



Stillness Junior School Newsletter January 2026



Our Best at all times

Dear Stillness Families

A very warm welcome back to all our children, families, staff, and governors as we begin the spring term.

I hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed some special time with friends and family. A little time away from our everyday routines can be wonderfully refreshing.

Before the Christmas holidays, we enjoyed so many lovely events, all made possible thanks to the kindness and support of our amazing school community.

A big thank you to our brilliant PTA, who organised a number of festive activities for the children — including a film night, a Christmas Sing-Along, and a Christmas Panto on the last week of term. Thank you also to Anne for all her hard work with the school raffle.

We are also very grateful to Charlotte for arranging the Christmas tree sale, with profits shared between the two schools, and to Claire, Jen, and all our parent volunteers for helping at the Christmas Sing-Along and providing the mince pies and mulled wine that made it feel extra festive!

A special thank you, too, to Chef and the kitchen team for preparing and serving over 200 Christmas dinners — what an achievement!

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year and a wonderful spring term ahead.

Best wishes.

Mrs M Nichol
Headteacher

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.

If you are interested in the above, please contact

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



Cold Weather Clothing

With the cold, please ensure that children do not leave home without a coat, hat and gloves on cold days. All clothing must be **labelled** clearly.

On wet 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.

Personal Property

Please note that the school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to any personal property that is brought into the school; this includes clothing, bicycles, scooters, games, balls, mobile phones, toys, jewellery, spectacles, money or any other item that is deemed as personal property.



Headteacher Awards

Henrik (Otford) for showing outstanding manners on public transport which a member of the public commented on

Vita, Alice, Oren and Jack (Otford) for displaying excellent behaviour at the Horniman Museum in the World Gallery

Haru (Bexhill) for a fantastic attitude during assessment week

Kaiarna (Bexhill) for exceptional progress this term

Omari (Bexhill) for fantastic progress in assessment week

Janet (Bexhill) for producing some amazing writing in our Windrush Child unit

Isaac (Montague) for showing compassion and sensitivity when working with your talk partner

Martha (Montague) for showing more confidence and attacking a diary writing task

Noah (Montague) for smashing the reading comprehension

Stanley (Montague) for bringing good vibes and sunshine to the classroom every day

Hugo (Montague) for showing confidence and calmness during assessment week

Leon (Montague) for simply being a wonderful member of Montague. You are special

Bella (Montague) for simply being a wonderful member of Montague. You are special

Addy (Bexhill) for a fantastic attitude to your writing and improving your work

Isla (Bexhill) for a fantastic attitude to your writing and producing some great pieces

Connie (Montague) for being a little ray of sunshine and brightening my day, every day.

Gabriel (Montague) for putting thought and effort into his English work - it is making a big impact.

Freya (Bexhill) for always going above and beyond and giving everything 100%

Cleo (Bexhill) for always going above and beyond and giving everything 100%

Emily (Bexhill) for always going above and beyond and giving everything 100%

Henrik (Otford) for an outstanding poem that our visitors looking at English were blown away by

Leon (Montague) for realising how wonderful he is and bringing this confidence to the classroom!

Holly (Montague) for growing in confidence and producing wonderful writing that has brought joy to her readers!

Ayla (Montague) for being Ayla: A kind, caring and now hard-working member of Montague! May the progress continue!



Gold Level Award

We are delighted to share with you that we have been awarded Gold Level as a smartphone free school.

Gold standard smartphone free schools have a policy that children are not allowed to bring smartphones on to the school site. Research has shown that this is an “Effective Policy”, which improves behaviour and sees a rise in academic attainment.

The added benefit of a Gold rating is that children are not immediately picking up smartphones on the way home, which reduces the safeguarding risks associated with children showing each other content on smartphones, reduces peer pressure to own one, and according to the MET police, even reduces the risk of mugging.

Our Best at all times





Christmas Sing-a-Long

To celebrate the festive season, all classes performed a Christmas concert. It included about 4 to 5 songs that were beautifully performed. We handed out programmes which had a song on the back. Some lucky parents had a mince pie on their programme which meant they could have a free drink!

It was very enjoyable to watch, especially when the teachers (and us!) played the saxophone during an instrumental break! We hope you all come again next year.

Izzy – Phoenix House Captain

On December 17th and 18th, our students took to the stage for our annual Christmas Sing-Along! We were thrilled to see such an incredible turnout, with over 200 parents and siblings joining us to celebrate the season. The children did a wonderful job performing festive favourites, including Frosty the Snowman, Jingle Bell Rock, Feliz Navidad, Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. We are sure your children have plenty of stories to share about their time in the spotlight!

Thank you for making these performances so special with your energy and support. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Isiah – Ross House Captain

Panto

On the 16 December, the final week of the autumn 2 term, the whole school travelled by foot to the Catford Broadway Theatre to watch Dick Whittington and his Catford Cat! Unsurprisingly, it was hilarious because it was a panto which also included many songs and funny characters. Everyone's favourite was Sarah, who wore a funny costume and splatted a pie into a shopper's face and the cat, Vincent, was cheerful and humorous.

All in all, the experience was enjoyable for the whole school (including the teachers!).

Dick Whittington and his friends were such a joy to watch perform and see them save London after Dick came from Empire Windrush!

Leon – Grace House Captain

Secret Santa!

A mischievous little hello from your ever-so-called Secret Santa and her merry band of elves.

Over the past few weeks, my sneaky little helpers and I have been quietly gathering gifts for each class. As our time at Stillness comes to an end, we wanted to leave a little legacy behind—something that would bring a spark of cheer each time the festive season rolls around.

Choosing the perfect gift has been a joyful challenge. Should it be thoughtful? Cheeky? Completely unexpected? Every idea has been weighed, imagined, debated and—admittedly—occasionally overthought (we may have spent longer on this than on a few homework assignments!). Even planning the reveal has filled our secretive little mission with excitement.

Now, with the big day approaching, the gifts are wrapped, our identities remain safely concealed, and the anticipation of what lies beneath the paper is growing by the minute. We hope each present brings a smile, a giggle, or even a soft little “ahhh,” because that is the true magic of this festive tradition - and how we hope to keep the Christmas spirit alive at Stillness.

With festive mischief and warm wishes,

Your Secret Santa 🎁



Our Best at all times



Y3 Trip to the Horniman Museum

On Monday 2nd December, Y3 enjoyed a day out at the Horniman Museum as part of their learning on Prehistoric Britain. The children were able to carefully handle real and replica artefacts, using their observation skills to explore what these objects could tell us about life thousands of years ago. There was a real sense of excitement in the room as they compared textures, shapes and materials, and many were amazed by the size of certain items—especially the enormous mammoth tooth.

After the workshop, the children continued their learning adventure around the museum grounds. The gardens and museum galleries offered even more opportunities for discovery. With quiz sheets in hand, the children worked together to find answers, read signs, and notice details they might otherwise have missed. It was lovely to see their enthusiasm grow as they made connections with what they had been learning.



Here are just a few reflections from the children:

"I loved holding the artefacts and the mammoth tooth was huge!"

"The farm animals were cute — especially the bunny."

"The workshop made me realise how much I had already learnt."

Miss A Curtis – Y3 Lead

Wellbeing Day

On Monday 15th December, we held our termly Wellbeing Day, during which the children enjoyed an exciting VR workshop. Each year group took part in a different immersive experience, learning lots of interesting facts along the way. A huge thank you to our PTA for organising and funding such a fantastic opportunity for the children.

- **Y3:** Wild Animals
- **Y4:** Ancient Egypt
- **Y5:** Ancient Greece
- **Y6:** The Human Body



"The VR workshop was fun. I really enjoyed the fun simulator and I learnt that deer can communicate with their smell. My favourite animal was the golden eagle as it was really cool seeing it spread out its wings".

Robin (Y3)

"I really enjoyed seeing Ancient Egypt and one thing I learnt was that Cleopatra dressed up for the Romans to make them fall in love".

Marlowe (Y4)



Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

A big thank you to all our parent volunteers who came in on 3 December to help decorate reception and the dining hall.

The children walked in to find a festive environment that set the perfect tone for a lovely Christmas lunch.

We are grateful for your support which helps to make these events special for the children.



Rudolph the Wooden Reindeer!

A huge thank you to Stillness dad Andrew Clark who dropped off a very special visitor to the school at the start of December!

One of Andrew's colleagues made this amazing reindeer using off-cuts from their workshop.

They thought that Rudolph might bring some extra Christmas cheer to Stillness this festive season and he certainly did!



Christmas Book Swap

Thank you to everyone who donated really wonderful books for our "Gift a book at Christmas" event in the Stillness library. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the day, and as always, we're wonderfully reminded of how wholesome it can be for kids to gift presents for their loved ones too!

Ursula – School Librarian Lead



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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

Miss P Augustus – Inclusion Lead



Mobile Phones

We are a “mobile free” school.

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.

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.

January Diary Dates

6.1.26 – Ivy trip to St. Paul’s Cathedral
8.1.26 – Sevenoaks trip to St. Paul’s Cathedral
12.1.26 – Parbury trip to St. Paul’s Cathedral
14.1.26 – Y3 trip to Crofton Park Library
20.1.26 – Y5 trip to Hindu Temple
16.1.26 – Y6 SATs Meeting (3.45pm to 4.45pm)
22.1.26 – Y4 Mock Multiplication Tables Check
29.1.26 – SCA Film Night (more info to follow)

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