



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

**Headteacher's Newsletter**

**Issue 4**

**24th February 2025**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back after the half-term break! At St. Stephen's, we are so proud of our wonderfully diverse school community, where many cultures, religions, traditions and languages come together. By respecting and celebrating our differences, we build understanding and unity. A perfect example was the recent Year 3 Parent Assembly, where our children put on a fantastic showcase for the Lunar (Chinese) New Year. Through music, drama, dance and art, they brought the celebrations to life—such a great reflection of our broad and balanced curriculum!

As we step into Ramadan, we send our warmest wishes to all our families observing this special time. May it bring peace, reflection and spiritual growth.

**Important Notices**

- **Parents' Consultation Day:** Based on feedback from parents and staff, we are introducing a Parents' Consultation Day on Monday, 24th March, instead of the usual Parents' Evenings. Appointments will be available throughout the school day, giving you more flexibility.
- **Stay Safe:** Please be extra mindful of your belongings during drop-off and pick-up, as there have been reports of pickpocketing in the local area.
- **Secondary School Admissions:** We understand that this can be a stressful time. However, the school has no control over the admissions process, as it is managed entirely by the Local Authority. For updates and further information, please visit their website.

As always, we are here to support you. Senior staff are at the front and back gates every day, so do come and speak to us if you need anything.

Thank you for your ongoing support—we truly value our partnership in helping your children thrive.

**Warmest wishes,**

**Ms. Neena Lall OBE**  
**Headteacher**



## ATTENDANCE

### 4th September - 7th February 2024

Year	%	<b>Well done to Year 5 for having the best attendance so far!</b>
Nursery	85%	
Reception	90%	
Year 1	93.7%	
Year 2	95.2%	
Year 3	94.9%	
Year 4	96.1%	
Year 5	96.6%	
Year 6	95.3%	

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

## PARENT CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS

We run curriculum parent workshops throughout the year for different year groups. 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.

This term, Year 6 embarked on an Ancient Olympic-inspired morning, delving into historic sporting events; Year 5 uncovered the secrets of the Amazon, and Reception shared enchanting tales of Emily Brown.

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.

## ANNUAL REPORTS TO PARENTS, REPORT CARDS AND CONSULTATION DAY

At the end of this term on Friday 4th April, 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.

Parent consultation day will be taking place on Monday 24th March for all children. You will receive your appointment time for parent consultation day by your child's class teacher. If for any reason you



are unable to attend at that time please inform the class teacher who will be able to rearrange with you. On this day all pupils will be learning from home.

## SAFEGUARDING: ONLINE SAFETY

Online dangers are real and can affect any family. At St. Stephen's, we are deeply concerned about growing risks like **inappropriate content, cyber bullying, and dangerous interactions with strangers on apps like Snapchat, YouTube and Roblox**. This year, our specialist-led workshops are tackling these issues head-on with Year 5 students and parents in UKS2.



**Here's how you can protect your child online:**

1. **Check Age Ratings** - Only allow age-appropriate apps and games. For example, Roblox (7+) can expose children to strangers.
2. **Supervise** - Sit with your child while they use apps or play games and check who they are talking to.
3. **Talk Often** - Ask your child who they message and what they do online. Keep conversations open and supportive.
4. **Set Parental Controls** - Use device, app, and Wi-Fi controls to restrict access to unsafe content.
5. **Monitor Devices** - Regularly check your child's phone or tablet for apps, chats, and friends.
6. **Avoid YouTube Channels** - Children should not have their own channels. Public platforms expose them to strangers, even with privacy settings.

At school, we teach children to **report, block, and tell a trusted adult** if something feels wrong online. Parents play a vital role in reinforcing these lessons.

If you need advice or support with online safety concerns, please speak to your child's teacher or a member of the leadership team. We're here to help.

For more guidance, visit [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) and check their Age Guides.

## St Stephen's Safer Internet Day 2025



Safer  
Internet  
Day

On Tuesday, 11th February, St. Stephen's celebrated **Safer Internet Day**, focusing on the theme "**Too Good to Be True - Protecting Yourself and Others Online.**" Through engaging, age-appropriate lessons, children learned how to spot misleading information, recognise online scams, and understand the importance of verifying what they see or hear online.

From identifying fake offers and scams in games to critically evaluating online content, our students were encouraged to question: "**Is this too good to be true?**" They also explored how they could protect others by sharing helpful, truthful information online and avoiding the spread of rumours or false claims.

Our **Digital Ambassadors** took a leading role, delivering assemblies to their phases about these vital issues. The children were very engaged with this topic, demonstrating just how important the online world is to them. This highlights why it is crucial to keep having these conversations to ensure everyone stays safe and happy as we navigate an ever-evolving digital age.

**We encourage all parents and carers to continue these discussions and reflect on the importance of safe and informed online behaviours.**

## MEDICAL

We sincerely thank all parents who attended the recent information sessions regarding their child's medical needs. Your support has been invaluable in ensuring our records remain accurate and that essential information is effectively shared.



We are committed to maintaining clear, positive, and responsive communication. To help us continue providing the best care for your child, please ensure that the school office has the following:

- **Up-to-date medication**, including asthma inhalers and EpiPens.
- **Medical documentation** from your child's doctor or nurse outlining their medical history.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping us create a safe and well-prepared environment for all children.

### SELF CARE

At St. Stephen's, we have high expectations for our pupils and good personal hygiene is a key part of this. As outlined in the National Curriculum, children are taught the importance of self-care, including hygiene, oral health and basic first aid. However, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child comes to school clean, tidy and presentable, ready to learn. Regular haircuts, neatly trimmed nails and daily personal hygiene must be maintained at home.

Teachers will continue to reinforce the importance of brushing teeth and making healthy eating choices, but we urge parents to take the lead in ensuring children visit the dentist regularly and develop these habits consistently. Poor hygiene not only affects a child's confidence but can also impact their long term health and wellbeing. Let's work together to ensure all children take pride in their appearance and develop the lifelong habits they need to stay healthy.

### END OF DAY COLLECTION

As part of our commitment to keeping all children safe, we remind parents and carers that children must be collected by an adult who is known by the class teacher. If someone different is collecting your child on a particular day, please ensure you contact the school office in advance. The office will then inform the class teacher of the change. This helps us ensure that all children are handed over to the correct person at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe!

### NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Please remember that St Stephen's Nursery is a 'Healthy School'. If you wish to bring a snack when you collect your child please make sure it is a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit, crackers or breadsticks. Staff will be talking to parents at the gate if they see children having sweets or crisps when they are collected.

Thank you to all parents who attended the Bookstart story sessions and received a free pack of books and activities. Reading to your children is one of the best things you can do to support their early education alongside singing songs and reciting nursery rhymes. Local libraries are a great resource - if you register your child they can borrow books for free and they also run activities during the holiday periods.

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



## CONTACT US

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### Primary School

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Website: [www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk](http://www.st-stephens-primary.org.uk)

### Nursery School

Tel 020 8586 0147

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.

## SPRING TERM DATES 2025

### FEBRUARY 2025

Monday 24th February	Children return to Primary and Nursery after half term
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### MARCH 2025

Monday 3rd March	1HA and 1JR visit to Stepney farm
Tuesday 4th March	Year 3 Curriculum Workshop for parents: Egyptian Expedition
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day including world book day lunch for pupils
Thursday 6th March	1SS visit to Stepney Farm
Tuesday 11th March	Year 2 Visit to Sea Life Centre
Wednesday 19th March	Year 2 Curriculum Parent Workshop: I am a Warrior!
Friday 21st March	Year 1 - 6 reports to Parents Reception report cards to parents HNF report cards to parents
Monday 24th March	Federated Parent Consultation Day
Thursday 27th March	Governor's Open Day
Friday 28th March	Mum's Morning

### APRIL 2025

Tuesday 1st April	Eid lunch for pupils
Thursday 3rd April	Year 4 Parent's Assembly
Thursday 3rd April	Last Day of Term for Nursery School
Friday 4th April	Last Day of Term for Primary School: Closes at 12:45pm



Tuesday 22nd April	School restarts at 8:45 am
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- Children's Centre will be closed from 14th April - 17th April 2025

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

## SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

### 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

### AUTUMN TERM 2025

TT day	Monday 1st September
First day of term for pupils	Tuesday 2nd September
Half term	Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October
Last day of term	Friday 19th December 12.45pm finish

