



Federation of Stewart Headlam and Hague Schools'



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Christmas parties were lots of fun. The children love playing musical chairs, musical bumps and all the favourite party games. They make us laugh and sometimes prizes make us a bit competitive to win. It's all good fun!

I hope you have logged onto the Google Classroom links to see each class performance. Putting the class videos in Google Classroom makes it easy to view and safely includes everyone.

Once again, a huge thank you to all families for all your support. Please stay safe, top up on vaccines and boosters as recommended if you can. Staff tell us that they are getting their boosters and making appointments so we know everyone is doing their best to stay well.

On behalf of all at Hague and Stewart Headlam we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas with best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Judy Knappett and SHH Federation Staff



THE IMPORTANT HOLIDAY AND TERM TIME DATES.

Spring Term 1	School opens Wednesday 5th January 2022 Gates open 8:45 – 9:00 am PLEASE don't be late your children miss out on the extra, 'catch up and ready to learn activities' in class with the teacher which we can see are making a big difference especially in maths. Some children have done a fantastic extra 75 minutes learning every week by getting to school at 8:45 every day. Breakfast Club opens at 8am at Stewart Headlam. Please let your school office know if your child is attending.
Half term	Monday 14 February 2022 - Friday 18 February 2022
Spring Term 2	Monday 21 February 2022 – Thursday 31 st March 2022
Easter break	Friday 1 st April 2022 - Monday 18 April 2022 (Includes an INSET DAY 1 st April)

Summer Term 1	Tuesday 19 April 2022 - Friday 27 May 2022
Half term	Monday 30 May 2022 - 3 June 2022
Summer Term 2	Monday 6 June 2022 – Thursday 21 st July 2022 <i>(Includes an INSET DAY 22nd July)</i>

Bank Holiday - Eid dates (approximate)	2022
Start of Ramadan	2 April
Eid Al-Fitr	2 May Bank Holiday / 3 rd May School closed for Eid
Eid Al-Adha	9 July School closed

Schools' Covid Contingency Plans - Preparing for January 2022



The government message is that, they do not want schools to close or return to lockdowns. We agree. We want the children in school learning with their teachers, learning support staff and friends. We know this is best for everyone.

The TV news tells us that the new variant, Omicron is spreading rapidly and will increase by January. This week school leaders have been asked to put contingency plans in place.

The main concern is children's and staff absence due to Covid and other circumstances. We have updated plans to support online line learning in case it is needed in January. If anything changes we will let you know by text and email to explain.

- Children will have to isolate at home for 10 days if they test positive for Covid.
- Once the children are well they can log onto Google Classroom to follow the lessons.
- Chrome books can be collected from school in the New Year if needed.
- We already have class lists of who needs them, but do let us know if your needs have changed.

IN JANUARY

- **Our expectation is that all children will be coming to school as normal but,** we are prepared to return to class bubbles, reduce social mixing between staff and classes if needed.
- We will continue with the soft start drop off and collection as well as wearing masks in communal areas and when meeting with parents and visitors.
- Staff will still be doing regular Lateral flow tests to prevent the spread of Covid.
- **Close contacts of anyone testing positive should do daily lateral flow tests for 7 days but can still attend school if negative.**
- **Children will need to do lateral flow tests if they have any of the Covid symptoms of high temperature, coughs, loss of taste or smell.** We strongly recommend testing

in the event of any symptoms for feeling unwell as we know sickness vomiting, tummy upsets and headaches have also been some of the Covid symptoms.

- Please see the extra Parent Information Sheet for further details of ONLINE LEARNING in January to be used if needed.

The good news is we have plenty for families to borrow thanks to Covid Catch-up funding and accessing free devices from Tower Hamlets and our education business partners.

This time last year we hardly had any home devices and we were worried about how to teach everyone. This year there is a plan and families know what to expect so can get organised for it just in case. If necessary (and we very much hope not) we will be sending children's exercise and text books home in January to support learning.



Last year one of our missions, was to increase the number of IT devices at Hague and Stewart Headlam.

We now have enough devices for all families to borrow at least one if not 2 depending on the number of children in the family.

'Digital Devices and online learning stops our children being disadvantaged.

Access to devices bridge inequality so that all children can enjoy learning and achieve great things.



WE LOVE READING

Well done to the Year 2 children and fantastic teachers.

We are very proud of the rapid progress shown in the December Year 2 Phonics Screening Tests.

The tests are normally done in Year 1 in June. It's a national screening test.

Doing it in December gave the children chance to catch-up.

We are delighted that 79% of the children at Hague and 96% of children at Stewart Headlam were successful and able to correctly read 32+ words out of 40

This shows that nearly everyone is 'on track' as a result of the extra reading and phonics sessions that teachers and TAs have been delivering. (If children were absent or not yet ready for the assessment they will be able to do it again at the end of Year 2 once they have learned all the letters and sounds.

