

# Headlines

Issue 6 - 24.11.23



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It seems impossible that we are almost approaching the start of our Christmas celebrations. We have the much anticipated Infant Christmas Production of 2023 'It's a Party' on Tuesday 12th December at 1:30pm. This year the performance will be at St. Peter's Church in Chertsey and we are very grateful to them for inviting us.

Thursday 7th December is a very busy festive day in school - we have two performances of our Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert in the school hall, as well as celebrating Christmas Jumper Day. On Wednesday 13th December we have our Christmas lunch and Pantomime. Santa will also be visiting the children again this year; once again, the children will receive a free gift as a thank you to all parents from FOSS for your help and contributions.

On Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th November FOSS will be running their very successful Gift Stall 'Elfridges', during school hours. I would like to say a very big thank you to FOSS for organising these events.

### RUNNYMEDE JUNIOR CITIZEN

I am delighted that our Year 6 children were able to take part in Junior Citizenship activities at Thorpe Park on Tuesday 14th November. The children were split into three groups and worked their way around a carousel of activities, which included: water safety, railway safety, dental care, St John's ambulance life-saving, mental health, health and fitness and recycling. This is an invaluable opportunity for the children and their behaviour was exceptional. Well done Kites Class - you were a credit to Stepgates Community School!

### SAFE PARKING

I fully appreciate how difficult it can be to park near the school when picking up and dropping off your children; however, can I ask parents to show consideration to the residents of Stepgates by not parking across, or in, driveways or the school's electronic gates. Please can I also ask you to take care with your speed when pulling in to park, pulling out or driving along Stepgates. It is dangerous and makes crossing the road unsafe for our children, as well as being very irritating for our neighbours. If you or your child has difficulty accessing the school then you are welcome to park directly outside the school entrance with your 'Disability Badge'. Thank you in advance for your consideration and safe parking.

### 'STEPGATES SHINING STARS'

This term we have selected our 'Stepgates Shining Stars' for Design Technology (DT) and the children were presented their badges in assembly last Friday. The children will be working with Miss Tibble to make a sensory board for the new Sensory Room. Congratulations to the following children who are wearing their stars with pride:

Kites Class: Mika and Jack B

Owls Class: Tristan and Victoria

Hawks Class: Onur and Martha

Falcons Class: Summer and Alfie P

### REMINDER - INSET DAY MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022

Don't forget school will be closed on Monday, 4th December for an INSET Day.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers for your 'Bottle' donations to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday, 2nd December.

Mrs T Ford, Headteacher

### ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Kites and Owls Classes for the best attendance last two weeks

	6th-10th November	13th-17th November
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>92.0%</b>
Ladybirds	93.9%	84.9%
Butterflies	96.9%	95.9%
Grasshoppers	96.1%	89.4%
Falcons	91.3%	91.3%
Hawks	94.4%	95.9%
Owls	94.6%	97.0%
Kites	98.5%	89.4%

# PROUD CORNER

## Well done to:

- Isla W, Year 5 - Certificate from Explore Learning
- Oscar W, Year 4 - Certificate from Explore Learning
- John E, Year 5 - Football Trophy Player of the Month
- Bella C, Year 4 - Gym Competition Medal and Rosette
- Sebbie H, Year 3 - Beaver Badges x 5
- Kohaku L, Year 1 - Maths Number Certificate
- Lily-Louise B, Year 5 - Maths/English Certificate
- Ellie J, Year 4 - Gym Certificate

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:

- ♦ Santino W, Year 4
- ♦ Sean-Paul S, Year 4
- ♦ Clay H, Year 2

## LADYBIRDS CLASS

Our new Ladybirds children are settling into school life brilliantly! From following routines to making new friends and learning together..... or even wearing odd socks!

On Monday 13th November, to kick start Anti Bullying week, children came to school in odd socks to celebrate that we are all different and unique.



## BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all parents/carers who supported the Book Fair.

We raised a fantastic £856.37, 50% of which will go towards books for the children.

## INSET DAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER  
2023  
FOR AN INSET DAY

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



### CHILDREN IN NEED MUFTI DAY

Thank you to all parents for supporting our BBC Children in Need Mufti Day on Friday 17th November. We raised a total of £186.25 for this very worthy cause.



### OWLS CLASS ASSEMBLY



Our class assembly was about Remembrance Day, as it was the day before Remembrance Day. We all wore a poppy as a sign of Remembrance. Some people lay wreaths to remember all of the people who served our country in the time of war. We did a minute of silence to remember our loved ones who served in the army.

