

Headlines

Issue 1 - 09.09.22



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very pleased to welcome you back to a new school year. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy the lovely weather. I am also very pleased to welcome our new children and their families to Stepgates this term. The children have settled very well with their new class teachers and I am looking forward to a happy and successful year working together. I would like to thank you for your continuing support, which makes all the difference to your child's education at Stepgates.

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you on behalf of the staff at Stepgates for all the cards and gifts we received at the end of term. It is always sad to see the children we have worked closely with moving up to a new class or school but it is good to know that they have such happy memories to take with them as they grow up.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher at their 'Meet the Teacher' meetings which are being held next week as these meetings contain useful information which we hope will help with your child's transition; however there will be another opportunity to meet your child's class teacher later this term on Tuesday 4th October for Parent -Teacher Consultation Evening.

This week we have had a really interesting themed week, 'British Values. To celebrate the end of a wonderful week we had planned a school trip to Windsor Castle for Years 1-6. Unfortunately, in light of the incredibly sad announcement by Buckingham Palace yesterday evening, that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died, the trip had to be postponed. I know the children were very disappointed but, as always, Stepgates children have shown great resilience and have had a good day in school today. To commemorate Her Majesty's love of picnics, I made the decision to ask that children still bring in their packed lunch as planned; the children took part in a picnic lunch with staff and, whilst this was small compensation for their disappointment at missing their trip, they all had a lovely time. Thank you to all parents for your support and understanding. I must also thank all those parents who offered their help with the trip.

Please be assured I will update all parents/carers should there be any further changes and will advise you when we have a new date for our Windsor Castle trip.

STAFFING

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Payn back to school, following a period of absence. It is lovely to see her around school again and I know the children are very excited to have her back.

This is staffing news I hoped I would never need to write. It is with great sadness I have to inform you that during the summer Mrs Bella Edwards, one of our Learning Support Assistants, died after a long battle with cancer. Mrs Edwards was a highly valued member of staff who worked at Stepgates for many years and we very much miss having her in school. Our deepest sympathies and thoughts go to Mrs Edwards family at this very difficult time, in particular her two sons who attended Stepgates Community School when they were younger.

Her funeral is planned for next week and whilst many staff will be attending, we will have sufficient staff in school to ensure all classes are covered.

ARTSMARK

Stepgates Community School is delighted to have achieved the Silver Artsmark Award presented by the Arts Council England, for delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education, and for providing excellent ways in demonstrating this. We believe every child should have the opportunity to create, compose, and perform, as well as to visit, experience, participate in and review extraordinary work. Our Artsmark journey and achievement has helped us, at Stepgates, to unlock the potential of our pupils, helping us to develop character and talent of each individual.

The school provides whole school art projects, tailored music lessons, Artist and Composer of the Month sessions, enriching clubs, as well as trips and visits to optimise its cultural capital. With the support of the Governors, Senior Leadership Team and specialist coordinators, Stepgates has an enriched Arts programme for all pupils to access and enjoy.

MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER Cont'd

ECO-SCHOOLS

Eco-Schools Council worked very hard last term and we are pleased to announce that we achieved the Green Flag in July for Eco-Schools. We are now looking for a new Eco-Schools team to continue our good work.

Stepgates Community School Eco Code will be:

- Improve biodiversity by making bigger brighter homes for birds, bugs, bees, bats and butterflies
- Make Stepgates special by sustaining our nature space
- Leave litter louts out; we won't let litter touch the ground, pick it up if it's found!

REMINDER

If you are attending a school event parents/carers do have permission to film and take photographs but please do not share publicly, including on social media. Should you have a genuine concern please see me.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

On Friday 23rd September we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day. If your child would like to participate they should come to school wearing their school shirt, tie, jumper/cardigan with jeans and trainers/shoes.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

As a school we love to celebrate children's achievements and successes both in and outside of school. Have they achieved success in gymnastics, horse riding, football, swimming, playing an instrument, Cubs, Brownies etc.? Children may like to bring in a certificate or a photo of themselves involved in the activity and we celebrate their achievement with the whole school as part of our Friday assemblies.

UNIFORM

Thank you very much for sending the children back to school looking so smart. If you still need to buy new uniform then please order online at www.sportsofaddlestone@btconnect.com (telephone number 01932 849333). Just a reminder, PE kit is a red T-shirt with logo, black shorts (unbranded) and trainers. During the colder months the children are asked to wear black tracksuit bottoms and a red round neck sweatshirt (can be unbranded). **Please make sure that everything is named as it is so much easier to return it to its owner!**

CLUBS

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide variety of School Clubs to our children, both during and after school. Most of these are organised and run by Stepgates staff on a completely voluntary basis with one or two outside agencies adding to the selection of activities on offer.

You should have received the new Clubs Itinerary for Autumn Term this week; clubs will start week beginning 19th September.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents, children and staff of Stepgates Community School for making the start to the new term such a success.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Well done to the following children who have been presented with Headteacher

Awards:

Alfie Selway

SUMMER TERM GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

I am delighted to announce that the following children were presented with Governors' Achievement Awards for their achievements last term:

INFANTS TERMLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Isabella Hall Edwards-Kennedy for making excellent progress this year in all areas of her learning and growing in confidence

Mohammed Rehman for having a positive attitude towards learning and making super progress this year

JUNIORS TERMLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Katerina Fliszta Fernandes for having a fantastic attitude which has enabled excellent progress across the curriculum

Phoenix-Rocco Everett for having a positive attitude to school life

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:

Infants

Lara Cook for growing in confidence and joining in with enthusiasm

Finlee Taylor-Fane for incredible progress in his efforts during PE

Juniors

Maddi Allen for improved self-confidence in sport and for her support as a Sports Leader

Dylan Kittle for being a superb Sports Leader, and for his contribution to, and excellence in, football

THE ARTS AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:

Infants

Arabella Colborne for her contribution to the arts outside of school

Onur Arslan for resilience in his continuation of dancing throughout such a challenging year

Juniors

Max Tomlin for a fantastic, passionate and enthusiastic attitude to all of his artwork, including his own drawings

Julia Ksiazek for excellence across all the Arts and improved confidence in performance

PENNY WISE SWIMMING AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO:

Isaac Khoo For fantastic progress in swimming

CAPPIELLO CUP FOR READING WAS PRESENTED TO:

Adam Purkiss for consistent enthusiasm and love of reading

INFANT OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Ellie Jeffries for an outstanding attitude to learning throughout the Infants

JUNIOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Harry Pope for his fantastic attitude to school life and for always being proactive. Harry has really grown in confidence and shows great initiative and thoughtfulness in all he does

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

We are delighted to be able to welcome all prospective parents to come and see our wonderful school.

Our Open Morning and Open Evening tours will be held on the following dates:

Open Mornings

Thursday 13th October - 9:30am

Tuesday 1st November - 9:30am

Thursday 3rd November - 9:30am

Open Evening

Tuesday 8th November

Between 5pm and 7pm

Please contact the school office either by telephone (01932 563022) or email (events@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk) to book a slot, specifying which day and time.

All visits must be booked in advance

SCHOOL DINNERS



We would like to remind parents that we require one week's notice if you would like to change from packed lunch to school dinners or school dinners to packed lunch. Unfortunately we are not able to change on a daily basis.

Should you have any queries regarding school dinners, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Is your child starting school in September 2023?

If your child was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 you will need to apply for a school place between 31st October 2022 and 15th January 2023.

Apply online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

Is your child in Year 6?

If your child was born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012 you will need to apply for a secondary school place by 31st October 2022.

Apply online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Pablo Picasso

Full Name: Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso

(25 October 1881 – 8 April 1973)

Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life in France. He was regarded as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



John Williams

(Born 8th February 1932)

John Towner Williams is an American composer, conductor, pianist and trombonist. In a career that has spanned nearly seven decades, he has composed some of the most popular, recognizable, and critically acclaimed film scores in cinematic history. Williams has won 25 Grammy Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards, five Academy Awards, and four Golden Globe Awards. With 52 Academy Award nominations, he is the second most-nominated individual, after Walt Disney. His compositions are considered the epitome of film music. In 2005, the American Film Institute selected Williams's score to 1977's *Star Wars* as the greatest film score of all time. The Library of Congress also entered the *Star Wars* soundtrack into the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

Our Value for this
Half Term is



Collaboration

DATES - 2022/2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 12th to Fri 16th September	'Meet the Teacher' Meetings (Date & time for each class advised separately)
Friday 23rd September	Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 30th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 4th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Friday 7th October	Kites Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 14th October	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Thursday 20th October	Individual School Photographs
Friday 21st October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 24th to Friday 28th October	Half Term
Monday 31st October	Children return to school
Friday 4th November	Hawks Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 11th November	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 18th November	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 22nd November	Flu Vaccinations - Years R-6
Friday 25th November	Butterflies Class Assembly 9:05am
Monday 5th December	INSET Day - School Closed
Friday 16th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 19th Dec to Mon 2nd Jan 2023	Christmas Holidays

TERM DATES 2022-2023 (Including INSET Days)

Thursday 1st September 2022 - INSET Day - School closed
Friday 2nd September 2022 - INSET Day - School closed

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Monday 5th September 2022 - Children in Years 1-6 start school
Friday 21st October 2022 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Mon 24th October to Friday 28th October 2022)

Monday 31st October 2022 - Children return to school
Monday 5th December 2022 - INSET Day - School closed
Friday 16th December 2022 - Last day of Autumn term - Children finish at 1pm

(Christmas holidays - Mon 19th December 2022 to Mon 2nd January 2023)

SPRING TERM 2023

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 - INSET Day - School closed
Wednesday 4th January 2023 - Children return to school
Friday 10th February 2023 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Mon 13th February to Fri 17th February 2023)

Monday 20th February 2023 - Children return to school
Friday 31st March 2023 - Last day of Spring term - Children finish at 1pm

(Easter holidays - Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023)

SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17th April 2023 - Children return to school
Monday 1st May 2023 - Bank Holiday - School closed
Friday 26th May 2023 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Mon 29th May to Fri 2nd June 2023)

Monday 5th June 2023 - Children return to school
Friday 21st July 2023 - Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm