

Headlines

Issue 12 - 21.03.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a busy two weeks at Stepgates. Well done to our Dance Crew who came second (missing out by one mark for first place) in the ERPSSA Dance Festival at Notre Dame School, our Swim Team who entered 'It's a Fish Out Competition' for the second year and Surrey Schools Primary Teams Swimming Event, plus our Year 5 football team who played a tournament at Royal Holloway University.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support and to the children who all performed brilliantly and were amazing ambassadors for Stepgates! (please see Pages 3/4 for a full report on all events).

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to two new members of support staff, Mrs Downs and Miss Nowakowska, who have joined us this term as Learning Support Assistants. I am sure they will soon feel part of the Stepgates team.

COMIC RELIEF 'RED NOSE DAY'

We saw a lot of red outfits in school today to support Comic Relief 'Red Nose Day'. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents/carers for your contributions towards this very worthy cause.

HOME SCHOOL LINK WORKER

Many of you will be aware that we have a Home School Link Worker, Mrs O'Mara, within school. The Home School Link Worker is able to offer parents a confidential service regarding personal issues that may be affecting their child's learning and wellbeing. Please visit our website (www.stepgateschool.co.uk) under 'Our School' for further information, or if you have a concern about your child and would like to speak to the Home School Link Worker, please contact the office or Headteacher first.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

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

	3rd-7th March	10th-14th March
WHOLE SCHOOL	93.9%	92.1%
Ladybirds	90.6%	90.6%
Butterflies	91.5%	90.6%
Grasshoppers	96.4%	94.9%
Falcons	93.5%	91.5%
Hawks	90.9%	86.9%
Owls	96.1%	96.4%
Kites	97.9%	93.6%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Kallum B, Year 1 - Football Tournament Cup
- ◆ Eric L, Year 6 - 1st Place Chess Tournament
- ◆ Paisley J, Year 1 - Swimming Certificate and Badge

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:

- * Wisdom O, Year 6
- * Bella L, Year 6
- * Lily-Louise B, Year 6

GRASSHOPPERS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Grasshoppers Class enjoyed presenting their class assembly to the whole school and their families last week!

We decided together to talk about our Science topic of plants and all they need to stay healthy, but with an extra twist... We included a dance from our PE topic all about the rainforests, and used our Musical skill on the recorder to play 'Plants are growing' set to the tune of London's Burning; from our History topic.

A real cross-curricular treat we were so proud to take part in!

BUTTERFLIES CLASS ASSEMBLY

It was our turn to entertain and educate the school and parents in what we have been learning and we dazzled our audience with our facts and knowledge about animal classification.

We entertained them with our songs and dances which related to each one, my favourite being "The Birdie Song" dance.

The children loved performing and had great fun with the whole experience. Thank you all for coming and making it so special for them.

HEALTHY SNACKS

Please can I remind all parents/carers that we encourage our children to bring in healthy snacks for break time, for example a piece of fruit/raisins, definitely not chocolate or crisps.

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS), is a Government funded programme that provides a free piece of fruit or veg to our KS1 and EYFS children each day.



BOOK FAIR



The Book Fair is returning to Stepgates next week. Don't forget to come in after school and take a look.

Remember the more books you buy, the more free books we can get for our school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

REMINDER

THE MINI EGG CHOKING HAZARD PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THIS EASTER!

Parents are being reminded of the age warnings on chocolate treats such as Mini Eggs this Easter. While great attention is given to the risks involved with common foods such as grapes - and the need to chop them up correctly - families can sometimes be unaware of the dangers posed by seemingly harmless treats.

An anonymous mother decided to recall her harrowing ordeal, after her daughter tragically choked on the treat. Filled with milk chocolate and containing a crispy sugar shell, chocolate Mini Eggs are often a go-to sweet treat during the Easter season. However, the size of the chocolate pieces make them unsuitable for young children. A visible warning about this is clearly marked on some packets, stating that they are not suitable for children under the age of four. However, sadly Sophie the little girl who died was five, so care must be taken whatever the age of the child.

RAILWAY SAFETY TALKS

As part of our PSHE curriculum the children learn about different aspects of keeping safe within their locality. On Tuesday 18th March we welcomed Beth from Network rail who came to speak to our children on Railway safety. This is her second visit and we hope to make this an annual event. Through a quiz the children found out that an Intercity train weighs 400 tonnes the same weight as 80 elephants and that when a train brakes it will take the length of 20 premier football pitches to stop. They looked at safety at the train station and at level crossings before having a turn to ask questions.

The children interacted with enthusiasm, demonstrated a good awareness of safety and asked some excellent questions.



YEAR 5 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 13th March 2025, Stepgates Year 5 football team played a tournament at Royal Holloway University. There were 14 teams competing in total.

In our first game, we played against St Anne's. We played very well for most of the game, but in the last five minutes, we conceded a goal, which led to a loss.

In the second match, we played against Holy Family, but once again we conceded a goal and they won the match.

