

Stillness Junior School Newsletter

December 2026



Our Best at all times

Article 4: *(implementation of the Convention)* Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together and, most importantly, to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our school community.

Firstly, to our wonderful children – thank you for your enthusiasm, hard work and positive attitudes throughout the term. You continue to make us proud each and every day, and it is a real joy to see you growing in confidence, developing new skills and enjoying your learning.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. The partnership between home and school is so important, and we are incredibly grateful for the part you play in making our school such a special place to be.

A special thank you also goes to our fantastic PTA who have once again worked hard to support our school and raise valuable funds for our children. Thank you to everyone who has supported events, made donations or given up their time to help. It really does make a difference, and we are so grateful.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful staff team. Their care, dedication and commitment shine through in everything they do. They work tirelessly to make sure our children feel happy, safe and supported, while providing them with opportunities to learn, grow and achieve. We are very lucky to have such a caring and committed team.

As Christmas approaches, I hope the holidays bring an opportunity for everyone to slow down, enjoy some special time with family and friends, and make some lovely memories together.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

We look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning, on **Monday 4 January 2027**.

With very best wishes to you all.

Mrs M Nichol
Headteacher

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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

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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.



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 ***2026-27.***



Administering Medication

Our School's 'Administering Medications' policy permits us to administer certain non-prescription medications - specifically paracetamol (Calpol brand) and antihistamine (Piriton brand), both in liquid form with parental consent. ***If you wish to change your consent options for your child in relation to ad-hoc medication ((Calpol and/or antihistamine), please do so in writing to admin@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk.***

Thank you

Welcome to our November OPAL update!

As we settle into the new school term, we would love to take this opportunity to celebrate everything OPAL that has been happening across our school.

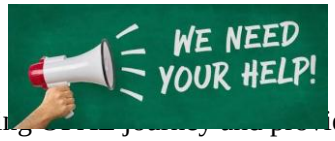
As we head towards the end of the year, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been part of our OPAL community. Your continued support, enthusiasm and generous donations are greatly appreciated and make such a difference to playtimes.

Playtime is looking and feeling very different, and it has been wonderful to see the positive impact OPAL is having on the children. There is so much more excitement, creativity and enthusiasm around outdoor play, and it is fantastic to see just how much fun the children are having.

It has also been lovely to see all the children, particularly our new Y3 classes, settling in so well and embracing the different opportunities that OPAL provides. Through exploring different styles of play, the children are developing their confidence, building friendships, learning new skills and, most importantly, enjoying themselves!

We are so proud of how far our OPAL journey has come and look forward to seeing even more wonderful play experiences develop over the coming months.

We want to see amazing play, for every child, every day!



To help us continue our exciting OPAL journey and provide the children with even more opportunities for creative and adventurous play, we are looking for further donations. We would be extremely grateful for any of the following items:

Lego bases	Pom-poms	Action figures	Plastic jugs for water play	Clothes pegs for den building
Scooters	Wallpaper	Plant pots for the children to sow seeds	Prams and dolls	Paintbrushes and Aprons
Bed sheets, dust sheets and/or tarpaulins for den making				

We are also keen to source some larger, heavier equipment to expand our OPAL play opportunities. In particular, we are looking for items such as barrels and road barriers.

If you know of any local businesses, organisations or contacts who may be able to donate or help us source these items, we would love to hear from you. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference and helps us create exciting play opportunities for all our children. Thank you for your continued support!

Miss N Peterkin – OPAL Play Coordinator



Our Best at all times

The Queen's Christmas Present: A Celebration of the National Year of Reading 2026

In celebration of the National Year of Reading 2026, Her Majesty the Queen is giving every child in Y6 and every home-educated child of the equivalent age across the UK the gift of a book to help inspire a love of reading.

The book the Y6 children will receive are specially produced copies of "Impossible Creatures" by Katherine Rundell and include personal messages from Her Majesty and the author.

This initiative aims to create a shared national reading moment that brings the children together around a single book at the same time, as well as creating a platform to encourage others to give the gift of reading.



Film Night



Friday the 13th may be unlucky for some, but there was certainly no bad luck for our favourite toys! With ***Toy Story 5*** bringing Woody, Buzz and Jessie back to the big screen, our PTA film night was the perfect excuse for cosy pyjamas and plenty of fun!

