

# Headlines

Issue 2 - 22.09.23



## 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 10th October for Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening.

### HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

This term I am pleased to announce that our Head Boy is Teddy D and Head Girl is Erin B, 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, Owen J and Deputy Head Girl, Ava G. Well done!

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

To celebrate Harvest, the children of Stepgates Community School will be performing a service at St Peter's Church, on Tuesday 17th October. (Please see separate letter giving further details).

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 9th to Friday 13th October. These will be given to The Salvation Army and St Peter's Church, 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 DAY

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 29th 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).

Donations of cakes/biscuits or £1 (if you are able), would be very much appreciated on Thursday 28th September to support this wonderful cause.

Our amazing 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 and their Bag2School collection on Monday 25th September. Further details of the FOSS Halloween Disco and Break the Rules at Stepgates will follow in due course.

We hope you will also take a look around our website ([www.stepgatesschool.co.uk](http://www.stepgatesschool.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.

### ATTENDANCE

This year we are aiming for whole school attendance above 95%. Class attendance for the last two weeks is as follows:

Congratulations to all classes for their attendance over the last two weeks. Hopefully we can all avoid the bugs and seek to keep up the good attendance for the rest of this term.

|                     | 4th-8th September | 11th-15th September |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b> | <b>97.3%</b>      | <b>97.6%</b>        |
| Ladybirds           | 100%              | 95.6%               |
| Butterflies         | 100%              | 98.8%               |
| Grasshoppers        | 96.5%             | 99.0%               |
| Falcons             | 96.8%             | 96.1%               |
| Hawks               | 98.4%             | 98.4%               |
| Owls                | 96.4%             | 98.5%               |
| Kites               | 95.3%             | 96.5%               |

Mrs T Ford, Headteacher

# PROUD CORNER

## Well done to:

- ♦ Sebbie H (Year 3) - Sports Camp Trophy
- ♦ Emma H (Year 5) - Library Summer Reading Challenge Certificate
- ♦ Alannah B (Year 6) - Library Summer Reading Challenge Certificate
- ♦ Ellie-May S (Year 3) - Green Belt & Certificate in Karate

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

## School Council - 2023-2024

Our School Council plays a key role within their classes and across the school. The children become School Councillors by being voted for by their classmates to be their School Council representatives for the year. They have a range of roles across the school. As well as helping with fundraising both for our school and selected charities, they are also the spokespeople for ensuring the children's views and opinions in our school are heard. They achieve this by sharing any issues, questions or ideas, with Mrs Ford, Headteacher, as well as other staff across the school.

Congratulations to this year's School Council representatives:

Butterflies Class – Yeva and Mason  
Grasshoppers Class – Lucia and Elijah  
Falcons Class – Lily and Harry  
Hawks Class – Callum D and Ellie J  
Owls Class – Bella B and Stanley  
Kites Class – Leksiy, Prince & Alannah

## STEPGATES SHINING STARS

Our Stepgates Shining Star programme is now in its 12th 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.

This term we have selected our 'Stepgates Shining Stars' for English with a focus on reading. The children are working with Mrs Thompson on an exciting project involving the Reading Shed.

Congratulations to this year's English Shining Stars:

Falcons Class - Aaron and Ella  
Hawks Class - Adam and Ellie  
Owls Class - Isla and Tristan  
Kites Class - Alannah and Amelia

MISS SHAND

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

We welcome 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 28<sup>th</sup> September - 9:30am

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October - 9:30am

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October - 9:30am

## Open Evening

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:events@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk)) to book a space. (If emailing, please specify which date you would prefer and provide a contact telephone number).

**All visits must be booked in advance**

### Is your child starting school in September 2024?

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 you will need to apply for a school place between **30th October 2023 and 15th January 2024.**

Apply online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)

### Is your child in Year 6?

If your child was born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 you will need to apply for a secondary school place **by 31st October 2023.**

Apply online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)

## DATES - 2023/2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2023

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday 25th September        | FOSS Bag2School Collection (Drop off between 8-9am and 3-4pm)              |
| Thursday 28th September      | Donation of cakes/biscuits/£1 for Macmillan Coffee morning                 |
| Friday 29th September        | Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:00am & Second-hand Uniform Sale                 |
| Tuesday 10th October         | Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings                                       |
| Wednesday 11th October       | Flu Immunisations - Years R - 6  |
| Tuesday 17th October         | Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church ( <i>Further details to follow</i> ) |
| 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 (Standard Assessment Tests) 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                        |



# **DON'T FORGET**

## **FOSS BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION ON**

### **MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 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 at the gates to the school car park on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September between 8-9am and 3-4pm. Or earlier/later by arrangement with FOSS.**

