to look at transitions and school readiness.

## RHE

We are in the process of drafting our Relationships and Health Education (RHE) Policy and curriculum in preparation for implementation in September 2020. The consultation period will open later this term and there will be opportunities for both written and face to face feedback on our proposals.



You will shortly be receiving a letter explaining the process with parent consultation meetings happening in the summer term.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

### **HOME TIME PROCEDURES:**

Due to recent incidents, we have reviewed our procedures for dismissing pupils at the end of the school day.

This means that from Monday 24th February, only Year 6 pupils, with written permission, will be allowed to walk home alone and collect younger siblings from Years 3, 4 or 5. All other pupils from Years Reception through to Year 5 will need to be collected from their class room by an adult or elder secondary school sibling. We have had to change our procedures due to pupils misbehaving on the route home, children getting lost, pupils not going home the way that has been agreed with parents and an incident where the police had to be called.

I'm sure you can appreciate that the safety of our pupils is our priority and we need to make these changes to avoid any future incidents from occurring.

### **CONTACT US**

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#### **Nursery School**

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Federated Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Fozia Ramzan <a href="mailto:fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a>	Nursery Deputy Head Teacher Ms Janet Patterson <a href="mailto:janet.patterson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">janet.patterson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a>	Primary Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Jenna Chapman <a href="mailto:jenna.chapman@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">jenna.chapman@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a>	Primary Deputy Head Teacher Ms Georgia Dawson <a href="mailto:georgia.dawson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">georgia.dawson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a>
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**This newsletter is also available on the school website.**

## **SPRING TERM DATES 2020**

### **MARCH 2020**

Monday 2nd March- Friday 6th March	International women's week
Monday 2nd March	Daycare Open Meeting @5pm
Monday 9th March	5JW- Educational Visit to Tate and Lyle
Tuesday 10th March	5EH and 5HA-Educational Visit to Tate and Lyle



Monday 16th March -Wednesday 18th March	Year 5 visit to Fairplay House
Thursday 19th March	Governors afternoon and Full Governing Body Meeting @4pm
Friday 20th March	Mums Morning
Friday 27th March @7pm - Saturday 28th March 10am	Year 4 Sleepover
Tuesday 31st March	Nursery and Reception Easter Egg Hunt

### APRIL 2020

Tuesday 2nd April	KS2-Years 3,4 and 5 Parent Assembly 9.00am
Friday 3rd April	Easter Holiday
Monday 20th April	School restarts at 8:45 am
Thursday 30th April	Nursery Parent Consultation Day and Reception Class Consultation Day & Parent's evening 2pm-7.30pm

Children's Centre and Day care will remain open.

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

### SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

#### SPRING TERM 2020

FIRST DAY OF TERM	MONDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY
HALF TERM	MONDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY
LAST DAY OF TERM	FRIDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL

#### SUMMER TERM 2020

FIRST DAY OF TERM	MONDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL
MAY DAY	FRIDAY 8 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
HALF TERM	MONDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> MAY TO FRIDAY 29 <sup>TH</sup> MAY
LAST DAY OF TERM	TUESDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> JULY

#### AUTUMN TERM 2020



<b>1 TT DAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER</b>
<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>	<b>FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>

### **SPRING TERM 2021**

<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY</b>
<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>	<b>THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL</b>

### **SUMMER TERM 2021**

<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>
<b>MAY DAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY TO FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b>
<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>	<b>THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY</b>

