

Headlines

Issue 7 - 13.12.24



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness, how quickly this term has gone! It has been a very busy term and I am delighted the children, and parents, have been able to participate in a range of exciting activities.

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents into school; it was lovely to see so many of you at our Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert yesterday. I know the children were very proud to perform their festive songs to you all. We also saw some wonderful Christmas jumpers, with all donations going towards 'Save the Children Fund'. Again, thank you to all parents for supporting this very worthy cause.

Next week we have the much anticipated Infant Christmas Production of 2024 "Hay Presto!" on Tuesday 17th December at St. Peter's Church, Chertsey and on Wednesday 18th December we have our Christmas lunch and Pantomime. We are also expecting a very important visitor next week, with gifts for the children.

STAFFING

I am delighted to welcome back Mrs Thompson who will be returning from her maternity leave next week. I know she is looking forward to returning to her teaching, in Year 2, from January. I would like to say thank you to Mrs Conn and Mrs Bywater, who have supported the children in Year 2 during the Autumn Term. It has been wonderful to see the children flourish, both academically and personally.

ONLINE SAFETY

Christmas is the time of year when many of you may receive electronic items (tablets/mobile telephones etc) as gifts. Please be mindful of child safety and ensure child filters are in operation.

As this will be the last issue of Headlines this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas holiday. I hope you and your families remain safe and well and I look forward to seeing the children on Monday, 6th January 2025. Don't forget; there is a lot of useful information on our school website (www.stepgateschool.co.uk), including all newsletters for this academic year, latest news, upcoming events, INSET days, term dates, useful links and much more.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the following:

- ◆ Friends of Stepgates (FOSS) Team, who continue to work tirelessly organising the many events and activities for our children, including their very popular 'Elfridges' gift stall and the Chertsey Goose Fair;
- ◆ My wonderful staff for their dedication and commitment to the children;
- ◆ All governors who continue to devote their time to Stepgates;
- ◆ I would also like to thank the children! They remain happy and engaged. I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning. As I have said on many occasions, it is lovely to walk through school and be reminded, on a daily basis, why I am in this profession!

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for your continued support! It is because of you our events are so successful, which enables the children to participate in the many wonderful activities we are able to provide at Stepgates. In particular, I would like to thank you for your donations to The Salvation Army Christmas Gift Appeal. Your generosity has been overwhelming! As you will see from the photograph, there will be many families within the community who will benefit from your incredible support.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

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

| | 25th-29th November | 2nd-6th December |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| WHOLE SCHOOL | 93.7% | 94.9% |
| Ladybirds | 94.9% | 95.1% |
| Butterflies | 93.8% | 95.2% |
| Grasshoppers | 87.3% | 97.7% |
| Falcons | 94.4% | 97.1% |
| Hawks | 92.6% | 90.7% |
| Owls | 98.4% | 95.3% |
| Kites | 95.2% | 93.6% |

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Maggie M, Year 6 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Alfie G, Year 2 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Florence T, Year 3 - Stage Coach 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:

- * George E, Year 4
- * Isabella HEK, Year 4
- * Daphne C-P, Year 6
- * Oliver B, Year 6
- * Stanley F, Year 6

Well Done!

A very well done to all those children who received a Well Done Certificate for this half term.

Keep up the good work!

‘Elfridges’ (Santa’s Gift Stall)



A very big thank you to all the ladies from FOSS for organising Santa’s Gift Stall - ‘Elfridges’ last week; once again, this was a huge success.



We would also like to say a very big thank you to parents for their contributions, enabling the children to buy their gifts. The money raised will be put towards the very many activities and resources FOSS contribute towards each year.

Thank you from all the staff and children at Stepgates Community School.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

YOUNG CARERS CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER



On the 26th November we went to Weybridge Garden Centre with our Young Carers. The children enjoyed seeing the Christmas lights, visiting the aquarium and enjoyed afternoon tea.



COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



BING CROSBY

(3 May 1903 - 14 October 1977)

Harry Lillis "Bing" Crosby Jr. was an American singer, comedian and actor. The first multimedia star, Crosby was a leader in record sales, radio ratings, and motion picture grosses from 1930 to 1954. He made over seventy feature films and recorded more than 1,600 different songs.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



RAYMOND BRIGGS

(18 January 1934 – 9 August 2022)

Raymond Redvers Briggs CBE (18 January 1934 – 9 August 2022) was an English (born in Wimbledon) illustrator, cartoonist, graphic novelist and author. Achieving critical and popular success among adults and children, he is best known in Britain for his 1978 story *The Snowman*, a book without words whose cartoon adaptation is televised and whose musical adaptation is staged every Christmas.

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


| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 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 |



LAST DAY OF TERM

SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1:00PM ON FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



School starts again on Monday 6th January 2025

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

**DURING MAY ASSESSMENTS FOR ALL CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE
NO AUTHORISED ABSENCES WILL BE GRANTED DURING THIS TIME**

| | |
|--|--|
| 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 |

A MESSAGE FROM FOSS



Thank you

Dear parents, carers and friends

It has been a busy few months for FOSS with a number of successful activities including the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Halloween Disco and Break the Rules.

Elfridges and the Chertsey Goose Fair have seen lots of festive fun and the children have thoroughly enjoyed selecting family/ friend presents!

We wish to thank everyone who has donated time, money, cakes and bottles - the generosity is greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to a successful 2025.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday!

HAVE A
Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR