



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

## Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 6

5th June 2023

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges we have faced together.

It has been a year of great achievement, with our children demonstrating their commitment to learning and making progress. I am proud of the dedication and hard work shown by our children, teachers and staff, who have all played a part in the success of the school.

One of the highlights of the year was the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. The school picnic event was a great success, and it was wonderful to see the whole school come together to mark this important occasion.

A number of our nursery children will be moving to reception classes at the end of this term. They will be moving to a variety of schools and I wish them a smooth and happy transition into their new classes. All children will have the opportunity to meet their teacher for next year during a transition morning in the last week of term.

We also say farewell to our Year 6 children at the end of this term as they prepare to move on to secondary school. As you move on to new adventures, remember the values St Stephen's has instilled in you and embrace challenges with an open mind. Cherish the friendships you have made and keep fostering connections. Thank you for your hard work and the joy you have brought to our school. We believe in your ability to achieve greatness and wish you success and happiness in all your future endeavours.

Finally, I want to wish all of our children, parents and staff a happy and safe summer break. I encourage you to take some time to rest and recharge, so that you can return to school in September ready to learn and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Ms Neena Lall OBE*  
Headteacher

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

In line with the most recent guidance from the Department of Education, pupils must aim to attend school every day. With this in mind, please note that all absence counts against your child's attendance percentage. All attendance below 98% will be tracked and monitored to address continued absence.

As always, we want to work collaboratively with you to ensure the best outcomes for our children.



**School opens at 8:30am**

**Pupils arriving at 8:45am or later will be marked late**



**All holidays are unauthorised. From September 2023, we will be notifying the borough of any extended holidays which could lead to penalties and fines.**

**Lateness = Lost Learning**

5 minutes everyday =  
3 days of lost learning

15 minutes everyday =  
8 days of lost learning

30 minutes late everyday =  
16 days of lost learning

**Attendance Percentages can be misleading**

95% =  
9 days of school missed

85% =  
28 days of school missed

75% =  
46 days of school missed

## WALK TO SCHOOL

This term, we are very excited to be taking part in Walk to School week from Monday 15th to Friday 19th May. Walk to School week is a five-day walking challenge in the middle of National Walking month. In schools and nurseries across the country, children and school staff are encouraged to travel to and from school in a sustainable, healthy way!

Walking has so many benefits- it improves fitness, it makes children more alert when they come into school, it can improve their mood and it will reduce car pollution. It is also a great way to spend time together with family and friends and talk about your day!

At St Stephen's we will be doing lots of fun activities throughout the week, including assemblies, quizzes, workshops and an inter-class competition for the class with the most walkers over the 5 days. The winning class will receive a prize.

We look forward to celebrating Walk to School week with you!

## **CELEBRATIONS: FRUIT AND PARTY BAGS**

Following the letter sent last half term regarding birthday fruit and party bags, may we take this opportunity to remind you that class treats are no longer accepted by the school.

Instead we invite you to donate a book to the class library. 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.

Please be advised that unfortunately any birthday gifts for the class, including fruit, brought into school will be returned home, and this rule is for all classes from Reception through to Year 6

Thank you for your support.

## **TRANSITION**

In this final half term of the year teachers will be preparing pupils so that they are ready to join their new year group in September.

Teacher's will be further developing their basic skills, such as, phonics, reading and times tables, as well as their concentration and independence.

Your child will be meeting their new teacher later this term during our transition morning. Parents will be informed of their child's new teacher in their end of term report card.

You can support your child by ensuring that they read everyday and that they are as independent as possible.

## **WE CARE**

We are reviewing and updating our WE CARE values charter to reflect our school's context.

Well-being

Expression

Courtesy

Acceptance

Respect

Excellence

One of our next steps is to create a poem that reflects WE CARE. If you have a flair for crafting poetry and/or songwriting then please do share your ideas with us.

We look forward to seeing your creations.

## **REPORTS, FEEDBACK and COMMUNICATION**

*Article 28- Every child has a right to an education which develops their full potential*

Over the year you will be given feedback on your child each term. You will receive 2 Report Cards, have 2 Parent Meetings and receive an Annual Report. Every report we send home will inform you of how your child is doing academically and with their well being and attitude to learning. It will also give targets on how you can further support your child at home.

This term, children in the Reception classes will be bringing home their Annual Report on Friday 7th July. You will then have the opportunity to discuss your child's report and their progress on Parent Consultation Day which will be on Thursday 13th July.

Years 1 to 6 parents will receive their end of year report card on Friday 21st July. The report card will contain details of attainment, as well as information about who your child's teacher will be in September.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your child's time in school, please speak to your child's teacher.

## **STAFFING**

We are sad to be saying goodbye to some of our staff. Tess Brown, Elin Harding, Isabelle North and Mizzy Ranthe all trained at St. Stephen's and we wish them the best of luck as they move forward with their careers.

In the Nursery we also have a number of staff who are moving on in their careers. We thank Melissa MacFarlane, Julliana Sultana and Tammy Lovegrove for their commitment to the children and wish them well for the future.

We are also saying goodbye to Sree Rangan, who has supported pupils in Key Stage 1 this academic year.

I would like to thank all of them for their commitment to the children of St Stephen's and wish them all well.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

*Article 19: Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.*

### **Child Safety Week**

#### **Road safety**

Child Safety Week is the perfect time to remind ourselves and others about the importance of keeping children safe from potential dangers in and outside of the home. One of the most significant risks to children is the road. It's essential that parents teach their children good road safety habits. This can include holding hands when crossing the road, looking both ways before crossing, and understanding the importance of road signs and traffic lights. It's crucial for adults to model good behaviour and use appropriate crossings themselves.

#### **Household products**

Another potential danger is poisonous household products. These can include cleaning chemicals, medication, and cosmetics. Young children can be curious and may accidentally ingest these products. It's important to keep them out of reach, in a locked cupboard, and always keep them in their original containers. When disposing of any hazardous materials, please ensure that it is done safely and disposed of correctly.

By taking these simple precautions, we can ensure that children stay safe and healthy in their surroundings. Remember, prevention is always better than cure, especially when it comes to our little ones.

## NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Nursery is now allocating places for September 2023. We have spaces for two year olds and three year olds.

If you have received a 'Golden Ticket' from the Local Authority then you will be eligible for a two year old space. Please register your ticket and then bring it to the Nursery and your child's name will be added to the waiting list.

If your child is 3 years old please come to the Nursery entrance and ask for an admission form at the front office. Your child's name will then be added to the waiting list.

Children's Centre will be having a 'Child Safety' week June 5th to June 9th. Most accidents involving children happen in the home and it is important for us all to be aware of the potential dangers in the kitchen which could easily be prevented. We will also be sharing information on how to teach your child about road safety. Now that many children are walking and scooting to Nursery it is important they know how to keep themselves safe.

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.



## SUMMER TERM 2 DIARY DATES 2023

### JUNE

Monday 5th June	Term Starts
Week Beginning Monday 12th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Tests
Week Beginning Monday 12th June	Year 4 Times Tables Tests
Wednesday 14th June	Primary School Class Photographs
Friday 16th June	Dads and Male Carers Morning
Monday 19th June	ASSESSMENT WEEK
Tuesday 20th June	Year 2 Educational visit to Chalkwell
Wednesday 21st June	New Reception Parent Meeting at 9am
Thursday 22nd June	60 Year 6 children on Educational Visit to Natural History Museum
Tuesday 27th June	Reception Parent Workshop 5- Transition to Y1
Wednesday 28th June	30 Year 6 children on Educational Visit to Natural History Museum
Thursday 15th June	Governors' Finance Committee meeting @10am

### JULY

Monday 3rd July	Year 5 and 6 sports day in West Ham Park
Tuesday 4th July	Year 3 and 4 sports day in West Ham Park
Tuesday 4th July	Governor's Meeting @ 4pm
Wednesday 5th July	Nursery and Reception Sports Day
Thursday 6th July	Year 1 and 2 sports day in West Ham Park
Thursday 6th July	Year 6 to Open Air Theatre: Robin Hood
Friday 7th July	Reception Annual Report to parents
Wednesday 12th July	Nursery Performances 10.00am and 1.30pm
Thursday 13th July	Nursery and Reception Parents Consultation Day-Reception Class closed
Thursday 13th July	Year 6 Production: 7pm
Monday 17th July	Year 6 Graduation and leavers celebration visit
Thursday 20th July	Last day for Maintained Nursery
Friday 21st July	Report Card to parents
Friday 21st July	Summer Holiday - School closes at 12:45 pm (Yellow Room closes at 6pm)

Children's Centre closes on Friday 11th August and reopens on Tuesday 29th August.  
 Children's Centre for stay and play activities Monday 4th September  
 Monday 4th September - Primary School and Yellow room reopens  
 Monday 11th September-Nursery School reopens  
 I will inform you of any additional dates and events that may be set during the term.

## SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

### SUMMER TERM 2023

Last day of term	Friday 21st July 12.45pm finish
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### AUTUMN TERM 2023

First day of term Primary	Monday 4th September
First day of term Nursery	Monday 11th 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 <sup>th</sup> February
Last day of term	Thursday 28th March 12.45pm finish

### SUMMER TERM 2024

First day of term	Monday 15th April
May Day	Monday 6th May
Half term	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May
Last day of term	Tuesday 23rd July 12.45pm finish