



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

Issue 5

Headteacher's Newsletter

15th April 2024

Dear Parents,

As we begin this term, we would like to extend our best wishes to those who celebrated Easter, Eid, Holi and Vaisakhi. We hope these celebrations brought joy, happiness and a sense of togetherness to your families.

I hope you had a restful break and are ready for the excitement and learning opportunities the summer term brings! As we embark on this new term, we would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our children and families.

Firstly, I would like to inform you that we are still eagerly awaiting the publication of the Nursery OFSTED report, which took place in February. As we receive the report, I will share the outcomes with all of you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to gently remind everyone about our uniform policy, particularly regarding footwear. Black shoes are a vital part of our uniform and we kindly ask for your support in ensuring that all children adhere to this policy. Your cooperation in maintaining our school's standards is greatly appreciated.

While I recognise that occasional exceptions may arise due to medical reasons, such deviations should be temporary. It is worth noting that black shoes come in a variety of styles and can accommodate various needs and preferences. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that our uniform policy is consistently followed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Wishing you all a fantastic start to the summer term!

With much respect

Ms Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS-Mr Shashankar Jana

I am very happy to welcome all our pupils back to school for another warm and wonderful term.

First of all, my warm Eid wishes to all.

I sincerely hope you all had a great break and festive celebration. I also hope that you are rested, revitalised, and prepared to begin a new term.

On behalf of all governors, I would like to thank our Head Teacher Ms. Neena Lall OBE and her talented and passionate senior leadership team, administrative team and all the staff for their hard work, immense dedication, and resilient determination.

They have supported our children with mental health and overall wellbeing as well as educating them throughout as always. The goal of every member of our team is to make school enjoyable for every pupil.

Our best wishes and good luck to all year 6 pupils sitting their SATs exams this term - Do Your Best & You Will Be Fine!

As always, we appreciate our parents who encourage and help their children along with the support from our excellent school team. Wishing you all the very best. Please reach out to the school or to the governors through the school if you need any support with your children or even for just a chat if you need the support. We are here to help.

JOY CUP

(Article 29- Education must develop every child's personality and talents)

The joy cup is awarded to a member of each class each term. It 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 Spring Term.

<u>Reception</u>	<u>Key Stage 1</u>	<u>Lower Key Stage 2</u>	<u>Upper Key Stage 2</u>
RNO: Kaashini Bakkiyaraj RLP: Abdul Ahad Qadeer RJM: Muhammad Ahmad	1AG: Eshbaal Saqib 1JR: Khadeejah Islam 1SS: Muhammad Yusuf Mohmed	3JC: Muhammad Aryaan Ahmed 3MK: Hiba Mashood 3DH: Mustafa Mukadam	5EW: Heer Patel 5RM: Shreya Vishnu 5JL: Ismaeel Islam
	2EW: Alaynah Naviya 2NB: Malaikah Shakeel 2PM: Hishaam Jafhar Sadiq	4RF: Abdul Rahman 4PC: Emaan Sheikh 4LD: Mohammad Ashar Yawer	6AQ: Muskan Nadim Vohra 6CC: Mishal Fatima 6AW: Kameel Farhan Mohammed

PARENTS' EVENINGS

This term, we will be holding parent's evenings for years 1 to 6 on Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th April from 4pm-7pm.

This is your opportunity to discuss your child's progress and wellbeing with their class teacher face to face. Please see your individual date and time on your child's report card.

Reception and Nursery will have their parent consultation day on Tuesday 23rd April. The Reception appointments are from 9:00am to 6:30pm. All Nursery appointments are from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Please note that Reception and Nursery classes will be closed for all children on Tuesday 23rd April.

ATTENDANCE

(Article 28- Every child has the right to an education)

We wanted to remind you of some key messages around attendance. **Please remember that children must come to school every day** and that **holidays are unauthorised** and should only be taken during the school holidays.

At the end of each month, individual pupil attendance is tracked. The following stages are in place for children who are not at the expected attendance percentage.

Stage 1 Letter informing parent of attendance	Stage 2 Warning letter and meeting with the Learning Mentor	Stage 3 Meeting with class teacher	Stage 4 Meeting with Attendance lead and warning of fine	Stage 5 Fine procedure implemented
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Please see below the attendance percentage for each year group for Spring term.

