



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2

7th November 2022

Dear Parents,

We held our Parents' Evenings on 11th and 13th October. It was lovely to welcome and reconnect face to face with over 600 parents over the 2 evenings. There was a lot of very positive feedback from our parents and I would like to thank all of the staff who worked very late on the evenings supporting yourselves and the school.

As well as this, I am delighted to welcome back our Headteacher Question and Answer meetings. In the past parents have really valued the information sharing and time for face to face with the leadership team in these sessions.

Please see the meeting dates below.

Dates	Class
Wednesday 16 th November	Blue room @9am
Tuesday 22 nd November	Red and Green Room 9am and 12.40pm
Wednesday 30 th November	Year 6 @ 3.15pm
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 5@ 3.15pm
Wednesday 18 th January	Year 4@ 3.15pm
Wednesday 1 st February	Year 3@ 3.15pm
Wednesday 22 nd February	Year 2@ 3.15pm
Wednesday 8 th March	Year 1@ 3.15pm
Wednesday 22 nd March	Year R@ 3.15pm

In order for all pupils to achieve their potential, daily attendance at school is crucial. Every day counts! Therefore, extended holidays will not be authorised at all this academic year and any appointments should be made for Friday afternoons. If you need to take your child abroad, please do so during the extensive school holidays. Please note that 100% attendance is the school target for every pupil.

Thank you to parents from last term who responded to the survey; we really appreciate the time that you took to do this. Please read the results below and how the school plans to address some of the areas identified for improvement.

Thank you for your support, as always, at our MacMillan Coffee Morning and the Harvest Festival. It is great to see so many of our school community coming together to raise money for such worthwhile causes. I would like to say a huge thank you for your contributions and generosity. The donations are supporting vulnerable families within our community.

Ms. Neena Lall OBE- Headteacher

ATTENDANCE**6th September-21st October 2022**

Year	%	Well done to Years 3 & 4 for having the best attendance so far!
Nursery	91	
Reception	95.7	
Year 1	94.6	
Year 2	94.8	
Year 3	97.7	
Year 4	97.7	
Year 5	95.9	
Year 6	90.2	

Please note that 100% attendance is the school target for every pupil.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM - Article 12 Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

I am pleased to announce the new JLT team for 2022 2023.

The selection process involved all Year 6 children having the experience of filling in an application form. The leadership team excluding myself then selected appropriate applications. Then Year 6 staff team including teachers and support staff, shortlisted that selection to 9 boys and 9 girls for interview. Interviews took place on Monday 10th October by Fozia, Jenna, Georgia and myself.

The process for selection was objective, consistent, and non-discriminatory resulting in the best children being selected for the role. It was also good learning for those who were not successful in managing their emotions of disappointment as a life skill.

The successful candidates spoke with confidence and authenticity and were a delight to interview. They were able to carry out a mature conversation during the interview and showed their true personalities. The final 4 were absolutely selected on their merits.

Head Boy	Head Girl	Deputy Head Boy	Deputy Head Girl
Dawud Abdulmumin	Emaan Nadeem	Mihran Syed	Naadeede Adamafio

SCHOOL FUND

St Stephen's holds fundraising events throughout the year. Many of these are National events, charity appeals and some are for school fund. Any money raised for the school fund is kept for projects that will directly benefit all pupils.

The summer fair is an example of monies raised for school fund. During the year we will use this money to provide all children in the school with age appropriate gifts to support their well being and development.

Years 1, 2 and 6 will receive a care pack as part of their learning on health and hygiene.
At the end of this term all Nursery and Reception children will receive an end of year gift.

CHAMPION YOUR CHILD EVENT 12th OCTOBER 2022

On Wednesday 12th October 2022 more than 60 parents and carers attended the Children's Centre "Champion Your Child" event.

There was a range of activities for adults and children to help them understand the Early Years curriculum and give parents and carers ideas about how best to support their child's learning at home. Green Street Library joined us - they encouraged parents to register for membership for their children. Once registered children can borrow books from any of the libraries in Newham.

This is some of the feedback from parents and carers who attended the event:

"Absolutely amazing! I have left this event with library cards for me and my daughter. I have joined a cooking class for us both to learn more about nutrition and things I can cook at home"

"Me and my child really enjoyed these activities - they covered all areas of development including health and nutrition".

"It was good to spend some time with my child in this environment and get some inspiration for different types of play at home"

PARENTS EVENING

Parents had the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss how their child has settled into the new academic year and their progress and wellbeing.

The meetings were 10 minutes, for Years 1 - 6. All parents had the opportunity to look at their child's workbooks and were given a pack with Maths and English resources and a Parent's Guide, to support the children's learning at home.

