



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1

6th September 2021

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to have everyone back at school. After so much disruption over the past 18 months, the start of this academic year is even more poignant, and more heartfelt, than ever. There is so much that St Stephen's School offers to our pupils: learning, love, and laughter, friendships, companionship, fun, academia, sports, music, arts, pastoral care, wellbeing and so much more. There is just so much for children to look forward to. We would like to extend a very special welcome to the children, parents and carers of those who have just joined us. This week we welcome 90 new Reception children and the first children to our nursery.

The staff at St Stephen's have worked incredibly hard throughout the year to ensure we were ready for the new year ahead. The first 2 days at school last week went exceptionally well as children, staff and parents became familiar with the systems and processes in place. Thank you, parents, for your support with the drop off and pick up logistics, the transitions improved significantly over the first two days. It will improve further over the forthcoming week as everyone settles into the new arrangements.

We are very conscious that children will have had different experiences over the past months and will have responded to those experiences in individual ways. Our staff are well prepared to help children re-adjust to school life after many months of uncertainty. Physical and emotional wellbeing is paramount, and we will continue to prioritise an appropriate curriculum and our pastoral care.

We would like to thank all our parents for their support and kind words throughout the past months. They have made a big difference to morale and let staff know how much their work has been appreciated. Your continued trust in the school and the decisions we make in the best interest of the children all contributes to the success of St Stephen's.

This is the first of our half termly newsletters which are published on our websites. The newsletter is generally our main source of communication with parents. The Leadership team and I are at key entrances and exits at the beginning and end of the day and are available to talk to you about anything concerning your child and the school. I would like to wish each and every one of you a very happy start to the autumn term.

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 or my Deputies. We regularly update school news on the website so please look there for new information.

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Welcoming all our pupils back to a new academic year. A special welcome and best wishes to the new pupils joining this year. I am delighted and eager to welcome all the pupils at St. Stephen's along with our Headteacher and staff.

St Stephen's staff and leadership team have put in the necessary Covid safety measures to keep everyone safe, while enabling our school to offer a full educational experience for all pupils.

As always, our school continues its open-door policy and the headteacher is happy to talk to you about your child. Please take part in the parent consultations throughout the year to support your child and the school. As Chair of the Governing body, I am also available and contactable through the school. I wish all our pupils and their parents a happy and successful journey with us here at St Stephen's.

Mr Shashankar Jana
Chair of Governors

THE GOVERNING BODY

	<u>Name & Positions</u>	<u>Governor Type</u>
1.	Mrs Nasima Noorani	Parent Governor
2.	Vacancy	Parent Governor
3.	Mr Abdul Shakoor	Authority Governor
4.	Mr Shashankar Jana	Chair of Governors/Co-opted Governor
5.	Mr Asif Siddique	Vice Chair of Governors/Co-opted Governor
6.	Dr Elizabeth Goodyear	Co-opted Governor
7.	Mr Andrew Whitehead	Co-opted Governor
8.	Ms Joanne Fleming	Staff Governor
9.	Ms Neena Lall	Head teacher Governor

Do you have a child at the school? Can you spare some time?

Are you enthusiastic about school and the education of the children?

If you can answer YES to these questions, why not consider being a parent governor here at St Stephen's?

We have a vacancy for a parent governor so please look out for information in the next few weeks.

STAFFING

Primary

- We welcome our new permanent teachers Jude Ryan in Year 4, Grace Cooke in Year 5.
- We welcome Amelia Giudici, Laura Hudson and Shyma Sasirajam as permanent newly qualified teachers.
- We welcome Ritu Jassal, Sanna Iqbal and Gentiana Aga as new members of our staff team.

Nursery:

- We welcome Beattie Pritchard as a permanent newly qualified teacher.
- We welcome Kerry Ann Lamb, Nafisa Jelane, Anam Irshad, Sarah Iqbal and Saleha Iqbal as new members to our staff team.

COVID 19 -Procedures for parents and carers

- Observe social distancing in a respectful and rational manner.
- Please wear face masks if you wish to.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the front entrance.
- The end of the day is particularly busy so please ensure only one adult collects at home time and avoid bringing buggies to school at this time.
- Help us to keep the flow of parents through and around the school by moving on quickly.
- Please contact the school office if you need to speak to a member of staff.
- If you need to speak to your child's class teacher please do so face to face at the end of the school day.
- Please let the school know if there are any changes in your family circumstances.

Behaviour and Attendance

- The school's positive WE CARE behaviour system will operate as normal.
- Children must attend school every day.
- The front school gate opens at 8.30am and lessons start promptly at 8.45am so please ensure your child is on the school premises before 8.45am.

The school day

- We have staggered breaks and lunches.
- Lunch tables are thoroughly sanitized in between year group sittings.
- We have continued the increased cleaner hours.
- In Key Stage 2, children can bring in one piece of fruit as a break time snack.
- Children can bring into school a book bag with reading and homework books, water bottle and PE kit.
- In Key Stage 2, pencil cases are permitted.

Classrooms

- There is no restriction on the distance children must remain from one another
- Room windows and doors will be to be kept open.
- Staff and pupils regularly wash their hands at key times of the day.
- Pupils will continue to be educated on proper hygiene.
- Bubbles are no longer required

Uniform

- It is important that your children wears clean uniform every day.

Transport

- Please walk to and from school.
- No bikes or scooters are allowed on site until further notice.
- Please do not park in front of the school entrances on both Whitfield Road and Wyndham Road.

PE

- Physical education continues as usual as this is paramount for your child's learning and well being
- Children need to bring in their PE kit on a Monday and must take it home on a Friday to be washed

Illness

- If a child becomes ill, the staff will notify a school first aider.
- If a child is displaying COVID symptoms, they will be isolated in the first aid room and a member of staff will treat the child using PPE.
- The parent will then be contacted to take the child home.
- Advice will be given to arrange testing and any further actions that may need to be taken.
- If a family member tests positive, pupils can still attend school.

Vaccination

A COVID-19 vaccine might:

- Prevent you from getting COVID-19 or from becoming seriously ill or dying due to COVID-19
- Prevent you from spreading the COVID-19 virus to others
- Prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading and replicating, which allows it to mutate and possibly become more resistant to vaccines.

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY AND HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

I am sure you all appreciate the lost learning time that COVID 19 has brought to our school community and that we must endeavour to get all routines and systems back on track. It is with this in mind that we must ensure that **all pupils come to school everyday.**

Holidays will not be permitted and any appointments should be made for Friday afternoons.

This year, daily attendance is more important than ever so please send your children in. If we feel they are too unwell to be in school, we will let you know and send them home.

The **Primary School** times are:

Start	Monday - Thursday Hometime	Friday Hometime
8.45am	3.15pm	12:45pm

The **Nursery School** times are:

Morning 8.45am -11.45am
Afternoon 12.30pm-3.30pm.

The children who have a 30 hour place will attend 8.45am -3.30pm

HOMEWORK AND REMOTE LEARNING

Weekly homework is displayed on the school website every Friday for children, from Reception to Year 6. Homework includes a writing and drawing task, as well as Spellings, Reading, Mathematics and Speaking and Listening skills. Online learning is also encouraged through selected websites.

Should your child need to self-isolate, remote learning will be available for them. Please ensure you contact the school and your child's teacher who will give you further information.

RHE

Relationships and Health Education is now fully embedded within the school curriculum following the consultation earlier this year. Prior to the Relationships lessons being taught, you will have the opportunity to view the resources at the Parents Evening taking place at the end of September. If you have any questions about RHE at St. Stephen's please contact the school.

BSiL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Children's Centre team has been working throughout the summer to support families in our community.

The new Activity Calendar is available at Reception with information regarding new courses and sessions that are available for the Autumn Term. Many of our courses that have previously been online are now back running as face-to-face groups. This includes ESOL and Childcare Level 2. We will be continuing to encourage social distancing and hand washing and all rooms will be well ventilated.

The Children's Centre are promoting physical activity, healthy eating and mindfulness to support the health and well being of our community following the Covid crisis. Check the website for details.

PRIMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION UPDATE

The school is required to keep up to date records and signed consent forms as per GDPR guidelines. 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 17th September 2021.

