

Headlines

Issue 8 - 12.01.24



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to a new term at Stepgates. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and healthy Christmas. I would like to extend a huge thank you on behalf of the staff at Stepgates for all the good wishes, cards and gifts we received. The children have settled back into school quickly and we are all looking forward to an exciting term at Stepgates. You should all be receiving Curriculum Information for this half term and further information is available on the website for each class. This explains the children's learning for this term, regular events e.g. PE, homework expectations etc. and how you can support them at home.

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Rachel Bywater who has joined us this term to cover Mrs Thompson (Grasshoppers Class), who will be starting her maternity leave later this month. I am sure she will soon feel part of the Stepgates team.

Unfortunately, Mrs Harris (Nursery Keyworker) has been unable to return to Sunbeams after the Christmas break. I am sure you would like to join us in wishing her all the best for the future.

PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings for this term will be held on Tuesday 5th March. We will follow the same format, i.e. face-to-face, with appointments held in the School Hall. Further details will be sent home in due course.

As these meetings are a valued opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements and support their learning, please contact your child's class teacher if you are not able to attend the meeting.

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to our previous Head Boy, Teddy D and Head Girl, Erin B, Deputy Head Boy, Owen J and Deputy Head Girl, Ava G. All have been excellent role models.

This term I am pleased to announce that our Head Boy is Jayden P and Head Girl is Alannah B, selected by the children. I am sure they will also be excellent role models in our school community. Congratulations also to our new Deputy Head Boy, Oliver W and Deputy Head Girl, Sophie N. Well done!

CLUBS

As a small school we are very lucky to be able to offer such a varied range of after school clubs and activities for the children. I would like to thank the teaching staff, the LSA's and the parents who give freely of their time to help ensure the continued success of our clubs programme. You might not be aware that staff and parents offer these clubs on a **voluntary basis** only and I am very grateful to them for their continued support, commitment and enthusiasm without which our selection of clubs would be much reduced. If there are any parents who would like to assist with a club, please contact the school office.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to all parents who have completed and returned their questionnaire; I am delighted to say these have been very positive. Thank you! If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, it is not too late. Your feedback is always valued.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to the 64 children who achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term.

Following my email dated 10th January, all parents/carers should have received a Red, Amber or Green Attendance letter for your child based on their attendance last term. Individual attendance for a child should be at least 95%; anything above this generates a 'Green' letter. Attendance below 90% generates a 'Red' letter as this is well below what is expected, and attendance between 90% and 95% generates an 'Amber' letter. As mentioned in my email these figures do not relate to whether the absences are authorised or not, they are based on overall attendance for the term.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Butterflies Class for the best attendance last week

	2nd - 5th Jan
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.2%
Ladybirds	96.3%
Butterflies	99.2%
Grasshoppers	96.1%
Falcons	91.4%
Hawks	96.3%
Owls	95.1%
Kites	92.4%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- Erin B, Year 6 - Dance Medal and Trophy
- Alannah B, Year 6 - Dance Medal and Trophy
- Adewonuola O, Year 4 - Dance Medal and Trophy

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:

- ♦ Harry A, Year 3
- ♦ Alfie S, Year 6

AUTUMN TERM GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

I am delighted to announce that the following children have been presented with Governors' Achievement Awards for their achievements last term:

INFANTS

Freddie J-E
Delilah S
Amber B

JUNIORS

Jessica H
Santino W

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:

- Lucas G - For always trying his hardest in all sports and showing an aptitude for it
- Dakota W - For excellence in contribution to and improved confidence in dance performance
- Oliver B - For his contribution to and excellence in school football, particularly in goal
- Ruby G - For her fantastic no-nonsense approach to goal-keeping in the girls football squad and for stepping in at short notice

THE ARTS AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO:

- Yasir T - For wonderful singing and dancing during the Nativity
- Crystal B - For such careful and conscientious artwork in class
- Jack B - For excellent art skills and attention to detail
- Malena B - For excellence in art, showing impressive technical and creative skills

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Alex Konahin - Born 1981

Alex Konahin is a self-taught artist, born in 1981 in Goulkevitchi, Russia. He lives and works in Riga, Lithuania. Well known internationally since 2012, especially due to the internet, he has been working for famous organisations like Amnesty International and Penguin Random House.

Alex Konahin is inspired by major movements and great artists from the past. He is able to create precise and detailed work, which border visual perfection. The artist stands out due to his ability to erase the limits between a magical universe and scientific reality. To do this, he works with a pencil, fountain pen or Indian ink.

Alex Konahin regularly exhibits his work in London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris and New Orleans. His creations are also part of several private collections around the globe.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



Paul McCartney - Born: 1942

Sir James Paul McCartney CH MBE is an English singer, songwriter, musician, and record and film producer who gained worldwide fame as co-lead vocalist and bassist for the Beatles. His song writing partnership with John Lennon remains the most successful in history.

Our Value for this Half Term is:



Compassion

DATES - 2023/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2024

Wednesday 24th January	Year 3 trip to Chertsey Museum
Friday 26th January	FOSS Pocket Money Sale (Infant Playground after school)
Friday 2nd February	Hawks 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
Friday 23rd February	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 5th March	Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Friday 8th March	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 15th March	Ladybirds Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 22nd March	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
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	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 23rd July	INSET Day - School closed

Friends of Stepgates School (FOSS) are organising a Pocket Money Sale on Friday 26th January on the Infant Playground, after school. For further details please see below:

POCKET MONEY



FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY
INFANT PLAYGROUND, AFTER SCHOOL

TOYS | CUDDLY TOYS | GAMES | BOOKS ETC.



Friends of Stepgates School