



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

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 1

12th September 2022

Dear Parents,

### QUEEN ELIZABETH II REMEMBERED

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last Thursday. She was a shining example of loyalty, service and duty. These are characteristics which we, as a school serving the public, seek to replicate in some small way.

For our pupils this is a hugely significant historical moment. Nobody at St Stephen's School has known life in the United Kingdom without The Queen in her position as Head of State. As educators we have a responsibility to share this news and support our children to understand the processes and the significance of her death.

We held an assembly and 1 minute silence to remember The Queen, to celebrate all the great things she did and to inform the children of the passing of the crown to His Majesty King Charles III.

In classrooms the teachers have given the children time to ask questions and share their memories especially after our Jubilee Week celebrations. We talked about what we can learn from the way she led her life and what kind of people we want to be in the future. Some of the classes have watched CBBC Newsround (who produced a fitting tribute to The Queen).

At home we know that many of you will be deeply saddened by the news too. Often, when there is this type of major news it can trigger in us other emotions, connect us to our own losses, remind us of personal events. This is true for adults and also true for the young people we teach. Bereavement and grief can be unpredictable. Feelings that we think have been left behind can suddenly re-surface and unsettle us.

Our message is simple.

It is very sad that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has died. We can feel upset about her passing but we should take time to celebrate her life, her achievements and the twinkle in her eye that led her to skydive out of a plane with James Bond in 2012 and have tea with Paddington in 2022. Those memories will bring back the smiles.

My thoughts are also with you, as you struggle to help children through this difficult period. As we mourn for the Queen, and welcome our new King, inevitably children will still want to be children, and our everyday school life will continue.



**Monday, 19th September 2022**

As you will be aware, the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will take place next Monday and this day will be a Bank Holiday. With this in mind the whole federation will be closed. School returns on Tuesday 20th September.

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, Mark 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**

I am delighted to welcome all our pupils to a new academic year. Hope you've had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to a fun filled year of learning.

Our efficient staff and leadership team are happy to support pupils with their academic needs and overall wellness.

St Stephen's school continues its open-door policy. The head teacher, leadership team and staff are always happy to support parents and pupils. Please participate in the parent consultations throughout the year to support your child and the school. I wish all our pupils and their parents a happy and successful journey with St Stephen's.

Mr Shashankar Jana- Chair of Governors

#### **THE GOVERNING BODY**

I am pleased to inform you of our current Governing body.

	<u>Name &amp; Positions</u>	<u>Governor Type</u>
1.	Mrs Nasima Noorani	Parent Governor
2.	Mr Mohsin Patel	Parent Governor
3.	Vacancy	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 OBE	Head teacher Governor

## STAFFING DHTs

### Primary

- We welcome our new permanent teachers Demet Serkan in Year 1, Paul Connelly in Year 4, Jenna Cooke in Year 5.
- We welcome Jackson Lewis as a permanent Early Career Teacher.
- We welcome Maria Kalafati, Annie Wood, Patrick McKoen and Nana Obeng as trainee teachers.
- We welcome Tyler Brown-Liburd and Sree Rangan as permanent members of staff,
- We welcome Fahima Ahmed, Haylie Hansen, Saima Abubaker, Seema Patel as new members of our staff team.

### Nursery:

- We welcome Saphina Leech and Sophie Lunat as new permanent teachers.

## PUPIL OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021-2022

Reception-Safiyyah Islam  
 Year 1- Mohammad Abdullah Abdullah  
 Year 2- Ianis-David Constantin  
 Year 3- Ismaeel Islam  
 Year 4- Eidi Hossain  
 Year 5- Jenny Patanwadia  
 Year 6- Safa Ahmed

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the children for all their hard work, efforts and achievements and thank all parents for their support for the school and their children.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

At St Stephen's we are proud to show that we belong by wearing a clean, fresh and presentable uniform. Children and their parents are responsible for ensuring that they are wearing the correct uniform every day. This fosters a feeling of belonging to our community and enables children to feel smart, ready for learning and equal to each other.

UNIFORM ITEM	NURSERY	RECEPTION YEAR 1 YEAR 2	YEAR 3 YEAR 4	YEAR 5 YEAR 6
CLOTHES	Warm clothes that are suitable for running and climbing.  Clothes that are easy to manage for toileting.  Clothes may get messy with water and paint.	White shirt/ polo shirt  Blue sweatshirt with school logo  Grey trousers/shorts/ skirt/pinafore  Pale blue gingham/checked summer dress.  White leggings	White shirt/ polo shirt  Purple sweatshirt with school logo  Grey trousers/shorts/ skirt/pinafore  Pale blue or purple gingham/checked summer dress.  White leggings	White shirt/ polo shirt  Red sweatshirt with school logo  Grey trousers/shorts/ skirt/pinafore  Pale blue or red gingham/checked summer dress.  White leggings
FOOTWEAR	Trainers  Wellington boots on wet days	Black or white socks  Black shoes - <b>not</b> trainers or boots	Black or white socks  Black shoes - <b>not</b> trainers or boots  Shoes must be lace-up for boys	
PE KIT  <i>Please bring your PE kit to school on Monday and take it</i>	Not applicable	White T-shirt  Black shorts or jogging bottoms  Black plimsolls or trainers  PE Kit bag- <b>not</b> a carrier bag.		

