



Dear mums, dads & carers

Well, we have reached the end of quite the most extraordinary school year in living memory - I doubt there will ever be another like it - and I wanted to say a very public & heartfelt 'thank you'.

Thank you first to **my amazing staff team** who have moved heaven & earth to make sure that, even in the most trying of circumstances, your children have been provided for. The videos, the lessons, the Google Classroom, the Stebon YouTube channel, the phone calls, the home visits, the food bags, the Chromebooks ... all of it! This group of people have gone the extra mile ... and then turned around and gone the extra extra mile & they have done it willingly, for each other & for your brilliant children. I could not be more proud of them & of our school.

Thank you to you, **mums, dads & families**, for the extraordinary support you have offered to your children, for taking the time to talk to us on the phone and for helping us to feel like - however far apart we have been - we are still connected! These connections are precious & we really want to keep them going.

And thank you, of course, to your **uniquely fantastic children** who have got stuck in & engaged with their learning & blown us away with the work they have completed & submitted. I read recently that 16% of children in Tower Hamlets have engaged in online learning every day. At Stebon, **97%** of pupils have engaged to at least a satisfactory level & nearly 70% complete every piece of work every day. This is amazing & is the product of the teamwork shown between staff, children & you. You must be very proud of them; we certainly are.

Although the Covid crisis has been hard, and for many of you there has been heartbreak, grief & loss to cope with, there have also been a great many positive things happening. Our children and staff have never been so computer literate, for example, & I imagine your own working knowledge has had to keep pace. And, ironically, our relationships with parents have never been stronger. It has really felt like we are on the same team, working together for your children. I hope you have felt the same.

The new year

In September, we welcome **all children** back to school. **Attendance** at school is **mandatory** from the very beginning of term.

Some things will look the same & others will be very different. This is so that we can make sure all protective measures are in place to keep your children - and you - as safe as possible.

- different year groups will arrive & leave at slightly different times. They will also use different gates. This is to try and make sure we are as separate & spread out as we can be. It is going to be **extremely important** that you and your children are **punctual** at drop off & pick-up times. We will let you know closer to the start of term what time you need to be arriving & picking up
- children will only mix with the children in their own class - this means that playtimes & lunchtimes will need to be staggered. The playground will be split into 3 areas & 1 class will be in each area - it will be in use throughout the day
- the classrooms have been reorganised so that they are easier to clean and so that children are seated facing in the same direction
- children will keep their personal belongings - and the equipment they need for their classwork - in a box beneath their own desk
- they will drink from named cups in the classroom to avoid cross-contamination
- each year group will have their own toilet block.

Don't worry if all of this seems like too much information to hold on to - we will be sending you links to videos in the last week of the holiday to help you prepare your children for the differences they will see. For now, just bear in mind that your children are expected back to school on Thursday 3 September & that it is super-important that you are punctual on that day & every other. It will really help us to keep everyone safe.

Thank you again for all that you have done & continue to do for your children. Despite all of the obstacles - or perhaps because of them - it has been another amazing year.

Kind regards

Jeremy Iver (Headteacher)



Term Dates 2020-2021

INSET (school closed): Tuesday 1 Sept & Wednesday 2 Sept 2020

School open: Thursday 3 September – Friday 23 October 2020

Half term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2020

School open: Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December 2020

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January 2021

School open: Monday 4 January – Friday 12 February 2021

Half term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2021

School open: Monday 22 February – Friday 26 March 2021

Spring Holiday: Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April 2021

School open: Monday 12 April – Friday 28 May 2021

May Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021

Half term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021

School open: Monday 7 June – Friday 16 July 2021

The school will be closed on Eid celebration days

Eid-ul-Fitr: TBC 12 May or 13 May 2021

Eid-ul-Adha: School will be closed on Monday 19 July and Tuesday 20 July 2021