In the third match, we played Bell Farm and Alfie got the game started with a great goal that put us in the lead. We won the game 1-0 and got our first three points!

In the final match, we played St Cuthbert's. We were unlucky to give away an early penalty and although Ezra tried his best to save it, the ball went in the back of the net. The final score was 1-0 to St Cuthbert's.

After a long tournament, we were unfortunately not able to progress to the knock out stages, but were pleased with our efforts. We enjoyed a final friendly against St James' and then returned to school after a very tiring day!

By Alfie J and Joey D – Year 5

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SURVIVOR

On 6th March 2025, Dance Crew went to Notre Dame school to compete in the ERPSSA Dance Festival. Our dance was to *Survivor*, but was a violin cover version. The theme we were given for this competition was determination, so we decided our dance would be very dramatic and intense, demonstrating the struggles we sometimes encounter when working hard to achieve something. We all wore red, as this is the colour that represents determination.

The standard of dance at the competition was incredibly high, so we were delighted that we came second, missing out on first place by just one mark! That's three years in a row now that we have been placed in the top two! We had an amazing time and it was an enjoyable experience, being able to watch the other dances and for some of us, perform on stage for the first time!

By Dance Crew

RECENT SWIMMING EVENTS

Stepgates children have recently taken part in a couple of swimming events run by Surrey Schools Swimming Association.

It's a Fish Out – Saturday 8th March

Stepgates took part in this competition for the first time last year, the team enjoyed it so much that this year we entered two teams!

This annual life saving/water safety event is organised as a circuit around the pool and consists of eight activities; sculling, rope throw, diving for a brick, underwater baton relay, head up width swimming, ball throw, straddle jumps and water safety questions. Points are awarded for the skills shown in each sector. All tasks must be accomplished without goggles!

Taking part were Maggie, Victoria, Isla, Bella L, Dylan and Freddie from Year 6, plus Ellie and Bella from Year 5. Both teams did incredibly well, especially as all the training had to take place on dry land! The teams placed 15th and 23rd.

A huge thank you to Miss McKinnon and Mrs Blankert for giving up their time to train the children and for their support at the competition. Thanks also to the parents/carers who battled with the traffic (M25 was closed) to come and support the swimmers.

A really good time was had by all.

Surrey Schools Primary Teams – Saturday 15th March

The swimming at this event is all about speed and there were some super fast competitors, most of whom have the advantage of all year round indoor swimming available.

Our swimmers swam brilliantly in a freestyle race and a medley race. Our aim was not to be disqualified (the rules are very strict) and to have fun. Both aims were achieved! Taking part were Dylan, Oliver and Bella B from Year 6, plus Joey, Ellie and Bella from Year 5.

Huge thanks to Miss McKinnon for assisting poolside and of course to the parents/carers who came to support the children.

Roll on next year!

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

DATES - 2024/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 24th March	Book Fair this week
Mon 24th & Fri 28th March	FOSS Mother's Day Gift Shop
Wednesday 26th March	FOSS Spring Disco
Wed 2nd to Fri 4th April	Year 4 Residential Trip
Friday 4th April	Last day of Spring Term - Children finish at 1pm
Friday 4th April	FOSS Sweet Sale (After School)
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
Wednesday 18th June	Year 6 to Guildford Cathedral
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios
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



Please see below for a variety of FOSS events, including the FOSS Spring Disco (for Years R-6).

SPRING DISCO

WEDNESDAY 26th March
Infants 3:20 - 4:30
Juniors 4:45 - 6:00
Ticket Price: £5*

*Price includes	Entrance, bag of sweets, popcorn, drink and glitter tattoo/face paint.
Sibling discount	£9.50 for two siblings; £14 for 3 siblings.

Tickets will be sold on 21st and 24th March in the playground after school. Alternatively, please hand money to reception.

**FOSS MOTHER'S DAY
GIFT SHOP
£3.50 PER GIFT
MONDAY 24TH &
FRIDAY 28TH MARCH
DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

A selection of gifts will be available for your child to purchase as a Mother's Day gift for that special person in their life.

SWEET SALE

Friday 4th April
**After school (1:00pm) in
the school playground**

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.





GIRLS FOOTBALL COURSE

EASTER HALF TERM 2025

Monday 7th April & Tuesday 8th April

Venue:- Abbey Rangers Football Club (KT15 2QH)

Times:- 8.30am – 4.00pm

£30 Daily / £55 Two Day

Designed for girls of all abilities aged between 5yrs to 13yrs!

- Playing in a fun, challenging & safe environment.
- Meeting new friends that have an interest in football.
- Develop technique, speed, tactics & improve skills & confidence.
- Professional FA qualified coaching.
- 3G Pitch and use of clubhouse.

If you would like further information or would like to book a place for your daughter to attend please kindly contact Tom on 07825 089500 or email tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk





BOYS THURSDAY FOOTBALL

2 Day Easter 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?
 Thursday 10th April
 Thursday 17th April
 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 per day

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