4th September-22nd March 2024		
Year	%	Well done to Year 4 and Year 5 for having the best attendance to date!
Nursery	84.4%	
Reception	92.1%	
Year 1	94.4%	
Year 2	94.5%	
Year 3	94.3%	
Year 4	95.9%	
Year 5	95.9%	
Year 6	94.6%	

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



FREE CHILDCARE FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

Do you have a 2 year old at home?

Why not check if you are eligible for 15 hours of free childcare?

St Stephen's Nursery will be increasing the number of two year old spaces from September 2024. There are many benefits of attending Nursery from the age of two: children learn how to talk and play, make friends and develop their physical skills to support them being independent and confident when they start school.

In order to access a place you will need to fulfil the eligibility criteria. From April 2024 this is expanding to include working parents.

To check if you are eligible for this free childcare and apply for a place please talk to staff at the Nursery front desk, or use the following link:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/03/15/how-to-claim-15-hours-free-childcare-code/>

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Article 28- Every child has the right to an education

The Nursery is now allocating places for September 2024. We have spaces for two year olds and three year olds.

If you are eligible for a two year old space please register with 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.

If both parents are working and you are interested in a 30 hours place please follow the link below to check your eligibility: <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Please be aware when registering your child at the Nursery that this does not automatically entitle your child to a place at St Stephen's Primary School.

If your child is eventually allocated a place in the Reception class at St Stephen's when they leave Nursery it is worth remembering that the school closes at 1:00pm every Friday afternoon and there is no childcare available.

SAFEGUARDING - Medical procedures

We have recently become aware of concerning information regarding an individual in Newham who is offering unauthorised medical services aimed at treating children with autism. It appears that this individual, based in Bangladesh, is conducting webinars discussing a treatment method that involves invasive measures - extracting spinal fluid which is injected into the head.



This treatment is not licensed, and it poses significant risks to the health and safety of children. There's no scientific evidence supporting its effectiveness, and pursuing it could potentially endanger lives.

If you happen to come across any information related to this unauthorised treatment, please promptly inform the school office. We will then coordinate with the appropriate authorities to ensure that necessary actions are taken to protect the welfare of children.

We want to emphasise the importance of safeguarding the well-being of all children. If you have concerns about your child's health then please take them to your local GP surgery. All medical practitioners in the UK are regulated under the General Medical Council and will therefore offer you the best possible course of treatment available. If you need to register with a doctor please follow the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery>

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

On the 8th March the Children's Centre celebrated International Women's Day. Mums, Grandmas, Aunties and all female carer's were invited to join us to raise awareness about discrimination and also the irreplaceable contribution that women make in our community and globally. The women who attended the session took part in a range of creative activities and a 'Mindfulness for Wellbeing' session.

On the 20th of March it was 'World Oral Health Day'. It is crucial that we support our children to take good care of their teeth - they need to last a lifetime! In addition to tooth brushing, limiting sugary foods and drinks to a minimum can help to keep teeth strong and healthy. It is also important to take your child to the dentist regularly. You can search for an NHS dentist near you on this site:

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>

Please contact the following staff for help and support:

Marie Foley: 07904 663 072

Meral Sami: 07494 067 676

Wendy Campbell: 07946 708 602

CONTACT US

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.

SUMMER TERM 1 DIARY DATES 2024

APRIL	
Tuesday 23rd April	Parent's Evening for years 1 - 6 Nursery and Reception Parent Consultation Day Nursery and Reception classes will be CLOSED
Thursday 25th April	Parent's Evening for years 1 - 6
Tuesday 30th April	Year 1 Parent Workshop - Marvellous Monarchy
Tuesday 30th April	Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting @3pm
MAY	
Thursday 2nd May	Polling Day - Primary School closed
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday - School Federation closed
Tuesday 7th May	Year 4 Parent Workshop - Is it Fair
Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Thursday 23rd May	Year 5 Parents Assembly @8:45am
Thursday 23rd May	Summer Fair 4:30-6:30pm
Monday 27th May- Friday 31st May	Half Term holiday

The Children's Centre will remain open during half term.

Monday 3rd June -School restarts at 8:30 am

I will inform you of any additional dates and events that may be set during the term.



SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

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

SPRING TERM 2025

First day of term	Monday 6th January
Half term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February
Last day of term	Friday 4th April 12.45pm finish

