



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 4

19th February 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the half term break! We hope you had a rejuvenating time with your families.

The value of fairness is an overarching theme that guides our efforts in fostering a culture of inclusivity and celebration of diversity. We believe that education on diversity cultivates open-mindedness and nurtures children's social and emotional development, laying the groundwork for a harmonious and inclusive society.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a diverse population at St. Stephen's, representing a rich variety of cultures, religions, traditions and languages. Embracing and respecting these differences is paramount in fostering global understanding and unity.

A clear example of our commitment to celebrating diversity was evident in the recent Year 3 Parent assembly, where we celebrated the Lunar (Chinese) New Year. The assembly showcased the culmination of our broad and balanced curriculum, featuring vibrant displays of music, drama, dance, art and other creative expressions.

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, we extend our best wishes to all families observing this sacred time. May it be a period of spiritual growth, reflection and peace for everyone in our school community.

As always, I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or simply wish to engage. Our open-door policy reflects our commitment to transparency and collaboration and our senior staff members are readily available at both the front and back gates each day.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth and development of our students.

Warm regards,
Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher



ATTENDANCE**4th September- 7th February 2024**

Year	%	Well done to Year 5 for having the best attendance so far!
Nursery	83.4	
Reception	91.6	
Year 1	94.7	
Year 2	94.5	
Year 3	94	
Year 4	95.5	
Year 5	95.8	
Year 6	94	

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

Parent Curriculum Workshops

This year marks the exciting relaunch of our series of parent curriculum workshops. These in-school events provide a unique opportunity for parents to actively engage in immersive experiences connected to their children's learning for the term. Thus far, Year 6 embarked on an Ancient Olympic-inspired morning, delving into historic sporting events; Year 5 uncovered the mysteries of the Amazon, and Reception shared enchanting tales of Blue Penguin and Emily Brown.

These workshops serve as exceptional moments for parents to delve into the interactive methods through which children are immersed in these captivating topics. They leave an indelible mark on the children, creating memories that endure for years.

Your involvement in these events is pivotal to their success and impact on the children. We encourage you, whenever feasible, to participate and seize these opportunities. The collaboration between school staff and parents who share enthusiasm for these learning areas fosters a deeper appreciation and interest in the children's educational journey.

The remaining workshops for this year include:

Year 2	I am a Warrior!	12th March 2024
Year 3	Egyptian Expedition	27th March 2024
Year 1	Marvellous Monarchy	30th April 2024
Year 4	Is it Fair?	7th May 2024
Reception	Surprising Sharks	8th May 2024



ANNUAL REPORTS TO PARENTS AND REPORT CARDS

At the end of this term on Thursday 28th 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 and 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

Do you know who your children are talking to or messaging online?

Do your children know who they are talking to or messaging online?

We strongly advise parents and carers to consider age restrictions when it comes to the games their children play or the apps they engage with. It is crucial to be aware that ROBLOX, an online/app game designated for ages 7 and older, has been used by predatory adults posing as children.

At St. Stephen's, we actively instruct our students to promptly report, block and confide in a trusted adult if they encounter anything suspicious while online. We implore parents to foster an environment where their children feel comfortable openly discussing their online interactions.

Encourage your children to share openly and honestly about the apps and games they are using, allowing you to understand what they are doing online and helping them to stay safe.

Useful guidance for parents of children 0-5:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-0-5s-Jan23.pdf>

Useful guidance for parents of children 6-11:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-6-10s-Jan23.pdf>

Safer Internet Day

Does your online personality match what we see 'in real life' (IRL)?

On Tuesday 6th February we marked Safer Internet day and launched our new golden rules:

Golden Rules: Online Reputation

Reception: I can explain what online activities are educational and what are for fun.

KS1: I can explain how information put online about someone can last for a long time.

LKS2: I can explain ways that some of the information about anyone online could have been created, copied or shared by others.

UKS2: I can explain strategies anyone can use to protect their 'digital personality' and online reputation, including degrees of anonymity.

For their February half term homework, the pupils created posters that highlighted their Digital Footprint.

Definitions:



Digital reputation: your behaviour online including what you say about others and what you post about yourself.

Digital footprint: the trail of information/data you leave behind when using the internet.

Here is a short video clip that explains what we mean by **digital footprint**:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06z2lvy>

MEDICAL

Our federated medical team are currently reviewing pupil care plans and in school provisions to ensure that all children's needs are being met. If you have any medical documents, reports, appointments or prescriptions relating to your child's medical condition, please could we ask that you bring these to the school office for our records.

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

As Spring approaches, and hopefully some brighter weather, we are asking you to leave your children's pushchairs at home and encourage your children to walk or scoot to Nursery. Children who walk to school are healthier, they sleep better, they develop a good appetite and they are more able to concentrate when they are in Nursery. If you need any help or support to enable your child to walk sensibly beside you please talk to your child's key person or one of the children's centre team.

On Thursday 7th February the Children's Centre held a 'Health Event'. The event offered a range of information and support for families covering a multitude of health issues including: oral health, diabetes, maintaining heart health and mental health. One of the stalls suggested how we can all improve our health by 'Eating the Rainbow', which means including fruits and vegetables of all the colours of the rainbow when cooking and preparing food.

The Children's Centre are continuing to run their 'Cost of Living' Coffee Mornings on the last Friday of each month 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.

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

Meral Sami 07494 067676

Wendy Campbell 07946 708602

CONTACT US

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.

SPRING TERM DATES 2024

FEBRUARY 2024

Monday 19th February	Children return to Primary and Nursery after half term
Wednesday 21st February	Scholastic Book Fair Arrives for one week

MARCH 2024

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
Wednesday 27th March	Year 3 Curriculum Parent Workshop: Egyptian Expedition
Wednesday 27th March	Last Day of Term for Nursery School
Thursday 28th March	Year 1 - 6 reports to Parents Reception report cards to parents HNF report cards to parents Last Day of Term for Primary School: Closes at 12:45pm

APRIL 2024

Monday 15th April	School restarts at 8:45 am
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- Children's Centre will be closed from 8th April - 12th April 2024

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

