

Headlines

Issue 14 - 02.05.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new term, it doesn't seem possible it's the Summer term already. I hope you all had a very enjoyable holiday. We have a very busy term ahead with many exciting activities arranged, including Sports Day on Thursday 22nd May (weather permitting). Further details will follow in due course.

We are also very excited to watch the progress of our new Sensory Garden which is nearing completion. This will be a wonderful addition to Stepgates Community School.

We are almost in May with SATs tests for Year 6 starting the week beginning Monday 12th May. Year 2 will also be sitting their SATs tests during May and assessments will be taking place in all year groups. PLEASE make sure your child is in school every day so they do not miss any preparation work or tests. Years 2 and 6 are ready and raring to go with their SATs tests!! They have worked very hard with all the staff and we wish them 'Good Luck' - we know they will all do their very best and we will be proud of their achievements.

MUFTI DAY - THURSDAY 8TH MAY

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, Thursday 8th May is a 'Red, White & Blue' Mufti Day. We are looking forward to celebrating this event as a school and have many wonderful activities planned for the children, including listening to Sir Winston Churchill's Speech, singing 'I Vow to Thee, My Country', playing 1940's games, learning about the Second World War and ending the day with a celebratory street party on the playground. If you are able to donate cakes/biscuits/squash for our street party, these would be very gratefully received. As always, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to our previous Head Boy, Freddie C and Head Girl, Lily-Louise B, Deputy Head Boy, Dylan M and Deputy Head Girl, Victoria M. All have been excellent role models.

This term I am pleased to announce that our Head Boy is Eric L and Head Girl is Daphne C-P, selected by the children. I am sure they will also be excellent role models in our school community. Congratulations also to our new Deputy Head Boy, Adam DS and Deputy Head Girl, Mia W. Well done!

ATTENDANCE

This year we are aiming for whole school attendance above 95%; unfortunately our whole school attendance for Spring term was 93.7%. I know we can do better this term as the weather improves and we get rid of all the nasty bugs as well as the coughs and colds!

Well done to the 62 children who achieved 100% attendance during Spring term; this is a fantastic achievement and they have all received certificates.

SAFEGUARDING

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of their responsibility regarding collecting their children on time at the end of the school day. It is upsetting for the children involved to be left waiting at the end of the day, feeling unsure as to the whereabouts of their parent/carer. Whilst I understand there are occasions when this can be unavoidable, it is imperative you contact the school office if you are running late. Unfortunately, as staff have professional commitments after school, if your child is not collected on time they will be taken to our after school club, The Burrow, which will incur a charge.

Mrs T Ford, Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Butterflies and Falcons Classes for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

*** During the week 31st March to 4th April, we had a nasty sickness bug in school, which is reflected in our attendance figure.**

	31st March-4th April	21st-25th April
WHOLE SCHOOL	86.1% *	94.6%
Ladybirds	79.1%	94.7%
Butterflies	86.2%	98.5%
Grasshoppers	83.3%	90.9%
Falcons	89.7%	98.9%
Hawks	84.7%	94.9%
Owls	90.6%	96.2%
Kites	89.1%	97.0%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Ella C, Yr 4 - Tennis Tournament
- ◆ Bella C, Yr 5 - Gymnastic Competition
- ◆ Maggie M, Yr 6 - Football Certificate
- ◆ Grayson S, Yr 1 - Football Camp Trophy
- ◆ Isla-Rose S, Yr 3 - Cheerleading Badge Awards
- ◆ Dexter S, Yr 3 - Football Trophy Man of the Match & Medal

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

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

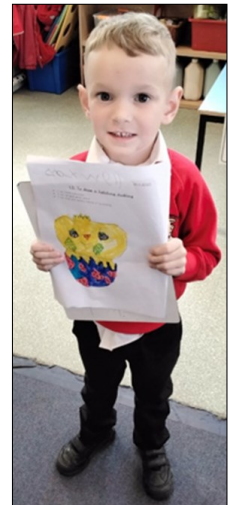
Well done to the following children who have been presented with Headteacher Awards:

- * Timon B, Year 6
- * Victoria M, Year 6
- * Isla W, Year 6
- * Arabella F, Year 2
- * Theo D-G, Year 1
- * Butterflies Class

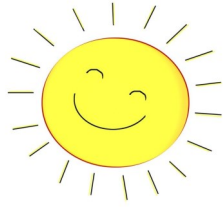
Ducklings and quack-a-thon



This year's duck project, supplied by Incredible Eggs, has been a successful and fantastic project. All of the children in school have treasured seeing the birds, from eggs in incubators to fluffy, inquisitive ducklings, both in class and on live-webcams. Pupils have developed their life-cycle knowledge, created some lovely cross-curricular learning and learnt how to care for the ducklings. Pupils in Key Stage 1 took part in our sponsored, Quack-a-thon event to raise money for the project. Thank you for the generous donations from parents and Carers. Two wonderful moments have been seeing the ducklings swimming, and listening to some of our children with language difficulties talking and singing to the ducklings.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



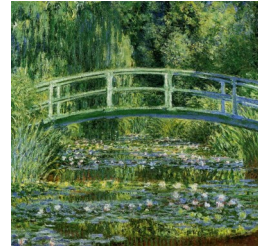
Here comes the sun!!!

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, please could you make sure that you send your children into school with a water bottle and hat.

All KS1 children need to have sun cream applied before they come into school each day.

KS2 children can bring sun cream in and apply it themselves.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Claude Monet

14 November 1840 – 5 December 1926

Oscar-Claude Monet was a French painter, a founder of French Impressionist painting and the most consistent and prolific practitioner of the movement's philosophy of expressing one's perceptions before nature, especially as applied to plein air landscape painting. The term "Impressionism" is derived from the title of his painting *Impression, soleil levant* (*Impression, Sunrise*), which was exhibited in 1874 in the first Salon des Refusés (exhibition of rejects) mounted by Monet and his associates as an alternative to the Salon de Paris.

Monet's ambition of documenting the French countryside led him to adopt a method of painting the same scene many times in order to capture the changing of light and the passing of the seasons.

From 1883, Monet lived in Giverny, where he purchased a house and property and began a vast landscaping project which included lily ponds that would become the subjects of his best-known works.

He began painting the water lilies in 1899, first in vertical views with a Japanese bridge as a central feature, and later in the series of large-scale paintings that occupied him continuously for the next 20 years of his life.

Our Value for this
Half Term is



Courage

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



During the month of May, the children will be learning about classical composers from around the world, including Beethoven.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Tests Week!

Please remember that the week commencing Monday 12th May Year 6 will be sitting their SATs tests. Year 2 will also be sitting their SATs tests during May, with assessments taking place in all year groups.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we cannot authorise any absences during May. Please ensure your child is in school every day.

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 - SUMMER TERM 2025

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

Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Thursday 8th May	'Red, White & Blue' Mufti Day to celebrate VE Day 80th Anniversary
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
Thursday 5th June	FOSS Sweet Sale after school
Monday 9th June	INSET Day - School closed
Wednesday 11th June	District Sports
Friday 13th June	Falcons Class Assembly 9:05am
Wednesday 18th June	Year 6 to Guildford Cathedral
Friday 20th June	Hawks Class assembly 9:05am
Friday 20th June	FOSS Summer Fair
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
Saturday 12th July	Black Cherry Fair
Thursday 17th July	3:30-5pm - Parents Celebration of Work Open Evening
Tuesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

MONDAY 5TH MAY IS BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED



INSET DAY

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL
 WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY
 23RD MAY 2025 FOR AN
 INSET DAY**



INSET DAY

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL
 WILL BE CLOSED ON
 MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025 FOR
 AN INSET DAY**

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



FOSS SUMMER PLANS!

Dates for your Diaries



TEDDY BEAR SALE
Thursday 1st May, 3:00pm
– School playground

FATHER'S DAY STALL
Tues 3rd / Wed 4th June
– during school

BREAK THE RULES
Wednesday 25th June
– during school



FOSS PLANNING MEETING
Thursday 1st May,
8:00pm – The
Bridge Pub

SWEET SALE
Thursday 5th June,
3:00pm – School
playground

SUMMER FAIR
Friday 20th June,
3:00 – 5:30,
School field

BLACK CHERRY FAIR
Saturday 12th July,
Parade start
(School Field)

Please join us for our FOSS Summer Fair on Friday 20th June. The Summer Fair will be open to the public from 3:00-5:30pm; pick up from school will be normal time, after which we hope you can join us on the Stepgates field.

All parents, carers and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Save the date for the

FOSS SUMMER FAIR

FRIDAY 20TH JUNE 2025

A firm favourite in Stepgates Community School calendar.

If you would like to have a stall at the Summer Fair, please contact Friends of Stepgates School (FOSS) on friendsofstepgateschool@gmail.com and they will share further details with you. (Stall price is £20 for adults and £10 for Stepgates students.)

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

MAY HALF TERM 2025

Tuesday 27th May
Wednesday 28th May

Venue:- Abbey Rangers Football Club (KT15 2QH)
Times:- 8.30am – 4.00pm
£30.00 Daily / £55.00 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

1 Day May Camp



In partnership with 

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 29th May
 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

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.



Golf Starz
JUNIOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Learn and play the Golf Starz way

Coaching the basics of Golf to kids of all ages & abilities in a structured & fun way



**THAMESMEAD SCHOOL
SHEPPERTON
TW17 9EE**

Scan me to book 

5 - 11 yrs

**SATURDAYS
10:30 - 11:30**

-  We use safe and specialist equipment
-  Lots of fun based skills, challenges and competitions
-  Enhances hand-eye coordination, team building & discipline
-  Weekly achievement and course completion certificates


Golf Coaching courses for 5-11 year olds



 **07359 289835**
 **paulheal@golfstarz.pro**
 **golfstarz.co.uk/north-surrey**
 **GolfStarz North Surrey**