

Headlines

Issue 14 - 21.04.23



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new term, it doesn't seem possible it's the Summer term already. I hope you all had a very enjoyable holiday.

On Thursday 20th April we had a very successful whole school trip to Windsor Castle; this was a fantastic trip, rearranged from September, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the staff and children. I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who offered their help on the day and to the children, who were outstanding ambassadors for the school during the trip; their behaviour was exemplary!

We have a very busy term ahead with many exciting activities arranged; our wonderful FOSS Team are already in the process of organising their very popular Summer Fair. Further details of this will follow in due course.

We are almost in May with SATs tests for Year 6 starting the week beginning Tuesday 9th May. (School will be closed on Monday 8th May which is a Bank Holiday to Celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III). Year 2 will also be sitting their SATs tests during May and assessments will be taking place in all year groups. PLEASE make sure your child is in school every day so they do not miss any preparation work or tests.

ABSENCE & HOLIDAY REQUESTS

As we start the Summer term, I thought I would take the opportunity to remind parents of my expectations regarding absence and holiday requests. 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.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to the 68 children who achieved 100% attendance for the Spring term.

All parents will shortly be receiving a Red, Amber or Green Attendance letter for your child based on their attendance last term. Individual attendance for a child should be at least 95%; anything above this generates a 'Green' letter. Attendance below 90% generates a 'Red' letter as this is well below what is expected, and attendance between 90% and 95% generates an 'Amber' letter. These figures do not relate to whether the absences are authorised or not, they are based on overall attendance for the term.

Please see Page 2 of this newsletter for further attendance information, including calculations for lost learning due to lateness to school. I would like to remind parents that lateness to school is just as serious as non-attendance and could also lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice. It is expected that children will arrive at school on time. 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 (IO) for investigation on her regular visits to school. The role of the Inclusion Service is to monitor school attendance/lateness and to support children in order to improve their attendance/lateness. This often involves a home visit.

Thank you for your support in ensuring all our children are in school on time, every day.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE
Congratulations to Falcons
and Ladybirds Classes for
the best attendance in the
last two weeks of Spring
Term.

	20th-24th March	27th-31st March
WHOLE SCHOOL	92.9%	94.8%
Ladybirds	89.4%	97.8%
Butterflies	92.8%	94.4%
Grasshoppers	94.4%	94.7%
Falcons	95.8%	94.9%
Hawks	94.6%	94.2%
Owls	91.2%	96.1%
Kites	91.5%	91.8%

Attendance Matters



Children Absent from school

0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance

Late to School



PROUD CORNER



WELL DONE TO:



- ♦ Edward H (Year 4) - Swimming Certificates, Badges & Hat
- ♦ Dexter S (Year 1) - Kung Fu Belt & Certificate
- ♦ Olivia L (Year 6) - Cheerleading Team Competition Medal - 1st Place
- ♦ Bella B (Year 3) - Gymnastics 1st Place Medal
- ♦ Jessica H (Year 5))
- ♦ Lily S (Year 5)) Gymnastics Badges
- ♦ Summer S (Year 2)) and
- ♦ Phoebe H (Year 2)) Certificates
- ♦ Bella B (Year 4))

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:

- * Max P (Year 2)
- * Nordine A (Year 2)
- * Mika I (Year 5)
- * Teddy J-E (Year 4)
- * Alfie S (Year 5)
- * Matilda C (Year 5)
- * Jack W (Year 1)
- * Vivienne T (Year 2)
- * Alfie P (Year 2)

SPRING TERM GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

I am delighted to announce that the following children have been presented with Governors' Achievement Awards for their achievements in Spring term:

Infants

- Piper C (Year 2) - For improvement in reading this term
- Archie L (Year 1) - For his constant effort within his writing

Juniors

- Reggie D-I (Year 3) - For a consistently positive attitude to learning
- Lola B (Year 6) - For her fantastic attitude and contribution to whole school life and for being a fantastic role model

Sporting Achievement Awards were presented to:

- Elliemay S (Year 1) - For consistent out of school contribution to Karate
- Harrison M (Year 6) - For being the most improved and accommodating member of the school football team

The Arts Awards were presented to:

- Ethan L (Year 2) - For outstanding contribution to art with a very intricate skill for design
- Subhan K (Year 6) - For consistent excellence in art and for working to develop his skills in his own time

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Our Value for this
Half Term is



Courage



INSET DAY

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY 12TH JUNE 2023
FOR AN INSET DAY**

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



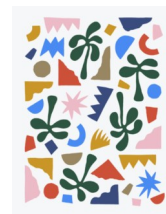
Andrew Lloyd-Webber

Musical Genre: Musicals

Andrew Lloyd Webber is an English composer and impresario of musical theatre. Several of his musicals have run for more than a decade both in the West End and on Broadway. He has composed 21 musicals, a song cycle, a set of variations, two film scores, and a Latin Requiem Mass.

He has received a number of awards, including a knighthood in 1992, followed by a peerage from Queen Elizabeth II for services to the Arts.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Will Bryant

Art style: Graphic Design

Will Bryant is an artist, designer, and illustrator based in Austin, Texas. He'd like to think that he makes fun, exuberant, and sometimes humorous work. In addition to collaborating with brands, he also continues to develop a body of work in the form of painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. He studied graphic design at Mississippi State University (2008) and received an MFA in Contemporary Art Practice from Portland State University (2013).

ROCKSTEADY CONCERT

THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN HAVING SESSIONS WITH ROCKSTEADY WERE VERY EXCITED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS ON FRIDAY 24TH MARCH.

THE BANDS ALL GAVE A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE AND LOVED PERFORMING TO THE REST OF THE SCHOOL, STAFF AND PARENTS, WHO ALL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO ATTENDED.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Thank you

A very big thank you to Seymours Addlestone, Castellum and Ace Thames Security, for their monetary donations towards our Easter Egg Hunt at the end of Spring Term. Each child received a lovely Easter gift as a result.

This was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the children of Stepgates.



FOSS EASTER DISCO

A huge thank you also to all those who helped out with the Easter Disco, including Bibbity Bobbity Balloons who donated the fabulous Easter balloons.

This was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Well done and thank you to all involved!



Save the date for the

FOSS SUMMER FAIR

FRIDAY 23RD JUNE 2023

A firm favourite in Stepgates Community School calendar.

Further details to follow....

DATES - 2022/2023

DURING MAY ASSESSMENTS FOR ALL CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE
NO AUTHORISED ABSENCES WILL BE GRANTED DURING THIS TIME

UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER TERM 2023

Thursday 27th April	FOSS Bag2School Collection
Friday 28th April	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III - School closed
Tues 9th - Fri 12th May	SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) Week
Tuesday 9th May	Book Fair this week
Friday 19th May	Hawks Class Assembly 9:05am
Thursday 25 th May	Class Photos
Friday 26th May	Ladybirds Class Assembly 9:05am
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
Mon 5th - Fri 9th June	Year 6 (Kites) Residential trip
Monday 12th June	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 16th June	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 23rd June	FOSS Summer Fair - <i>Further details to follow.....</i>
Tuesday 27th June	Secondary Induction Day - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Wednesday 28th June	Secondary Induction Day - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Thursday 6th July	Year 6 (Kites) to Harry Potter Studios
Friday 7th July	Butterflies Class Assembly 9:05am
Saturday 8th July	Black Cherry Fair
Friday 14th July	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 21st July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

MONDAY 1ST MAY IS BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED

MONDAY 8TH MAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY TO
CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF
HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED

DON'T FORGET FOSS BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION ON THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2023

If you're like us and recently had a sort out but have nowhere to take your unwanted clothes and items, look no further than here! Bag2School is an organisation that helps raise funds for schools and other charities by collecting unwanted clothes.

Bag2School will accept the following 'good quality' items for reuse:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

Items that won't be accepted by Bag2School:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- **School uniforms with and without logo**
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Please, please do not hand in wet, stained or school-branded clothing. Each bag will be checked, so please make sure these guidelines are followed.

Drop off to school on Thursday 27th April 2023 between 8-9am and 3-4pm. Or earlier/later by arrangement with FOSS.



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.



You are all invited to join us in the garden behind St Peter's Church, Windsor Street, Chertsey for a coronation celebration; street-party style! 10:30 am – 4.00pm ish
Saturday May 6th

It promises to be a great community gathering!

£10 per person, kids under 10 free - loads of food (check out the pics 📸), fun, watch the procession and coronation on screen, kids' crafts and games, young people hang out, commemorative coronation souvenir craft, face painting, bouncy castle, live music, cakes, photobooth, fun, friendship and make great memories.

Also, you don't have to be a royalist, just someone who loves a bit of local community shenanigans 🥳 Everyone welcome!

Book your tickets to avoid disappointment – numbers are limited, so don't miss out!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coronation-garden-party-tickets-596730867087>

