

Headlines

Issue 2 - 23.09.22



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents who took the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher at their 'Meet the Teacher' meetings; it was a pleasure to welcome you into school. If you were unable to attend there will be another opportunity to meet your child's class teacher later this term on Tuesday 4th October for Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening. We will continue with a combination of face to face meetings and virtual meetings as this format proved to be very successful last year. This is to accommodate those parents who find it easier to attend virtually, alongside those who prefer face to face meetings. All parents will receive information giving further details in due course.

Our lovely FOSS team (Friends of Stepgates School) have been busy organising a variety of events for the children to enjoy during the Autumn Term, including their very popular Halloween Disco, Break the Rules at Stepgates day, Bag2School and much more. Please see Page 5 for details of our 'Upcoming Events' for Autumn Term.

We hope you will also take a look around our website (www.stepgateschool.co.uk) which contains lots of useful information. This is updated regularly and includes our Upcoming Events, as well as Latest News, INSET Days, Term Dates, our school newsletter, Headlines, useful links and much more.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

To celebrate Harvest, the children of Stepgates Community School will be performing a service at St Peter's Church, on Tuesday 18th October. (Please see separate letter for further information).

We would ask, if possible, for any voluntary donations of non-perishable or tinned food items to be sent in to school with your child, during the week Monday 10th to Friday 14th October. These will be given to The Salvation Army, who will distribute to families who are vulnerable or in need.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and invite all parents/carers to join us for the service at St Peter's Church.

JEANS FOR GENES

Thank you to all parents for supporting Jeans for Genes day today. Your generosity towards this very worthy cause, which provides care and support for thousands of children living with genetic disorders, is very much appreciated.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

All parents/carers (and younger siblings) are invited to join us at 9:00am on Friday 30th September for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. In addition, we will be holding a second hand uniform sale at the same time. (Please see separate flyer for further details).

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

This term I am pleased to announce that our Head Boy is Olly Boulton and Head Girl is Rosie Jackson, selected by the children. I am sure they will be excellent role models in our school community. Congratulations also to our new Deputy Head Boy, James Crowe and Deputy Head Girl, Lola Bobilier. Well done!

ATTENDANCE

As we start a new academic year, I thought it would be a good opportunity to remind parents/carers of my expectations regarding attendance, including 'Requests for Leave of Absence' and 'Lateness'. Further details follow on Page 2, which includes a very useful 'Absence from School' poster. In the meantime, congratulations to Falcons and Ladybirds Classes for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

	5th-9th September	12th-16th September
WHOLE SCHOOL	97.4%	94.0%
Ladybirds	96.4%	97.2%
Butterflies	97.0%	96.4%
Grasshoppers	95.5%	91.9%
Falcons	99.7%	94.6%
Hawks	99.1%	95.9%
Owls	96.4%	95.8%
Kites	97.2%	85.9%

ABSENCE & HOLIDAY REQUESTS

I have noticed an increase in the number of requests for term time holidays since September. I would like to remind you that the Head Teacher, on behalf of the Governing Body, can grant leave, at their discretion, for up to **5 days in any school year in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**. (Please note - A 'Family Holiday' does not meet the criteria for 'exceptional circumstances'). This includes leaving school early.

In accordance with guidance from Surrey County Council no holidays will be authorised at the beginning of the academic year, or during May due to end of year assessments. No parents/carers can demand leave of absence for their children as a right. Holidays taken without the permission of the Governing Body may result in legal action being taken against each parent.

Whilst the school will grant requests for absence for dental and medical treatments, parents/carers are encouraged, whenever possible, to book dental and medical appointments outside of the school day. When appointments during the school day are unavoidable, the school office should be notified in advance in writing, of the date and time of the appointment and when the child will be collected and/or returned to school. Evidence of the appointment should be provided.

LATENESS

It is expected that children will arrive at school on time. Did you know that being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school over the year. Lateness is just as serious as non-attendance and could also lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice. The start of the school day is an important time for children to develop their social skills with their peers, as well as preparing them for their learning. We start teaching at 8.50am and 'late' children miss out on vital skills such as phonics and/or basic number work. In cases of persistent late arrival to school, school will liaise with the parents/carers to identify reasons for the persistent lateness and provide appropriate support and guidance. The matter may be referred to the Inclusion Officer for investigation.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

Absence from School

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%. Being **LATE** after registration will also **LOWER** your attendance.

