

Headlines

Issue 5 - 15.11.24



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term either at home or away. We have a very busy term ahead of us with many festive activities already in the diary.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and our amazing FOSS team (Friends of Stepgates Community School) for organising another very successful 'Break the Rules at Stepgates' on Thursday 7th November. The children had a wonderful day and raised a fantastic £414.50 breaking rules!

I would like to thank all the children in Kites Class who were, once again, outstanding ambassadors for the school during our Prospective Parents Open Evening on Wednesday 6th November. Our Open Mornings and Open Evening have been very well attended and we received some wonderful comments from our visitors. Well done Kites!



On Monday 11th November the children in Kites Class represented Stepgates Community School by participating in Armistice Day. The children made their own wreath in class which was placed at the War Memorial by our Head Boy, Oliver B and Head Girl, Bella L.

Well done Kites Class! Once again you have been outstanding ambassadors for the school.

STAFFING

I am sad to announce that Mrs E Martin, our Midday Supervisor, is retiring, having been part of the Stepgates team since 2004. What a fantastic achievement! Mrs Martin is a highly valued member of staff and will be greatly missed by staff and children. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing her a very happy retirement.

REMINDER - INSET DAY MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2024

Don't forget school will be closed on Monday, 2nd December for an INSET Day.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to all parents for supporting our 'BBC Children in Need Mufti Day today (Friday 15th November). Your generous donations for this very worthy cause are much appreciated.

FOSS MUFTI DAY

Friday 29th November will be a MUFTI Day. If you are able to donate a 'bottle' to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday 7th December, this would be very much appreciated..

Once again, I would like thank all parents/carers of Stepgates Community School for your continued support and generosity; this is very much appreciated by the staff at Stepgates and, of course, the children.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

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

	21st-25th October	4th-8th November
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.4%	95.7%
Ladybirds	90.0%	95.4%
Butterflies	96.5%	94/1%
Grasshoppers	94.2%	97.9%
Falcons	97.7%	95.2%
Hawks	92.3%	95.5%
Owls	91.9%	98.7%
Kites	97.6%	93.6%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Lily-Louise B, Year 6 - Dance Show
 - ◆ Dakota W, Year 2 - Medals/Trophies - Dance Competition
 - ◆ Dexter S, Year 3 - Abbey Rangers Clip & Medal - Man of the Match
 - ◆ Bella C, Year 5 - Medal - Gymnastics Competition
- 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:

- * Khalisa R, Year 3
- * Aine A, Year 5
- * Arabella F, Year 2
- * Harvey B, Year 2
- * Sushib N, Year 5
- * Joey D, Year 5

LADYBIRDS CLASS

Our new Ladybirds children are settling into school life brilliantly! From following routines to making new friends and learning together..... or even wearing odd socks!



On Monday 11th November, to kick start Anti Bullying week, children came to school in odd socks to celebrate that we are all different and unique.

This year the theme is 'Choose Respect', with many Anti Bullying events taking place throughout the week; this culminated in a Mufti Day today (15th November), supporting the charity, Children in Need.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

PAUL KLEE

(18 December 1879 - 29 June 1940)



Paul Klee was a Swiss-born German artist. His highly individual style was influenced by movements in art that included expressionism, cubism, and surrealism.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

BOB MARLEY

(6 February 1945 - 11 May 1981)



Robert Nesta Marley OM was a Jamaican singer, songwriter, and musician. Considered one of the pioneers of reggae, his musical career was marked by fusing elements of reggae, ska, and rocksteady, as well as his distinctive vocal and song writing style.

The Value we are learning about this half term is.....



Resilience

INSET DAY



**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER
2024 FOR AN INSET DAY**



It's cold outside!!



Remember that just because it looks fine in the morning, things can change by lunchtime and your children may be outside for a considerable time throughout the school day.

Children must wear a warm winter coat and hat and gloves if they want them. If you would like your child to wear boots to school, they must bring in a spare pair of shoes to wear whilst inside the school building.

THE EIKON CHARITY'S CHRISTMAS STAR APPEAL

Many children feel lost and overwhelmed, facing challenges no young person should endure. The Eikon Charity aims to help young people in Surrey feel safe, heard, and supported and at Christmas will be offering beautiful wooden stars, hand decorated by young people they support. Some stars also feature their personal mental health tips on the back.

By donating to Eikon and receiving a star, you can:

- ◆ Gift it to someone special, spreading joy this festive season.
- ◆ Hang it on your tree as a symbol of hope.

When it is darkest, remember you can be the light for a child this Christmas.

To make a donation to The Eikon Charity and receive a star, please go to:

<https://eikon.org.uk/eikon-christmas-star/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

YEAR 6 EVACUEE DAY FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

On Friday 1st September 1939, Kites children were 'evacuated' to the countryside. They travelled on a steam train from London Waterloo to Little Weirwold, which was a long and bumpy journey. When they arrived, they were taken to the village hall where they met the billeting officer and their host families. They went to their new homes and learnt about where they were living and who they were living with. They were shown around their new environment and were told if they had jobs to do! Some were placed on a farm, some in a manor house and some with a local housewife in the village.



After a while, the children went to their new classroom, where their teacher was waiting for them. They all wrote postcards home and played card games together. During this time, there was an air raid and the children all had to hide underneath their tables. They also listened to wartime songs.

Later in the day, the children learnt about rationing and got to sample some of the food that would have been available at the time. Whilst some loved the corned beef, others weren't so keen! The chocolate and rich tea biscuits were very popular however! We ended the day watching part of Carries War.

We all had lots of fun and learnt lots of new facts.

Written by Kites Class



Following our School Harvest Collection we have received a big thank you from Runnymede Foodbank.

A Big

THANK YOU



Stepgates Community School

for your Harvest donation of 201kg to
Runnymede Foodbank

Your donations make a BIG difference
to local people in crisis.

Runnymede foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank network.



DATES - 2024/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2024

Tuesday 19th November	Year 6 Junior Citizen
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
Monday 2nd December	INSET Day - School closed
Tues 3rd-Thurs 5th December	FOSS 'Elfridges' Gift Stall
Saturday 7th December	Chertsey Goose Fair
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Day Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert
Tuesday 17th December	Infant Christmas Production at St Peter's Church
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Lunch followed by Pantomime
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
Wednesday 21st May	Class Photographs
Thursday 22nd May	Sports Day (Weather Permitting)
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 1st July and Wednesday 2nd July	Secondary School Induction Days - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Tuesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



FOSS HALLOWEEN DISCOupdate



We are delighted to announce the profit for the Halloween Disco was a fantastic £776.14.

Another huge success! Well done to all involved!

HAPPYSCHOOLBAG CLOTHES COLLECTION

A huge thank you to all parents who dropped filled bags on Tuesday 12th November.

Your support is very much appreciated.



In order to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Goose Fair, children are invited to wear mufti in exchange for a "bottle" on Friday 29th November.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support!

