



Stillness Junior School Newsletter December 2023



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Dear Stillness Families

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of autumn term already. You and your children have been amazing and it has been a joy to welcome you every morning and to see the learning journeys that your children are making.

Christmas is such a special time of the year, the opportunity to spend time with our loved ones and taking time to reflect on and appreciate all that we have to be thankful for.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, children, parents/carers and governors who make this school such a marvellous place to learn and work.

On behalf of everyone at Stillness Junior School, may I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas, and best wishes for the New Year.

Our spring term begins on Monday, 8 January 2024 and we look forward to seeing our children return refreshed and eager to learn in the new calendar year.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs M Nichol
Headteacher

UNICEF: Article 5: (parental guidance)

Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide and advise their child so that, as they grow, they learn to apply their rights properly.

STILLNESS NEWSLETTER

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, the deadline to submit your articles for the next publication is the penultimate week of every month

Hire our Facilities

We are delighted to offer our facilities for hire during the School holidays and outside normal school hours (5.30pm - 10pm) and facilities within the school, including the sports hall.

Our lettings are open 7 days a week with closures only during bank holidays and extended opening hours during school holidays.

We also have a school mini bus available for hire that can seat up to 17 passengers.

If you are interested in the above, please contact

Kim Kennedy on kim@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk.

Remembrance Day



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*

Mrs Renner-Thomas led a whole school assembly discussing why we recognise Remembrance Day and its importance. On Friday, 10 November at 11am the children observed a two-minute silence in their classrooms with their teachers.

At our school for Remembrance Day we had an assembly. During the assembly we had a two minute silence and talked about why we have Remembrance Day. It was very interesting learning about the monuments and poppies. Millie Y5

In our school for Remembrance Day, we had an assembly about it and we did 2 minutes of silence for remembering all the people that have died. I felt grateful that our country is not at war and I feel sorry for those that have lost their lives. Mia Y5



OUR BEST AT ALL TIMES

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Esme (Grierson Class) and Helena (Gladiator Class) who climbed to the summit of Helvellyn in the Lake District (the third highest peak in England – 950m high) over the half term break. It is a pretty hard climb and took nearly 8 hours – she did really well to achieve it! Esme also managed to cross Striding Edge on the way up, which is a rocky ridge with sheer drops either side, despite being scared.

Well done Esme and Helena – we are very proud of you.



Headteacher Awards



Jasper (Montague Class) for being a joy to take on the WW2 trip. He was knowledgeable and inquisitive.

Alfred (Montague Class) for being a joy to take on the WW2 trip. He was knowledgeable and inquisitive.

Cianna (Montague Class) for writing an interesting and well-structured newspaper report.

Alfie (Bexhill Class) for a fantastic effort in writing his newspaper report.

Lyla (Bexhill Class) for a fantastic effort in writing his newspaper report.

Noemi (Bexhill Class) for giving everything 100% and always doing her best work.

Esme (Grierson Class) for her determination and bravery in climbing to the summit of Helvellyn in the Lake District.

Josephine (Bexhill Class) for always listening carefully and giving everything 100%.

Daniel (Bexhill Class) for always listening carefully and asking thought provoking questions.

Phoebe (Gladiator Class) for showing such great enthusiasm and detail in her diary entry this week.

Valeria (Gladiator Class) for her wonderful diary entry this week.

Rose (Brightling Class) for a carefully crafted diary entry in English this week.

Esme (Brightling Class) for a fantastic diary entry in English this week.

Harvey (Netherby Class) for a beautifully written diary entry. Well done!

Mia (Netherby Class) for a beautifully written diary entry. Well done!

Eddie (Montague Class) for showing huge levels of participation and engagement across the curriculum

Charlie (Montague Class) for showing huge levels of participation and engagement across the curriculum

Miheerr (Montague Class) for showing huge levels of enthusiasm during our trip to the Natural History Museum

Innis (Montague Class) for settling into Autumn 2 with confidence and for always being a supportive friend

Toby (Montague Class) for offering wonderful figurative language examples this week in English

Daisy (Montague Class) for a wonderfully structured cyclical story

Toby (Bexhill Class) for producing some amazing independent writing.

Jonah (Bexhill Class) for really concentrating on his work.

Tressa (Netherby Class) for giving 100% all week. Well done to you!

Jack (Netherby Class) for giving 100% all week. Well done to you!

