



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 3

8th January 2024

Dear Parents, carers and children,

Happy New Year!

As we embark on this exciting journey into 2024, I hope this message finds you rejuvenated and ready for the fantastic opportunities and experiences that lie ahead.

I am thrilled to share the success of our recent visit from Amanda Spielman, His Majesty's Chief Inspector, OFSTED. It was an honour to welcome her to our school. Her insightful observations and positive feedback regarding our school's curriculum, teaching and the engagement of your children were incredibly encouraging. Ms. Spielman commended the dedication of our staff across the federation. Her visit was a testament to the hard work and commitment exhibited by everyone involved in our school.

As we enter the new year, I stress the importance of responsible communication and discourage the spread of rumours, particularly regarding accidents or injuries, as this can cause unnecessary anxiety in our school community. In the event of any incidents on our premises, rest assured, our priority is the safety of our children and staff. Our established protocols ensure swift and accurate communication to maintain transparency and trust. I urge parents to avoid speculation and rely on official school channels for information. Your concerns regarding safety or any school matters are welcome; open communication ensures a secure and nurturing environment for all.

I urge our children to embrace every opportunity that comes their way this year - to pursue their dreams with determination and enthusiasm. To the parents and carers, your partnership and involvement in your child's education are invaluable, and we look forward to working together to ensure their success.

As we embrace 2024 let us continue to foster a culture of inclusivity, appreciation, positivity and collaboration within our school community.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Here's to a fantastic year ahead filled with learning and joy!

With much respect,

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS- Mr Shashankar Jana

Hope you had a nice Christmas break.

Happy New Year 2024!

WE welcome everyone back to school for another year of great success and joy. 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 continue to work 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 leadership team.

The children in our school achieve high standards across the curriculum as verified by OFSTED. We are justifiably very proud of them and would like to thank the parents who encourage and support their children so admirably. In an outstanding school, such as ours, parents take a great interest in their child's learning and development. I appeal to our amazing parents to continue to help us bring the best out of our children.

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 new year to come.

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 continues to work with many vulnerable families, and during the Christmas break, the team delivered toys and gifts to the many families that we support in the community.
- Macmillan Coffee Morning :£619.52
- Royal British Legion: £205.41
- Children in Need: £1678.84

We would also like to say thank you for your donations to the British Red Cross towards the current humanitarian crisis: £422.55

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT:

- Current Balance £2327.77



KENNETH MORE THEATRE VISIT

PETER PAN

Reception, Year 1 and 2 went to the Kenneth More theatre, to watch the annual Christmas pantomime of Peter Pan.

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

It was 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 at the end of each term. The child is selected by the adults who work within their class and is for those who have demonstrated a joy for coming to school and embracing all that St Stephen's has to offer.

I would like to congratulate the joy cup winners for the Autumn Term 2023.

RNO: Umar Namaazi RLP: Sia Patel RJM: Zahra Hussain	1AG- Zayn Adam 1JR: Adam Patel 1SS: Fabiha Alam	2EW: Mahra Sheikh 2NB: Yusuf Mahmood 2PM: Hafsa Hussain	3JC: Khadija Sarwar 3MK: Zakariyya Abdin 3DH: Fathima Shaza Rishard	4RF - Khadija Fatima 4PC- Marwah Ozair 4LD - Zakariya Mahmed	5EW Hareem Fatima Mahmood 5RM Jai Vijay Patel 5JL: Farheen Patel	6AQ: Devraj Singh 6CC: Aisha Harif 6AW: Inaya Nazir
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ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance and punctuality are both life skills that they need to develop whilst they are young. It is important that all children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives.

Attendance

4th September-20th December 2023	
Year	%
Nursery	87
Reception	92.3
Year 1	95.7
Year 2	95.3
Year 3	95.4
Year 4	96.2
Year 5	94.3
Year 6	95.2

Well done to Years 4 & 1 for having the best attendance so far!

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

Punctuality

Below are the classes in each year group who have had the best punctuality so far!

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
RJM	1JR	2PM	3JC	4PC	5RM	6CC

SAFEGUARDING

Statutory duty

All people working with children have a statutory duty to ensure their safety and wellbeing. This is why safeguarding is paramount in all schools. As part of this duty, we create a secure environment where children feel safe, respected and heard. We also cover a range of safeguarding topics through our bespoke curriculum including inviting external professions where appropriate.

Our safeguarding duty also encompasses various responsibilities including identifying and addressing any concerns about the welfare of our children. We work closely with families, our Children's Centre and external agencies and when needed refer cases to Social Care as part of our statutory duty.

Further details can be found in the safeguarding section of the school website.

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The children that started nursery in September are now settled and learning. The Nursery staff are supporting all of our children to develop social skills, for example saying 'please' and 'thank you', taking turns and being kind and caring to others. Please help your child with this by encouraging them to say 'Good Morning' or 'Good Afternoon' when they arrive at school.

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.

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. On the last Friday of every month the centre holds a 'Cost of Living Coffee Morning' in the Nursery and a 'Pre-Loved Uniform Sale' at lunchtime in the Primary. All are welcome.

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

CONTACT US

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Primary Deputy Head Teacher

Ms Georgia Dawson georgia.dawson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

This newsletter is also available on the school website.

SPRING TERM EVENT DATES 2024

JANUARY 2024	
Tuesday 2nd January	Children's Centre opens
Monday 8th January	Nursery and Primary pupils return to School
Tuesday 16th January	Nursery and Reception Classes Parent Consultation Day - Classes closed for the day
Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th January	Year 5 Educational Visit to to Where is Victor - Play at Redbridge Drama Centre
Friday 19th January	Year 3 Skateboarding Workshop
Tuesday 23rd January	Year 5 Curriculum Parent Workshop: Secrets of the Amazon
Tuesday 23rd January	Year 6 Tate and Lyle Visits
Friday 26th January	Dietician in Children's Centre
Tuesday 30th January	Year 4 Times table parent workshop @ 2:45pm
Wednesday 31st January	Reception Parent Workshop @ 8:30am
Wednesday 31st January	Children's Centre Health Event
Wednesday 7 th February	Year 6 SATS parent meeting @ 2:45pm
Thursday 8th February	Year 3 Parent's Assembly @ 8:30am
Thursday 8th February	Year 2 SATS Parent Workshop @ 2:45pm
FEBRUARY 2024	
Wednesday 21st February	Scholastic Book Fair Arrives for one week
Thursday 7th March	Governors Open Day
Friday 8th March	Mum's Morning
Tuesday 12th March	Year 2 Curriculum Parent Workshop: I am a Warrior!
Wednesday 13th March - Friday 15th March	Year 5 Fairplay House Residential
Tuesday 19th March	Year 1 Forest Visit
Wednesday 20th March	Reception West Ham Park Visit
Thursday 21st March	Year 4 Parent's Assembly @ 8:30am
Wednesday 27th March	Year 3 Curriculum Parent Workshop: Egyptian Expedition



Wednesday 27th March	Last Day of Term for Nursery School
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term for Primary School: Closes at 12:45pm

- Friday 9th 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 19th 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 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

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

AUTUMN TERM 2024

1 TT day	Monday 2nd September
First day of term for pupils	Tuesday 3rd September
Half term	Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November
Last day of term	Friday 20th December 12.45pm finish