We were very pleased with the number of parents who attended Parents' Evening.

Primary School % of parents who attended their appointment on the day allocated	Nursery School % of parents who attended their appointment on the day allocated
99%	98%

Parent meetings for children in the Reception classes will take place on the 16th November and please note that the Reception unit will be closed for children that day.

Nursery

This was the first parent consultation day in the nursery. Now the children have settled into the nursery routine this meeting was an opportunity to discuss children's progress across the EYFS. It was great to see so many parents being involved and wanting to support their children's learning.

ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 2023

SECTION 1: FEDERATED CURRICULUM

To embed the new St Stephen's curriculum enabling everyone to articulate the prior knowledge and current learning through a rigorous programme of assessment including monitoring, quizzing and collaboration.

SECTION 2: FEDERATED PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

To develop the implemented range of physical activities for children to understand the connection between physical activity, health and self confidence.

SECTION 3: FEDERATED MENTAL DEVELOPMENT

To empower pupils to be self aware, communicate and regulate their feelings.

To educate staff and the community to have a deeper understanding of mental health.

SECTION 4: BSIL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

a) Cost of Living Crisis

- Targeted support for families across the federation who are affected by the COL Crisis
- To find out where external monies are available and use them in a timely and impactful way

b) Health

- Educate parents about child development health milestones (weaning, physical activity and independence).
- Parents understanding the importance of quality time with their children for well being, bonding and emotional regulation.

c) Embed Speech and Language and early reading

- Education of parents about child development milestones related to speech and language development.
- Parents to know the expectation of the number of words children should have at different ages.

d) All targeted Early Help work to be recorded using family support module and Azeus

- To increase effective communication between existing tracking systems including Azeus and Safeguard
- An Early Help tracking system which incorporates Azeus and Safeguard and includes the nursery and primary school.

e) Diversity

- Ensure there is representation within the Children Centre environment including the "Protected Characteristics".

FEDERATED PARENT SURVEY RESULTS JULY 2022

	PRIMARY		NURSERY, DAYCARE AND CC	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Please Tick	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
My child is happy and does well at this school	415	10	123	0
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	428	4	122	1
The school has high expectations for my child	427	5	120	5
I receive regular reports about my child's progress	420	9	118	2
The school supports my child's physical development	428	4	122	0
The school meets the needs of my child and gives them support they need to succeed	419	10	122	1
School staff are visible and approachable every day	419	12	123	0
My child can take part in enrichment such as trips, residential and extra curricular activities.	421	10	116	3

Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Yes 420	No 9	Yes 120	No 2
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Nursery School

Quotes

- I would say this is the best nursery, I am really satisfied with my child's development (physical & mental).
- Brilliant learning. My child has progressed leaps and bounds.
- My child absolutely loves nursery school. Nursery provides the stimulation she requires as she is very very active and very sociable. The teachers are all so lovely we will all feel very sad that it's coming to an end next month!
- We cannot praise the nursery staff highly enough. They do fantastic work!
- The nursery teachers are so helpful in every step of transition. They made my daughter very social with their encouragement. Really helpful to them.
- All staff have great knowledge about the children. Staff take children's individual needs including emotional and social capabilities when with them. Staff know when to push a child to encourage them to try something new and when it might be too much for them.
- Staff check in with families if the child has not been themselves. Staff remember conversations had with families from months ago so families feel what they've said is important. Amazing staff, a privilege for my child to attend this nursery.
- Such a great nursery with wonderful teachers. The teachers are extremely friendly and professional. Definitely I made the right choice by choosing this place!

Comment	What improvements we are making in response to the survey.
Be careful how you decide to celebrate events such as 'mother's day' to ensure all carers are involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All events are sensitive to individual family circumstances. Mothers, carers and female family members were all welcome.
Need more visits to places like zoo, movies, and parks in summer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school visits have an educational focus • The school educational visits for this age are in the local area. • Staff - child ratios are adhered to (2:1 in Nursery). • We encourage parents to share this quality time and also take children out during weekends and holidays.
Our son has picked up the idea that there are 'girls toys' & 'boys toys' from another pupil. It would be good if teachers could help dispel stereotypes like this by continuing to promote the idea that all toys can be played with by all children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity is a seamless thread throughout the curriculum in the Federation. • The Nursery school has an equalities policy that is shared regularly with staff and is continually monitored. • All staff promote the equality of provision.
All nursery kids should get admission in Reception.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has no influence on Primary School placement. • Admissions are managed and controlled by the London Borough of Newham.

Consider how full time mums could be involved or are communicated with.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current communications in place are: Headteachers newsletter, school website, additional letters and leaflets and text messages. • Evening meetings for working parents have been reintroduced twice a year. • We endeavour to give as much notice as possible for all curriculum days and events. • Considering a school app.
Online or cardless payments for lunch?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with the school app we are currently researching having an online system of payment.
Milk should be offered to children at snack time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free School Milk is offered every day to all children.

Children's Centre

Quotes

- The children's centre was a godsend as my child was having trouble going to the toilet. I was trying to cope with this for nearly two years and had failed. The staff support and advice helped us finally get through this hurdle. Thank you is an understatement!
- I am always happy to come for the Thursday champions session because my child is always happy in the session and interacts with others, as well happily explores the environment and sensory room. Thanks so much for inviting my child.
- Loving, caring staff.
- Love the exercise class.
- You have rescued me again. Thank you so much! (Hardship Fund)
- Found the targeted sessions really useful I have more ideas about what to do with my two year old
- Stay and Play sessions are great especially after Covid. It's a good way to meet other mums and children get to know each other.

Daycare

Quotes

- Brilliant daycare and great staff. My son loves all the staff, especially his keyworker!
- I have seen my child excel from the age of 1 when they started in Daycare.
- Thank you for looking after my son over the years and helping him grow up in a fun and loving environment.
- My child loves coming to Daycare and since starting he has come on in leaps and bounds.
- I was able to return to working knowing my children were in the best care ever.
- I feel very proud that my child has been able to grow up so far in such a supported and caring focus setting.
- My husband and I appreciate all the dedication, enthusiasm and passion that shines through in daycare. We are especially happy to see many structured and well thought out activities throughout the day.

Comment	What improvements we are making in response to the survey.
Do activities that do not focus on any specific gender. Empower girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff promote the equality of provision through planning and development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity is a seamless thread throughout the curriculum in the Federation.
<p>Unfortunately because I work in central London I arrive to pick up my child after 5:45pm so we do not receive feedback on his day. I would love this to be changed even if just to allow for short feedback. This would be great for all working parents (I obviously will not expect any feedback to go past 6pm).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new feedback form has been implemented. This includes information about their child's day in day care - to include mealtimes, sleep routines, toileting, favourite activities and child's overall well being. There are opportunities to arrange additional meetings and phone calls if required.

Primary School

Quotes

- Very good school. All the teachers are very friendly and attentive to all the needs of my children, I warmly recommend to all parents. I have never been disappointed in the 6 years we have been here. All staff give the support they need to succeed. Thank you
- All my expectations have been met
- I find the school is very equal to both genders, they have the opportunity to become whatever they want without being judged.
- The school has wonderful teachers who provide a high quality of education
- My children love this school and they enjoy coming every day
- I am happy my child is in this school. It's amazing, so many activities for the children and the parents, workshops, sports and good communication.
- If a parent has an issue it is resolved. Best school best staff
- Very happy with the SEND inclusion, my child has an equal opportunity to participate in everything his peers get to do. Thank you
- Thank you for your continued support and help for my children's educational and everyday life skills development.
- I'm happy with my child's overall performance in the school and also very pleased the way school meets with my child's needs. The teachers are great, listen, advise and are proactive
- Thank you to all the staff and leadership for the amazing work and support. We are always proud to be part of St Stephen's.
- St Stephen's is a wonderful school that provides a nurturing learning environment where children thrive and become exceptionally prepared for challenging secondary school.

Comment	What improvements we are making in response to the survey.
Have a reading diary for parents to sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and support staff regularly read with your children. The English lead will research options for a signed reading diary this year.
Expose children to different genre books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has invested over £20,000 on Year group libraries and books this year. These libraries contain a range of genres including non fiction, newspapers, poetry and fiction. Every class gets a brand new current book of the month selected by an independent bookshop. This is introduced, shared and celebrated for all children.

Maybe a girls only football club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout our school day we practice gender equality ensuring that boys and girls have equal exposure to all opportunities sporting or otherwise.
Provide more opportunities to attend clubs such as cooking and knitting from as early as reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continually review our club offer and will consider these suggestions. Our revised curriculum ensures that these skills are taught within the school day.
Children should have a choice of home dinners or packed lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We pride ourselves in ensuring that every child receives a free, hot, homemade, balanced meal every day.
Children should not be forced to eat what they don't like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of our St. Stephen's healthy drive, we ensure a broad range of foods are offered. Adults are in the dinner hall to monitor and encourage children to try new foods. No child is forced to eat.
My children do not enjoy vegan Mondays, please reconsider the menu. Thank You	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meat free Monday was introduced after consultation with all children. As a school, moving to a vegetarian menu for just one day a week helps us to save over 600,000 bathtubs full of water every year! There are three choices of food every day
Toilet facilities at school fayres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In our review of the Jubilee fayre, we acknowledged the challenges surrounding the toilet facilities. We will endeavour to improve this.
Will KS2 tuckshop re open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From October we will be providing free fruit for all children Children are allowed to bring in a fruit snack for morning break time.
Communication via text is good, could also use email or a school app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is currently exploring options for a school app.

HAIR

Please may I remind you of the schools expectations and policy around long hair for both boys and girls. 'Hairstyles should be kept neat. Hair of shoulder length or longer should be tied back.'

SAFEGUARDING

Physical Chastisement (Hitting your child)

We have noted a recent increase in the amount of disclosures made to the Safeguarding team regarding children being hit by their parents.

Please be aware that we have a duty of care to refer any such disclosures to social services. Any serious incidents of physical chastisement that we are told about will be investigated by the local authority. Our number one priority is always the safety and welfare of our pupils.

We fully recognise that parenting is challenging at times and if you feel that you would like some help, please contact the Children's Centre who can support you with positive parenting.

CONTACT US

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.

OFSTED PARENT VIEW

Ofsted Parent View is an online survey that allows parents to give their views about their child's school. Parents can complete the survey at any time. By 'parents', we mean any person with parental responsibility for a child at the school.

It is an online survey which takes about 5 minutes to complete.

To register and complete a submission on the Ofsted Parent View website, users must complete the following steps:

- 1) Enter an email address and confirm that they are a parent or carer.
- 2) Follow simple on-screen instructions before completing registration.
- 3) An email is then sent to the specified email address with a link to validate and activate the log-in.
- 4) Select a secure password for their account with a minimum of 8 characters, there is also a password strength indicator to help users create more secure passwords.

Please visit

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Parent View is available for both the Primary and Nursery School, therefore if you have children in both schools, we welcome you to fill in 2 separate surveys.

Please could you share good news about the school, to ensure we maintain 'Outstanding' for your children. Thank you in advance and we appreciate your time and continued support in this.

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2022 DHTs

NOVEMBER



Monday 7th November	School restarts at 8:45 am
Wednesday 9th November	Year 2 Forest Visit
Friday 11th November	1 minutes silence for Remembrance
Monday 14th November	Primary Individual and Sibling Photographs
Tuesday 15th November	SEND Parent Forum
Wednesday 16th November	Blue Room Headteacher's Q and A @ 9am
Wednesday 16th November	Reception Parent Consultation Day (RECEPTION CLASSES CLOSED)
Wednesday 16th November	Years 5 and 6 visit to Matilda in London
Tuesday 22nd November	Red and Green Room am Headteacher's Q and A @ 9am Red and Green Room pm Headteacher's Q and A @ 12.40pm
Wednesday 23rd November	Years 3 and 4 visit to Matilda in London
Wednesday 23rd November	Nursery and Daycare Individual Photographs
Wednesday 23rd November	Federated Earth Hour 2-3pm
Thursday 24th November	Early Years Curriculum Day- Physical development
Thursday 24th November	Governor's Meeting @ 4pm
Wednesday 30th November	Year 6 Headteacher's Q and A @ 3.15pm
DECEMBER	
Monday 12th December	Reception Snowball @2pm
Tuesday 13th December	Years 1 and 2 Snowball @ 2pm
Tuesday 13th December	Year 5 Headteacher's Q and A @ 3.15pm
Wednesday 14th December	Years 3 and 4 Snowball @ 2pm
Wednesday 14th December	Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 Educational Visit to Kenneth More theatre- Aladdin
Thursday 15th December	Years 5 and 6 Snowball @ 2pm
Tuesday 20th December	Year 2 Parents' Assembly 9am
Tuesday 20th December	Christmas Jumper Day-£1 to wear your Christmas jumper for Save the Children
Tuesday 20th December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21st December	Nursery and Reception Parents' Assembly 9am and 1pm
Wednesday 21st December	Daycare Sing a Long @3.30pm
Wednesday 21st December	Last Day for Nursery pupils before Christmas Holiday
Thursday 22nd December	Report Cards to Parents
Thursday 22nd December	Christmas Holiday - School closes at 12:45 pm
Thursday 22nd December	Daycare closes 6pm
Friday 23rd December	Christmas Holiday- Children's Centre closes 1pm
JANUARY 2023 SPRING TERM	
Wednesday 4th January	Daycare Children return 8am Children's Centre Reopens
Wednesday 4th January	Primary and Maintained Nursery Pupils return 8.45am
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 th February to Friday 17 th 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