



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

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3

9th January 2023

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 especially at this very difficult time.

As we look ahead to the opportunities that a New Year can bring, I know all of us are wondering how we will manage as the impact of the Cost of Living crisis continues into 2023. Please do contact me or a member of the Children's Centre Team as they work closely with Newham services.

May the New Year be an occasion to make a fresh beginning and renew our resolve for individual as well as collective growth. We should always remember that no community or nation can truly exist without love and tolerance.

I would like to leave you with a quote to consider this new year...

*"Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human."*

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

I wish every one of you a happy 2023 as we strive for a more inclusive, multicultural, accepting society where peace and harmony prevails.

With much respect

Ms. Neena Lall OBE  
Headteacher



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS- Mr Shashankar Jana

Happy New Year 2023!!!

Welcoming everyone back to school for another year of great success and joy. Hope you had a nice Christmas break.

At St. Stephen's, Governors, staff, parents and children work together in a happy, creative and high attaining environment; with our core values of honesty, kindness, respect and responsibility underpinning everything that we do. 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.

The children in our school achieve high standards across the curriculum. We are justifiably very proud of them and would like to thank the parents who encourage and support their children so admirably. In a good school, such as ours, parents take a great interest in their child's learning and development. 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 pupils to 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. The Governing Body is involved with our school at every level. This includes finance, safeguarding, premises management and staff appointments. As Governors, we consider our most important role to be the safety, welfare and education of our pupils.

We wish all our children, parents and staff members a successful year to come. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy new year.

## THEATRE VISITS

### **MATILDA**

Last term, the children in Years 3 to 6, went to watch the award winning musical Matilda, at the Cambridge Theatre in London. The story of a little girl who has a vivid imagination, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

After a long anticipated wait, the day finally arrived and the children and adults excitedly made their way to the theatre. The stage looked amazing and the show started with a humongous loud bang as the first song started.

There were many different songs throughout the show and all of them were equally great. The most popular songs were *Revoltin' Children* and *When I Grow Up*. The children had learnt these songs in school and excitedly joined in.

As well as singing, there was a lot of dancing. The actors and musicians were incredible and the stage displays were amazing. A favourite scene for many was when the children were on the swings and it looked like they were coming into the audience.



The performance was even better than the children had anticipated and something that they will remember forever.

## ALADDIN

Equally as exciting was the Reception, Year 1 and 2 visit to the Kenneth Moore theatre, to watch the annual Christmas pantomime of Aladdin.

With stunning special effects, dazzling costumes and non-stop fun it was a magical show which everyone enjoyed!

There were lots of wonderful moments but the children particularly enjoyed joining in with the YMCA and Macarena dances. Again, another amazing performance which the children will hopefully remember for years to come.

## 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 2022.

RTC - Mica Hardy Kemp RLP - Sakina Ahmed RKM - Tayyibah Salima	1DT - Yusuf Mahmood 1RF - Muhammad Uwais Khankhara 1SS - Safiyyah Islam	2EW - Eliza Alam 2ZK - Swara Vyas 2NB - Mohid Shahbaz Siddique	3LT - Muhammad Patel 3JF - Sadiya Fatima 3CC - Mahiya Hassan	4PC Tsitsi Brooks 4HA Sameeha Sajahan 4JR Idrees Sarwar	5JC Naksh Patel 5AG Simona Malaskeviciute 5JL Hannah Harif	6AQ- Muhammad Zakariya Khan 6EH- Shahir Ali 6CP- Muhammad Ayaan
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## BRONZE HEALTHY SCHOOLS AWARD

Healthy Schools London is an Awards Programme that reaches out to every London child, working with schools to improve children and young people's well-being. At our school, we understand the importance of supporting our children in knowing and making healthy lifestyle choices. We are delighted to tell you that St. Stephen's Primary School has been awarded the Bronze Healthy Schools Award. We are now making preparations to achieve the Healthy Schools Silver accreditation.

If you would like to find out more information about the Healthy Schools Programme, please visit their website at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/healthy-schools-london/awards/home>

There are simple ways you can help support your child's health and emotional well-being in school and at home:

- Attend health workshops provided by the school.
- Talk to staff about any health concerns you have about your child.
- Try simple strategies at home like asking about your child's feelings, focusing on their strengths, and modelling positive coping skills to manage stress, like going for a walk.
- Cook and eat healthy meals together.



## BEHAVIOUR

At St. Stephen's we do all we can to help the pupils learn appropriate, supportive and positive behaviours to help them contribute to a successful and tolerant society. We also recognise that children can present different behaviours at home to in school. If you have any behaviour concerns about your child, we have experts who can help - just get in touch with the Children's Centre.