home on Friday for washing.	Black sweatshirt with school logo
<b>SWIMMING</b>	Swimming costume or trunks for swimming Swimming hat Towel
<b>HAIRSTYLES</b>	Hairstyles should be kept neat. Hair of shoulder length or longer should be tied back. Dyes, patterns/lines and cuts shaved into hair or eyebrows are not allowed
<b>HEAD COVERINGS</b>	All children wearing head coverings should ensure that they are safely secured (tied not pinned), tight-fitting, with ends tucked in and are not a hazard or a distraction. This is much safer and more comfortable for outdoor, physical activity and PE lessons.  The girls headscarf should be short, white, plain and clean. The boys patka should be white, plain and clean.
<b>JEWELLERY</b>	For reasons of health and safety, children cannot wear necklaces, bracelets and rings. Sensible stud earrings are permitted. Watches may be worn (analogue are advisable). Nail varnish or makeup should not be worn at any time.

The school sweatshirt may be purchased from Ian Howard in East Ham.  
Each item of uniform **must** be clearly marked with the pupil's full name.

### ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

At the start of a new academic year, setting clear routines and expectations is important from the very first day. It is with this in mind that we must ensure that **all pupils come to school everyday. Any appointments should be made for Friday afternoons.**

Daily attendance is the most important factor in ensuring all children have the best possible start in education so please send your children in every day. 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
Gates open from 8.30am 8.45am-lessons begin	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**

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.

Homework needs to be completed and brought to school on Monday morning.

Please check homework and sign to show that you have seen your child's weekly test results at the back of the book.

## **BRILLIANT CLUB**

Last Term we had some of our pupils in Year 5 take part in 'Brilliant Club.' This involved the children working closely with a PhD Tutor, on the History topic of 'Friends or Foes.' The children learnt about the Vikings in university style seminars and completed a final assignment that challenged them to work above their key stage.

The children all successfully completed their assignments and we were invited to Jesus College, Cambridge University for the Graduation Ceremony. It was a very exciting day, where we were given a tour of Jesus College and information about how school is different to university.

In their final assignment one child got a 1st, three children got a 2:1 and 4 children got a 2:2. We would like to say well done to them all.

## **BSiL CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

The Children's Centre team has been working throughout the summer to ensure local vulnerable families have been supported. The current cost of living crisis is creating hardship for many families in our community and the situation is guaranteed to worsen with the onset of winter.

In line with this, the Federation will be holding a 'Used Uniform Sale' every Friday morning 8:30 - 9:00am in the Primary School hall. All items are in good condition and will be washed before going on sale. Items include sweatshirts, t-shirts and trousers and are available for all ages from Reception to Year 6. Items will be priced at £1 each.

To further support the community the Children's Centre are collecting food and toiletries to ensure none of our families go without the basic provisions at this difficult time. There are collection baskets at the entrance of the Primary School and the Nursery and we are asking everyone to please give generously. The most useful items are rice, pasta, tinned tomatoes, tinned pulses, soap and nappies.

The new Activity Calendar is available at Children's Centre Reception with information regarding new courses and sessions that are available for the Autumn Term. Please contact a member of the Children's Centre Team if you need help and support with any of the above issues.

Marie Foley: 07904 663 072

Meral Sami: 07494 067 676

Wendy Campbell: 07946708 602

## **POLIO VACCINE**

Since February 2022 there is evidence that the polio virus is spreading between people here in Newham. This has probably happened because vaccine uptake is lower than it should be.

All children in Newham between the ages of 1 - 9 years are being offered a polio booster in order to ensure they are protected against the disease. Your GP can give you all of the necessary information and arrange an appointment. Please speak to a member of the Children's Centre Team if you need help with this.

#### **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 16th September 2022.

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**

##### **Safeguarding Team 2022**

The Primary Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is James Frecknall

The Nursery DSL is Janet Patterson

The Day Care DSL is Harsha Mesuria

The Children's Centre DSL is Marie Foley

The Primary Deputy DSL and Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is Chetan Patel

Please come and see one of us, or any member of the leadership team, if you have a safeguarding concern or if you need any support during these challenging times.

