

Headlines

Issue 3 - 11.10.24



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents/carers into school this week for our 'Celebration of Pupils' Work' sessions for Years 1 - 6; once again these have been a huge success and very well attended. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to look through your child's work and see their classroom/learning environment.

If you are unable to attend Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings please contact your child's class teacher, as these meetings are a valued opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements and support their learning.

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to a new member of office staff, Mrs Vikki Aira, who has joined us this term. Many of you will already have had the pleasure of speaking to Mrs Aira, either on the telephone, or in person, and I am sure she will soon feel part of the Stepgates team. Mrs Purkiss is still in the office but is now undertaking more of the finance side of the business.

HARVEST FESTIVAL REMINDER

All parents/carers are warmly invited to attend our Harvest Festival Celebrations at St Peter's Church, Chertsey, on Tuesday 22nd October at 9:45am.

We would ask, if possible, for any voluntary donations of non-perishable or tinned food items to be sent in to school with your child next week (Monday 14th to Friday 18th October).

SAFEGUARDING

At Stepgates we take pride in the behaviour of our children during the school day. I would like to remind parents/carers, however, that we expect the same standard of behaviour before and after school. We do not have staff supervision on the playground before school and whilst we do have an 'Open Door' policy at Stepgates, any incidents before school remain the responsibility of the parent/carer. Please ensure you supervise your child/ren until they enter the school building. I would also like to remind parents/carers that we do not allow the children to swing on the staircase railings or climb any of the 'plant' structures in the playground due to the serious risks involved.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

All of our children across the school have been busy creating their own unique Christmas card designs. The project, run by Class Fundraising.co.uk, will be printing their designs and parents/carers will be able to order a range of products after half term. This project enables the school to raise additional funds for Art resources at Stepgates.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

On Wednesday 16th October the photographers are scheduled to take individual school photographs. Please ensure your child is smart and in full school uniform.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Grasshoppers and Owls Classes for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

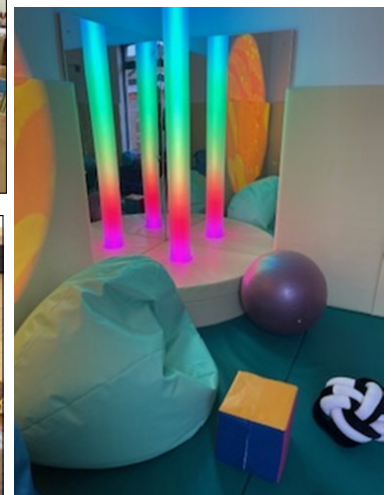
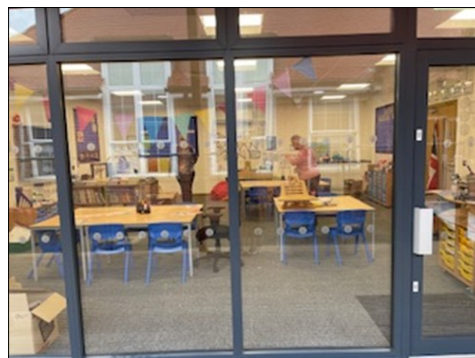
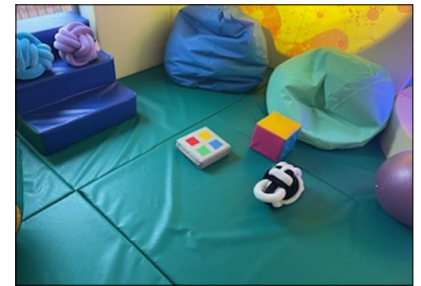
	23rd-27th September	30th Sept-4th Oct
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.5%	95.1%
Ladybirds	91.2%	95.9%
Butterflies	94.7%	96.2%
Grasshoppers	99.4%	97.0%
Falcons	96.2%	97.4%
Hawks	91.6%	87.4%
Owls	98.2%	97.8%
Kites	97.0%	93.3%

MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD Cont'd...

COIN CENTRE

Following the proposal by Surrey County Council, in conjunction with the Governing Body of Stepgates Community School, to expand our Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) designated SEN Unit by eight places, from 21 places to 29 places in total, I am delighted to announce that, apart from one or two final touches, the building work has been completed.

All pupils placed by Surrey County Council in the SEN Unit will have a diagnosis of SLCN and will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) specifying the specialist provision within the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.



Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Kohaku L, Year 2 - Rugby tournament medal
- ◆ Hywel L, Year 6 - Rugby tournament medal
- ◆ Isabella HEK, Year 4 - Dance shields and exam certificates
- ◆ Elliemay S, Year 3 - Certificate and medal for karate
- ◆ Annabelle HEK, Year 1 - Rosettes for tap and ballet

Thank you for sharing your success with the children at our Whole School Assembly.

SELF-DEFENCE WORKSHOP KITES CLASS

On Monday 7th October, Mark from Warrior Combat Arts came to Stepgates to teach Year 6 about self-defence. We discussed how to remember what someone looks like and how to anticipate situations. We also tried out some blocking techniques and discussed personal space. We worked in pairs to try out some of these skills and even got to have a go at a 'palm, palm, kick' on a padded glove!

By Jack E and Daphne

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

- * Harvey B, Year 2

KITES CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Friday 4th October, Kites presented their assembly, which was about Black History Month. We started our assembly with a rap by Eminem, which Callum sang. This was to show resilience despite adversity. First, we did a presentation about Olaudah Equiano, followed by Mary Seacole, Betty Campbell, Laurie Cunningham, Floella Benjamin and Malorie Blackman.

We finished our assembly with a dance – it was very funky. It was called *Shake a Tail Feather*, and showed moves which originated from Black popular culture.

By James F and Oliver

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Thank you very much to FOSS (Friends of Stepgates Community School) and everyone who donated and bought cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon; it was a great success, raising a fabulous £322.

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Stephen McMennamy

(Born September 25, 1972)



Stephen McMennamy was born in Marietta, Georgia, United States. He is a celebrity conceptual artist.

He creates digital mashup art by combining photos together to create mind bending images using computer technology!

He has created adverts for Samsung and AT&T and is a famous Instagrammer.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(27 January 1756 – 5 December 1791)



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart baptised as Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a musician capable of playing multiple instruments who started playing in public at the age of 6. Over the years, Mozart aligned himself with a variety of European venues and patrons, composing hundreds of works that included sonatas, symphonies, masses, chamber music, concertos and operas, marked by vivid emotion and sophisticated textures.

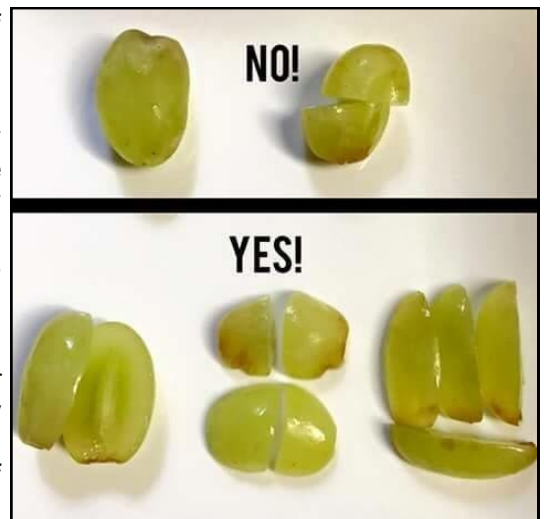
If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch containing grapes, please read the following carefully

Did you know whole grapes are a dangerous choking hazard for babies, toddlers and young children?

Grapes can be a healthy treat for young children, but they're also the third most common cause of death among children who die in food-related choking incidents.

Due to the size, shape and texture of grapes they can be hazardous for small children, whose airways can get blocked when they try to swallow them. Unfortunately, a lack of awareness of this danger has led to severe choking and even deaths in youngsters as the usual first aid procedures are less likely to work.

To prevent any problems, slice grapes in half - or ideally quarters - lengthways. Cutting them this way makes them thinner so they're able to pass through small windpipes more easily. Grapes cut in half along the width can still get lodged in children's throats so this should be avoided at all times.



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 26th September - 9:30am

Wednesday 2nd October - 9:30am

Thursday 17th October - 9:30am

Open Evening

Wednesday 6th 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) 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

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

DATES - 2024/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2024

Mon 14th to Fri 18th Oct	Harvest donations of non-perishable and tinned items
Tuesday 15th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 16th October	Individual School Photographs - <i>Smart school uniform</i>
Friday 18th October	Hawks Class Assembly (9:05am)
Tuesday 22nd October	Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church 9:45am
Wednesday 23rd October	FOSS Halloween Disco (For children in Reception to Year 6)
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
Thursday 7th November	FOSS Break the Rules at Stepgates Day - <i>Further details to follow</i>
Monday 11th November	Book Fair this week
Tuesday 12th November	FOSS Happy Clothes Collection - <i>Further details to follow</i>
Friday 15th November	Falcons Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 22nd November	Butterflies Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 29th November	FOSS Mufti Day - Bottle donation to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday 7th December - <i>Further details to follow</i>
Monday 2nd December	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 17th December	Infant Christmas Production at St Peter's Church
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 20th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 23rd Dec to Fri 3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays

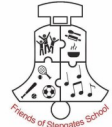
SPRING TERM 2025

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

FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



Wednesday 23rd October
Infants 3:20 - 4:30
Juniors 4:45 - 6:00

£5.00* all inclusive.
Entrance, bag of sweets,
popcorn, drink, glitter
tattoo

SPOOKTAGOLAR HALLOWEEN DISCO!

Tickets will be sold after school on **Friday 18th** and **Monday 21st October** in the playground. You will be able to pay on the door, but it is much easier to organise in advance.

Alternatively, please enclose the correct change in an envelope with your child's name/class in advance of the day. Then hand directly into the office or the red box by the reception (ideally for Infants, not with your child please!).

***Sibling discount:** First child, full price. Additional siblings, £4.50 thereafter.

Please note, Infants will be taken directly from class at the end of the day to the disco and collected at 4:30 from the shared area. Please send them in with a change of clothes/Halloween costume in a named bag (if they wish!)

Prizes.....

- BEST DRESSED
- BEST DANCER

**FOSS BREAK THE RULES AT
STEPGATES DAY
WILL BE ON**

THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

Further details to follow

BREAK

THE

RULES

— at Stepgates —