

Headlines

Issue 13 - 04.04.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another busy term, I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to all parents/carers, governors, FOSS (Friends of Stepgates Community School) and, of course, my wonderful staff who continue to show their support, commitment and dedication to Stepgates. Finally, I would like to thank the children! I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to FOSS who provided the eggs for The Easter Egg Hunt this week; this was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

We have many exciting events and activities planned for the Summer Term and our amazing FOSS Team are already thinking about the Black Cherry Fair and our very popular Summer Fair. Further details to follow after the Easter break. Please also see Page 6 for Term Dates and Inset Days for next academic year.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all parents/carers who supported the Book Fair last week. We raised a fantastic £532.57, 40% of which will go towards books for the children.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

This week our Year 4 children have taken part in a wide range of fun activities and have had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Sayers Croft, despite a number of poorly children. Their behaviour has been exemplary and, once again, Stepgates children have been outstanding ambassadors for the school. I would like to take this opportunity to wish those children who have been unwell a very speedy recovery.

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

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

	17th-21st March	24th-28th March
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.8%	92.7%
Ladybirds	94.9%	89.4%
Butterflies	99.1%	92.7%
Grasshoppers	92.4%	89.1%
Falcons	97.9%	95.8%
Hawks	92.8%	94.4%
Owls	98.8%	97.0%
Kites	94.9%	90.9%

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



Katie Perry

Musical Genre: Pop

Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson known professionally as Katy Perry, is an American singer, songwriter and television judge. She has released six studio albums and two EPs.

She has a mezzo-soprano vocal range. She has earned nine number-one singles on the *Billboard* Hot 100, five of which are from one album (she became the first female artist to achieve this record). Perry has also been nominated for 11 Grammy Awards.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Will Bryant

Art style: Graphic Design

Will Bryant is an artist, designer, and illustrator based in Austin, Texas. He'd like to think that he makes fun, exuberant, and sometimes humorous work. In addition to collaborating with brands, he also continues to develop a body of work in the form of painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture.

He studied graphic design at Mississippi State University (2008) and received an MFA in Contemporary Art Practice from Portland State University (2013).

PROUD CORNER



Well done to:



- ◆ Bella C, Yr 5 - Gymnastics Competition medals & flowers
- ◆ Lucas G, Yr 2 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Lara P, Yr 1 - Gymnastics Certificate
- ◆ Dakota W, Yr 2 - Gymnastics Certificate
- ◆ Kohaku L, Yr 2 - Rugby Medal
- ◆ Isla-Rose S, Yr 3 - Gymnastics Medal
- ◆ Tristan N, Yr 6 - Judo Red & White Belt
- ◆ Layla W, Reception - Gymnastics Badge & Certificate
- ◆ Florence H, Yr 4 - Gymnastics Competition Medal
- ◆ Summer S, Yr 4 - Gymnastics Competition Medal
- ◆ Layla W, Yr 4 - Gymnastics Competition Medal
- ◆ Zachary R, Yr 3 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Clay H, Yr 3 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Hywel L, Yr 6 - Rugby Trophy
- ◆ Grayson O, Yr 1 - Beavers Badge

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

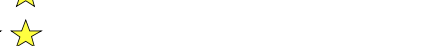


HEADTEACHER AWARDS



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

- * Haruki M, Yr 1
- * Annabelle HEK, Yr 1
- * Arabella F, Yr 2
- * Jack E, Yr 6
- * Evie T, Yr 4



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!

**SPRING TERM
GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

I am delighted to announce that the following children have been presented with Governors' Achievement Awards for their achievements in Spring term:

Infants

Ethan N (Year 2) - For his positive attitude to learning and always challenging himself to go further

Aimee A (Year 2) - For her growing confidence and 'can do' attitude to all her learning and friendships

Juniors

Tristan N (Year 6) - For his positive attitude, initiative, wonderful sense of humour and enthusiasm towards all he does at school

Layla W (Year 4) - For her overall enthusiasm and positive attitude towards all areas of school life

Sporting Achievement Awards were presented to:

Dylan M (Year 6) - For his contribution towards swimming and excellence across sport

Bianca T (Year 3) - For a new found enthusiasm for sports and dance participation and leadership

Mason H (Year 2) - For accurate skill and rhythm in dance

Paisley J (Year 1) - For her improvement in PE and her positive attitude towards exercise

The Arts Awards were presented to:

Mia W (Year 6) - For her focused and passionate approach to dance

Kye C (Year 3) - For his creative extracurricular art work

Marley H (Year 2) - For wonderful expressive writing of comic books, which inspires his peers to be creative

Penelope K (Reception) - For her early expressive talent across the Arts, in dance, singing and acting

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OWLS CLASS ASSEMBLY



On Friday 18th March Owls had their class assembly. It was all about Forest School. We talked about some of the games and activities we have done, such as the High Five game and litter picking. We also talked about and demonstrated using the loppers, which are basically a big knife, to cut sticks. At the end, some of the boys sung a rap about Forest School which they had written themselves (it was good!)

Written by Joey and Reggie

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

Monday 7th to Monday 21st April | **Easter Holidays**



LAST DAY OF TERM

**SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1:00PM ON
FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2025**

**SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN ON
TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 8:40AM**

UPCOMING EVENTS - 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
Friday 25th April	FOSS Happy School Bag Collection
Friday 2nd May	Grasshoppers Class Assembly 9:05am
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Friday 9th May	Ladybirds Class Assembly 9:05am
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
Friday 13th June	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Wednesday 18th June	Year 6 to Guildford Cathedral
Friday 20th June	Hawks Class assembly 9:05am
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios
Friday 27th June	Owls Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 1st July and Wednesday 2nd July	Secondary School Induction Days - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Friday 4th July	Butterflies Class Assembly 9:05am
Tuesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

TERM DATES ACADEMIC YEAR - 2025/2026

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE 5 INSET DAYS WHEN THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO CHILDREN. THESE ARE:

- Wednesday 3rd September 2025
- Monday 1st December 2025
- Friday 13th February 2026
- Friday 22nd May 2026
- **There will be one further INSET Day to add, which will be in June. This will be advised as soon as possible**

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - INSET Day - School closed

Thursday 4th September 2025 - Children in Years 1-6 start school

Friday 24th October 2025 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025)

Monday 3rd November 2025 - Children return to school

Monday 1st December 2025 - INSET Day - School closed

Friday 19th December 2025 - Last day of Autumn term - Children finish at 1pm

(Christmas holidays - Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026)

SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 5th January 2026 - Children return to school

Thursday 12th February 2026 - Children finish at normal time for half term

Friday 13th February 2026 - INSET Day - School closed

(Half Term - Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026)

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Children return to school

Friday 27th March 2026 - Last day of Spring term - Children finish at 1pm

(Easter holidays - Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026)

SUMMER TERM 2025

Monday 13th April 2026 - Children return to school

Monday 4th May 2026 - Bank Holiday - School closed

Thursday 21st May 2026 - Children finish at normal time for half term

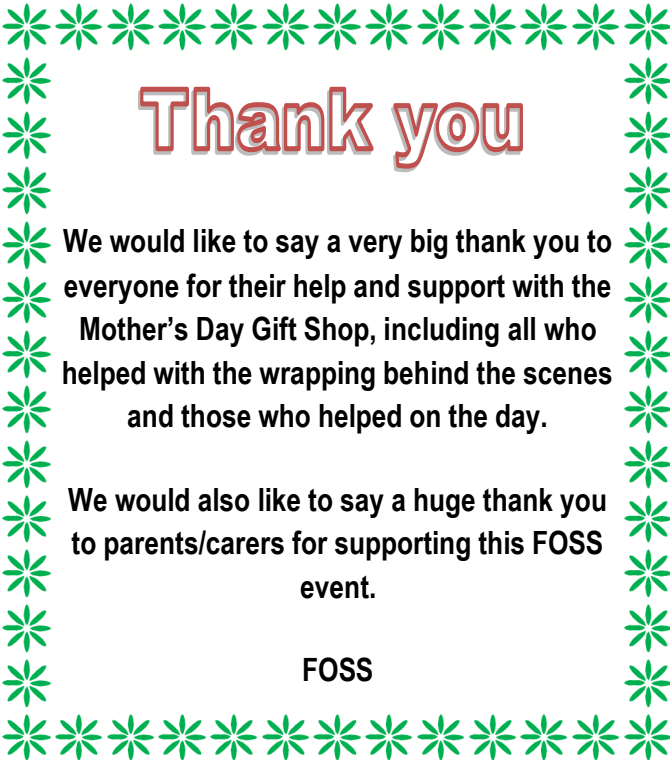
Friday 22nd May 2026 - INSET Day - School closed

(Half Term - Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026)

Monday 1st June 2026 - Children return to school

Wednesday 22nd July 2026 - Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



Thank you

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for their help and support with the Mother's Day Gift Shop, including all who helped with the wrapping behind the scenes and those who helped on the day.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to parents/carers for supporting this FOSS event.

FOSS



FOSS SPRING DISCO

A fantastic time was had by all at the Spring Disco last week!

Thank you to parents and teachers for support on the afternoon; this was a huge success and a brilliant £810.60 was raised by FOSS.

Well done and thank you to all involved!



Save the date for the

FOSS SUMMER FAIR

FRIDAY 20TH JUNE 2025

A firm favourite in Stepgates Community School calendar.