#### **CONTACT US**

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

Head Teacher: Ms Neena Lall OBE

[neena.lall@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:neena.lall@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

##### **Primary School**

Tel: 020 8472 7575

Email: [info@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk](http://www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk)

##### **Nursery School**

Tel 020 8586 0147

Email: [childrenscentre@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:childrenscentre@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-stephens-nurserychildrenscentre.org.uk](http://www.st-stephens-nurserychildrenscentre.org.uk)

Federated Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs Fozia Ramzan

[fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

Federated School Business Manager

Mr Mark Little

[mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

Nursery Deputy Head Teacher

Ms Janet Patterson [janet.patterson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:janet.patterson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

Primary Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs Jenna Chapman [jenna.chapman@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:jenna.chapman@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

Primary Deputy Head Teacher

Ms Georgia Dawson [georgia.dawson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:georgia.dawson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk)

This newsletter is also available on the school website.



**AUTUMN TERM DATES 2022****SEPTEMBER**

Monday 12th September	Nursery open to children
Tuesday 13th September	SEN Parent Forum
Thursday 22nd September	Reception Parent Workshop No.1 (9am)
Thursday 29th September	Reception Parent Workshop No.2 (9am)
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Wednesday 5th October	Year 6 Parent Meeting: SATs, Farm and Secondary School (2:45pm)
Thursday 6th October	Reception Parent Workshop No.3 (9am)
Friday 7th October	Dietician Workshop with Reception
Tuesday 11th October	Parents Evening No.1 (4pm - 7pm)
Thursday 13th October	Nursery and reception Parent Consultation Day- Reception and Nursery CLOSED for pupils
Thursday 13th October	Parents Evening No.2 (4pm - 7pm)
Thursday 13th October	Daycare Parent Meeting (5pm)
Monday 17th October - Friday 21st October	Year 6 Residential Farm
Tuesday 18th October	Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop
Thursday 20th October	Year 1 Parent's Assembly (9am)
Friday 21st October	Reception Parent Workshop No.4 (9am)
Friday 21st October	Half Term holiday - School closes at 12.45 pm Children's Centre and Day Care will remain open.

Monday 7th 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 2022-2023****AUTUMN TERM 2022**

1 TT day	Monday 5th September
First day of term for pupils	Tuesday 6th September
Half term	Monday 24th October to Friday 4th November
Last day of term	Thursday 22nd December 12.45pm finish

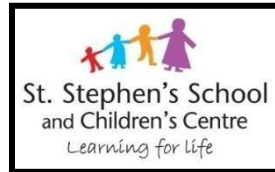
**SPRING TERM 2023**

First day of term	Wednesday 4th January
Half term	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February
Last day of term	Friday 31st March



## SUMMER TERM 2023

First day of term	Monday 17 th April
May Day	Monday 1st May
Half term	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
Last day of term	Friday 21st July



## Home School Agreement

<b>The School:</b>	<b>The Parents:</b>	<b>The Child:</b>
<p>We will ensure that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a safe, caring and healthy environment to work in.</li> <li>• Meet the individual needs of all children.</li> <li>• Encourage children to have a healthy lifestyle.</li> <li>• Encourage children to develop resilience when tackling challenging activities and have a commitment to succeed.</li> <li>• Give children a balanced curriculum with a wide range of experiences needed to increase their self-confidence, to increase their motivation.</li> <li>• To provide children an understanding of the opportunities that are open to them and achieve their full potential as a valued member of the school community.</li> <li>• Will listen to your child read at least once a week.</li> <li>• Teach children about honesty, positive behaviour, respect, equality, fairness, anti-bullying and racism.</li> <li>• Will keep you informed about general school matters and about your child's progress in particular.</li> <li>• Will be open and welcoming at all times and offer opportunities for you to become involved in the daily life of the school.</li> </ul>	<p>We will do our best to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage our child to do his/her best at all times.</li> <li>• Get to know about our child's life at school and what he/she is learning.</li> <li>• See that our child has the appropriate uniform/clothing for school.</li> <li>• See that our child goes to school regularly, on time and inform the school of any absence</li> <li>• Keep the school informed of any changes at home.</li> <li>• Support the school's positive behaviour ethos.</li> <li>• Support our child in homework, other opportunities for home-learning and listen to our child read at least 5 times a week.</li> <li>• Attend parent's evening, school events and discussions about our child's progress.</li> <li>• Be good role models to children on the school premises.</li> </ul>	<p>I Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do my best at all times.</li> <li>• Take responsibility for my own learning</li> <li>• Always wear my school uniform.</li> <li>• Arrive at school on time and every day.</li> <li>• Bring all the equipment I need each day including my PE kit.</li> <li>• Listen carefully and respectfully to my teacher and all adults - they are there to help me reach my potential.</li> <li>• Move around my school and classroom in a calm and quiet way.</li> <li>• Complete my homework to the best of my ability, independently.</li> <li>• Read aloud at least 5 times a week.</li> <li>• Be polite, friendly and helpful to others at all times.</li> <li>• Talk to an adult if there is a problem.</li> <li>• Help look after my classroom and school environment.</li> </ul>
Signed:	Signed:	Signed:
Date:	Date:	Date: