

Headlines

Issue 19 - 14.07.23



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Yet again the end of term rushes towards us and I can't believe we are almost at the end of the school year. Congratulations must go to all the children for their progress and attainment this year, academically and personally; they should be very proud of their achievements. The staff continue to do a fantastic job in helping them to do their very best and the children's progress reflects the hard work of the children themselves and everyone in school.

The Year 6 children have visited their new schools and continue to make their preparations for moving on to their new secondary schools. On Monday they presented their end of term production 'Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back' which was amazing! I am sure there were many proud parents in the audience and a few tears! We wish them all good luck as they move up and hope that they will stay in touch as they grow into happy and successful young people.

These are the schools they are moving on to this year:

Year 6 transferring to:	Number of children (34)
Chertsey High School	26
Jubilee High School	1
The Magna Carta School	1
Heathside	1
Fullbrook	1
Thamesmead	1
Salesian School	1
Other	2

STAFFING

The staffing in September will be similar to this year, but there are a few changes. Following my letter dated 27th June 2023, I am delighted to announce Mr St-Gallay will be joining us as a 'Early Career Teacher' in September, having successfully completed his SCITT Programme. Therefore, I am now able to confirm our staffing arrangements for next year, which will be as follows

Sunbeams (Nursery)	Miss Dyos
Ladybirds (Reception)	Mrs White
Butterflies (Year 1)	Mr St-Gallay
Grasshoppers (Year 2)	Mrs Thompson
Busy Bees (Infant SLCN)	Mrs Payn
Falcons (Year 3)	Miss Tibble
Hawks (Year 4)	Miss Aira
Owls (Year 5)	Miss Campbell
Kites (Year 6)	Mrs Brough
Robins (Junior SLCN)	Mrs Muller
Support teachers	Mrs Conn - Cover Teacher
	Ms Shand - Cover Teacher
	Mrs Lynch - Numbers Count & Nurture Teacher
	Mrs Pope - Forest School & Nurture Teacher

I am sad to announce that Miss Evans (Learning Support Assistant) will be leaving us at the end of this term, having been part of the Stepgates team since 2016. Miss Evans is a highly valued member of staff and will be greatly missed by staff and children. Whilst we are very sad to be losing Miss Evans, we are delighted she has secured a new, very exciting, role and we would like to congratulate her on this wonderful opportunity.

As you will be aware Mr and Mrs Roydhouse, who have been running The 326 Club for 20 years, will be retiring at the end of this term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them both a very happy retirement!

MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER Cont'd....

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Hawks Class for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

SCHOOL DAY TIMES

The Government have decided that schools are required to be open 32.5 hours a week. At the moment we are 25 minutes short of this time. We looked at finding this time within the school day but unfortunately the rules apply to the length of the school day as opposed to the lesson time available. Therefore, from September, we will be starting our school day at 8:45am.

As this will be the last newsletter for this academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the following:

- Firstly, thank you to the children, who remain happy and engaged. I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- I would also like to say a huge thank you to our FOSS team, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the children are able to enjoy many fantastic activities throughout the academic year; including their very successful Black Cherry Fair Procession, which resulted in Stepgates being the procession winner again this year!
- I would also like to say thank you to all parents/carers. Your continued support and generosity is very much appreciated and definitely not taken for granted.
- Thank you to all Governors who continue to devote their time to Stepgates.
- And finally, I would like to say a very big thank you to my wonderful staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the children of Stepgates Community School.

All year groups will finish school at 1:00pm on Friday 21st July 2023. Children will return to school on Monday 4th September 2023 at 8:45am **prompt** (doors open at 8:40am). Our new Reception and Nursery children have been advised separately of their starting arrangements.

I would like to wish you and your families a restful Summer break. I hope you remain safe and well and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school in September. (Please see Page 6 for a list of dates already in the school diary for next academic year; including our Whole School Trip to the Matinee Performance of 'Shrek the Musical' at Woking Theatre on Wednesday 1st November 2023).

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

Stepgates Summer Fair 2023

Another year, another fabulous (and hot) Stepgates Summer Fair!

A very hot and fantastic day was had by all at this year's annual Summer Fair which took place on Friday 23rd June 2023. We had the pleasure of hosting the Mayor of Runnymede as our special guest. A range of fair favourites such as our amazing grand prize raffle, bouncy castles, lucky lolly, welly-wanging, penalty shoot-out, teddy tombola, glitter tattoos, refreshments, bottle tombola, hook-a-duck, coconut shy and many others provided non-stop entertainment!

Most importantly, the Fair made a profit of **£2,240** on the day - vital funds that will go directly back into equipment and experiences for the children, all while having fun in the process. Thank you to everyone who came along in the heat and spent their hard-earned cash! A huge thanks to the army of volunteers including parents, grandparents, community members, governors and teachers who made the day possible.

A special thanks also go to all the families who loaned props and equipment, donated toys, created and designed stalls, gave up their time before, during and after the event. And also, our fantastic partners Seymour's Addlestone and the volunteers from Barnardo's Chertsey for stepping in and helping with donations and volunteering on the day. In addition, all the local businesses who generously donated prizes including Great Cockrow Railway, Pizza Express, The Crown, The Kingfisher, The River Bourne Club, Kidabulous, Abbey Rangers, Thorpe Park, Chobham Adventure Farm, Costa Coffee, Revive, Dinky Dove, A Place to Be and many others! We are thankful for the support of our local community.

Finally, of course, we really hope everyone had a great time and will continue to support the school with many more future events.

PROUD CORNER

WELL DONE TO:

- ◆ Ezra N-F, Year 3 - Football Trophy Golden Boot, Top Goal Scorer & Football Tournament Medal 1st Place
- ◆ Lily-Louise B, Year 4 - Learning Certificate
- ◆ Mika I, Year 5 - Archery Certificate
- ◆ Dexter S, Year 1 - 1200m Swimming Certificate
- ◆ Rocksteady Certificate to the following:
Mia W, Year 4 / Alannah B, Year 5 / Bella B, Year 4 /
Jessica H, Year 5 / James F, Year 4 / Phoebe S, Year 5 /
Daphne C-P, Year 4 / Elizabeth L, Year 5 / Ava G, Year 5
- ◆ Mia W, Year 4 - Brownie Badge
- ◆ Erin B, Year 5 - Tap Dance Exam Certificate
- ◆ Alannah B, Year 5 - Tap Dance Exam Certificate

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

Well Done!

A very well done to all those children who received a Well Done Certificate for this half term.

Keep up the good work!

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

* Ruby G, Year 5

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEET DR BEN SPENCER, THE CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR RUNNYMEDE AND WEYBRIDGE

On 7th July, Dr Ben Spencer came to our school and wanted to ask us about what we enjoyed about school. We asked him some questions about what changes he has made to Runnymede. He also told us how he got elected for MP. It was quite interesting to learn all about the life of an MP and what he had to do to get to that position.

He asked us about what we would like to see happen in our local area. We said that we would like to see more green space and parks in our local area.

Written by John E, Year 4 (School Council Member)

BUTTERFLIES CLASS ASSEMBLY

We had fun showing everyone in our assembly what we do in swimming.

Bradley was Miss Doyle and had a whistle.

We wore our swimming clothes like we do in our lessons.

We like our lessons and like splashing in the water!

We made a synchronised swimming routine, like we had seen on the video.

It was funny!

We learnt a song and danced to it. It was all about swimming and walking.

We love showing our learning to the school and our families.

Thanks for coming 😊

Written by Butterflies Class



YEAR 2 (GRASSHOPPERS) CLASS TRIP TO WISLEY

Grasshoppers had a fantastic time at Wisley Gardens on Friday 7th July. We went to learn all about edible plants and thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the kitchen gardens before planting our very own Pea Shoot seeds, ready to grow and make a delicious salad - the perfect way to end our Science Topic of 'plants'.

YEAR 6 (KITES) PRODUCTION - STAR WARTS: THE UMPIRE STRIKES BACK

On 10th July, Kites Class performed in a play called Star Wars: The Umpire Strikes Back. It was very funny and the outfits were amazing!

It was so much fun to act out with my class and every joke we told, everyone laughed. The music and songs were so catchy and so much fun to sing.

We had a big audience of over 100 people and everyone was a bit nervous but we got through it. Every scene got funnier and funnier. It was the best thing to do and act out and everyone loved it, and so did I!

Thank you everyone who came and helped or watched us.

