



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2

4th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you and your family well.

At the heart of our school's vision is the commitment to ensure that every child reaches their full potential. A key factor in achieving this is maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality. Daily attendance plays a crucial role in your child's learning and I want to emphasise the importance of arriving on time each day. Please note the school gates open at 8.15am.

Please note that extended holidays during term time will not be authorised. We encourage families to plan any trips abroad during the school holidays. If your child has an appointment, we kindly request that you schedule these for Friday afternoons whenever possible, as this helps minimise any disruption to their learning.

Our goal is 100% attendance for all pupils and we greatly appreciate your efforts in supporting us to achieve this. We are required to closely monitor attendance and will notify parents if it falls below specific thresholds. Please be assured that any letters you receive are standard notifications and are intended to keep you informed. Open communication is key to ensuring that any absences are valid and that we can work together to address any concerns early on.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support at our recent events, including the MacMillan Coffee Morning and the Harvest Festival. It is truly inspiring to see our school community come together to raise funds for such important causes. Your generosity is making a real difference in supporting vulnerable families within our community.

Last term's Year 1 Parents' Assembly, which celebrated Diwali, was a wonderful showcase of our children's talents through song, dance and drama. It was an absolute joy to witness and I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all our families celebrating Diwali this year.

This term, we welcome Victoria Ready as she starts her teaching career here at St Stephen's in Year 2.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Your involvement is essential to ensuring the success and well-being of our children.

With much respect and appreciation,

Ms. Neena Lall OBE- Headteacher



A Reminder on Respectful Communication

At our school, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where all members of our community—students, staff, and parents—are treated with respect and kindness. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining respectful and calm communication with all staff members.

Our staff are dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to ensure that your children receive the best care and education possible. We understand that, at times, there may be concerns or questions about your child's experience, and we encourage open communication. However, it is essential that these conversations are conducted respectfully and constructively.

Behaviours such as shouting, pointing or using aggressive language towards staff are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We ask that all interactions, whether in person, over the phone or via email, are handled with the same kindness, respect and courtesy we show your children every day.

Together, we can ensure a safe and positive environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

REPORT IT!

We all want our children to grow up in a clean, safe environment that is free of litter and waste. In recent weeks, we have noticed an increase in the amount of empty bottles, cans, food waste and old furniture on the local streets around the school. If you see anyone disposing of their waste on the pavement or find old items dumped on your street then please make sure to report it.

Love Clean Streets is the free smartphone app and website that allows you to report environmental issues directly to Newham Council. In less than 40 seconds you can report problems such as graffiti, fly-tipping, fly-posting, litter and dog fouling.

All Newham residents can download the Love Clean Streets app using the link below:

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/contact-information/love-newham-app-website>

Or you can report directly from the Love Clean Streets Website: <https://lovecleanstreets.info/>

If you have any bulky waste that you need to dispose of, Newham Council will collect it and dispose of it properly for a small fee.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY - Article 24 Every child has the right to an education

3rd September-15th October 2024

Year	%	Well done to Year 5 for having the best attendance so far!
Nursery	82	
Reception	93.7	
Year 1	95.8	
Year 2	96.1	
Year 3	96.2	
Year 4	97.7	

Year 5	97.8	
Year 6	97.2	

Please note that 98% and above attendance is St. Stephen's school target.

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 phone call to parents	Stage 3 Meeting with class teacher	Stage 4 Meeting with Attendance leads and warning of fine	Stage 5 Fine procedure implemented
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Punctuality

Parents please make sure that your child comes to school on time everyday. The class registers are done at 8:30am, any child who comes in after that will be marked as late. Also, school finishes at 3:15pm, Mon- Thurs and 12.45pm on Friday so please collect your child on time everyday.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND HOUSE CAPTAINS - Article 12 Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

I am delighted to announce the newly appointed Junior Leadership Team (JLT) and House Captains for 2024/2025.

The selection process provided our Year 6 pupils with a valuable experience, beginning with filling out an application form. After careful review, the leadership team shortlisted candidates for interviews.

On Tuesday, 8th October, the interviews were conducted by Esther (Year 6 Lead), Rebekah (Houses Lead), Georgia and myself.

We were incredibly impressed by the candidates' articulation, confidence and authenticity. They shared innovative ideas to help move our school forward and engaged in mature, thoughtful discussions during the interviews. It was a true pleasure to meet them and see their personalities shine through.

Head Boy	Head Girl	Deputy Head Boy	Deputy Head Girl
Zain Amdavadi	Hareem Mahmood	Samuel Chapman	Samah Ali

Fire House Captains	Air House Captains	Earth House Captains	Water House Captains
Afifah Ali	Sumaiya Imran	Naitri Prajapati	Zumaynah Zahid
Muhammad Tosif Patel	Zain Zafar	Vedant Dhakecha	Joel Williams

NURSERY READINESS EVENT 15th OCTOBER 2024

On Tuesday 15th October 2024 more than 60 parents and carers attended the Nursery and Children's Centre "Nursery Readiness" workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to empower parents with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to ensure that both they and their children are prepared and excited for the transition to nursery. The following topics were covered:

- Improving attendance
- Encouraging independence



- Toilet training, bin the bottle, walk to school
- Positive behaviour management
- Monitoring screen time
- The importance of talking and playing with your child
- The importance of a positive and clean home environment which nurtures relationships
- Encouraging physical activity and accessing local outdoor amenities

If you need any additional support with any of the above please speak to a member of the children's centre team:

Marie Foley- 07904663072

Meral Sami- 07494067676

PARENTS EVENING

Early October, parents had the opportunity to meet class teachers to discuss how their child settled into the new academic year.

The meetings were 10 minutes, for Years 1 - 6. All parents had the opportunity to look at their child's workbooks and were given activity sheets pertinent to the year group. Reception parents had 15 minute appointments to discuss how their child has settled into their new reception class and school.

We were very pleased with the number of parents who attended Parents' Evening.

Primary School % of parents who attended their appointment on the day allocated	Nursery School % of parents who attended their appointment on the day allocated
97%	95%

Nursery

This was the first parent consultation day in the nursery. Now the children have settled into the nursery routine this meeting was an opportunity to discuss children's progress in the prime areas. It was great to see so many parents being involved and wanting to support their children's learning.

AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS

We have noticed an increase in sweet snacks being given to children as soon as they are collected. To promote healthier habits, please avoid giving snacks until children are home.

As you know, regularly eating sugary snacks can lead to health problems as well as increasing the risk of tooth decay. Encouraging healthier snack options, such as fruit, helps support lifelong healthy eating habits.

Additionally, snack packets and wrappers are also being dropped on the ground, so this will keep our school environment, as well as the surrounding roads, clean and tidy.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in supporting these efforts.

SAFEGUARDING - MANAGING BEHAVIOUR AT HOME

An important part of parenting is ensuring your child learns about boundaries and appropriate behaviour and this includes disciplining your child. We understand that finding the right balance can be challenging. Positive discipline techniques can teach children valuable lessons about responsibility and respect, and it's crucial to approach these situations with care and understanding.

It's important to remember that physical punishment, such as hitting, is never an acceptable way to discipline your child. It can lead to emotional and physical harm and often teaches children that violence is a solution to problems. Instead, consider using alternative methods, such as setting clear expectations, providing consequences for actions, and reinforcing positive behaviour.

If you are struggling with discipline at home, we are here to help! Our Learning Mentors and the Children's Centre offer valuable resources and support for parents. We can work together to find effective strategies that promote a loving and respectful environment for your child.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance or guidance. Together, we can ensure our children thrive both at home and in school!

CONTACT US

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Federated School Business Manager

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Mrs Jenna Chapman jenna.chapman@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Primary Deputy Head Teacher

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

This newsletter is also available on the school website.

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2024

NOVEMBER

Monday 4th November	School restarts at 8:30 am
Monday 11th November	1 minutes silence for Remembrance
Thursday 14th November	Reception visit to the park
Tuesday 26th November	Year 6 Curriculum Parent Workshop in the hall - Olympic Odyssey
Week beginning 25th November	Year 4 visit to the Natural History Museum: Volcanoes 4RM: Monday 25th November 4CC: Wednesday 27th November 4LT: Thursday 28th November
Tuesday 3rd December	Year 5 visit to the Imperial War Museum
Wednesday 20th November	Nursery Individual Photographs

DECEMBER

Thursday 5th December	Governor's Meeting @ 4pm
Wednesday 11th December	Key Stage 2 Visit to Lion King, Lyceum Theatre (6pm return)
Wednesday 11th December	Nursery Christmas Assembly at 10:45am and 2.45pm
Thursday 12th December	Reception Parents' Assembly at 8:45am
Monday 16th December	Christmas Themed Week
Tuesday 17th December	Year 2 Parents' Assembly at 8:45am
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19th December	Last Day for Nursery pupils
Friday 20th December	Report Cards to Parents
Friday 20th December	Christmas Holiday - School closes at 12:45 pm



Friday 20th December	Christmas Holiday- Children's Centre closes at 4:00pm
JANUARY 2025 SPRING TERM	
Thursday 2nd January	Children's Centre reopens
Monday 6th January	Primary Pupils return 8.30am
Monday 6th January	Nursery and Children's Centre closed for staff training
Tuesday 7th January	Maintained Nursery pupils return
I will inform you of any additional dates and events that may be set during the term.	

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2024

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

SUMMER TERM 2025

First day of term	Tuesday 22nd April
TT Day	Friday 2nd May
May Day	Monday 5th May
Half term	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May
Last day of term	Thursday 24th July 12.45pm finish