The soldiers were hiding in trenches so that it is harder to shoot and inside you have a good angle. Ten thousand bombs dropped from the sky and killed lots of people. Children had to be evacuated to the countryside to escape the city while their parents are fighting at the front line.

Lots of Prime Ministers have laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in London, such as Rishi Sunak, Theresa May, Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill.

**Written by Owls Class**

### HAWKS CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Hawks Class performed an assembly all about volcanoes.

Parents could come and watch their children and the other children in Stepgates could watch us too. We talked about different types of volcanoes and how they are formed over time. We also got to share our English and Geography learning as well as our volcano art. We talked about how people on Pompeii might have been feeling when the volcano erupted. We made our own Hawaiian wrist bands and learnt a song called 'The Lava Song'. We really enjoyed performing our assembly and hope that everyone was able to learn something from it.

**Written by: Bella C**



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



### Kites Class Evacuee Day

On Friday 10th November, Kites Class participated in an Evacuee day, to link to our learning about World War 2. We all came to school dressed as evacuees and arrived to find our gas mask boxes and luggage labels waiting for us on our desks. After filling in our luggage labels, we heard the air raid siren for the first time, just to get us used to what it would sound like and what we would have to do if we heard it again. Our teacher then took us down to the train station (the playground) where we boarded the train, ready for our long journey to the countryside. Upon arrival at our destination, we were greeted by the Billeting Officer who took us to the village hall (our school hall). We then sat patiently, whilst we were chosen by our host families. After spending some time getting to know our new families and learning about our chores, we had a two-minute silence.

Back in the classroom, we designed and wrote postcards home to our families and played card games, like they would have done back then. In the afternoon, we learnt about rationing and even got to sample some corned beef, biscuits and chocolate.

We had a great day and it really helped us to understand what it would have felt like to be an evacuee.

**Written by Kites Class**



### 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)

## DATES - 2023/2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2023

Mon 27th to Wed 29th November	FOSS 'Elfridges' Gift Stall
Friday 1st December	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
Saturday 2nd December	Chertsey Goose Fair
Monday 4th December	INSET Day - School closed
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Jumper Day Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert ( <i>Please see letter dated 16.11.22 for further information / timings</i> )
Tuesday 12th December	Infant Christmas Production at St Peter's Church ( <i>Please see letter dated 16.11.22 for further information</i> )
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Lunch followed by Pantomime
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
Tues 26th - Thurs 28th March	Year 4 Residential trip to Henley Fort
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 - ( <b>Please check with individual school for further details</b> )
Friday 19th July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm
Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July	INSET Days - School closed

# ADVERTISEMENTS

*We are regularly asked if we can advertise a variety of external organisations in the form of flyers/posters etc. The following page(s) contain advertisement requests we have received from external organisations.*

*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.*

## **“Surrey County Council encourages residents to offer Supported Lodgings/foster**

Supported Lodgings, and Fostering are both incredibly rewarding experiences that can transform the lives of both the children/young people being supported and the carers' themselves. Children and young people who enter the care system have often experienced trauma and instability in their lives, and a stable and supportive carer family can make a significant difference in their wellbeing and development.

Nationally, there are currently over 70,000 children living with carer families in the UK. However, there is still a significant shortage of Supported Lodgings and foster carers, with around 9,265 new carer families needed in the next year alone. In Surrey, there are over 1,000 children in care and Surrey County Council have just under 400 carer families.

Supported Lodgings is targeted at young adults aged 16-21 to help them build their independence skills ready to live independently in the future, from the security of a caring, stable home environment.

Supported Lodgings Carers and Foster carers come from all walks of life and backgrounds, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to caring. Whether you are single or married, young or old, own your own home or rent, you can still become a carer. The most important thing is a willingness to provide a safe and loving home for a child in need.

This is the message that Surrey County Council is promoting in national recruitment film 'Any of Us'. The short film has been jointly funded by over 80 councils across England and aims to raise awareness about fostering, particularly among those people who may not have previously considered themselves suited to caring for vulnerable children and young people. The film looks at the potential of three people from different backgrounds to become carers, and the potential of children they care for to grow and thrive. 'Any of Us' is available to watch from the 26<sup>th</sup> September. If you have ever thought about fostering, or offering Supported Lodgings, now is the time to take that first step and find out more. The more people who consider caring, the greater the chance of finding loving, stable homes for children in Surrey who desperately need them.

You can contact Surrey County Council Fostering Service on 0300 123 1620 (this is the General Fostering Duty telephone, please ask for the Supported Lodgings worker, when connected), via email at [supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk) or by visiting the website; [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering)

You can watch 'Any of Us' via [Any of Us - YouTube](#) and connect with the Fostering Service on social media via [@surreyfostering](#)