

Headlines

Issue 6 - 29.11.24



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It seems impossible that we are almost approaching the start of our Christmas celebrations. We have the much anticipated Infant Christmas Production of 2024 'Hay Presto!' on Tuesday 17th December at 1:45pm. This year the performance will be at St. Peter's Church in Chertsey and we are very grateful to them for inviting us.

Thursday 12th December is a very busy festive day in school - we have two performances of our Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert in the school hall, as well as celebrating Christmas Jumper Day. On Wednesday 18th December we have our Christmas lunch and Pantomime. Santa will also be visiting the children again this year; once again, the children will receive a free gift as a thank you to all parents from FOSS for your help and contributions.

On Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December FOSS will be running their very popular Gift Stall 'Elfridges', during school hours. I would like to say a very big thank you to FOSS for organising these events.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

The Salvation Army in Addlestone co-ordinates a Christmas Toy Appeal and last year they provided toys and gifts for over 500 children within Runnymede Borough, which were distributed to families in need.

If you feel able to support this good cause, we are collecting donations of brand new, unwrapped books, toys and gift cards for 0-17 year olds. Please donate by Friday 6th December. Many thanks for your generosity.

SAFE PARKING

I fully appreciate how difficult it can be to park near the school when picking up and dropping off your children; however, can I ask parents to show consideration to the residents of Stepgates by not parking across, or in, driveways or the school's electronic gates. Please can I also ask you to take care with your speed when pulling in to park, pulling out or driving along Stepgates. It is dangerous and makes crossing the road unsafe for our children, as well as being very irritating for our neighbours. Thank you in advance for your consideration and safe parking.

RUNNYMEDE JUNIOR CITIZEN

I am delighted that our Year 6 children were able to take part in Junior Citizenship activities at Thorpe Park on Tuesday 19th November. The children worked in three groups making their way around a carousel of activities, which included: St. John's ambulance life-saving, mental health, dental care, water safety, railway safety, health and fitness and recycling. This is an invaluable opportunity for the children and their behaviour was exceptional. Well done Kites Class - you were a credit to Stepgates Community School!

REMINDER - INSET DAY MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2024

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

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers for your 'Bottle' donations to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday, 7th December.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE
Congratulations to
Butterflies Class for the
best attendance in the last
two weeks.

	11th-15th November	18th-22nd November
WHOLE SCHOOL	96.3%	95.6%
Ladybirds	96.1%	93.6%
Butterflies	97.9%	97.1%
Grasshoppers	96.1%	97.0%
Falcons	96.7%	94.9%
Hawks	94.8%	93.9%
Owls	96.5%	95.0%
Kites	96.1%	97.0%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Isla-Rose S, Year 3 - Star of the Week at gymnastics
- ◆ Bradley F, Year 3 - Swimming Certificate
- ◆ Maggie M, Year 6 - Football Certificate
- ◆ Adewonuola O, Year 5, Aaron C, Year 4, Dakota W, Year 2 and Isabella HEK, Year 4 - Children in Need Tapathon World Record
- ◆ Jackson S, Year 5 - Artwork
- ◆ Charlie W, Year 1 - Football Trophy

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

- * Onur A, Year 5

BUTTERFLIES CLASS ASSEMBLY

Our Butterflies Class assembly on Friday 22nd November was all about toys. In line with our topic for this half term we enjoyed telling the whole school and our family and friends some interesting facts about the old toys and the new toys and what they have been made of.

We then sang the iconic song from Toy Story, "You've got a friend in me" and bowed lots of times during the applause.

We all said our words very clearly and really enjoyed the experience.

Thank you all for coming.

FALCONS STONE AGE CLASS ASSEMBLY



The Falcons first assembly in Year 3 was fantastic, every child played a part. The children dramatised the book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and they adapted a very well known song for washing their woolly mammoth - 'We will wash you'. We are so proud of them and their growing confidence.

We can't wait for the next assembly!

ERPSSA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 14th November 2024, Stepgates Community School played a football tournament at Royal Holloway. In our first match, we played against St James School. The score ended at 0-0 but we played well and had a lot of chances. We went on to draw 0-0 for the remaining three matches. After all of our matches we sent to see if we went through but unfortunately we didn't go through to the next stage but finished third in our group.

Afterwards we organised a 'friendly' match against another school who we beat.

We all had a brilliant day and were happy about the performance we put on.

Written by Oliver B and John E (Year 6)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS


INSET DAY

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

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all parents/carers who supported the Book Fair.

We raised a fantastic £596.28, 40% of which will go towards books for the children.



Tree Donated by



Find us at the Christmas Tree Farm, Guildford St, Ottershaw, Chertsey KT16 0PJ (next to the ambulance station)

Open 27th November until 23rd December 2024
7.30am to 7.30pm daily

**OTTERSASHAW
CHRISTMAS
TREE
FARM**

Huge selection of freshly cut trees from the farm. Stands, wreaths & logs available. Pony trailer selling hot drinks at busy times.

Visit mauricemandry.com or follow us on Instagram @ottershawchristmastreefarm for updates



Father Christmas is visiting!
Purchase of tree required to meet him, first come first serve basis.
Midday-7.30pm EXCEPT 30/11, 1/12, 7/12, 8/12

Thank you

A huge thank you to Maurice Mandry who has, once again, very kindly donated a Christmas tree to Stepgates Community School.