As a starting point we feel that the following tips can help support all behaviours:

- Give your child positive praise
- Help your child to understand their feelings giving them strategies to stay calm
- Spend quality time with your child - supporting them, talking to them and playing games together
- Set clear and consistent boundaries and routines - stick to these as much as is possible
- Follow through with consequences e.g. if you tell them you will take away an iPad, then do so
- When dealing with challenging behaviour, try to stay calm yourself

## CHARITY WORK AT ST STEPHEN'S

- Donations of food for our, all year round food bank were gratefully received and are distributed by the Children's Centre over Christmas and will continue throughout the year.
- 9 Food hampers were distributed within the community to bring a bit of festive cheer.
- The Children's Centre works 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 :£918.11
- Royal British Legion Poppy day: £173.01
- Christmas Jumper Day: £535.68
- Snowball: £219.60

### SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT:

- Current Balance £4095.26

## READING

***A recent study found reading 5 books a day to your child gives them a huge advantage for their education.***

### Early Reading

Reading at home with your child is one of the most valuable activities to support their early language development. You can help your child to develop a love of reading by spending 15 minutes a day sharing a book with them and talking about the pictures. The children in the nursery all have a book bag and books are changed weekly.

Next term the nursery team will be running "Bookstart" sessions where parents can see how we share stories at nursery. All children will be given a free book pack and registered with Newham Library Service.

### Some Surprising Facts About Reading That Prove It All Adds Up

1. Reading for just 10 minutes a day reduces stress by 70%.
2. When children have a home library with even as little as 20 books, they achieve 3 more years of schooling than children who don't have books at home.



3. Read 20 minutes a day and you'll read 1,800,00 words per year.
4. Children who read 1,000,000 per year are in the top 2% of reading achievement.
5. Children 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

### **Online safety**

We have noticed an increase in concerning online safety behaviours throughout the school. These issues can be very serious and lead to social care involvement. Our online safety curriculum is continually reviewed and updated but we need your support. The NSPCC has some excellent resources to help you keep your children safe when online -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>. Please continually talk to your children about their online behaviours and seek support if required.

### **Mobile phones**

Children should not be bringing mobile phones onto the school premises, unless this has been with a prior arrangement with the school Leadership team. These phones will be left at the school office in the morning and can be collected at the end of the day. Any child found with a mobile phone that has not had prior authorisation will have the phone confiscated and a parent/carer will be asked to collect it at a mutually convenient time.

### **Parental Responsibility**

Please note that as a school we cannot prevent any parent from collecting their child, if they have parental responsibility, unless there is a specific court-appointed order. We also have a responsibility to contact any parent, if they have parental responsibility, should there be an urgent issue with their child. If you are in need of support or would like to discuss this further then please contact a member of the safeguarding team, or Children's Centre who will be able to explain things further.

### **Courtesy and Respect:**

We all work together to look after our children. Our staff are here to help. Please remember to treat our staff with the respect they deserve. Aggressive behaviour including swearing, shouting and derogatory remarks are not acceptable.

Our school has an open door policy and we welcome feedback that is given in a polite and respectful manner.

## **NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

St Stephen's Nursery provides essential early learning for your children. It is important that your child comes to nursery everyday and on time. 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 cost of living crisis continues to cause hardship in our community and the Children's Centre team are supporting families with food, items of clothing and energy vouchers. Information regarding support services available in Newham can be found on the school website. If you are experiencing



extreme financial difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the Children's Centre team for support and advice.

Marie Foley- 07904663072

Meral Sami- 07494067676

Wendy Campbell- 07946708602

## 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.

### CONTACT US

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

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Primary School

Tel: 020 8472 7575

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





Website: <a href="http://www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk">www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk</a> <b>Nursery School</b> Tel 020 8586 0147 Email: <a href="mailto:childrenscentre@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">childrenscentre@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.st-stephens-nurserychildrenscentre.org.uk">www.st-stephens-nurserychildrenscentre.org.uk</a>	
Federated Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Fozia Ramzan <a href="mailto:fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">fozia.ramzan@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a>	Federated School Business Manager Mr Mark Little <a href="mailto:mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk">mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk</a>
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This newsletter is also available on the school website.	

### **SPRING TERM EVENT DATES 2023**

<b><u>JANUARY 2023</u></b>	
Tuesday 3rd January	Children's Centre opens
Wednesday 4th January	Nursery, Daycare and Primary pupils return to School
Tuesday 10th January	Year 5 Headteacher Q&A at 3:15pm
Friday 13th January	School Dietician in
Wednesday 18th January	Nursery and Reception Classes Parent Consultation Day - Classes closed for the day
Wednesday 18th January	Year 4 Headteacher Q&A at 3:15pm
Monday 23rd January - 3rd February	Year 4 swimming for 2 weeks
Monday 23rd January	Year 6 Tate and Lyle Visit
Wednesday 25th January	Nursery Workshop for parents on maths
Thursday 26th January	Year 1 Phonics workshop for key parents
<b><u>FEBRUARY 2023</u></b>	
Wednesday 1st February	Year 3 Headteacher Q&A at 3:15pm
Wednesday 8th February	Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting at 2:45pm
Thursday 9th February	Year 3 Parents Assembly at 9am

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day	Monday 1st May
Half term	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Last day of term	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July

### **AUTUMN TERM 2023**

1 TT day	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September
First day of term for pupils	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Half term	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Last day of term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 12.45pm finish

