

Headlines

Issue 15 - 22.05.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It seems impossible that it is half term next week! I am very proud of all children who have completed their assessments, but especially the Year 6 children who have completed their SATs - their efforts and attitude to do the very best they can has been amazing.

I would like to thank all parents for ensuring the children were in school in time to enjoy breakfast and also my wonderful staff who continue to work tirelessly to support our children, but particularly to the many staff who offered their support to our Year 6 children/team last week. I was, once again, reminded of the wonderful community we have at Stepgates.

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to Mr Vilas Boas who has joined us this term as a Learning Support Assistant. I am sure he will soon feel part of the Stepgates team.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

On Thursday 9th May we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. This started with a fantastic assembly from Chertsey Museum the week before, in which the children learnt about local people and how they contributed towards the war efforts.

On the day itself the children participated in a 'live' assembly, along with nearly 200,000 other school children across the country. In class they learnt about the importance of VE Day, how people celebrated when they heard the news and what life was like in 1945. In the afternoon staff and children listened to Sir Winston Churchill's speech, waved flags to rejoice and played 1940's inspired games. We finished the day with our very own 'Street Party'. It was a glorious day which all the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed.

FEELING GOOD WEEK

What an exciting time the children at Stepgates have had this week. Each day, the children have taken part in many different activities, including 'Feeling Good Week' dance sessions on the playground before school; Years 1-6 took part in a sponsored swim, where we have seen some amazing results, whilst the children in Sunbeams and Ladybirds have had a lovely time taking part in their own water themed activities.

Today we finished 'Feeling Good Week' with our very popular Sports Day, which was a huge success. Thank you to all parents/carers and our whole school community for supporting this event and various activities throughout the week. I would also like to say a very big thank you to you all for sponsoring the children in their 'Sponsored Swim'. We have had a wonderful week where we were able to join together across the school, as well as raising money for our swimming pool roof.

SAFEGUARDING

I would like to remind parents/carers that we do not allow the children to play on the 'trim trail', swing on the staircase railings, or climb any of the 'plant' structures in the playground before or after school, due to the serious risks involved. Please can all parents ensure you supervise your child(ren) and that they remain with you at all times.

Please could I also ask parents/carers to refrain from allowing their child(ren) to use the MUGA before or after school; this is for use by staff during the school day only. Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all parents who have completed the online questionnaire. Your feedback is always valued and I am delighted to say these have been very positive. I would like to remind parents that if you do have any concerns, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance to discuss.

REMINDER - INSET DAY FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025

Don't forget school will be closed tomorrow (Friday 23rd May) for an INSET Day.

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

FOSS SUMMER FAIR

A huge amount of time and energy is going into preparations for our FOSS Summer Fair which will be open to the public from 3:00-5:30pm on Friday 20th June. Please join us and enjoy some fun! Pick up from school will be normal time, after which we hope you can join us on the Stepgates field.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the parents, children, governors, FOSS (Friends of Stepgates School) and staff who continue to show their support, commitment and dedication to Stepgates.

I hope that you and your families are able to have a restful half term and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd June 2025.

**Mrs T Ford
Headteacher**

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

	5th-9th May	12th-16h May
WHOLE SCHOOL	96.3%	95.9%
Ladybirds	93.6%	93.0%
Butterflies	97.8%	99.4%
Grasshoppers	93.8%	95.0%
Falcons	97.1%	97.4%
Hawks	94.5%	92.5%
Owls	100%	97.3%
Kites	97.0%	96.4%

PROUD CORNER

- Well done to:**
- ◆ Hywel L, Year 6 - Medal & Certificate, Rugby Tournament
 - ◆ Haku L, Year 2 - Medal & Certificate, Rugby Tournament
 - ◆ Albert M, Year 1 - Judo Trophy
 - ◆ Sebbie H, Year 4 - Keeper Experience T-Shirt & Certificate
 - ◆ Paige W, Year 4 - Tae Kwondo White Belt
 - ◆ Georgia W, Year 4 - Tae Kwondo White Belt
 - ◆ Joey D, Year 5 - Netball Certificate
 - ◆ Daisy D, Year 5 - Netball Certificate
 - ◆ Kieran E-H-F, Year 5 - Netball Certificate
 - ◆ Freddie J-E, Year 3 - Football Tournament Medal
 - ◆ Isla-Rose S, Year 3 - Star of the Week Gym Certificate
 - ◆ Freddie C, Year 6 - Tennis Tournament Winner
- 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:

- * Lucy W, Year 1
- * Toby E, Year 3
- * Amber S, Year 5
- * Santino W, Year 5

Well Done!

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

Keep up the good work!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

GRASSHOPPERS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Grasshoppers have had the pleasure of some extra visitors to begin the term; The ducklings!
We chose to write our assembly all together to tell the school and our families all about them, especially as animal life cycles are part of our Science Learning at the moment.
We talked about the eggs hatching into hatchlings, and how they will grow into ducklings then full adult ducks ready for the cycle to begin again - and it was great to show everyone the pictures of our time with them too; we especially enjoyed giving them a bath! We really enjoyed the experience of having ducklings and were so proud to share all of our information with the whole school!

LADYBIRDS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Ladybirds performed their own rendition of the Kes Gray, 'Oi Frog!' The children were able to link their animal to their rhyming object, and sit on top of it! The audience loved the performance, and were especially impressed with Cat (Penelope) and Frog (Jackson) leading the story.

Well done, Ladybirds!

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Surrey County Council have asked us to share the following information with all parents/carers:

Healthwatch Surrey would like to gain feedback from Parents and Carers

- Do you have school age children?
- Have they ever had an eye test?
- Are there barriers to having eye tests?

Healthwatch Surrey champions the voice of local people to shape, improve and get the best from NHS, health and social care services. As an independent statutory body, we have the power to make sure decision makers listen to feedback.

We are seeking to understand possible barriers for parents/carers taking their school aged children for sight tests and the experience they and their children have during the sight testing process.

Please complete our survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWSYSightTestsChildren/>

The survey closes on 27 June 2025

RELATE

RELATE have developed AI self-help tools aimed at supporting separated, co-parents, couples and carers to communicate more effectively, **see things from the child's perspective**, and stop unnecessary arguments before they happen. The tools are **designed to empower families** to make informed decisions and maintain **positive relationships** for the **wellbeing of their children**.

One tool – **the Sounding-board bot** – acts as a supportive sounding board for messages exchanged with an ex or current partner. It analyses language to suggest clearer, more empathetic wording, reducing the risk of miscommunication and conflict.

Another tool called **In-the-middle-bot**, offers valuable insights into a child's perspective across various co-parenting scenarios, helping caregivers understand and respond to their needs more effectively.

“Often parents are thinking about things from their own perspective. The ‘in-the-middle bot’ can help parents see things through the child's eyes, leading to informed decisions which put their child's needs first. Relate believe that by leveraging advanced technology, they can provide co-parents with the resources they need to navigate their journeys with greater ease and confidence.”

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**

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 (Kites) Residential Trip
Tuesday 3rd June	Year 3 (Falcons) Trip to Haslemere Museum
Tues 3rd & Wed 4th June	FOSS Father's Day Gift Stall (NURSERY TO YEAR 5 ONLY)
Thursday 5th June	FOSS Sweet Sale after school
Friday 6th June	FOSS Mufti Day - Bottle donation for the Summer Fair Tombola Stall (<i>glass or plastic bottle, no cartons please</i>) - (NURSERY TO YEAR 5 ONLY)
Monday 9th June	INSET Day - School closed
Week beginning 10th June	FOSS Father's Day Gift Stall (YEAR 6 ONLY)
Wednesday 11th June	District Sports
Thursday 12th June	Year 2 (Grasshoppers) Trip to Wisley
Friday 13th June	Year 3 (Falcons) Class Assembly 9:05am
Friday 13th June	FOSS Mufti Day - Bottle donation for the Summer Fair Tombola Stall (<i>glass or plastic bottle, no cartons please</i>) - (YEAR 6 ONLY)
Wednesday 18th June	Year 6 (Kites) to Guildford Cathedral
Friday 20th June	Year 4 (Hawks) Class assembly 9:05am
Friday 20th June	FOSS Summer Fair
Wednesday 25th June	FOSS Break the Rules Day
Thursday 26th June	Year 4 (Hawks) Trip to Chertsey Museum
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 (Kites) trip to Harry Potter Studios
Friday 27th June	Year 5 (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	Year 1 (Butterflies) Class Assembly 9:05am
Saturday 12th July	Black Cherry Fair
Tuesday 15th July	Year 6 (Kites) Production
Thursday 17th July	3:30-5pm - Parents Celebration of Work Open Evening
Tuesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm



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



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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

Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th June

The gift shop will take place during school hours.
Please send money in the week before to ensure the shop is fully stocked.
Any money received after these dates will be returned.

Please enclose the correct funds (£3.50 per gift) in a sealed envelope to the school office stating on the front the **child's name/class/who the gift/s are for** or use the form below if you have access to a printer

Child's name/class: _____

Gift recipient: _____

Enclosed funds (£3.50 per gift): _____



Stepgates Community School

SUMMER Fair



Come to school in your favourite casual clothes

In exchange (and if you are able), please bring a bottle donation* for the Tombola stall at our Summer Fair on Friday 20th June 2025

*Glass or plastic bottle, no cartons please



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.



May half term cricket camp @ Chertsey cricket club



We are excited to share that we are taking bookings for our May half term cricket camp. The camp is suitable for players of all abilities from 5-15 years old and will include a mix of matches, nets, skills training and fun games.

Time & dates: 9am - 3pm
27th, 28th & 29th May

Cost: £37 per day;
discounts available for
block bookings and sibling
bookings

Contact:

Email

joel_miah@outlook.com

WhatsApp 07741319292

Scan QR code to book

