

Headlines

Issue 3 - 07.10.22



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very conscious you have been asked to donate to a variety of worthy causes recently, with further events/activities planned. I am mindful that some families will be experiencing financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living, and am also aware we are fast approaching Christmas, which also has financial implications for you all. Please be assured your continued generosity is very much appreciated by the staff at Stepgates and, of course, the children. Without your assistance the children would not be able to participate in the many wonderful activities we are able to provide at Stepgates.

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended our Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings which were held this week and very well attended. If you were not able to meet your child's class teacher please contact them to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. These meetings are a valued opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements and support their learning.

We are busy making plans for Christmas and I am delighted that all children will, once again, have an opportunity to watch a pantomime in school this year. The children will enjoy their Christmas lunch, followed by a performance of Cinderella.

HARVEST FESTIVAL REMINDER

All parents/carers are warmly invited to attend our Harvest Festival Celebrations at St Peter's Church, Chertsey, on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 10:00am.

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to a new member of staff, Sarah Scott, who has joined us this term as a Nursery Keyworker. I am sure she will soon feel part of the Stepgates team.

I am sad to announce that Mrs Steptoe (Higher Level Teaching Assistant), who has been on maternity leave, will be leaving the Stepgates team to spend time with her family.

Mrs Kemp, our Finance Assistant, will also be leaving us this week, having been part of the Stepgates team since 2002. Whilst we are very sad to be losing Mrs Kemp, we are delighted that she has secured a new, very exciting, role nearer to home. I am also very pleased that I will still have the opportunity to work closely with her as she will remain as Clerk to the Governors.

Both are highly valued members of staff and will be greatly missed by staff and children. We wish them both well for the future.

UNIFORM REMINDER

I have seen an increasing number of children wearing trainers/boots in school and would like to remind parents/carers that all children should be wearing **BLACK SCHOOL SHOES** - no heels, trainers or boots are allowed. However, if you are experiencing difficulties, please contact your child's class teacher.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to all parents who have completed and returned their questionnaire; I am delighted to say these have been very positive. Thank you! If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, it is not too late. Your feedback is always valued.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

All of our children across the school have been busy creating their own unique Christmas card designs. The project, run by Class Fundraising.co.uk, will be printing their designs and parents/carers will be able to order a range of products after half term. This project enables the school to raise additional funds for Art resources at Stepgates.

Mrs T Ford - Headteacher

	19th-23rd September	26th-30th September
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.0%	94.1%
Ladybirds	98.1%	92.8%
Butterflies	92.7%	93.6%
Grasshoppers	89.8%	95.6%
Falcons	94.3%	95.8%
Hawks	94.9%	96.7%
Owls	93.2%	90.9%
Kites	94.3%	93.9%

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Ladybirds and Hawks Classes for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- * Adewonuola Osiyemi - Jubilee Dance Medal
 - * Ruby Bobillier - Player of the Match Medal
 - * Elliemay Scott - Karate Tournament Certificate
 - * Clay Holman - 5M Flotation Swimming Certificate
 - * Bella Colborne - 1st Place Gymnastic Competition Shield
 - * Jayden Painter - Karate Tournament Certificate
 - * Aaron Cavaco - Jubilee Dance Medal
 - * Amelia Wallace - Player of the Match
- 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:

- ◆ Alfie Selway
- ◆ Owen Jeffries
- ◆ Owls Class

LADYBIRDS CLASS

Our new Ladybirds are settling into school life brilliantly! From following routines to making new friends and learning together. Everyone especially loves our self-portrait wall, where the children have created their own master pieces. We hope you like them!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Stephen McMennamy

(Born September 25, 1972)



Stephen McMennamy was born in Marietta, Georgia, United States. He is a celebrity conceptual artist.

He creates digital mashup art by combining photos together to create mind bending images using computer technology!

He has created adverts for Samsung and AT&T and is a famous Instagrammer.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(27 January 1756 – 5 December 1791)



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart baptised as Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a musician capable of playing multiple instruments who started playing in public at the age of 6. Over the years, Mozart aligned himself with a variety of European venues and patrons, composing hundreds of works that included sonatas, symphonies, masses, chamber music, concertos and operas, marked by vivid emotion and sophisticated textures.

MACMILLAN
COFFEE MORNING

Thank you very much to everyone who donated and bought cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Morning.

It was a great success; very well attended and we managed to raise £168.52 for this very worthy cause.



Thursday 20th October
 Infants 3:20 - 4:30
 Juniors 4:45 - 6:00

1
 £5.00* all inclusive.
 Entrance, bag of sweets, popcorn, drink, glitter tattoo

2
 £2.50 Includes:
 Entrance
 Additional food and drinks sold separately.
 See below prices.

Prizes..... • BEST DRESSED • BEST DANCER	Individual prices Drink: 70p/£1 Sweet bag: 50p Popcorn: 50p Glitter tattoo: £1.50	Please note, Infants will be taken directly from class at the end of the day to the disco and collected at 4:30 from the shared area. Please send them in with a change of clothes/Halloween costume in a named bag (if they wish!)
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Tickets will be sold after school on the **Tuesday 11th & Friday 14th October** outside reception. You will be able to pay on the door, but it is much easier to organise in advance.

Alternatively, please mark an envelope with your child's name/class and your ticketing choice (option 1 or 2).

- If you decide on Option 1, please let your child know what it includes!
- If you choose Option 2, please specify if you have left extra money for a glitter tattoo
- Hand directly into the office or the red box by the reception (ideally for Infants, not with your child please!).

***Sibling discount:** First child, full price. Additional siblings, £4.50 thereafter.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

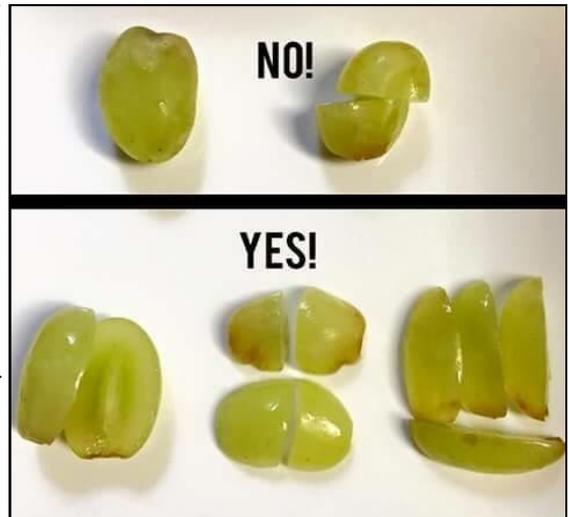
If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch containing grapes, please read the following carefully

Did you know whole grapes are a dangerous choking hazard for babies, toddlers and young children?

Grapes can be a healthy treat for young children, but they're also the third most common cause of death among children who die in food-related choking incidents.

Due to the size, shape and texture of grapes they can be hazardous for small children, whose airways can get blocked when they try to swallow them. Unfortunately, a lack of awareness of this danger has led to severe choking and even deaths in youngsters as the usual first aid procedures are less likely to work.

To prevent any problems, slice grapes in half - or ideally quarters - lengthways. Cutting them this way makes them thinner so they're able to pass through small windpipes more easily. Grapes cut in half along the width can still get lodged in children's throats so this should be avoided at all times.



EASYFUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Friends of Stepgates School?

There are over 4,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, GoCompare, eBay, Argos and Sainsbury's; the list is huge and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- 1. Join.** Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stepgates/> and sign up for free.
- 2. Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- 3. Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of Stepgates School will be really grateful for your donations.

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 14th October	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Monday 10th to Friday 14th October	Harvest donations of non-perishable & tinned goods
Tuesday 18th October	Harvest Festival Service at St Peter's Church
Thursday 20th October	Individual School Photographs - <i>Smart school uniform</i> 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
Wednesday 9th November	Year 6 Junior Citizen
Thursday 10th November	FOSS Break the Rules at Stepgates Day
Friday 11th November	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
Mon 14th to Fri 18th November	Book Fair
Friday 18th November	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 22nd November	Flu Vaccinations - Years R-6
Friday 25th November	Butterflies Class Assembly 9:05am
Mon 28th Nov to Fri 2nd Dec	Christmas Toy Appeal Donations
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.

We have been asked to share the following information from Family Learning with our parents/carers.

FAMILY LEARNING

Please follow the link below for the Family Learning Bulletin 30. The content includes fun craft and cooking ideas, as well as a great reading opportunity.

Family Learning Bulletin 30

You can still enrol on courses starting in October and November.

Please see the available courses and workshops below:

- **Helping your child manage anxiety**
- **Exploring behaviour strategies**
- **Developing children's self-esteem**
- **Building children's resilience**
- **Cooking and baking**
- **English for parents/carers as an additional language**
- **Applying for a primary school**

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Annual Event and AGM 2022



Surrey parent carers are invited to sign up for our free online School Transition event. This will be especially relevant for parents of children who are transitioning or have recently transitioned from primary to secondary school.

We are delighted that on Friday 18th November we will be holding an in-person day event running from 10am-2pm at Eastwood Leisure Centre in Woking.

From Monday 14th to Thursday 17th November, we have online specialist speakers, panel discussions, presentations, and training from experts from the NHS, Surrey County Council, Contact training and many more.

Guest speakers will include; Award winner and author Yvonne Newbold discussing ways to support anxiety driven behaviour challenges, SEN lawyer and expert Sarah Palmer from The Children's Legal Practice who will be talking about reasonable adjustments and legal rights.

To take part, please register via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/339848474937>

Our event will open at 10am on Monday 14th of November.

The finalised timetable will be released in September.

So keep your eyes peeled!

During the day you will have the opportunity to speak to a variety of organisations and charities in our market place that will offer more information about the support services that they can provide.

Tickets to the free day event are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis via pre-booking via Eventbrite link.

Once registered, you will receive an email each morning of the event with the links for you to access the sessions from your smartphone or computer. We will also send you a timetable for the week in advance with details of all our speakers and live Q&A sessions.

Topics include: Growing up guidance, parent and child wellbeing, reasonable adjustments, paperwork and preparation and much more.

Anyone attending the in-person event on the 18th November will be entered into a free raffle to win fantastic prizes including; a tablet and tickets to days out or activities.