How many days do you attend school?

Attendance during one school year	Equals - days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

Attend today
Achieve tomorrow.
Every minute Counts!

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- * Bella Griffiths - Library Reading Challenge Certificate
- * Alannah Brough - Library Reading Challenge Certificate and Dance Medal
- * Ellilemay Scott - Karate Orange Belt and Certificate
- * Jayden Painter - Karate Certificate
- * Erin Boulton - Dance Medal

Thank you for sharing your success with the children at our Whole School Assembly.

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

- ◆ Nayeema Uddin
- ◆ Isabella Hall Edwards-Kennedy
- ◆ Freddie Jackson-Eeles

STEPGATES SHINING STARS

Our Stepgates Shining Star programme is now in its 11th year. This has become very popular, with children wearing their stars with pride. Each half term we identify children who excel in a particular area of the curriculum and invite them to participate in activities that will broaden their knowledge and skills.

For those of you that are unaware, each half term we will focus on a different curriculum subject, whereby the Subject Leader will provide specialised enrichment opportunities for Able, Gifted and Talented pupils. These will usually be in the form of a weekly session, in which the children are able to utilize their talents and interests. Children identified as being Able, Gifted and Talented will receive a Shining Stars badge that they can keep. Our focus for this half term will be science.

Congratulations to this year's Science Shining Stars:

Joey Domican
Adewonuola Osiyemi
Daphne Coleman-Parker
Jack Every
Owen Jeffries
Phoebe Scorer
James Crowe
Arabella Marklew

Mrs Muller is very much looking forward to working with the children on an exciting project.

MISS SHAND

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

We are excited to invite all prospective parents to visit 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 (Last tour: 6:30pm)

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

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

DATES - 2022/2023

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2022

Friday 30th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:00am and Second-hand Uniform Sale
Tuesday 4th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Friday 7th October	Kites Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 14th October	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 18th October	Harvest Festival Service at St Peter's Church
Thursday 20th October	Individual School Photographs FOSS Halloween Disco
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 FOSS Pumpkin Carving Competition
Friday 4th November	Hawks Class Assembly 9:05am
Thursday 10th November	FOSS Break the Rules at Stepgates Day
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
Tuesday 29th November	FOSS Bag2School Collection
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

Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 3rd January	INSET Day - School closed
Wednesday 4th January	Children return to school
Friday 10th February	Children finish at normal time for half term
Monday 13th to Friday 17th February	Half Term
Monday 20th February	Children return to school
Friday 31st March	Last day of Spring term - Children finish at 1pm
Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April	Easter holidays

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17th April	Children return to school
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Friday 26th May	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 29th May to Fri 2nd June	Half Term
Monday 5th June	Children return to school
Monday 12th June	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 21st July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

ADVERTISEMENTS

We are regularly asked if we can advertise a variety of external clubs, in the form of flyers/posters etc. The following page(s) contain advertisement requests we have received from external clubs.

Please note - The advertisements are provided for your information only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Stepgates Community School of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organisation or individual. Stepgates Community School bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site, or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

FAMILY LEARNING COOKERY COURSES FOR PARENTS

We have been asked to share the following with our families.

For further information, please follow the link below:

<https://mailchi.mp/b5125e73b449/family-learning733920-734164?e=72b08cb1e0>



Cookery Courses For Parents



FREE COURSES

FREE courses for parents and carers of children age 4-11

Grab this wonderful opportunity for you and your child to have some quality time together... having fun, being healthy and learning new cookery skills.

HOW DO I BOOK

Click the link or use the QR code to check dates and book your space.



Check Out Our Available Courses!

How to Create a Healthy Lunchbox

Exciting Soups and Perfect Puds!

Get Ready for a Yummy Halloween

Fakeaway V Takeaway

For The Love of Brownies

Christmas Biscuits to Make and Decorate



SCAN ME