Snuggled up in their pyjamas and onesies, the children enjoyed a tasty hot dog, a lovely cup of hot chocolate and a bag of popcorn – the perfect movie-night treats!

This latest adventure explores the battle between traditional toys and modern technology, raising the question of whether children are beginning to favour screens over imaginative play. Needless to say, Woody, Buzz Lightyear and Jessie are here to remind us that nothing quite compares to the magic of play, friendship and a child's imagination!

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising yet another fantastic film night.



Our Best at all times



Curriculum Week

Curriculum week has become a real highlight of the year for both pupils and teachers! It provides a wonderful opportunity for children to fully immerse themselves in a character linked to their topic learning, bringing their curriculum to life in such an engaging and memorable way.

A huge thank you to our Curriculum Lead, Mrs Threadgold, for once again organising such a fantastic week!



Headteacher Awards

Freddie ***(Montague)*** for amazing engagement, focus and participation in all lessons throughout the half term.

Xya ***(Montague)*** for stepping up to the challenge of Y6; settling well, trying hard and being a positive addition to Montague Class

Jiya ***(Bexhill)*** for consistently going above and beyond in her learning, demonstrating a wonderful drive to challenge herself by working at home

Rosie ***(Bexhill)*** for being an all-round delight in class and consistently demonstrating a wonderful, hard-working attitude toward everything she does

Nina, Naina, Musa and Myrraa ***(Gabriel)*** for showing excellent knowledge and curiosity at Lewisham Islamic Centre. We were blown away by your manners and maturity.

Anais ***(Wyleu)*** for being an upstander. You have showed maturity and excellent articulation skills.

Edmund ***(Bexhill)*** for the brilliant progress he has made and the way he keeps trying harder and harder every single day.

Samuel ***(Bexhill)*** for his wonderful attitude and the incredible effort he brings to our classroom every single day.

Woody ***(Montague):*** since returning from the break, he has demonstrated an outstanding level of focus and engagement in everything he does.

Leo ***(Bexhill)*** for his unwavering effort in class and the fantastic quality of his work, well done!

Sam Bastow ***(Wyleu)*** for showing courage and integrity by speaking up against negative comments to educate and stand up for what is right.

Anais Rhodes ***(Wyleu)*** for demonstrating courage, by standing up for others and speaking out in support of a peer

Seymour, Ajay, Marnie, Alice and **Joshua** ***(Grierson)*** for representing the school with excellent behaviour, respect and curiosity during our trip to the Lewisham Islamic Centre.

Molly ***(Grierson)*** for showing kindness by cutting her hair and donating LOTS of it to The Little Princess Trust to provide wigs to young children who have lost their hair through illness.

Quinn ***(Montague)*** for growing confidence in class, where active participation is leading to wonderful progress.

Magnus ***(Montague)*** for growing confidence in class, where active participation is leading to wonderful progress.

Jack ***(Montague)*** for growing confidence in class, where active participation is leading to wonderful progress.

Alice, Seymour, Ajay, Hugo, Marnie, Flora, Mila, Hugh, Arthur. Arianna and Rosa ***(Grierson)*** **Fia, Penelope, Thomas, Henry, Etta, Sophia, Rosie, Penny, Leo, Sam, Jody and Bonnie** ***(Wyleu)*** and **Frankie, Naina, Zoe, Avanti, Leonard. Theo, Leonor, Nye and Max** ***(Gabriel)*** for completing a Greek project at home to showcase to your peers – we look forward to showing these at our annual Art & Culture evening.

Iona Class for excellent behaviour, participation and curiosity on our V&A trip for the Objects to Buildings workshop! The leader of the workshop was impressed with our class and your ideas! Well done Team Iona!

Harvey ***(Bexhill)*** *for* his fantastic Design and Technology skills and his thorough, thoughtful preparation. His practical creativity and careful planning shone through!

Joel ***(Bexhill)*** for his fascinating World War II presentation. His thoughtful questioning, and engaging delivery brought history to life for the whole class.

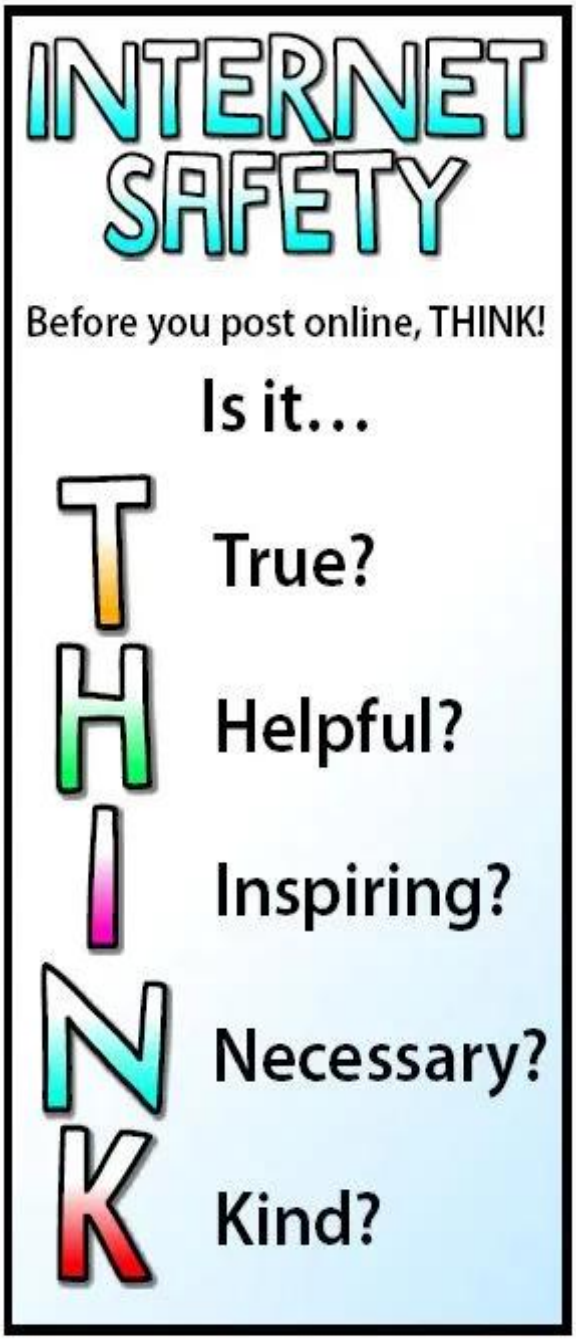
Chloe ***(Bexhill)*** for her outstanding World War II presentation and the poise and passion with which she delivered it. Wow! What a story

Olive ***(Bexhill)*** for her standout writing and her consistent dedication to going above and beyond. Her creativity and effort set a wonderful example for the class.

Abigail ***(Bexhill)*** for her outstanding positive attitude, and thoughtful contributions in class.

Freida ***(Bexhill)*** for her amazing creative writing and wonderful imagination.

Our Best at all times



Pebbles!

We have a quantity of garden pebbles that we no longer need in school, and we would love for them to find a new home rather than go to waste.

If you are doing any gardening or landscaping at home and could make use of some pebbles, please let us know. They could be great for borders, pathways, plant beds or other garden projects.

If you are interested, please contact the school office on admin@stillnessjslewisham.sch.uk. Available on a first-come, first served basis!

Thank you.

Admin Team

Islamic Centre

In November, Y5 visited Lewisham Islamic Centre to learn more about what happens inside a mosque and explore the Five Pillars of Islam. The children showed excellent curiosity, respect and maturity throughout the visit, demonstrating a genuine interest in learning about Islam and its place of workship.

"We went to the Islamic Centre and were told about the five pillars - Shahada, Salah, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj" **Jody**

"We went to the centre to learn about Islam. We learnt about the five pillars, then Quran, Islam's holy book and Allah. This trip was fun as I got to learn new facts and go with my friends" **Nahla**







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.

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.

Attendance

Our Attendance Officer is Sabrina Mascall who will be monitoring our pupils' attendance.

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

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, primary school children will now receive a school dinner free of charge for the academic year **2026/2027.**

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.

Diary Dates

Please refer to your Programme of Events and our School Calendar that you can access on the school website.