We would also like to say thank you to FOSS who have offered to decorate this.

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

Save money on your childcare bills with Tax-Free Childcare

If you're a working parent or carer, you can get up to £500 every three months (up to £2,000 a year per child) to help with the costs of childcare. If your child has a disability, you can get up to £1,000 every three months (up to £4,000 a year per child).

You can use it to pay for childcare including:

- childminders, nurseries and nannies
- playschemes, before and after school clubs, and holiday clubs

How it works

You set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2, up to a maximum of £2,000 a year or £4,000 if your child has a disability. You can then use the money to pay your childcare provider.

You need to reconfirm your eligibility for Tax-Free Childcare every three months. You'll get a text reminder and it's easy to do through your online childcare account.



Am I eligible?

To get Tax-Free Childcare, you, and your partner (if you have one) need to be working at least 16 hours a week and expect to earn at least the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage over the next 3 months. This includes being:

- self-employed
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave
- on sick leave or annual leave

Your child is eligible until 1 September after their 11th birthday, or until 1 September after their 16th birthday if they have a disability.

Each parent or carer can earn up to £100,000 per year and still be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare. Your eligibility doesn't depend on how much tax you pay, so it won't affect your income tax liability or VAT.

You can't claim Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. Further information on eligibility is available on www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare.

Find out more

To find out how much you could get towards your childcare costs and check whether you're eligible, visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

DATES - 2024/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2024

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 (<i>Please see letter dated 27th November for further details</i>)
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

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.

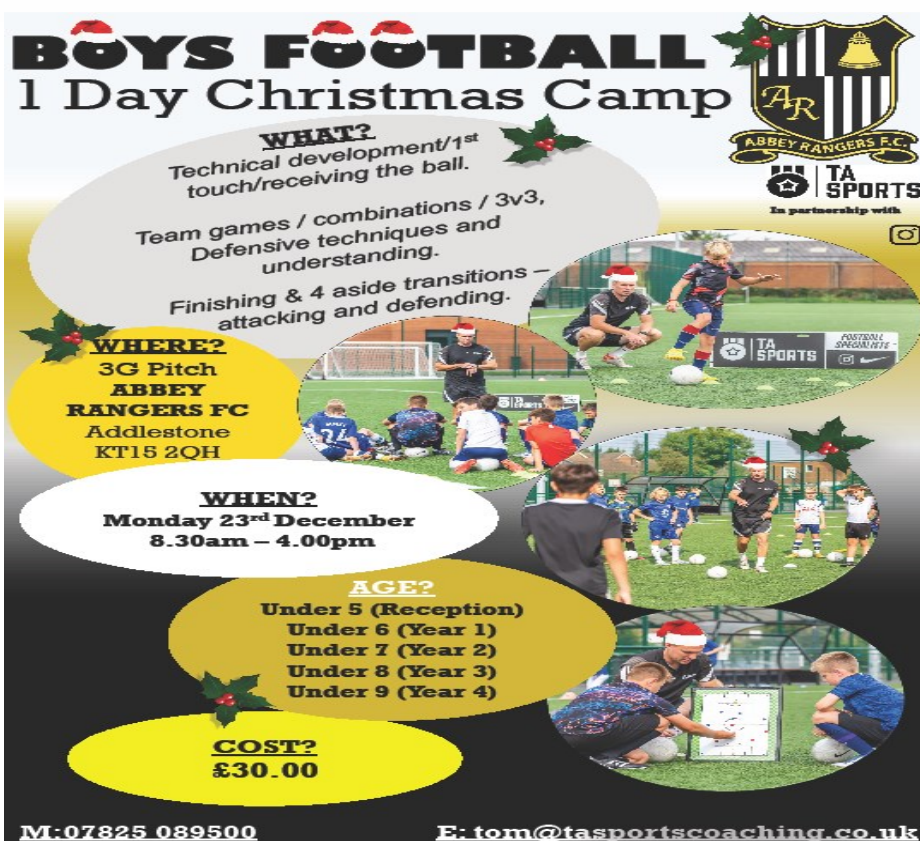


ROCK CHOIR
in Concert
Thursday 5th December 2024
Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road
Woking, GU20 4LH
Doors open 7pm
Performance 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tickets £15
(to include refreshments at the interval)
There will be a charity raffle
All proceeds to Quest, Riding for the Disabled




Charity number 1156036 www.questrda.org


Get tickets at <https://buytickets.at/questridingforthedisabled>




BOYS FOOTBALL
1 Day Christmas Camp




WHAT?
Technical development/1st touch/receiving the ball.
Team games / combinations / 3v3, Defensive techniques and understanding.
Finishing & 4 aside transitions – attacking and defending.




WHERE?
3G Pitch
ABBEY RANGERS FC
Addlestone
KT15 2QH



WHEN?
Monday 23rd December
8.30am – 4.00pm



AGE?
Under 5 (Reception)
Under 6 (Year 1)
Under 7 (Year 2)
Under 8 (Year 3)
Under 9 (Year 4)



COST?
£30.00

M: 07825 089500 E: tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk