



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 5

19th April 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Summer Term at St Stephen's. We hope that, like us, you are relieved to see your children back in school. Last term, it was a joy to see them laughing and playing with their friends at break times and engaging with their teachers in class once again. Children truly are the heartbeat of our schools. We do not think any of us could have foreseen the world in which we now find ourselves.

Continuous handwashing has become a daily part of our lives, alongside masks, open windows and a forever changed approach to how we interact with one another. From an academic perspective, it is as though the children never left the school buildings. We have seen them continue on their learning journeys. They have impressed us all with their resilience and determination to succeed during this time.

I want to thank you as parents, for going above and beyond at home. For many of you, this has been a difficult time. Your commitment to your children and your faith in us has been unwavering. We appreciate your many kind comments and feedback regarding how our teachers have supported the children, both at school and at home, during this period. All staff were trained to use online teaching platforms and resources. Teachers have worked hard to learn from previous lockdowns and experience, adapting the timetable to recognise the changing needs of children and parents during this time.

Safety remains our absolute priority and our leadership team continues to work tirelessly to ensure that we invest in increased health and safety precautions for the protection of children and staff.

There is a great deal to look forward to at St. Stephen's and before long we hope very much to be able to celebrate summer term events together.

As always, if you have any other queries or questions, please contact the school who will direct your query to the appropriate member of staff. My door is always open so please feel free to contact me, Mark or my Deputies. We regularly update school news on the website so please look there for new information.

Thank you

Ms Neena Lall OBE-Headteacher



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS-Mr Shashankar Jana

We are very happy to welcome children back to school for the final term of the academic year. This has been a very difficult year with lockdowns and many interruptions to children's education. Thank you for your continued support and please do reach out if you require any support from the school. In these extraordinary times we will have to support each other as a community to overcome any difficulties.

Our dedicated staff have kept up to the challenges and continued to support the children in their education and general well being throughout this period. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their selfless services to our community.

As you are already aware KS2 SATs exams have been cancelled. However, our teachers and staff will leave no stone unturned to give the pupils all round support to prepare them for their new journey to secondary school. On behalf of all governors, I would like to thank our Head Teacher Ms. Neena Lall OBE and her efficient and hardworking team, administrative team and all staff at the school. They have continually reassessed the safety measures and efficiently managed the mental health and physical well being of our children as well as educating them.

Wishing you all the very best and healthy days ahead. Please reach out to the school or to the governors through the school if you need any support with your children or even for just a chat if you need the support. We are here to listen and to help.

COVID 19 REMINDER

As the country starts to ease from lockdown it is important to remember the following to ensure that there is little disruption to your children's on site education:

1. **If you or a household member has had a COVID test please keep your children at home until you get a negative result and inform the school immediately.**
2. Good ventilation, together with social distancing, keeping your home clean and frequent handwashing, can help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus.
3. Please ensure that at the beginning and end of the day:
 - Avoid chatting in groups on the road
 - Remember to social distance
 - Wear a mask when entering the school

PARENTS CONSULTATION DAYS

This term we will be holding a parents consultation day for each year group; this will replace the usual parents evening. Your time and date is on your child's report card.

On the day, please arrive at the front of school at your allocated time where you will be admitted for your appointment. If you are unable to make your appointment, please speak to the class teacher beforehand and they will arrange a different time. We are unable to admit any parents who arrive after their appointment time.

Please see the Diary dates section at the end of this newsletter for your year group day and date.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND NUTRITION

(Article 24-Every child has the right to best possible health)

Newham health statistics for 2020 indicates that childhood obesity in Reception children is at 12.6% and Year 6 is at 27.7%. Out of 149 local authorities in England, Newham is ranked at 145 for high levels of childhood obesity.

Current research states that primary aged children should take part in **vigorous** physical activities for **at least 3 hours per day**. The recent lockdown has meant that a majority of our children have dipped on their physical stamina and some of their eating habits at lunchtime have declined. Please support our key lunchtime messages at home.

Encourage your child to:

1. drink water
2. eat their salad or vegetables first (even if they don't like it)
3. eat a range of fruit
4. finish the food on their plate
5. be mindful and grateful for the food in front of them

We have also noticed an increase of snacks at hometime. Lollipops, crisps and sweets are NOT suitable snacks for strong teeth and good health. Please wait for your children to get home before providing a nutritional healthy snack if necessary.

We strongly encourage you to ensure your children are active and move more. In line with this, we request all parents to leave the buggies at home, stop carrying their infants and let them walk to school.

It is all of our responsibility to focus on our children's physical health as this supports their academic and emotional development.

POSITIVE PARENTING

We all understand how challenging parenting can be particularly in the current situation, and how difficult it is sometimes to say 'No' to your child. It is also inappropriate for young children to spend long hours watching television or looking at screens. I would like to remind you that it is unlawful to smack your child and it is our duty of care to safeguard all the children in the school.

The Children's Centre team can support you to develop more positive behaviour management strategies and establish healthy boundaries with your children.

Please contact the following staff for help and support:

Marie Foley: 07904 663 072

Meral Sami: 07494 067 676

Wendy Campbell: 07946 708 602

AIR QUALITY Breathing problems

(Article 24- Every child has the right to a clean environment)

To improve air quality and create a healthier environment for children, teachers and parents we are asking all vehicle owners to turn their engines off around the school perimeter.



So, if you are going to be sitting still for more than 30 seconds, please remember to turn your car's engine off.

Support No Idling

Idling harms our health: vehicle exhaust fumes are damaging to everyone's health, but it especially affects children, who breathe more and at a faster rate than adults. By turning off your engine, you can improve the quality of air children, parents and teachers breathe while they are at school.

Idling pollutes the air we breathe: an idling engine produces unnecessary pollution and can produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion. By not idling, you reduce the level of harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere.

Keep money in your wallet and save fuel: despite the popular story that idling your car uses less fuel than turning it off and restarting - idling actually costs you money. It is more fuel efficient to turn off your engine if you are going to be sitting more than 30 seconds and this will also reduce the wear and tear on your engine.

You can help reduce air pollution around school by doing the following:

- Turn off your engine when dropping off or picking up from school
- Take up cycling and walk where you can, or think about choosing public transport over using your car
- Share car journeys where possible

RELATIONSHIPS AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RHE)

Thank you for your support and engagement throughout our Relationships and Health Education consultation process. Together we have created a sensitive, robust and community-focussed RHE programme for all of our pupils which was ratified unanimously by the Full Governing Body in March.

The full outcomes of the consultations were outlined in a letter sent out at the end of last term.

We look forward to sharing more of our resources with you, as you requested, in the Autumn Term before the Relationships scheme contained within our PSHE programme is taught.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL - RRSa

As you know St. Stephen's School is a rights respecting School (RRSA). We believe that all our pupils, staff and school community share the same rights and duties. We actively promote the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

That of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

Our Article 12 and Student Councillors meet regularly to express their views and the views of the children in their class. As well as learning about children's rights and global issues. As you can see we have added the Articles to some of the sections on this newsletter.

We were awarded the Rights Respecting School Gold Award 3 years ago and look forward to being reaccredited in May 2021.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS



The Nursery is now allocating places for September 2021. We have spaces for two year olds and three year olds.

If you have received a 'Golden Ticket' from the Local Authority then you will be eligible for a two year old space. Please register your ticket and then bring it to the Nursery and your child's name will be added to the waiting list.

If your child is 3 years old please come to the Nursery entrance and ask for an admission form at the front office.

If both parents are working and you are interested in a 30 hours place please follow the link below to check your eligibility: <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

JOY CUP (Article 29- Education must develop every child's personality and talents)

The joy cup 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 Spring Term 2021.

Reception and Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
RRK - Saara Zarif RED - Daniel Kisolokele RKC - Mustafa Mukadam	3DT- Kavan Matharu 3LT- Maryam Qureshi 3RM- Inayya Qureshi
1IN- Arfa Ahmed 1EW-Muhammed Saleem 1BH-Shrena Patel	4MS- Hajaar Touami 4AQ-Ashhad Sheikh 4SH-Aisha Tahir
2HA- Ahmad Wasti 2TB- Fatima Aqeel 2MW- Maria Mahmood	5EW- Shohid Miah 5CC- Alisha Ali 5NB- Christian Hutu
	6NG- Amena Harif 6EH- Aisha Yunus 6RF -Muhammad Yaqub

SAFEGUARDING

Domestic Violence

You may have noticed an increase in the mentions of domestic violence in the news recently due to lockdown constraints. If you are feeling worried, scared or vulnerable or need someone to talk to regarding a home situation, please do not hesitate to contact our Children Centre, who are trained in supporting victims of domestic abuse.

End of day procedures

For the safety of all pupils, please adhere to the following procedures:

- Use the one way system
- Children are to be collected at 3pm or 3:15pm depending on whether your eldest child is in Key stage 1 or Key stage 2.
- Only Year 6 pupils can leave without an adult and only if a parent or carer has signed a letter giving permission for this.
- Only Year 6 pupils can collect siblings from other Key stage 2 classes, with parent or carer permission.
- If you are a year 6 parent/carers and waiting for your child outside of the school, please remember to social distance and wait away from the gates, giving space for those exiting.
- If you are collecting another person's child, please make sure the teachers know about this prior to collection and know that the child is your responsibility from the moment of collection.
- Please do not block Wyndham Road whilst waiting in your car and please do not park directly outside the school gates.
- Please ensure your children put on a seat belt before driving off.
- Please hold your child's hand when crossing the road and teach them to look both left and right

CONTACT US

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Primary School

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Email: info@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Website: www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk

Nursery School

Tel 020 8586 0147

Email: childrenscentre@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Website: www.st-stephens-nurserychildrenscentre.org.uk

Federated Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs Fozia Ramzan

fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Federated School Business Manager

Mr Mark Little

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Nursery Deputy Head Teacher

Ms Janet Patterson janet.patterson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Primary Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs Jenna Chapman jenna.chapman@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Primary Deputy Head Teacher



SUMMER TERM 1 DIARY DATES 2021

APRIL

Tuesday 20th April	Year 6 Parent Consultation Day
Wednesday 21st April	Year 5 Parent Consultation Day
Thursday 22nd April	Year 4 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 27th April	Year 3 Parent Consultation Day
Wednesday 28th	Year 2 Parent Consultation Day
Thursday 29th April	Nursery, Reception and Year 1 parent consultation Day Nursery and Reception classes will be CLOSED

MAY

Monday 3rd May	MAY DAY -SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 6th May	POLLING/TRAINING DAY-SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 17th May to Wednesday 19th May	Year 5 Residential visit to Fairplay House
Tuesday 18th May	BSiL Children's Centre Advisory Board Meeting @2pm
Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June	Half Term holiday

Children's Centre and Day Care will remain open.

Monday 7th June -School restarts at 8:45 am

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

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

SUMMER TERM 2021

First day of term	Monday 19 th April
May Day	Monday 3 rd May
Half term	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June
Last day of term	Thursday 22 nd July

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES 2021-2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021

1 TT day	Wednesday 1st September
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First day of term for pupils	Thursday 2nd September
Half term	Monday 25th October to Friday 5th November
Last day of term	Wednesday 22nd December

SPRING TERM 2022

First day of term	Thursday 6th January
Half term	Monday 14 th February to Friday 18 th February
Last day of term	Friday 1 st April

SUMMER TERM 2022

First day of term	Tuesday 19th April
May Day	Monday 2nd May
Half term	Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June
Last day of term	Thursday 21st July