



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 5

22nd April 2025

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!

Year 6 SATs

I would like to take a moment to wish our Year 6 pupils the very best as they prepare for their SATs. I have been incredibly impressed with their hard work and progress and I am confident that they will approach their assessments with determination and resilience.

Year Group Workshops

We have been delighted with the success of our year group workshops, which provide a valuable opportunity for parents to engage in their child's learning. However, I would like to clarify that younger siblings, including pre-school-aged children, should not attend these sessions. This is because:

- Teachers are still teaching and any additional noise or movement can be distracting for both staff and children.
- The workshops are designed to give you quality time with your child, ensuring they receive your full attention.
- Due to the high attendance at these workshops, we simply do not have the physical space to accommodate younger siblings in the classrooms.

We appreciate your cooperation in making these sessions as effective and beneficial as possible for all involved.

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)

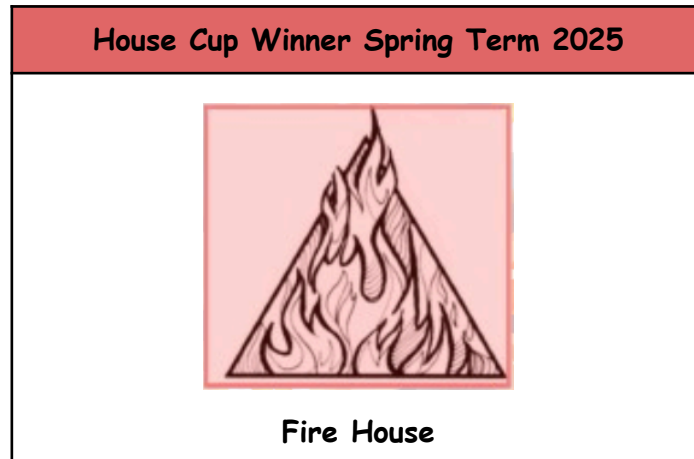
The joy cup is awarded to a member of each class each term. It is awarded to those children who have a joy for coming to school and embrace all that St. Stephen's has to offer. I would like to congratulate the joy cup winners for the Spring Term.

<u>Reception</u>	<u>Key Stage 1</u>	<u>Lower Key Stage 2</u>	<u>Upper Key Stage 2</u>
RNO: Fatema Nova RLP: Dua Syed RJM: Nabihah Zafrat	1HA: Arhaan Hussain 1JR: Harris Khansia 1SS: Sheikh Takbir Ali	3AG: Mansib Mubasshir 3JC: Md Ismaeel Ali 3NB: Rihan Rahoof	5AW: Fatimahzahra Achhodi 5EW: Maryam Patel 5PC: Aroush Sultana
	2EC: Zakariyyah Bin Miah 2MW: Yasna Khalifa 2PM: Khadijah Bari	4CC: Zainab Rameez 4RM: Mohtashim Abdullah 4LT: Ved Patel	6AQ: Sadat Shak 6JL: Maryam Ali 6LD: Aleena Patel

HOUSE CUP WINNERS

We are thrilled to share the results of the Spring Term House Cup competition. This term, all of the children have shown incredible commitment, earning house points by living out our **WE CARE values: Wellbeing, Expression, Courtesy, Acceptance, Respect, and Excellence**. The energy, teamwork, and pride across the school have been truly inspiring. It's been a joy to see pupils supporting one another and taking such ownership of their contributions to their Houses.

Congratulations to **Fire House** for their brilliant efforts and for working as a team to earn the most House Points this term.



To celebrate their success, the St Stephen's House Cup, adorned with Fire House's red ribbons, is now proudly displayed at the front of the school for everyone to admire. We look forward to seeing even more house points earned next term and finding out which House will be victorious in the Spring Term!

PARENTS' CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our recent Parent Consultation Day—we are delighted that 98% of parents took part!

Your feedback has been incredibly positive. Many of you appreciated having more time to look through your child's books and engage in meaningful discussions about their progress. Our teachers also found it beneficial, as they were fresh at the start of the week and had the opportunity to build stronger connections with you.

Having children present during the meetings ensured that everyone heard the same message, making the experience even more impactful. Additionally, this new approach allowed us to provide much-needed SEND training for our support staff without them having to step away from their vital roles during the school day.

Thank you for your continued support in making St. Stephen's the best it can be for our children.

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!
Reception	91.9%	
Year 1	94.3%	
Year 2	95.9%	
Year 3	95.2%	
Year 4	96.2%	
Year 5	96.7%	
Year 6	95.9%	

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 or 30 hours of free childcare?

Following a successful year with our part-time 2 year olds, St Stephen's Nursery will be introducing a number of **full-time 2 year old spaces** from September. 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.

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 visit <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> for further information.



NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Article 28- Every child has the right to an education

The Nursery is now allocating places for September 2025. 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 12:45pm every Friday afternoon and there is no childcare available.

SAFEGUARDING -Stranger Danger - Keeping Children Safe Together

In school, we have been teaching the children about stranger danger and how to keep themselves safe in different situations. This includes learning that a stranger is anyone they don't know - whether in person or online. To help children fully understand and remember these important messages, we are asking parents and carers to continue the conversation at home. Talk to your child about what a stranger is, how to stay safe, and what they should do if someone they don't know approaches them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

It's especially important to remind children that people they meet online, even if they seem friendly or act like another child, are still strangers if they haven't met them in real life. Please make sure you know what apps and games your child is using, and supervise their online activity whenever possible. We also ask that children are always closely supervised when out and about. Staying nearby and staying alert helps to keep children safe in public spaces. By working together and keeping these safety messages consistent, we can help ensure our children are confident, aware, and protected.

MEDICAL TEAM - HEAD LICE

As part of your child's regular hygiene routine, we kindly ask that you check their hair frequently for signs of head lice. This is an important way to help prevent the spread within the school community. Please note that, in line with public health guidance, the school is not able to identify or report individual cases. If you do find head lice, we encourage prompt treatment and appreciate your support in keeping all children healthy and comfortable at school.



CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Little Talkers and Little Champions

Every Thursday afternoon the Children's Centre runs sessions to support the families of children under the age of 5 with speech and language delay and/or SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). If your young child is showing signs of a delay in their development or has a diagnosis of a disability please ask at the front desk for a referral to these sessions. Staff may be able to signpost you to the relevant agencies to support you and your child.

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

CONTACT US

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Primary Deputy Head Teacher

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This newsletter is also available on the school website.



SUMMER TERM 1 DIARY DATES 2025

APRIL	
Wednesday 23rd April - Friday 25th April	60 x Year 5 pupils to Fairplay House
MAY	
Friday 2nd May	Teacher Training Day - School Federation closed
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday - School Federation closed
Tuesday 6th May	Year 1 Parent Workshop - Marvellous Monarchy
Tuesday 6th May	Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting @2:45pm
Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Monday 19th May	Year 6 to visit Tower of London
Tuesday 20th May	Year 5 Parents Assembly @8:45am
Tuesday 20th May	Years 3 & 4 Sports Day at West Ham Park
Wednesday 21st May	Years 5 & 6 Sports Day at West Ham Park
Thursday 22nd May	Years 1 & 2 Sports Day at West Ham Park
Thursday 22nd May	Year 4 Parent Workshop - 'Is it Fair?'
Monday 26th May- Friday 30th May	Half Term holiday

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

Monday 2nd 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 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 Nursery	Wednesday 23rd July
Last day of term Primary	Thursday 24th July 12.45pm finish

AUTUMN TERM 2025

TT day	Monday 1st September
First day of term for Primary	Tuesday 2nd September
First day of term for Nursery	Monday 8th September
Half term	Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October
Last day of term Nursery	Thursday 18th December
Last day of term Primary	Friday 19th December 12.45pm finish

SPRING TERM 2026

First day of term	Monday 5th January
Half term	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
Last day of term Nursery	Thursday 26th March
Last day of term Primary	Friday 27th March 12.45pm finish

