

# Headlines

Issue 1 - 13.09.24



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very pleased to welcome you back to a new school year. I hope that you all had a wonderful Summer. I am also very pleased to welcome our new children and their families to Stepgates this term. The children have settled very well with their new class teachers and I am looking forward to a happy and successful year working together. I would like to thank you for your continuing support, which makes all the difference to your child's education at Stepgates.

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you on behalf of the staff at Stepgates for all the cards and gifts we received at the end of term. It is always sad to see the children we have worked closely with moving up to a new class or school but it is good to know that they have such happy memories to take with them as they grow up.

Thank you to all parents who took the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher at their 'Meet the Teacher' meetings; it was a pleasure to welcome you into school. If you were unable to attend there will be another opportunity to meet your child's class teacher later this term on Tuesday 15th October for Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening.

### WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP (YEARS 1-6) TO WELLINGTON COUNTRY PARK

Next week (Thursday 19th September) we have our much anticipated Whole School Trip (Years 1-6) to Wellington Country Park, where the children will have an opportunity to explore the woodlands, pond habitat, animal farm and enchanted forest among other exciting attractions.

All children need to wear full school uniform and bring a packed lunch with them in a named carrier bag (No fizzy drinks or chocolate please).

I would like to say a huge thank you in advance to those parents who have offered their help on the day.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

I am very pleased to announce that the building work in preparation for the expansion of our COIN Centre is nearing completion and the two temporary portacabins have been removed from the Infant Playground. We are delighted with our new 'state of the art' COIN Centre building.

### STAFFING

I am very sad to announce that Mrs Donnison, who has been with us since 2012 as a Learning Support Assistant and, more recently, working in the School Office, will be leaving us at the end of September. Mrs Donnison is a highly valued member of staff and whilst we are very sad to be losing her, we are delighted she has secured a new, very exciting role and would like to congratulate her on this wonderful opportunity.

### SOCIAL MEDIA REMINDER

As we start the new academic year I would like to remind parents of our Social Media Policy, in particular around WhatsApp groups. If you have any worries or concerns around school practices or procedures please speak to a member of staff in school. This enables issues to be dealt with swiftly and appropriately. WhatsApp groups are not designed for this purpose.

Please see below for guidelines around Stepgates Community School Social Media Policy:

*The school encourages all members of the community in the same responsible and respectful use of social media that is taught to pupils. All matters regarding the school are to be communicated via appropriate channels so that they may be dealt with fairly and effectively for all concerned. Parents/carers are reminded to use existing structures when making any complaint about the school or a member of staff. If at any time during the child's time at Stepgates Community school, a parent wish to make a complaint, then they are advised to follow the school's Complaint Policy and Procedure which can be found on the school website. We recommend that all parents and carers refrain from using social networking sites to discuss sensitive issues about the school.*

*Abusive, libellous or defamatory comments on social media (including WhatApp Groups etc.) regarding the school, staff or pupils will be reported to the site's 'report abuse' section, or School's Admin Team, for immediate removal. Procedures on how the school will deal with such issues are outlined in The School's Social Media Policy, Appendix A: What to do if a complaint is made on Social Networking by a Parent or Carer.*

**MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER Cont'd...**

**SOCIAL MEDIA REMINDER Cont'd...**

If you are attending a school event parents/carers do have permission to film and take photographs but please do not share publicly, including on social media. Should you have a genuine concern please see me.

**ATTENDANCE REMINDER**

At the end of the Summer Term all parents received a letter regarding changes to attendance and Penalty Notices, which came into effect from August 2024. Once again, please see the Attendance Poster on Page 3 for ease of reference.

**JEANS FOR GENES DAY**

On Friday 20th September we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day. A donation of £1 to support children with genetic disorders would be very much appreciated. If your child would like to participate they should come to school wearing their school shirt, tie, jumper/cardigan with jeans and trainers/shoes.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON**

All parents/carers (and younger siblings) are invited to join us at 2:15pm on Friday 27th September for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. In addition, we will be holding a second-hand uniform sale at the same time. (Further details will follow in due course).

**CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

As a school we love to celebrate children's achievements and successes both in and outside of school. Have they achieved success in gymnastics, horse riding, football, swimming, playing an instrument, Cubs, Brownies etc.? Children may like to bring in a certificate or a photo of themselves involved in the activity and we celebrate their achievement with the whole school as part of our Friday assemblies.

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

In our final assembly on Friday 19th July our Chair of Governors, Michael Pope, presented our annual awards for Outstanding Achievement during the year and our termly Governors Awards for consistent effort, achievement and contribution to the school and Outstanding Sportsmanship.

