



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3

10th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school.

I hope that you all enjoyed the break and were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

On behalf of all staff, a huge thank you to the children and parents who brought Christmas cards and gifts at the end of last term. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

I am sure that you will be aware of the constantly changing Government guidance regarding COVID 19. The up-to-date requirements and changes with regards to the isolation period is now 7 days from the point of symptoms or from the date of positive test if asymptomatic, on condition of two negative lateral flow tests undertaken on days 6 and day 7 at least 24 hours apart. This is a situation where Government policy is changing quickly at the moment and it is important that we take our lead from the Department for Education.

I am pleased that the school has remained in the Top 10 State Primary Schools in the country as published in the Sunday Times in November at No 2, as there were no tests the aggregate of the last 3 years of testing were used for the rankings. Again, this sterling work can only be done in partnership with yourselves.

If you wish to speak to me about any issues that concern you please feel free to contact me.

With much respect

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS- Mr Shashankar Jana

Happy New Year 2022!!!

Welcoming everyone back to school for another year of great success and joy. Many of us have been able to reconnect with family after a very long time during the holidays. Hope you had a nice Christmas break.

I strongly believe, our children have worked hard and are utilising the many opportunities here at St. Stephen's. This success is a direct reflection of the great inspiration and motivation given by all the teachers, staff, and being efficiently led by the Head teacher and her senior leadership team. I appeal to our amazing parents to help us bring the best out of our kids at our school with continued support.

I would like to say the following to the pupils: be confident and courageous, true to who you are, and learn all that life has to offer. We are all here to make you a successful and happy person. Enjoy every moment of your time here at St. Stephen's.

As Governors, we always pledge to do our best to support the school in every way required. We wish all our students, parents and staff members a successful year to come. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy new year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OUTSIDE SCHOOL

It has come to our attention that some of our pupils attend unregistered establishments for their religious education when outside school. While we understand and respect that the decision about where your child attends rests solely with you, we would recommend that before you make this decision you request to see the establishment's safeguarding policy. Any education provision should have a policy like this in place and this should give you peace of mind that the establishment takes the safety of its students seriously.

We have contacts within the borough who can support this should you want to talk anything through. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

JOY CUP

'THE JOY CUP' is 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 2021.

RIN - Deen Rahman RKC- Anaya Abisha Islam RMR- Reanna Arora	1BH- Diya Khandapu 1LP- Zakaria Haroon 1SS- Dolly Donaldson	2HA- Jason Marin 2AG- Ianis- David Constantin 2JM- Humza Hussein	3MS- Saeba Khan 3EW- Tawfiq Khalifa 3RM- Amal Hassaan Ozair	4LT- Isa Khankhara 4LH- Jalal Khan 4JR- Nabeel Rahumathullah	5CC - Mahir Sulemani 5GC - Sanjida Mysha 5NB - Hesham Umer	6EH- Laiba Shah 6RF- Mustafa Faisal 6AQ- Hafsah Saeed - Ahmad
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BIRTHDAYS

As a school, we understand how important celebrating birthdays are in childhood and rather than bringing in individual fruit and gifts we would like you to donate a book to the class library instead. You can write a special message inside the cover, so we know who the book is from and help them celebrate. We can then share the book on your child's birthday, thank them and sing happy birthday to them and help make their day feel special.

CHARITY WORK AT ST STEPHEN'S

- Donations of food for our, all year round food bank were gratefully received and were distributed by the Children's Centre over Christmas and will continue throughout the year.
- 3 Food hampers were distributed within the community to bring a bit of festive cheer.
- The Children's Centre work with many vulnerable families, and during the Christmas break, the team delivered toys and gifts to the many families we support in the community.
- Macmillan Coffee Morning :£1,038 across the Federation
- Royal British Legion Poppy day: £684.24
- London Air Ambulance: £570

Thank you for all your donations to these worthwhile causes.

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT:

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic we have been unable to raise money for the school fund.

- Current Balance £2064.66

READING

Reading is important for all children and is the gateway to all learning.

It is important that as adults, we help children to develop a love for reading as it can benefit children in many ways.

Some benefits of reading are:

- Reading exercises our brains - it strengthens and builds new brain connections
- Reading improves concentration
- Reading teaches children new knowledge about the world around them
- Reading improves vocabulary and language skills
- Reading develops a child's imagination
- Children who read achieve better in school

In school, this year we are planning on supporting children's love for reading through new year group library spaces, a year group book of the month and new book'nics (Book picnics to share reading).

Please could we ask that you also encourage pupils to read at every opportunity - share a story with them, visit the local library in Green Street and talk about stories, books and characters.

Please also remind our children to care and respect books. If you have any books at home that belong to the school please return them ASAP.



ECO WARRIORS - SAVE OUR PLANET

This term the Student Council have been pursuing a passion of theirs, which is to become more environmentally friendly.

They have become Eco Warriors and have been listening to the students of St. Stephen's about the changes they would like to see to make the school more eco friendly.

They shared their ideas with Neena and the Leadership team and here are some of the initiatives that have been agreed.

- To have a school uniform donation box.
- Raise money for different charities, so that we can help and support lots of people.
- Have competitions to see what we can make using recycled materials.
- Encourage everyone to walk or cycle to school and leave their cars at home.
- Say no to single use plastic.
- Encourage everyone to switch off their lights and computers when not in use.

The Eco Warriors are looking forward to implementing the new initiatives during the year. We would like everyone to join in to make St. Stephen's more environmentally friendly and more importantly help our planet.

SAFEGUARDING

Domestic Abuse

Between April 2020 and February 2021 calls and contacts logged on the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (NDAH) went up by an average of 61%. This trend has continued throughout 2021 and the impact of COVID-19 has highlighted that Domestic Abuse (which is not only physical but also economic and/or emotional and coercive control) continues to be widespread within our society. If you or someone close to you is experiencing Domestic Abuse of any type, we can help. Please contact our children's centre for more information about the services available and the different ways in which you can find support.

Neglect

There have been a number of high profile cases in the news recently that you may have seen of children who lost their lives during and beyond lockdown in 2020/2021 due to abuse and neglect.

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs (NSPCC). It can be physical but many people don't realise that neglect can also be educational, emotional and medical. Article 19 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child states that 'All children should be protected from violence, abuse and neglect, and governments should protect them'.

We all have a responsibility to ensure the children in our community are safe and protected from harm. Our safeguarding team at St. Stephen's is here to support you. Please contact us if you have any safeguarding concerns or worries that you wish to speak to us about.

Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead (Primary school):

James Frecknall - Assistant Head Teacher (07376 285125)

Designated Safeguarding Lead (Nursery school):



Janet Patterson - Deputy Head Teacher (07943 551605)
Designated Safeguarding Lead (Children's Centre):
Marie Foley - Children's Centre Manager (07904 663072)

Designated Safeguarding Lead (Daycare):
Harsha Mesuria - Daycare Manager (07950 404897)

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The children that started nursery in September are now settled and learning. It is important that your child comes to nursery everyday. This helps them to make friends and take part in all the activities that we provide. The nursery school attendance target is 95% for all children. If your child's attendance falls below 95% a member of the Children' Centre team will contact you to offer support which may include an appointment with the Health Visitor.

The Children's Centre groups continue to run and are all Covid compliant. If you are looking to get more active after the Christmas holidays please remember we have Pilates and Zumba classes running weekly with our excellent teacher Olga. Please ask at the front desk if you wish to book any sessions.

CONTACT US

St Stephen's Schools and Children's Centre, Whitfield Road, London E6 1AS

Head Teacher: Ms Neena Lall OBE
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Primary School

Tel: 020 8472 7575

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

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

This newsletter is also available on the school website.



SPRING TERM EVENT DATES 2022

JANUARY 2022

Thursday 6 th January	Nursery and Primary pupils return
Monday 10 th January-21 st January	Year 4 swimming for 2 weeks
Thursday 13 th January	Nursery and Reception Classes Parent Consultation Day
Tuesday 18 th January	Year 6 Parent Consultation Day
Monday 24 th January - 4 th February	Year 5 swimming for 2 weeks - leaving at 7:45am
Monday 24 th January - 28 th January	Year 6 Arvon Residential
Tuesday 25 th January	Nursery Workshop for parents on reading
Wednesday 26 th January	Year 4 Times table Parent Workshop
<u>FEBRUARY 2022</u>	
Tuesday 1 st February	Quad P Parent meetings
Thursday 3 rd February	Quad P Parent meetings
Thursday 3 rd February	Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting @ 3:30 pm
Tuesday 8 th February	SAFER INTERNET DAY

Friday 11th February-Half Term holiday - Primary School closes at 12:45 pm, Nursery school closes at 3:20pm

The Children's Centre will remain open.

Monday 21st February - Primary and Nursery Schools reopen

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

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

SPRING TERM 2022

First day of term	Thursday 6 th January
Half term	Monday 14 th February to Friday 18 th February
Last day of term	Friday 1 st April 12.45pm finish

SUMMER TERM 2022

First day of term	Tuesday 19 th April
May Day	Monday 2 nd May
Half term	Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June
Last day of term	Thursday 21 st July 12.45pm finish

AUTUMN TERM 2022

First day of term for pupils	Tuesday 6 th September
Half term	Monday 24 th October to Friday 4 th November
Last day of term	Thursday 22 nd December 12.45pm finish

