

Headlines

Issue 7 - 08.12.23



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness, how quickly this term has gone! It has been a very busy term and I am delighted the children, and parents, have been able to participate in a range of exciting activities. We have really enjoyed the start of our Christmas festivities and Winter activities this week.

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents into school; it was lovely to see so many of you at our Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert yesterday. I know the children were very proud to perform their festive songs to you all.

We also saw some wonderful Christmas jumpers, 'sparkles' and Christmas themed outfits, with all donations going towards 'Save the Children Fund'. Again, thank you to all parents for supporting this very worthy cause.

Next week we have the much anticipated Infant Christmas Production of 2023 'It's a Party' on Tuesday 12th December at St. Peter's Church, Chertsey and on Wednesday 13th December we have our Christmas lunch and Pantomime. We are also expecting a very important visitor next week, with gifts for the children.

STAFFING

I am delighted to announce that after Christmas Mrs Rachel Bywater will be joining us to cover Mrs Thompson (Grasshoppers Class), who will be starting her maternity leave at the end of January. Mrs Bywater is a well experienced Primary Teacher; I am sure that she will be a great asset to the team and we look forward to welcoming her.

ONLINE SAFETY

Christmas is the time of year when many of you may receive electronic items (tablets/mobile telephones etc) as gifts. Please be mindful of child safety and ensure child filters are in operation.

WEBSITE

There is a lot of useful information on our school website (www.stepgatesschool.co.uk), including all newsletters for this academic year, latest news, upcoming events, INSET days, term dates, useful links and much more. I hope you find the site interesting and informative.

As this will be the last issue of Headlines this year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas holiday and say a very big thank you to the following:

- ◆ My wonderful staff for their dedication and commitment to the children;
- ◆ All governors who continue to devote their time to Stepgates;
- ◆ All parents for your support! It is because of you our events are so successful, which enables the children to participate in the many wonderful activities we are able to provide at Stepgates. Your generosity is amazing!
- ◆ Friends of Stepgates (FOSS) Team, who continue to work tirelessly organising the many events and activities for our children, including their very popular 'Elfridges' gift stall and the Chertsey Goose Fair;
- ◆ And finally, I would like to thank the children! They remain happy and engaged. I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning. It is lovely to walk through school and be reminded, on a daily basis, why I am in this profession!

I hope you and your families remain safe and well and I look forward to seeing the children on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to
Butterflies Class and
Grasshoppers Class for the
best attendance in the
last two weeks

	20th-24th November	27th Nov-1st Dec
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.6%	95.0%
Ladybirds	96.4%	97.0%
Butterflies	97.2%	94.1%
Grasshoppers	96.8%	98.7%
Falcons	90.6%	95.3%
Hawks	96.8%	97.7%
Owls	94.6%	92.1%
Kites	90.3%	90.9%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- Jack B, Year 6 - Created a fantastic painting at home
- Arabella F, Year 1 - Gymnastics Level 1 Certificate
- Alannah B, Year 6 - Circus Performance at Kingston College
- Erin B, Year 6 - Circus Performance at Kingston College
- Iris M, Year 3 - Pilates Certificate
- Maggie M, Year 5 - Pilates Certificate
- Alexa S, Year 4 - Caring 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:

- ♦ Harvey B, Year 1
- ♦ Timon B, Year 5
- ♦ Teddy W-W, Year 3
- ♦ Finn L, Year 1
- ♦ Matilda C, Year 6
- ♦ Summer S, Year 3
- ♦ Sean-Paul S, Year 4

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!

'Elfridges' (Santa's Gift Stall)

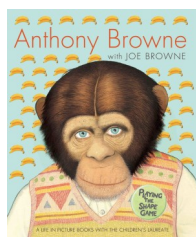


A very big thank you to all the ladies from FOSS for organising Santa's Gift Stall - 'Elfridges' last week; once again, this was a huge success.

We would also like to say a very big thank you to parents for their contributions, enabling the children to buy their gifts. The money raised will be put towards the very many activities and resources FOSS contribute towards each year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



ANTHONY BROWNE

(Born: 11 September 1946 (age 77 years))

Anthony Edward Tudor Browne CBE is a British writer and illustrator of children's books, primarily picture books. Browne has written or illustrated over fifty books, and received the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2000. From 2009 to 2011 he was Children's Laureate.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



BING CROSBY

(3 May 1903 - 14 October 1977)

Harry Lillis "Bing" Crosby Jr. was an American singer, comedian and actor. The first multimedia star, Crosby was a leader in record sales, radio ratings, and motion picture grosses from 1930 to 1954. He made over seventy feature films and recorded more than 1,600 different songs.

FALCONS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Falcons Class Assembly on Friday 24th November was a great success, with the children sharing their knowledge and many interesting facts about the body.

Falcons were so proud that every child took part in the assembly and worked together as a team and hope that all the children learnt something new.

GRASSHOPPERS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Grasshoppers were thrilled to present their class assembly on Friday 1st December, all about Advent!

We have been thinking about the joy and anticipation of waiting for things with hope. It was a good opportunity for us to make Christingle's in our class time and look at the symbolism of all the different parts - we really enjoyed it and hope you did too.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



We grow a huge selection of freshly cut trees from our own farm in Ottershaw.

We also sell Tree stands, Logs & Christmas Wreaths.

Open 29th November
7.30am to 8pm



Maurice Mandry Ltd
sales@mauricemandry.com
01932 - 873218
On the A320 by the ambulance Station at Ottershaw KT16 0PJ
Safe & friendly service - Cards accepted

Thank you

A huge thank you to Maurice Mandry who has, once again, very kindly donated a Christmas tree to Stepgates Community School.

Our reception area looks amazing!

Thank you



Dear parents, carers and friends

It has been a busy few months for FOSS with a number of successful activities including the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Halloween Disco and Break the Rules. Elfridges and the Chertsey Goose Fair have seen lots of festive fun and the children have thoroughly enjoyed selecting family/friend presents!

We wish to thank everyone who has donated time, money, cakes and bottles - the generosity is greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to a successful 2024.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday!

FOSS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DATES - 2023/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2023

Tuesday 12th December	Infant Christmas Production at St Peter's Church (Please see letter dated 16.11.22 for further information)
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

LAST DAY OF TERM



SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1:00PM ON FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2nd January	Children return to school
Friday 12th January	Butterflies Class Assembly 9:05am
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
Tuesday 5th March	Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
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

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

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