



Stillness Junior School Newsletter December 2025



Dear Stillness Community

As we come to the end of a busy enjoyable term and with Christmas just around the corner, I hope you can all take a moment to feel proud of everything we have achieved together as a school community – our wonderful children, dedicated staff, supportive parents and carers, and committed governors.

Christmas is such a special time of year – a time to slow down, enjoy being with loved ones, and appreciate all we have.

On behalf of everyone at Stillness Junior School, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every good wish for the New Year.

We look forward to welcoming the children back, rested and ready for more learning, when the spring term begins on **Monday, 5 January 2026**.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs M Nichol
Headteacher



Walking Home Alone (Y5/Y6)

We realise that when children reach Y5 and Y6, you may wish to encourage their independence and allow your child to walk home alone, with friends or with older siblings. If this is the case for your child, please complete [this form](#) and submit as soon as possible so we are aware of after school arrangements for the academic year 2025-26.

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.

UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School Award

We are committed to placing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our ethos as we work towards becoming a Rights Respecting School.



Our Best at all times

Children in Need

On Friday, 14 November, children and staff dressed up in spots, stripes or bright colours in support of Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who supported us; together we raised £339.52 for the charity.

"It is important to dress up for Children in Need as it helps children such as those who do not have money or might be struggling" **Archie**

"I dressed up for Children in Need and donated some money to help children have better homes, support or health" **Henrik**



Headteacher Awards



Hank (Otford) for helping his classmates. He always helps others when they are stuck or want help – especially with Spelling Shed

Sam (Otford) for always being so helpful from tidying up the classroom to wanting to help others – you are an asset to the class

Artur (Bexhill) for his fabulous biography writing

Francis (Bexhill) for his fabulous biography writing

Clara (Montague) for being a sprightly, helpful, hardworking member of Montague

Mia (Montague) for showing more confidence in all areas of the curriculum

Neil Wurmel (Bexhill Parent) for creating and installing a beautiful mud kitchen for the children to enjoy

Vera (Bexhill) for helping to create and install a beautiful mud kitchen for the children to enjoy

Chip for being a trusty assistant and supporting installation of the new mud kitchen!

Maryana (Otford) for volunteering for Otford's class trip and quite literally saving the day!

Anthony (Otford) for volunteering for Otford's class trip and quite literally saving the day!

Omari (Bexhill) for fantastic engagement in our Windrush writing topic

Kaiarna (Bexhill) for fantastic engagement in our Windrush writing topic

Flo, Vera, Emily, Omari (Bexhill) Alfred, Raielle, Teddy and Archie (Iona) Alice, Olivia and Noah (Salehurst), Harvey, Laurence and Emma (Gabriel), Mila (Sevenoaks) and Otto (Grierson) for spending some of their weekend helping with the playground "Glow Up". Thank you – it means a lot to us.

Leon (Montague) for simply being a wonderful member of Montague. He is special.

Bella (Montague) for simply being a wonderful member of Montague. She is special.

Etta and Leonard (Sevenoaks) for being such incredible Eco-Warriors during the RAFT workshop. You blew us away with your knowledge, participation and enthusiasm. Well done!

Sickness/Diarrhoea

If your child has been unwell with vomiting and/or diarrhoea, we kindly ask that they stay at home for **48 hours** after the last episode before returning to school.

We do understand this can be difficult at times, but following this guidance helps us keep everyone in school as healthy as possible by reducing the spread of infections.



Our Best at All times

New Mud Kitchen

We would like to give a huge shout out to Mr Wurmel and Vera for putting together an amazing custom-built mud garden for the children to enjoy.

We want to say a big thank you to Mr Wurmel and his daughter Vera for our wonderful new mud kitchen. The children are absolutely loving it!

We really appreciate all the time and effort taken to build and install it, especially giving up part of their weekend to make it happen. A special thank you, too, to their very capable helper - Chip!

It is a lovely addition to our outdoor area, and we are really grateful for the care and creativity they have put into it.



Welcome



On Monday, 10 November, we had the great pleasure of welcoming Councillors Huynh and Webley-Brown to our school. It was a wonderful opportunity to share with them the many exciting things happening across our classrooms and playgrounds, and to showcase the enthusiasm and pride our students take in their learning.

It was especially lovely to welcome Councillor Webley-Brown back to the school, as her own children attended here a few years ago. She enjoyed the tour and how much the school has grown and developed since then — both in its facilities and in the opportunities it provides for the children.

Thank you to both for taking the time to visit us and for their genuine interest in our school community. Their encouragement and support mean a great deal to us as we continue to build on our strong foundations and look towards an exciting future.

