



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

Headteacher's Newsletter

Issue 2

3rd November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well. It has been lovely to see our school community come together again this term. Events such as the Macmillan Coffee Morning and the Harvest Festival reminded us what makes St Stephen's so special - families, staff and children working side by side to support others. Your generosity and spirit of kindness continue to make a real difference. Thank you!

Looking ahead, our **Parent Consultation Day** will take place on **Monday 8th December**. Following a successful trial and feedback from governors, staff and parents, we have decided to hold these during the school day. This change allows teachers more time to meet families in a calm and focused setting. Class teachers will be in touch shortly with your appointment details.

Good attendance and punctuality are also key to every child's success. Arriving on time each morning helps children start the day calmly and ready to learn. The school gates open at **8.15am** and we encourage pupils in Years 5 and 6 to arrive then to build strong habits for secondary school and beyond.

Over the summer, several improvement works took place to make our environment even safer and more inspiring. The main corridor has been cleared of asbestos, green screening is being added around the site to create a more peaceful space and new climbing equipment for both Nursery and KS1 will give children more opportunities for active play.

Finally, it was a real joy to watch last term's Year 1 Parents' Assembly celebrating Diwali. The children's songs, dances and confidence filled the hall with energy and pride. I wish all our families celebrating Diwali a happy and peaceful festival.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we create a school where every child can thrive.

With warm regards,

Ms Neena Lall OBE

Headteacher

REPORT IT! Love Clean Streets

We all want our children to grow up in a clean and safe environment, free from litter and waste. Unfortunately, in recent weeks we've seen an increase in empty bottles, cans, food waste and even old furniture being left on the streets near the school. If you notice anyone dumping rubbish or come across fly-tipped items on your street, please report it straight away.

Love Clean Streets is a free smartphone app and website that lets you report environmental issues directly to Newham Council in less than 40 seconds. You can use it to report fly-tipping, graffiti, fly-posting, litter, dog fouling and more.

All Newham residents can download the Love Clean Streets app here:

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

Or report directly from the website:

<https://lovecleanstreets.info/>

If you have bulky waste that needs collecting, Newham Council can dispose of it properly for a small fee—please use this service instead of leaving items on the street.

Together we can keep our neighbourhood safe, clean and welcoming for everyone.

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

2nd September-15th October 2025		
Year	%	
Nursery	82	<i>Well done to Year 5 for having the best attendance so far!</i>
Reception	95.8	
Year 1	95.9	
Year 2	96.4	
Year 3	96.4	
Year 4	97.2	
Year 5	97.3	
Year 6	96.5	

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
---	--	--	---	--

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 2025/2026.

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

On Thursday, 9th October, the interviews were conducted by Esther (Year 6 Lead), Rebekah (Houses Lead), Jenna, Georgia and myself.

We were incredibly impressed by the candidates' maturity, confidence and humour. They asked thoughtful questions and engaged in purposeful discussions during the interviews. It was a pleasure to meet them and see their personalities shine through.

Head Boy	Head Girl	Deputy Head Boy	Deputy Head Girl
NOAH CHOPLIN	MARYAM PATEL	IANIS-DAVID CONSTANTIN	AYAT RAHIM

Fire House Captains	Air House Captains	Earth House Captains	Water House Captains
KHADIJA FATIMA	AMMARA UDDIN	SABRINA ABDUL	AMAYA AMMAR
DYLAN PATEL	ZAKARIYA MAHMED	HARRIS HUSSAIN	JASON-ANDREI MARIN

NURSERY CURRICULUM DAY 12th November 2025

On Wednesday 12th November the Nursery and Children's Centre will be holding an Outdoors and Active Curriculum Day. All parents will be invited to stay with their children on that day and we will have lots of exciting and interesting activities to support your child's physical development. There will also be stalls from the Children's Centre with information regarding healthy eating, dental hygiene and how good sleep patterns can impact your child's concentration and learning.

The Health Visitors will be available if you have any concerns about your child's health or development.

We have noticed this year that lots of our 3 year olds are still coming to school in a buggy. It is really important that you encourage your child to walk or scoot to Nursery. The British Medical Association recommends that all 3-5 year olds have 180 minutes (3 hours) of exercise every day. The walk to and

from Nursery can be a valuable way of moving towards this goal. There will be advice and support available at Curriculum Day on this topic.

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

SAFEGUARDING - MOBILE PHONES

Reminder: No Mobile Phone Use on School Site

We would like to remind all parents, carers, and visitors that mobile phones should not be used anywhere on the school site. This rule is in place first and foremost to protect the safety and privacy of our pupils. The use of mobile phones can unintentionally lead to images or videos being taken, which poses a safeguarding risk. We are committed to keeping every child safe, and maintaining a phone-free environment helps us do that. It also ensures that adults can give their full attention to the children at drop-off and collection times, setting a positive example and helping to create a calm, respectful atmosphere for everyone. Thank you for supporting our commitment to safeguarding and helping us keep St. Stephen's a safe and welcoming place for all.

Children and Mobile Phones at Home

Children of primary school age should not have a mobile phone. Phones and messaging apps can create pressure, misunderstandings, and unkind messages that children are not ready to manage. Group chats, in particular, can quickly become overwhelming and stressful. If you want to avoid these problems, it's best not to give your child a phone.

CONTACT US

St Stephen's Schools and Children's Centre, Whitfield Road, London E6 1AS

Head Teacher: Ms Neena Lall OBE

neena.lall@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Primary School

Tel: 020 8472 7575

Email: info@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

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

Nursery School

Tel 020 8586 0147

Email: childrenscentre@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Website: www.st-stephens-nurserychildrenscentre.org.uk

Federated School Business Manager

Mr Mark Little

mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Nursery Deputy Head Teacher

Ms Janet Patterson janet.patterson@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk

Primary Deputy Head Teacher

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.