By Shylah - Kites

YEAR 6 (KITES) CLASS TRIP TO WARNER BROS STUDIO: HARRY POTTER TOUR

On Thursday 6th July, Kites Class excitedly boarded the coach to make their journey to Warner Bros Studios. It wasn't a long journey and we were surprised when the studios suddenly came into view. Once we had received our wristbands and passports (to collect stamps on our way around the tour), we made our way into the studios where we had a workshop on costume design. This was really interesting and we were able to design our own costumes at the end. Once we had finished the workshop, we then entered the main tour, where we stopped at the Chocolate Frog café for a snack. Eventually, we were on our way around the tour, where we experienced some wonderful surprises! Sorry - no spoilers! Once we were halfway around the tour, we stopped for lunch, where some children tried Butter Beer or Butter Beer ice cream.

The last part of the tour held many more surprises and we loved every second! Finally, we reached the gift shop, where we were spoilt for choice of merchandise. It was a fantastic day out and we really enjoyed being able to link this to our English learning.

Written by Kerenza - Kites

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Sheila Hicks

(Born: 24 July 1934)



Sheila Hicks is an American artist and was born in Hastings, Nebraska. She is known for her innovative and experimental weavings and sculptural textile art that incorporate distinctive colours, natural materials, and personal narratives.

Since 1964, she lives and works in Paris, France. Prior to that, she lived and worked in Guerrero, Mexico from 1959 to 1963.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Jamie Cullum

(Born: 20 August 1979)



Jamie Cullum is an English jazz-pop singer-songwriter and radio presenter. Although primarily a vocalist and pianist, he also accompanies himself on other instruments, including guitar and drums. He has recorded nine studio albums, three compilation albums, one live album and twenty-four singles. Since April 2010, he has presented a weekly Tuesday evening jazz show on BBC Radio 2.

BIG SPLASH WEEK

During the week of 3rd – 7th July Stepgates School celebrated Big Splash Week. During this, we not only raised money for our swimming pool roof, but were also able to join together across the school through water-themed activities. Each lunchtime the Year 6 children set up games, races or just fun activities for the younger children. For example: hook a duck, bubble machines and bubble wands, water sprinkler limbo, water sprinkler operation, relay races with sponges and buckets of water, water trails using pipes, and even just having fun in the water sprinkler when we wanted to cool off in the warm weather! Every class took part in the Coin Trail and whilst we are still awaiting to find out the final amount (it is a lot of coins to count up!), we were delighted that Kites Class came first, creating a river of coins that measured 58 meters! That's all the way from the swimming pool and into the MUGA! All Year groups from Year 1 – 6 took part in a sponsored swim where we had some amazing results of over 30 lengths for some children! Classes also carried out their own water-based learning in class, whether this was through activities in the PE lessons or writing about rivers and water related learning.



Written by Poppy - Kites Class

Mrs Brough would also like to thank everyone at Stepgates for supporting this event, including your kind donations of coins for the coin trail and for sponsoring children in their sponsored swim.



DATES - 2022/2023

Friday 21st July

Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm



Have a lovely Summer Holiday!!



Don't forget school re-opens on Monday 4th September 2023 at 8:45am prompt (doors open at 8:40am).

Our new Reception and Nursery children have been advised separately of their starting arrangements.

DATES - 2023/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1st September	INSET Day - School closed
Monday 4th September	Children in Years 1-6 start school
Monday 11th September	'Meet the Teacher' Meetings this week (Date & time for each class to be advised)
Friday 22nd September	Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 29th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 10th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 11th October	Flu Immunisations - Years R - 6
Wednesday 18th October	Individual School Photographs
Friday 20th October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 23rd to Fri 27th October	Half Term
Monday 30th October	Children return to school
Wednesday 1st November	Whole School Trip - 'Shrek The Musical'
Monday 4th December	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 15th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 18th Dec to Mon 1st Jan	Christmas Holidays

SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2nd January	Children return to school
Friday 9th February	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 12th to Fri 16th February	Half Term
Monday 19th February	Children return to school
Thursday 28th March	Last day of Spring Term - Children finish at 1pm
Fri 29th March to Fri 12th April	Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April	Children return to school
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Mon 13th - Thurs 16th May	SATs Week
Friday 24th May	Sports Day (Weather Permitting)
Friday 24th May	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 27th May to Fri 31st May	Half Term
Monday 3rd June	Children return to school
Monday 10th June	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 19th July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm
Monday 22nd July	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 23rd July	INSET Day - School closed

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.

Matilda
Summer School

21st – 25th August 2023
9.30am–3.30pm
Monday–Thursday @ St Peter's church
hall, Chertsey
Friday @ The buzz theatre, Woking



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