

# Headlines

Issue 10 - 13.02.25



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

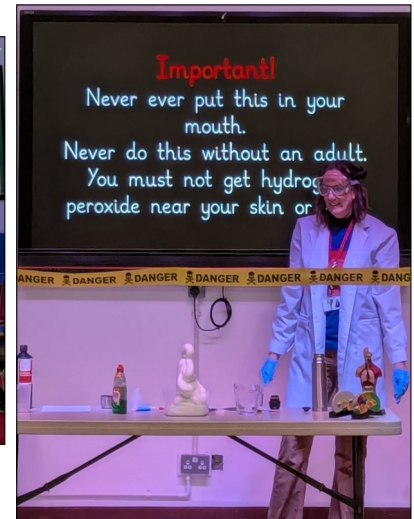
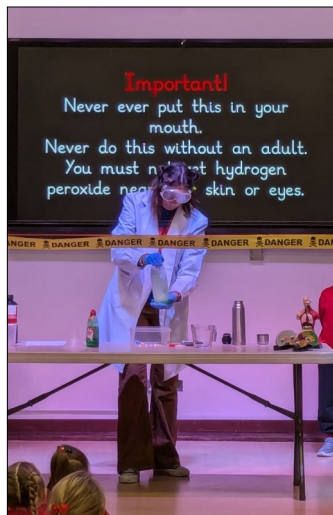
It is hard to believe we are almost half way through the Spring Term. It has been a busy time in school and the children have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities, with many more planned for the second half of Spring Term.

### SCIENCE WEEK AT STEPGATES

This week the children have been phenomenal! It has been wonderful to walk through school and see the children and staff enjoying Science Week.

Each morning the children have moved around to different classrooms/teachers and have taken part in many exciting activities/experiments. These included making rainbows, jumping beans, dancing popcorn, balloon hovercrafts, colour symphony, duck calls and chicken in cup noises, as well as the incredible hoop glider! Each afternoon, they have been learning about nutrition, fitness and hygiene, as well as preparing for a presentation to the rest of the Key Stage.

Stepgates Community School  
Learning and Growing Together



*The week definitely started with a 'BANG' and a 'FIZZ!' The children were 'blown away' when Mrs Brough, our Science Lead, carried out some mesmerising experiments.*



*Einstein would have been very jealous of some of the costumes worn by the staff!*

We have had a fantastic week and the children all looked amazing in their STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) costumes today. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents/carers for supporting our very successful Science week. Your contributions towards this week are very much appreciated.

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

**STAFFING**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you and many congratulations to Mrs Jezeph, our Interventions Learning Support Assistant, who has completed 25 years service at Stepgates Community School. She has supported many children during this time who, I am sure, would also like say thank you to Mrs Jezeph for her continued commitment to Stepgates. What an amazing achievement!

**ACCEPTABLE HAIR STYLES**

I have seen an increasing number of children coming to school with logos shaved into their hair. I would like to remind parents that 'extreme' haircuts are not acceptable and hair should be of a style that is appropriate for school. Please also ensure long hair is tied back, and kept away from the eyes so vision is not impaired. Please avoid large hair slides and bands.

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March, which will be a Mufti Day. The children may come to school wearing their pyjamas, and bring in a book of their choice to enjoy in the afternoon. We will have some exciting craft and drama opportunities with their favourite characters and we are also expecting a visit from a published author who will spend time with each class!

**MID-YEAR REPORTS**

All parents/carers should have received a copy of their child's Mid-Year Report this week, which I hope you will find useful. I am very pleased that the vast majority of children have been in school regularly, worked hard and have made good progress and I would like to thank you for your continued support for their education. There will be an opportunity to discuss the Mid-Year Report further with the class teacher during Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings, which will be held on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th March. Further details will be sent home after half term.

As these meetings are a valued opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements and support their learning, please contact your child's class teacher if you are not able to attend the meeting.

There will also be an opportunity for parents in Years R to 6 to attend our very popular 'Celebration of Pupils Work' sessions. As you know these are designed to give an opportunity to look through your child's work and see their classroom and learning environment. Please can you confirm with the class teacher if you plan on attending. Further details, including the date and time, have been sent separately, but for ease of reference these have also been added to the dates section of this newsletter (Page 4).

**REMINDER - INSET DAY FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2025**

Please note that school will be closed tomorrow, Friday, 14th February for an INSET Day.

I hope that you and your families are able to have a restful half term and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 24th February 2025.

**Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher**

**ATTENDANCE**  
Congratulations to Owls Class  
for the best attendance in  
the last two weeks

	27th-31st January	3rd-7th February
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
Ladybirds	91.5%	92.7%
Butterflies	96.2%	91.2%
Grasshoppers	96.1%	94.2%
Falcons	92.1%	94.7%
Hawks	87.5%	95.6%
Owls	97.3%	97.9%
Kites	90.0%	89.1%

# PROUD CORNER



## Well done to:

◆ Jackson S, Year 5 - Art Work

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

## **Well Done!**

**A very well done to all those children who received a Well Done Certificate today.**

**Keep up the good work!**

## **LADYBIRDS CLASS ASSEMBLY**

Ladybirds, for their very first assembly, retold the story of Little Rabbit Foo Foo by Michael Rosen.

The children sang well, and entertained the parents and pupils. Everyone enjoyed the humorous story, and performing!

A special mention to Edward and Olive, who performed the lead roles, brilliantly!

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

### **Are you looking for a Nursery place for your child in September 2025?**

*We are now commencing the admission process for our Sunbeams Nursery for September 2025*

#### **If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023**

If your child is under three years of age, we offer EITHER five morning sessions (9:00am to 12:00 noon) OR five afternoon sessions (12:30pm to 3:30pm). You may choose less than five sessions but we would recommend you choose at least two sessions per week.

For eligible parents we offer four 'Free Early Education for Two year olds' (FEET) places, for which a copy letter proving eligibility from Surrey County Council needs to be provided to secure this place.

(For eligibility please see: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/childcare-professionals/providing-free-early-education/providing-free-early-education-for-two-year-olds#>)

#### **If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022**

We offer 15 hour funded places on a two and a half day split; either Monday full day, Tuesday full day and Wednesday morning OR Wednesday afternoon, Thursday full day and Friday full day.

For eligible parents we offer 30 hour free childcare places, for which a code from HMRC's Childcare Choices Website needs to be provided to secure this place. For eligibility please see:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

For further information and/or an Application Form, please contact:

Mrs M Fernandez

Business Manager

Telephone: 01932 563022

Email: [admin@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk)

## DATES - 2024/2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2025

Friday 14th February	INSET Day - School closed
Mon 17th to Fri 21st Feb	Half Term
Monday 24th February	Children return to school
Monday 24th February	Grasshoppers Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Tuesday 25th February	Owls Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Tuesday 25th February	Ladybirds Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Wednesday 26th February	Falcons Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Wednesday 26th February	Butterflies Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Thursday 27th February	Kites Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Friday 28th February	Falcons Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 28th February	Hawks Class 'Celebration of Pupils Work' Session (2:45pm)
Monday 3rd March and Tuesday 4th March	Parent-Teacher Consultation Evenings for Years R-6
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Friday 7th March	Grasshoppers Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 14th March	Butterflies Class Assembly (9:05am)
Friday 21st March	Owls Class Assembly (9:05am)
Monday 24th March	Book Fair this week
Wed 2nd to Fri 4th April	Year 4 Residential Trip
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
Mon 2nd to Fri 6th June	Year 6 Residential Trip
Monday 9th June	INSET Day - School closed
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios
Tuesday 1st July and Wednesday 2nd July	Secondary School Induction Days - <b>(Please check with individual school for further details)</b>
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.

A flyer for Home-Start Surrey. The background is purple. At the top left is the Home-Start Surrey logo, with 'HOME START' in white and 'Surrey' in orange. To the right is a photo of a woman and two children in a garden. A yellow sun icon with 'RECRUITING NOW' is in the top right. The main text 'VOLUNTEERS NEEDED' is in large white letters. Below it is a question about parental experience. A teal box contains text about support. Below that is a statement about training. A yellow box lists 11 boroughs. A pink box says volunteering can change lives. An orange box says courses start soon. Contact details are at the bottom right. There are decorative icons like a paper plane and a star.

**HOME  
START**  
Surrey



RECRUITING  
NOW

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have parental experience? Could you spare 2-3 hours a week to share your invaluable knowledge? If yes we would love to hear from you!

Home-Start volunteers work alongside families to give compassionate and confidential support, tailored to each family.

Our volunteers are fully trained and given expert ongoing support

Home-Start Surrey covers all 11 boroughs in 8 local branches: East Surrey, Elmbridge, Epsom, Ewell & Banstead, Guildford, Runnymede & Woking, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath & Waverley  
[www.homestartsurrey.org](http://www.homestartsurrey.org)

Volunteering for local families can change your life and the life of a family in your community!

Spring 2025 Courses starting throughout Surrey very soon, don't delay get in touch today!

For further details please call: 01252 737453

Or email: [volunteers@homestartsurrey.org](mailto:volunteers@homestartsurrey.org)