1. Personal information update
2. GDPR protection agreement
3. Local visits consent form

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

SAFEGUARDING AND ONLINE SAFETY

Safeguarding Team 2021/22

The Primary Safeguarding Lead is James Frecknall

The Nursery Safeguarding Lead is Janet Patterson

The Day Care Safeguarding Lead is Harsha Mesuria

The Children's Centre Safeguarding Lead is Marie Foley

The Deputy Primary Safeguarding Lead is Chetan Patel

Please come and see one of us, or any member of the leadership team, if you have a safeguarding concern.

Online Safety

Keeping young people safe online remains a priority for everyone and it is essential that we continue to work together to support our young people with the safe and healthy use of online tools. There are many helpful websites for parents such as www.parentsafe.lgfl.net and www.thinkuknow.co.uk. Please ensure that you talk to your child about their online activities and if you have any concerns or worries, please get in touch with us so that we can help.

Please remember - human behaviour is the same online and offline.

Remind your children:

- To be a good friend
- To ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean
- Not to get undressed on camera
- If somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, that is a lie.

After School Procedures:

All pupils need to be collected at the end of the day by an adult. The only children allowed to go home by themselves are Year 6 and only if we have written permission from parents/carers. Year 6 pupils can collect their siblings but from Year 3 upwards only. All key stage 1 children must be collected by an adult.

CONTACT US

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Head Teacher: Ms Neena Lall OBE

neena.lall@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Primary School

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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

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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

Ms Georgia Dawson georgia.dawson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

This newsletter is also available on the school website.

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2021

SEPTEMBER

Monday 6th September to Friday 17th September	Year 5 Swimming at the London Olympic Aquatics Centre
Wednesday 8th September	Nursery open to children
Monday 27th September to Friday 1st October	Year 4 Swimming at the London Olympic Aquatics Centre
Thursday 23rd September	Reception Parent Workshop 9am
Monday 27th September	Year 6 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 28th 27th September	Year 5 Parent Consultation Day
Wednesday 29th September	Year 4 Parent Consultation Day
Thursday 30th September	Year 3 Parent Consultation Day
OCTOBER	
Monday 4th October	Year 2 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 5th October	Year 1 Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 5th October	Best Start in Life Children's Centre Advisory Board Meeting at 2pm.
Thursday 7th October	Nursery and reception Parent Consultation Day- Reception and Nursery CLOSED for pupils
Thursday 14th October	Day-Care Parent meeting
Monday 18th October to Friday 22nd October	Federated Logic Week
Thursday 21st October	Year 6 Parent meeting re: SATs and Secondary School Applications at 2.30pm
Friday 22nd October	Half Term holiday - School closes at 12.45 pm Children's Centre and Day Care will remain open.

Monday 8th November -Primary School restarts at 8:45 am

Nursery School 8.45am/12.30pm

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



SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2021

1 TT day	Wednesday 1st September
First day of term for Primary pupils	Thursday 2nd September
First day of term for Nursery pupils	Wednesday 8th 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

Home School Agreement

Together we will ensure that:

Vision Statement

Every St. Stephen's child blossoms into a confident, respectful, modern British citizen prepared to be an aspirational contributor in the global community.

Staff	Parents	Children
<p>We will ensure that we will:</p> <p>Secure basic skills.</p> <p>Challenge children to develop resilience and have a commitment to succeed.</p> <p>Have high expectations for all children.</p> <p>Offer excellent role models for the children.</p> <p>Open door policy where we will inform you about your child.</p> <p>Learn through a balanced curriculum to become a safe, modern British citizen.</p>	<p>We will ensure that we will:</p> <p>Provide opportunities to enable our child to become a modern British citizen.</p> <p>Always send our child to school with the appropriate clean uniform/ PE kit.</p> <p>Read with my child and ensure that my child completes their homework to the best of our ability.</p> <p>Encourage my child to do his/her best at all times.</p> <p>Notify the school of any changes at home and communicate any concerns</p> <p>Take an active role in attending school events and be open and supportive to opportunities that the school offers to my child.</p> <p>See that my child goes to school every day and arrives on time.</p>	<p>We will ensure that we will:</p> <p>Complete all my homework to the best of my ability, independently and read everyday</p> <p>Have accountability for my own behaviour and actions and will speak to an adult if needed</p> <p>I will take responsibility for my own learning, equipment and hygiene</p> <p>Listen carefully and respect all adults and the school environment.</p> <p>Do my best, every day</p>
Signed:	Signed:	Signed:
Date:	Date:	Date: