



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 6

2nd June 2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the summer holiday, simple daily habits can support your child's wellbeing, learning, and independence as they prepare for the next academic year. Here are key areas to focus on:

Sleep and Routine

Ensure your child gets 9-12 hours of sleep with a consistent bedtime. Avoid screens an hour before bed for better sleep.

Independence

Encourage them to dress, eat and pack their bag independently. Let them take responsibility for tasks they can manage.

Screen Time and Learning

Limit screen time to 1-2 hours of quality content. Use TV subtitles to support reading and encourage screen-free family time.

Healthy Eating and Hygiene

Provide nutritious meals and promote water over sugary drinks. Teach good hygiene habits like hand washing and brushing teeth.

Communication and Listening

Encourage open conversations and active listening. Use positive language and praise effort.

Social Skills and Emotional Wellbeing

Ensure daily active and creative play. Teach sharing, turn-taking, and kindness. Help your child manage emotions by modeling kindness, patience, and respect.

Reading and Learning

Read daily with your child and encourage a love for books. Support homework without doing it for them.

Building these habits will strengthen your child's confidence, independence, and love for learning.

As the academic year ends, I commend our children, teachers, and staff for their dedication. I extend my best wishes to our nursery children transitioning to reception and our Year 6 pupils moving on to secondary school. Carry the values of St. Stephen's with you and embrace new challenges with confidence.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Take time to rest and recharge over the summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September for another successful year.

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

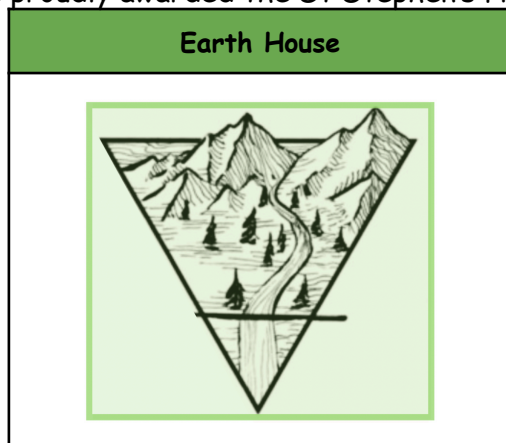
2nd September 2024-21st May 2025	
Year	%
Nursery	85.1
Reception	92.3
Year 1	94.8
Year 2	96.2
Year 3	95.2
Year 4	96.1
Year 5	96.9
Year 6	95.4

**Well done
to
Year 5
for having
the best
attendance
so far!**

Please note that all pupil's attendance is tracked daily and the school target for every pupil is 100% attendance.

HOUSE CUP WINNERS

At the end of last half term, we proudly awarded the St Stephen's House Cup to **Earth House!**



Since we started our House system in September, we've seen a growing sense of camaraderie, kindness, and shared pride across the school. The children have continued to live out our *WE CARE* values in their daily interactions, earning house points for everything from acts of courtesy and teamwork to showing resilience and excellence in their learning.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

As this term draws to a close, we prepare to bid farewell to our Year 6 cohort of 2025. Throughout their time at St Stephen's Primary School, they have accomplished so much, and we are incredibly proud of their growth, hard work, and resilience. We wish each of them every success as they move on to the next exciting chapter in their educational journey.

We are also delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following Year 6 pupils, who have been offered places at the following grammar schools:

1. Hareem Mahmood, our headgirl, will be attending Southend High School.
2. Samuel Chapman, our deputy headboy, has been offered a place at Westcliff High School for Boys Academy.
3. Afifah Ali is also going to be attending Southend High School.
4. Sadat Shak will be attending Queen Elizabeth School.
5. Taizeen Zaman will be attending Ilford County High School.

Very well done to all!

FREE FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME CHILDCARE FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

Do you have a 2 year old at home?

Why not check if you are eligible for 15 hours or 30 hours of free childcare?

From September 2025, St Stephen's Nursery will be offering a number of full-time two year old spaces in addition to the part-time spaces we currently provide. 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 use the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

https://newham-self.achieveservice.com/service/Early_Years_Free_2_Year_Old_Education

TRANSITION

As we enter the final stretch of the school year, our teachers are working diligently to support students in preparing for a smooth transition to their new year groups this September.

In the coming weeks, the focus will be on reinforcing core skills such as phonics, reading, and times tables, while also helping children build greater concentration and independence—key foundations for success in the year ahead.

Later this term, your child will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher during our transition morning. Details about their new teacher will also be included in the end-of-term report card.

You can help your child get ready for the next stage by encouraging daily reading and supporting them in developing their independence wherever possible.

SPORTS DAY

As you know it is important that we keep our bodies and minds healthy. Moving regularly helps make our muscles and heart stronger and lowers the risk of getting sick. It can also help us feel happier and less stressed. Whether it's walking or dancing, being active every day helps us stay well and enjoy life more.

Last half term, we celebrated Sports Days at West Ham Park and at our school. The children took part in a variety of events, including running races, speed bounce and the ever-popular javelin. The children cheered on their peers as they demonstrated their skills and sportsmanship.

A highlight of the week was the parent-teacher race. It was wonderful to see our community come together, with parents and teachers racing side by side.

Overall, Sports Days 2025 were a resounding success, filled with memorable moments and outstanding displays of talent and sportsmanship. We would like to thank all the families who attended and supported the event. The winning house will be announced later in the term.

SAFEGUARDING-Child Safety Week

Article 19: Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

As part of Child Safety Week 2025, we're encouraging families to take a moment to think about accident prevention at home. Most childhood injuries happen in and around the house – but many can be avoided with a few simple precautions.

Kitchen caution

Keep hot drinks, pans, and sharp objects out of reach. Turn saucepan handles inwards and never leave cooking unattended.

Safe storage

Store cleaning products, medicines, and other harmful items in high or locked cupboards.

Windows and balconies

Fit window restrictors and always supervise children near open windows or on balconies.

Bath time safety

Never leave young children alone in the bath – even a few inches of water can be dangerous.

Small changes make a big difference. For more tips, visit www.capt.org.uk.

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Children's Centre team are running a number of parent workshops on 'School Readiness' for children who are starting school in September. There are three workshops covering the topics of: Attendance, Behaviour and Online Safety. If your child is starting school in September please make sure to attend all three sessions - this will support your child's transition into the next phase of their education.

As the summer weather progresses the Nursery children will be spending lots of time outdoors exploring the changes that take place in the garden. The sunshine is a valuable

source of Vitamin D for all of us but it is crucial that we protect children from harmful UV rays by applying sunscreen and encouraging them to bring a sun hat to school every day.

If you need any advice about how to support your child's readiness for school or any other family matter, please come along to the children's centre or contact a member of staff:

Marie Foley: 07904 663 072

Meral Sami: 07494 067 676

CONTACT US

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

This newsletter is also available on the school website.

SUMMER TERM 2 DIARY DATES 2025

JUNE

Monday 2nd June	Term Starts
Week Beginning: Monday 2nd June - Friday 13th June	Year 4 Times Tables Tests (Multiplication Table Check)
Wednesday 4th June	Nursery and Reception Sports Day
Week Beginning: Monday 9th June - Friday 13th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Tests
Tuesday 10th June	Primary School Class Photographs
Friday 13th June	Dads and Male Carers Morning
Thursday 17th June	New Reception Parent Meeting at 8:45am
Tuesday 24th June	Year 2 Educational visit to Chalkwell

JULY

Friday 4th July	Reception Annual Report to parents
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Wednesday 9th July	Nursery and Reception Parents Consultation Day-Reception and Nursery closed
Thursday 10th July	Governor's Meeting @ 4pm
Thursday 10th July	Year 6 Production @ 7pm
Tuesday 15th July	Hub Performance and Celebration @ 10am
Wednesday 16th July	Nursery Performances 10.15am and 2.00pm
Thursday 17th July	Year 6 Graduation and leavers celebration visit
Wednesday 23rd July	Last day for Maintained Nursery
Tuesday 24th July	Report Card to parents
Thursday 24th July	Summer Holiday - School closes at 12:45 pm

Children's Centre closes on Friday 15th August and reopens on Monday 1st September
 Children's Centre reopens for stay and play activities Tuesday 2nd September
 Tuesday 2nd September - Primary School reopens
 Monday 8th September-Nursery School reopens
 I will inform you of any additional dates and events that may be set during the term.

SCHOOL TERM/HOLIDAY DATES

SUMMER TERM 2025

Last day of term	Thursday 24th July 12.45pm finish
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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

SPRING TERM 2026

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

SUMMER TERM 2026

First day of term	Monday 13th April
May Day	Monday 4th May
Polling day	Thursday 7th May
TT Day	Friday 8th May
Half term	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Last day of term	Wednesday 22nd July 12.45pm finish