

Headlines

Issue 12 - 15.03.24



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

The last two weeks have been very busy at Stepgates, with some wonderful successes! A huge congratulations to our Dance Crew who were First Place in the ERPSSA Dance Festival at Notre Dame School and to the Swim Team who entered 'It's a Fish Out Competition' for the first time, winning the Newcomer's Trophy. Well done. What a fabulous achievement! (Please see Page 3 for further details).

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended our Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings which were held last week and very well attended. If you were not able to meet your child's class teacher please contact them to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. These meetings are a valued opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements and support their learning.

WORLD BOOK DAY

The children had a wonderful time designing and decorating their T-shirts, kindly bought by FOSS, for World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March. They all took part in a variety of activities during the school day, including a World Book day T-shirt parade during assembly, book sharing in class, as well as online events.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for your very generous donations of books for our Bring and Buy Book Sale.

SAFEGUARDING

I would like to remind parents/carers that we do not allow the children to play on the 'trim trail', swing on the staircase railings, or climb any of the 'plant' structures in the playground before or after school, due to the serious risks involved. Please can all parents ensure you supervise your child(ren) and that they remain with you at all times.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE
Congratulations to
Hawks Class and Ladybirds
Class for the best
attendance in the last two
weeks

	26th Feb-1st March	4th-8th March
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.7%	93.6%
Ladybirds	93.8%	99.1%
Butterflies	95.6%	95.6%
Grasshoppers	94.6%	92.1%
Falcons	93.3%	94.9%
Hawks	96.2%	91.5%
Owls	94.6%	90.6%
Kites	95.0%	91.4%

REMINDER

THE MINI EGG CHOKING HAZARD PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THIS EASTER!

Parents are being reminded of the age warnings on chocolate treats such as Mini Eggs this Easter. While great attention is given to the risks involved with common foods such as grapes - and the need to chop them up correctly - families can sometimes be unaware of the dangers posed by seemingly harmless treats.

An anonymous mother decided to recall her harrowing ordeal, after her daughter tragically choked on the treat. Filled with milk chocolate and containing a crispy sugar shell, chocolate Mini Eggs are often a go-to sweet treat during the Easter season. However, the size of the chocolate pieces make them unsuitable for young children. A visible warning about this is clearly marked on some packets, stating that they are not suitable for children under the age of four. However, sadly Sophie the little girl who died was five, so care must be taken whatever the age of the child.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

FALCONS CLASS ASSEMBLY



Falcons Class assembly this week was based on our author Roald Dahl. We were pleased to share a timeline of all the books he wrote as well as to read out one of his poems. We finished it off with a song from Matilda, which the children chose to sing, with Iris leading the vocals.

Thank you for your continued support, we hope you enjoyed it.

HEALTHY SNACKS

Please can I remind all parents/carers that we encourage our children to bring in healthy snacks for break time, for example a piece of fruit/raisins, definitely not chocolate or crisps.

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS), is a Government funded programme that provides a free piece of fruit or veg to our KS1 and EYFS children each day.



Thank you

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for their help and support with the Mother's Day Gift Shop, including all who helped with the wrapping behind the scenes and those who helped on the day.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to parents/carers for supporting this FOSS event.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Each Wednesday we are lucky to be visited by the volunteers from St Peter's Church, who lead an assembly. They share with the children a story from The Bible. The children are always eager to help to tell the story by wearing costumes and acting out a scene. The children are invited to take a moment to reflect and join in with the prayer at the end of the assembly by saying 'ah-men', if they wish to.

Thank you to St Peter's Church - the stories and scenery/costumes are always outstanding!



PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- Bella G, Year 3 - Gymnastic Medal 2nd Place
- Bella C, Year 4 - 6 x Gold Medals for Gymnastics Competition
- Florence T, Year 2 - Level 5 Swimming Certificate
- Lizzie T, Year 6 - Grade 1 Drumming 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:

- ♦ Alfie S, Year 6
- ♦ Yassin M, Year 2
- ♦ Isla-Rose S, Year 2
- ♦ Joseph E, Year 3
- ♦ Summer S, Year 3
- ♦ Lara C, Year 3
- ♦ Phoebe H, Year 3
- ♦ Sebbie H, Year 3
- ♦ Bella G, Year 3
- ♦ Lilly B, Year 3

IT'S A FISH OUT COMPETITION - SATURDAY 9TH MARCH AT DORKING LEISURE CENTRE

Stepgates took part in this competition for the very first time and were delighted to win the 'Newcomer's Trophy'.

Well done to Lily, Matilda, Erin and Elizabeth from Year 6, who took part in this annual life saving competition run by Surrey Schools Swimming Association, particularly as all the training for this event was completed on 'dry land'. The eight activities, which were organised as a circuit around the pool, included sculling, diving for brick, rope throw, ball throw and water safety questions, all performed without the use of goggles. Points were awarded for the skills shown in each sector.



A huge thank you to Ms Doyle, Miss McKinnon and Mrs Blankert who gave up their time and to all the parents/carers who came along to support the team. A good time was had by all!

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW...



On 7th March, 2024, Dance Crew went to Notre Dame school to compete in the ERPSSA Dance Festival. Our dance was to Right Here, Right Now with Greta Thunberg, and was based on Greta Thunberg's "How Dare You" speech. The theme we were given for this competition was change, so we decided our dance would be about climate change. We represented humans, pollution, trees and oceans, and showed the harm that nature has to suffer because of us. At the beginning, the trees and oceans are being ruined by pollution, and humans are ignoring it entirely. Towards the end, the humans finally agree to stop climate change and notice the damage they have done.

We came First Place, and everyone absolutely loved the experience. Thank you to Mrs Brough for her amazing choreography and for making the costumes. (Teaching us the dance and helping us so much, too!) It was amazing to have this opportunity, and we hope to show everyone the result of all our hard work- the winning dance named Right Here, Right Now.

By Alannah (Year 6)

DATES - 2023/2024

UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2024

Wednesday 20th March	FOSS Easter Disco
Friday 22nd March	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Tues 26th - Thurs 28th March	Year 4 (Hawks) 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
Wednesday 17th April	FOSS Bag2School
Monday 22nd April	Book Fair this week
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Mon 13th - Thurs 16th May	SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) Week
Thursday 23rd May	Class Photos
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 3rd to Friday 7th June	Year 6 (Kites) Residential Trip
Monday 10th June	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 21st June	FOSS Summer Fair
Thursday 27th June	Year 6 (Kites) to Harry Potter Studios
Tuesday 2nd July and Wednesday 3rd July	Secondary School Induction Days - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Saturday 13th July	Black Cherry Fair
Friday 19th July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm
Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July	INSET Days - School closed

UPCOMING FOSS EVENTS

Please see below for a variety of FOSS events, including Easter Disco (for Years R-6), Bag2School and Summer Fair:

STEPGATES
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

EASTER DISCO

WEDNESDAY 20th March
Infants 3:20 - 4:30
Juniors 4:45 - 6:00
Ticket Price: £5*

*Price includes: Entrance, bag of sweets, popcorn, drink and glitter tattoo.
Sibling discount: £9.50 for two siblings; £14 for 3 siblings.
Tickets will be sold on 14th, 15th and 18th March in the playground after school. Alternatively, please hand money to reception.

2024
THANK YOU
FROM FOSS

Stepgates
Community School

SUMMER TERM FUN

SAVE THE DATES

SUMMER FAIR
Friday 21st June
3:00 - 5:30

Black Cherry Fair
Saturday 13th July
9:30 - 11:30

Friends of Stepgates School

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 Wednesday 17th April between 8-9am and 3-4pm. Or earlier/later by arrangement with FOSS.

