

Headlines

Issue 3 - 06.10.23



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents/carers for your continued generosity. I am very conscious you have been asked to donate to a variety of worthy causes already this academic year, with further events/activities planned. I am mindful that some families continue to experience financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living; we are trying to give parents/carers plenty of notice, with the opportunity to pay for trips/visits in instalments, where possible. I am also aware we are fast approaching Christmas, which has financial implications for you all. Please be assured all donations are 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.

It has been, and will be, a pleasure to welcome parents/carers into school this week for our 'Celebration of Pupils' Work' sessions for Years 1 - 6; once again these have been a huge success and very well attended. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to look through your child's work and see their classroom/learning environment.

If you are unable to attend Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings next week (Tuesday 10th October), please contact your child's class teacher, as 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 Dick Whittington on Wednesday 13th December.

HARVEST FESTIVAL REMINDER

All parents/carers are warmly invited to attend our Harvest Festival Celebrations at St Peter's Church, Chertsey, on Tuesday 17th October at 9:45am.

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 next week (Monday 9th to Friday 13th October).

JEANS FOR GENES DAY UPDATE

Once again, thank you to all parents for supporting Jeans for Genes day. We raised a total of £205.20 for this very worthy cause.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

THIS YEAR WE ARE AIMING FOR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ABOVE 95%

Well done to all classes for helping to achieve this target for the week 18th-22nd September.
Congratulations to Hawks Class for the best attendance last week.

	18th-22nd September	25th-29th September
WHOLE SCHOOL	96.9%	94.6%
Ladybirds	95.5%	93.3%
Butterflies	95.6%	95.9%
Grasshoppers	98.1%	94.8%
Falcons	97.8%	95.3%
Hawks	96.4%	96.7%
Owls	97.0%	93.6%
Kites	97.9%	92.7%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- Sonny S, Year 1 - Play Ball Trophy
- Dakota W, Year 1 - Encore Theatre Rosettes and Ballet Trophy
- Alannah B, Year 6 - Encore Dance Trophy & Certificate
- Adewonuola O, Year 4 - Encore Dance Trophy & Certificate
- Erin B, Year 6 - Encore Dance Trophy & Certificate

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

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

- ♦ Adriana G-S, Year 4
- ♦ Eric L, Year 5

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you very much to everyone who donated and bought cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Morning; it was a great success.

Through a combination of the Coffee Morning, the online Just Giving link and the cake sale after school, we have raised an AMAZING £451 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The online link is still open for donations if you would like to donate to this very worthy cause.

<http://www.justgiving.com/cm23026624>

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



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

SPOOKTAGOLAR HALLOWEEN DISCO!

Tickets will be sold after school on **Monday 16th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th October** in the playground. You will be able to pay on the door, but it is much easier to organise in advance.

Alternatively, please enclose the correct change in an envelope with your child's name/class in advance of the day. Then 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.

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!)

Prizes.....

- BEST DRESSED
- BEST DANCER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

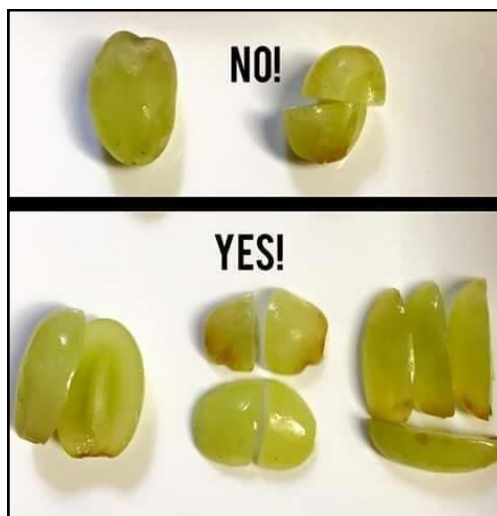
If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch containing grapes, please read the following carefully

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.

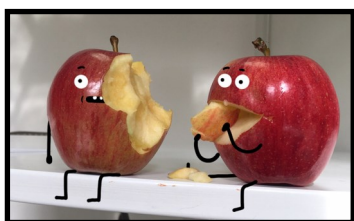
To prevent any problems, slice grapes in half - or ideally quarters - lengthways. Cutting them this way makes them thinner so they're able to pass through small windpipes more easily. Grapes cut in half along the width can still get lodged in children's throats so this should be avoided at all times.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Sean Charmatz

Born: 28 August 1980 (age 43 years)



Sean Charmatz is an artist and animator from California, who is currently a director at DreamWorks. He has worked in the animation industry since 2005 and has most notably served as a writer and director on *SpongeBob SquarePants*, in addition to designing, storyboarding, and developing shows for Disney and DreamWorks.

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 six. 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.

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 28th September - 9:30am

Wednesday 4th October - 9:30am

Thursday 19th October - 9:30am

Open Evening

Wednesday 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 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

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

DATES - 2023/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2023

Tuesday 10th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 11th October	Flu Immunisations - Years R - 6
Friday 13th October	Kites Class Assembly 9:05am
Mon 9th to Fri 13th October	Harvest donations of non-perishable and tinned items
Tuesday 17th October	Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church 9:45am
Wednesday 18th October	Individual School Photographs - <i>Smart school uniform</i> FOSS Halloween Disco (For children in Reception to Year 6)
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'
Thursday 9th November	FOSS Break the Rules at Stepgates Day - <i>Further details to follow</i>
Friday 10th November	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 14th November	Year 6 Junior Citizen
Friday 17th November	Hawks Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 24th November	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 1st December	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
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
Tuesday 2nd July and Wednesday 3rd July	Secondary School Induction Days - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Friday 19th July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm
Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July	INSET Days - School closed