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 contacts list please email the school office on www.stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk.



Otford Trip to the V&A Museum

Otford went to the V&A museum on Monday, 10th November to take part in a “Build a Home” architect project. We looked at different factors we need to consider when building a home or a space so it is accessible for everyone. After looking around the museum to get some ideas, we got to build our own home or space that was accessible for all.

“I really enjoyed the V&A museum because we made something and got to explore” Ellis (Otford)

“I enjoyed making a model and using different things to make something. I would like to look at being an architect” Vita (Otford)



Jamaica Appeal



A huge thank you for your incredible generosity and kindness following our recent Jamaica appeal.

All contributions have now been safely delivered to Anthony Doudle, Head of Lewisham Learning, who will ensure that they reach those most in need. Your support will make a real difference to families and communities affected; thank you once again for helping to make this appeal such a success.



Message from our House Captains

On November 7th, the House Captains sold poppies to commemorate the people that suffered in war. We did this to raise money for the poppy appeal to support the Royal British Legion. It is a very special event because it gives us time to reflect on those who died in any war. It also reminds us of what people did to support us and other countries. If they had not done that we would be under their control. During this experience everyone in this school has learnt how important it is to remember and respect those that have died and because of this everyone did the 2-minute silence with thought and respect. To also show respect, Y6 decorated their windows as they are learning about WWII. **Connie and Izzy**

Ballot Box

As House Captains, we were assigned the job of creating new names for The Cage - the area in our playground that has recently had new astro turf put down. We all came up with one name each. We then created a ballot voting system and asked all classes to come to the hall to vote. We were there to remind the children to vote on the best name. The name with the most votes would ultimately be the name for the cage.

After a meeting Mrs Nichol, we came up with the four names below:

- Home Ground
- Astro Zone
- The Turf
- Astro Arena

After all the school had voted throughout the day, the House Captains counted the votes **by hand (!)**, and it was a landslide with over 150 (there are 287 children in the school give or take) votes. The winner was... drumroll please... **ASTRO ARENA!!! Leon and Isiah**



DIY & Garden Tidy-Up Day – A Huge Success!

What an incredible day we had at our DIY and garden tidy-up event! It was fantastic to see so many children and adults come together to transform and improve our playground. The energy and teamwork were inspiring, and the results speak for themselves.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers (and a steady supply of bacon butties, donuts, and biscuits to keep everyone going!), we achieved so much:

- **Cleared the pond area** ready for the new planters and bark to go down.
- **Created a dry hedge**, ready for bugs and insects to enjoy
- Removed old, broken equipment.
- **Prepared the raised beds** ready for the Year 6 planting project.
- Created a **welly wall** and an exciting **water wall**.
- Painted benches, planted hedging, planted bulbs, and added vibrant touches to the space.



One of the best parts of the day was seeing the children take ownership of their playground—painting, planting, and proudly helping to make it a place they can enjoy and be proud of.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and contributed their time and effort. Together, we've made a real difference!

If you would like to be involved in the gardening group - please contact Jen Hacking on 07966216499.



Wellington Boot Appeal!

As an OPAL school, our children love using the playground and garden area all through the autumn and winter – rain, mud, and puddles included! We are running very low on wellington boots and would be grateful for any pairs your children have outgrown.

If you have any hiding under the stairs, tucked in the boot of the car, or patiently waiting at the back of a cupboard for their next adventure, we would be delighted to give them new life in our garden area!

Our Best at all times



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.

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 Augustus – Inclusion Lead

Mobile Phones



We are 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, primary school children will now receive a school dinner free of charge for the academic year 2024/2025.

Cashless School

To improve the service we provide, we are a cashless school and do 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

- 2.12.25 – Gabriel Class to Lewisham Islamic
- 2.12.25 – Y3 trip to Horniman Museum
- 2.12.25 – Start of Assessment Week
- 3.12.25 – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
- 6.12.25 – Christmas Tree Collections
- 9.12.25 – Grierson Class to Lewisham Islamic Centre
- 10.12.25 – Parents Evening
- 11.12.25 – Parents Evening
- 15.12.25 – Whole School Wellbeing Day
- 15.12.25 – Salehurst Class to V&A Museum
- 16.12.25 – Whole School trip to Catford Broadway
- 17.12.25 – Christmas sing-a-long: 1.45pm to 3.15pm (Y3 & Y4)
- 18.12.25 – Christmas sing-a-long: 1.45pm to 3.15pm (Y5 & Y6)
- 19.12.25 – Last day of term

Our Best at all times