Pasha (Netherby Class) for excellent behaviour and enthusiasm on the trip this week. Well done!

Phoenix (Netherby Class) for excellent behaviour and enthusiasm on the trip this week. Well done!



Children in Need

A big thank you to everyone who supported our recent Children in Need day.

Children in Need fund thousands of charities and projects in every corner of the UK, that support children and young people to feel and be safer, have improved mental health and wellbeing, form better, more positive relationships and be given more equal opportunities to flourish.

Together we raised a total of **£151.50** that will be forwarded onto the charity.

Thank you.



More photographs available to view on the school website www.stillness.js.lewisham.sch.uk

Jan's Secret Garden

A big shout out to Jen Hacking and all the parent volunteers who came to our garden coffee morning on Friday, 24 November 2023. The garden is a wonderful space for the children that has been made possible with a huge amount of parental support.

Thank you so much for volunteering. Roll on summer!

If you have any questions or want to be involved please email: Jen.hacking@live.co.uk.

Film Night

Thank you to "team SCA" for organising a brilliant film night on 17 November 2023. The children watched "Matilda" while enjoying hot dogs, popcorn and hot chocolate complete with marshmallows and cream – a perfect Friday evening! Thank you.

Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week happens every year in November and is the UK's biggest road safety event, organised by the charity 'Brake'.

The aim of Road Safety Week is to learn how to stay safe around, on and near the road.

This year, the theme is **Let's Talk About... SPEED**. During our full school assembly on Monday, 20 November 2023, Mrs Nichol spoke with the children about the ABCs of road safety:

A = Awareness.

What might distract you when you are walking or cycling? What might distract someone or affect their driving?

B = Behaviour.

- **Think** – where is safe to cross?
- **Stop.**
- **Look and Listen.**
- **Wait** until it is safe to cross.
- **Look and Listen** as you cross.
- **Walk** across the road, do not run.

C = Choice

What to wear when walking:

- ✓ hi-vis jacket
- ✓ bright and reflective colours in the dark
- ✓ fluorescent (not reflective) colours show up in the daytime
- ✓ flat shoes with laces done up
- ✓ reflectors on your bag

Or cycling:

- ✓ helmet
- ✓ reflective gear
- ✓ lights and reflectors on bikes
- ✓ no loose laces.

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Curriculum Week

It was a wonderful Curriculum Week.



Here at Stillness, we pride ourselves on our ambitious and broad curriculum, one that is underpinned by our thematic topics.

Our dress up days are a firm favourite with the children as essentially, they get to pretend they are someone else for the day and immerse themselves within their theme and gain an insight into what life was like during that period. In addition, we had three-year groups heading



out on trips (Y5 went on their Greek Trip earlier in the year).

The Y6's were evacuated from their families and were greeted by a billeting officer who scorned at their uncleanness. The Y4's enjoyed a hands-on gallery at the National

Maritime Museum and the Y3s made Stone Age weapons from natural materials.

Look out for info on Spring Terms Curriculum Week coming soon!

Mrs L Threadgold
Curriculum Lead





Online Safety



OUR BEST AT ALL TIMES

As millions of children get ready to unwrap internet-enabled gadgets on Christmas morning, families are being encouraged to discuss staying safe online.

Mobile phones, tablets and laptops can open up a world of exploration, learning and fun and children should be encouraged to make the most of the benefits.

But there are also risks and dangers to being online, and by working together parents and children can learn to safely navigate the internet and social media.

Advice about the best way to keep children safe is available from a range of websites, and the [UK Council for Child Internet Safety](#) has published a useful guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media.

Among the top tips are:

- Explain how children can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts and images, and warn them about sharing personal information
- Check if any of the mobile apps they use have location services enabled, and disable this if they do not want to be tracked
- Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them
- Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed
- Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them
- Ask them to show you which social media apps they use, what they like about them and talk about how to use them safely

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings, and advice and tips about how to talk to your children:

www.childnet.com/sns

www.parentzone.org.uk

www.internetmatters.org

www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety

Toilets and Changing Rooms

Can we please remind parents and carers that the toilets and changing rooms on school site are for the use of **CHILDREN ONLY**.

Please do not use or enter these areas at any time – including before or after lunch.

If your child needs to use the toilet facilities or wishes to look for something in the changing room, **please send them in on their own and wait outside.**

Your support on the above is very much appreciated. It is extremely important that we all take an active role in safeguarding the children who attend this school. Many thanks.



Cold Weather Clothing

Over the coming weeks, the cold weather will start to creep in. Please ensure that children do not leave home without a coat, hat and gloves on cold days. All clothing must be **labelled** clearly.

On snowy days, children can wear wellingtons or boots, **as long as they have school shoes with them to change into.** The classrooms get very warm and children will be too hot in boots all day.

Children are **not** permitted to wear leggings but can wear navy or grey tights.

Thank you.

For a Love of Sport and Fitness

Our PE Lead, Mrs Curtis, is always looking for new ways to inspire all the children for a love of sporting and fitness. Do you coach a team or play for a team? Do you have any PE Awards or completed any achievements? We would love to hear from you so you can also inspire the Stillness Junior community. If yes, please contact Miss Curtis directly via the Y5 email address: Y5@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk.



Pre-Loved School Uniform Exchange

We know the cost-of-living crisis is affecting all households across the UK so we have in stock a selection of branded and unbranded pre-loved school uniform from Y3 to Y6. We cannot guarantee we will have the size you require as we rely on donations, however you are free to pop in and see what we have.

We will happily take in any of your unwanted pre-loved uniform to add to the pile for other parents to enjoy. We hope this uniform exchange will allow families whose children have outgrown uniforms to hand them in while accessing uniforms in larger sizes without having to buy new clothes and cut down on waste.

We look forward to seeing you all there.



Instagram



Thank you to everyone who has visited our Instagram site.

Our Instagram continues to go from strength to strength. We have had a large number of follow requests; however, to ensure we keep the account private and only accessible by the Stillness Community, we would be grateful if you would email the main office with your request on admin@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk. We are also receiving requests from children that will not be accepted as this platform is only for children over the age of 13.

Please keep popping in to have a look at what is going on in and around our wonderful school.

All "likes" welcomed!

School Streets



Reminder that Lewisham School Street Programme "School Streets" is in effect. Fines will be issued for those who enter Brockley Rise from the junction with Stillness Road, without an exemption permit from **Monday to Friday** between the set times of **8.30am to 9.30am** and **2.45pm to 3.45pm**. Please be aware that local residents are able to access during these hours so we should continue to observe road safety. Thank you.

Attendance

Our Local Authority Attendance Officer is Charmaine Holder who will be monitoring our pupils' attendance.

Emergency Contact Information

Please make sure that we have your up to date contact details so we can contact you if your child needs you during the school day.

If you change your mobile phone, move house or want to change your child's contact list please email the school office on admin@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Working together to safeguard children.

Stillness Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and parents/carers to share this commitment.

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are fully committed to ensuring that consistent, effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, children and staff at school.

Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs M Nichol - Headteacher

Mrs Z Renner-Thomas - Deputy Headteacher

Mrs P Brown - Inclusion Lead

Mobile Phones



Stillness Junior School is a "mobile free" zone.

Please be reminded that mobile phones cannot be brought into school for any reason whatsoever. We strongly believe that children are more at risk when they carry and use a mobile phone than it being a deterrent. Our school policy reflects this and it is a rule that we enforce vigorously.

Any mobile phone brought into school will be taken and can only be collected by a parent/carer; repeat offenders will have their mobile phone held in the school office until the end of term.

Dinner Money

Following Government Guidelines, all primary school children will now receive a school dinner free of charge for the academic year 2023/24.

Cashless School

To improve the service we provide, Stillness Junior School is a cashless school and does not accept cheques or cash as payment.

Payment for school trips etc. can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay. You all have your individual ID and Password to access this facility.

Please note: if you wish to change your child from packed lunch to school dinners or vice versa please inform the school office in writing together with any allergies they may have.

Stillness Junior School Website

We work extremely hard to ensure that our website is up to date. Please take a minute to have a look and catch up with the latest news and holiday dates.

If you do not wish photographs of your child/ren to be posted on this website, on Instagram, in the school newsletter or in articles that may be published in the press, please notify the school office in writing.

December Diary Dates

4.12.23 – Y5 trip to Royal Observatory

12.12.23 – Parents Evening (online booking system)

13.12.23 – Parents Evening (online booking system)

13.12.23 – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

14.12.23 – Christmas Singalong (2pm start)

20.12.23 – Last day of School.

School closes at the usual time of 3.15pm.

OUR BEST AT ALL TIMES