



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4

20th February 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after half term. The Spring term is always very busy with many exciting things planned. The children have started the new year with drive and enthusiasm and it's great to see so much learning taking place.

We have launched the new year with new resolutions. The value of fairness is supporting our thinking as we work hard to maintain a culture in which we celebrate difference, diversity and inclusion.

We all know that education around diversity encourages open-mindedness and supports children's social and emotional development. It lays down the foundations for an inclusive society that embraces difference.

We are very fortunate, here at St. Stephen's to have such a widely diverse population and to be immersed in a range of cultures, religions, traditions and languages. Having respect for those different from ourselves is a tremendous step toward global understanding.

This has been beautifully showcased with our wonderful Year 3 Parent assembly on the Lunar (Chinese) New Year. All elements of our broad and balanced curriculum came together in a display of music, drama, dance, art and so many creative skills. The children were confident and eloquent! Well done Year 3!!

Moving forward each year group will be celebrating festivals from around the world each half term.

Please do not hesitate to come in and talk to me if you need to; we have an open door policy at St. Stephen's and are always happy to discuss the issues that matter to you. There are always senior members of staff at the front and back gates each day.

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher



IN SCHOOL TUTORING

In our ongoing effort to support pupils with improving their basic skills, we will be running in school extra tutoring sessions for key year groups.

There are huge benefits of these being run by school staff. The familiar relationship as well as the staff knowledge of your child's strengths and targets will mean the sessions are bespoke for the group.

These sessions may run before or after school. If you receive a letter, stating that your child would benefit from attending tutoring can we ask that you accept this offer. Please remember that it is very important that children attend every session, behave appropriately and are punctual. Please note that not all pupils will be eligible for this and invitations will be targeted.

SCHOOL APP

As a federation, we are very excited to announce that we are in the early stages of creating a free school app for both primary and nursery. This will allow key messages to be given to parents and enable us to accept online payments.

In order for you to log on to the school app, we need **BOTH** the mobile number and email address of parents and carers. Thank you to those parents who have already provided us with these details. You will not be able to access the app if we do not have them so please let the school office know as soon as possible, so we can add them to our app database.

Further details relating to how to download the app will be provided later in the year.

READING LOG

We have created a simple, user-friendly reading log that we have given to each child at our school.

The children have been assigned with levelled/banded reading books, which they are to read daily. Afterwards, their reading logs are to be signed by their parents or carers.

Please listen to your child read for at least 10-20 minutes regularly.

The children know that they are to bring their reading log to school everyday and teachers will monitor and reward them as appropriate. For every full week that they have a signed reading log, their names go in the raffle draw with a view to win the prestigious prize of visiting Newham Bookshop and choosing a book for their class.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION PARENT CONSULTATION DAY

Nursery and Reception held a parent consultation day on Wednesday 18th January 2023. Both Nursery and Reception were closed on the day and parents were invited to come and discuss their child's progress with their class teachers.

In both the Nursery and Reception we had 97% attendance. Parents who were unable to make the appointments have since managed to reschedule a meeting.

The next consultation day will be held in the summer term. In the meantime, please do feel free to communicate with the class teachers and arrange individual meetings should you wish to discuss any specific elements of your child's progress and wellbeing.



ANNUAL REPORTS TO PARENTS AND REPORT CARDS

At the end of this term on Friday 31st March, children in years 1-6 will be bringing home their annual report. This will explain the progress your child has made, their attitude to learning and the areas they need to develop. Please share the report with your child, so that they can also celebrate their hard work with you and they know their targets.

Children in reception and in receipt of higher needs funding will bring home their report card at the end of this term and their annual report in the summer term.

SAFEGUARDING

Safer Internet Day

In the last week before half term, the Federation took part in many different activities to mark Safer Internet Day. We hope that many of you also managed to log onto the online parent link we sent through before half term.

It is more important than ever that we are able to work together to safeguard our young people online and support them in their understanding of how to use all the apps they have at their disposal both safely and respectfully.

If you would like support with any aspect of your child's online behaviour, please contact a member of the Safeguarding team or refer to the NSPCC:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Parent assembly

On 21st March, we are holding an Online Safety workshop for parents and carers at 9.00am in the school hall. More information will be coming out about this later this half term but it will be a great opportunity to meet with an expert in online safety and to discuss with other parents some of the similar challenges they may be facing.

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

As the winter progresses the 'Cost of Living Crisis' continues to impact the lives of local families and children. The Children's Centre are running regular 'Cost of Living' Coffee Mornings every Friday from 9am - 10am. This is a drop in session for anyone who may be experiencing hardship and require support. There is a pre-loved uniform and clothing stall, food bank, advice relating to benefits and information regarding support available in Newham. All are welcome.

The Children's Centre Team is working closely with Green Street Library to encourage families to register their child and borrow books to read and share at home. The library is a wonderful resource for everyone and there are activities for children every weekend and during the holidays. This term all of our children have been invited to a 'Bookstart Story Session' with their teacher and received a free pack of books and activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Children's Centre Team if you need advice or support on any issue:

Marie Foley 07904 663072

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CONTACT US

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.

SPRING TERM DATES 2023

FEBRUARY 2023

Monday 20th February	Children return to Primary and Nursery after half term
Wednesday 22nd February	Year 2 Headteacher Q&A for parents @ 3:15pm

MARCH 2023

Wednesday 1st March	Nursery Curriculum Day: Reading
Thursday 2nd March	World book Day
Friday 3rd March	Spelling Bee
Tuesday 7th March	Year 1 Headteacher Q&A for parents @3:15pm
Wednesday 8th March	Fairplay House Year 5 Parent Meeting @ 2:45pm
Thursday 9th March	Year 2 SATS procedure parent meeting @2:45pm
Tuesday 14th March	Year 1 Forest Visit
Thursday 16th March	Full Governing Body Meeting @4pm
Friday 17th March	Mum's Morning
Tuesday 21st March	Year 5 and 6 Parent Workshop @9am
Wednesday 22nd March	Reception classes Headteacher Q&A for parents @3:15pm
Wednesday 22nd-Friday 24th March	Year 5 residential visit to Fairplay House
Tuesday 28th March	Year 4 Parent's Assembly @9am
Friday 31st March	Year 1 - 6 reports to Parents



	Reception report cards to parents HNF report cards to parents
Friday 31st March	Last Day of Term
APRIL 2023	
Monday 17th April	School restarts at 8:45 am
Children's Centre will be closed from 7th April - 14th April 2023	

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

SUMMER TERM 2023

First day of term	Monday 17 th April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Bank Holiday	The Coronation of King Charles III Monday 8th May
Half term	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
Last day of term	Friday 21st July

AUTUMN TERM 2023

First day of term	Monday 4th September
Half term	Monday 23rd October to Friday 3rd November
Last day of term	Friday 22nd December 12.45pm finish

SPRING TERM 2024

First day of term	Monday 8th January
Half term	Monday 12th February to Friday 16 th February
Last day of term	Thursday 28th March 12.45pm finish