Congratulations to the following children for their hard work and enthusiasm:

Infants Termly Achievement Award - Boe B and Jude R  
Juniors Termly Achievement Award - Elizabeth L and Charley M  
Sports Award - Junior - Phoebe S and Arthur M-B  
Sports Award - Infant - Aaliyah O and Jack W  
Arts Award - Junior - Leksiy A and Prince O  
Arts Award - Infant - Penelope De G and Bradley F  
Penny Wise Cup for Swimming - Lily S  
Cappiello Cup for Reading - Owen J  
Ellen Taylor Attendance Cup - Matilda C  
Junior Outstanding Achievement Award - Alannah B  
Infant Outstanding Achievement Award - Lucia G-S

The Ray Lowther Award for Outstanding Citizenship was presented to Mrs Ety Isaac for her outstanding contribution to Stepgates Community School.

**UNIFORM**

Thank you very much for sending the children back to school looking so smart. If you still need to buy new uniform then please order online at [www.sales@sportsofaddlestone.co.uk](mailto:www.sales@sportsofaddlestone.co.uk) (telephone number 01932 849333). Just a reminder, PE kit is a red T-shirt with logo, black shorts (unbranded) and trainers. During the colder months the children are asked to wear black tracksuit bottoms and a red round neck sweatshirt (can be unbranded). **Please make sure that everything is named as it is so much easier to return it to its owner!**

**CLUBS**

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide variety of School Clubs to our children, both during and after school. Most of these are organised and run by Stepgates staff on a completely voluntary basis with one or two outside agencies adding to the selection of activities on offer.

You should have received the new Clubs Itinerary for Autumn Term this week; clubs will start week beginning 23rd September.

**Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher**

### **PENALTY NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR**

**Term time leave:** Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days

**10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period:** A Penalty Notice may be considered/issued when a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years.

### **PER PARENT/PER CHILD**

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

### **FIRST OFFENCE**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a term time holiday or irregular school attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days\*\*.

### **SECOND OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)**

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).

(\*\*Unpaid Penalty Notice's after 28 days may result in a parental prosecution)

### **THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)**

On the third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and / or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may proceed straight to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.


# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

- \* Tristan N, Year 6
- \* Stanley F, Year 6
- \* Sean-Paul S, Year 5


## COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



**John Williams**  
(Born 8th February 1932)

**John Towner Williams** is an American composer, conductor, pianist and trombonist. In a career that has spanned nearly seven decades, he has composed some of the most popular, recognizable, and critically acclaimed film scores in cinematic history. Williams has won 25 Grammy Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards, five Academy Awards, and four Golden Globe Awards. With 52 Academy Award nominations, he is the second most-nominated individual, after Walt Disney. His compositions are considered the epitome of film music. In 2005, the American Film Institute selected Williams's score to 1977's *Star Wars* as the greatest film score of all time. The Library of Congress also entered the *Star Wars* soundtrack into the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH



**Pablo Picasso**

**Full Name: Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso**

(25 October 1881 – 8 April 1973)

Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life in France. He was regarded as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

## STEPGATES COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER  
AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH

*Further details to follow*

**ALL PARENTS WELCOME**



## Our Value for this Half Term is



# Collaboration

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> September - 9:30am

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - 9:30am

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October - 9:30am

## Open Evening

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 in Year 6?

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 you will need to apply for a secondary school place **by 31st October 2024.**

Apply online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)

### Is your child starting school in September 2025?

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 you will need to apply for a school place between **4th November 2024 and**

**15th January 2025.**

Apply online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)

## DATES - 2024/2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2024

Thursday 19th September	Whole School Trip (Years 1-6) to Wellington Country Park
Friday 20th September	Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 27th September	2:15pm - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon & Second-hand Uniform Sale
Friday 4th October	Kites Class Assembly (9:05am)
Thursday 10th October	Flu Immunisations - Years R - 6
Friday 11th October	Owls Class Assembly (9:05am)
Tuesday 15th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 16th October	Individual School Photographs
Friday 18th October	Hawks Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 25th October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 28th Oct to Fri 1st Nov	Half Term
Monday 4th November	Children return to school
Friday 15th November	Falcons Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 22nd November	Butterflies Class Assembly (9:05am)
Monday 2nd December	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 20th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 23rd Dec to Fri 3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays

### SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6th January	Children return to school
Thursday 13th February	Children finish at normal time for half term
Friday 14th February	INSET Day - School closed
Mon 17th to Fri 21st Feb	Half Term
Monday 24th February	Children return to school
Friday 4th April	Last day of Spring Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 7th to Mon 21st April	Easter Holidays

### SUMMER TERM 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Children return to school
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Mon 12th - Thurs 15th May	SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) Week
Thursday 22nd May	Sports Day (Weather Permitting)
Wednesday 21st May	Class Photographs
Thursday 22nd May	Children finish at normal time for half term
Friday 23rd May	INSET Day - School closed
Mon 26th to Fri 30th May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June	Children return to school
Monday 9th June	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

# 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.*



# KICKX<sup>®</sup> OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP

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9AM - 3PM  
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**£30 PER DAY**

**EARLY BIRD OFFER**  
£20 PER SESSION - IF BOOKED IN AUG  
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