We will be supporting to make sure every child is a reader.



The Christmas Holidays are a great time to read books to yourself and others.

<p>Year 6 Early Islamic Civilisation</p> <p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>Civilisation Past</p> <p>Islamic Badr</p> <p>Mosque Mecca</p> <p>Caliph Medina</p> <p>Scholar Battle</p> <p>Century Compare</p> <p>Anna Empire</p> <p>Demon</p> <p>Special Silk Road</p> <p>Agriculture route</p> <p>Translation Trade</p> <p>Bayt Al-Hisab power</p> <p>Revelance prophet</p> <p>Muhammad Persian</p> <p>ORAND</p>	<p>What is the legacy of the early Islamic civilisation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim scholars from the early Islamic civilisation are responsible for the discovery and development of a wide range of disciplines that we now take for granted in our daily lives. Work made by their early genius provided work of enormous value in many fields and was fundamental in laying the foundations in Europe which began in the 15th century - correct answers below the Golden Age of Islam. Abu Al-Hasan Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khawarizmi was born around AD 800 and is regarded throughout the world as the father of algebra. The almagest was born in AD 1000. He was influential in the study and development of optics and astronomy in the West. Al-Zahrawi was born in AD 1014. He is regarded as the father of surgery for his groundbreaking development of surgical techniques and the invention of numerous surgical tools like the trepan. Muhammad ibn Zakariya Razi was born in AD 864. He made a significant contribution to the history of medicine. <p>Who were the first four Caliphs?</p> <p>The first four caliphs were to be appointed after Muhammad's death to represent an age of 'pure Islam', although the Shia Muslims accepted only Ali as a deserving leader.</p> <p>Abu Bakr: AD 632 – 634 Umar: AD 634 – 644 Uthman: AD 644 – 656 Ali: AD 656 – 661</p>	<p>What was special about the city of Baghdad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baghdad was located in Persia, part of what is known today as Iraq. Baghdad was built in AD 762 by Caliph Al-Mansur as the new capital of the Islamic Empire. It was built in a circle, about 16m in diameter, with the mosque and grand headquarters in the centre. Houses were built around the city walls. Baghdad's location was perfect for the city to succeed. It was close to water and established trade routes. Baghdad became known as the cultural and economic capital of the world. The world's first universities and hospitals were built there. Over 1 million people lived in Baghdad. <p>What is the House of Wisdom?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bayt Al-Hikma, or 'The House of Wisdom', was built in AD 800 in Baghdad by Caliph Harun Al-Rashid. He encouraged learning and invited scholars of different faiths to his court and treated them with great respect. There was a library and research facility which collected and translated scientific writing from many languages including Persian, Indian, Ancient Greek and Roman texts.
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Knowledge Organisers

Please look out for the Spring Term Knowledge Organisers. They give key information about the new class topics that the children are expected to learn about and remember. The vocabulary, key ideas and time lines are starters to hook the children in. Please spend some time talking about the topics and being curious to find out more. Be ready to start learning in January.

And Finally Message.... it's the end of my first year as Executive Headteacher for Hague and Stewart Headlam but I am already starting to look forward to 2022.

In spite of all the Covid challenges, long hours and new things I have had to learn and do, I have loved.... nearly every day. Honestly, some days have been tougher than others for us, especially when stretched by staff absence and no agency cover, thinking about a leaky roof or covid risk assessments, I am sure you understand. I am exceptionally well supported by the two Heads of School, Nilufar and Sue, as well as the Assistant Heads Alison, Alice and Mili. We are fortunate to have teachers and support staff who really care and work so hard to do their best for the children. **Thank you to everyone for your kind support, encouragement and interested questions about how things are going between the schools.**

Building the SHH Federation Partnership takes time. We want everyone to understand the vision as to how we work collaboratively and efficiently. At times it is very hard work and long hours but I promise you it is worth it. It's better for everyone because we think about the best of what each school does and how we can make teaching and learning better for everyone at both schools.

Stewart Headlam and Hague Schools are stronger together.

- We have **High Ambitions** for all pupils to be successful learners with
- Broad Horizons** to explore and experience the breadth of the curriculum.
- Each school has **Proud Traditions** as well as developing new shared traditions.
- We aim to act with **integrity** and transparency, using the wisdom of experience and knowing what works for children in Tower Hamlets balanced with educational research to make good decisions.

I have always loved Hague. It's been my educational home since 1991. Throughout 2021 I have very quickly learned to love Stewart Headlam; because like Hague we have great children, families and staff. **I am usually at Stewart Headlam on Mondays and Tuesdays and Hague on Thursday and Fridays.** Wednesdays are a mix! I have 'yo-yo days' when I am back and forth between the 2 – these days are good for my step count and fitness!

I wish all families and children a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas holiday full of joy and laughter! Take very good care and stay well. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2022!

Judy Knappett



SCHOOL REOPENS ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022 from 8:45am –be on time!