

Headlines

Issue 17 - 27.06.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude and say a huge thank you to our FOSS members who worked tirelessly organising another very successful Summer Fair. Once again, this was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I would also like to thank the many fantastic local businesses who very kindly donated prizes. (Please see Page 6 for further details),

A huge thank you must also go to Stoneleigh's Family Butchers who, once again, very kindly donated the wonderful burgers and sausages enjoyed on the BBQ.

Finally, thank you to all parents/carers who attended - it was lovely to see so many of you there.

On Tuesday 1st July the children in Years R to 5 will visit their new classroom and spend an afternoon with their new class teacher, as part of our transition for their move up to the next year group in September. This will be a very exciting afternoon for the children who, I am sure, will enjoy finding out a little more about the things they will be learning in the next school year. The children will also have an additional transition morning on Wednesday 9th July which will be a further opportunity for them to get to know their new class teacher.

Year 6 have been making their preparations for moving on to their new secondary schools and on Tuesday 15th July they will present their end of term production 'Star Warts'.

Transition visits for the new Nursery and Reception children are taking place and we look forward to welcoming all the new starters in September.

We still have a range of exciting activities to enjoy before the end of term. On Saturday 12th July we will be taking part in the Black Cherry Fair Parade and, once again, we plan to shine within the community, by creating a simple walking procession. (Please see separate flyer from FOSS for further details).

STAFFING

Staffing in September will be similar to this year and, whilst I am still working on the finer details, I am confident I will be in a position to update you on staffing for the next academic year shortly.

However, in the meantime, I am very sad to announce that Mrs Fernandez my wonderful School Business Manager, will be retiring at the end of this academic year, having been part of the Stepgates team since 2008. What an incredible achievement!

Mrs Fernandez is a highly valued member of staff and an invaluable asset, who will be missed by staff and children. On a personal level, she has been at Stepgates for a large proportion of my journey and I will miss her terribly! However, I am delighted to say she will be returning in September, on an occasional basis, to share her valuable wisdom and knowledge.

Mrs Wallace and Miss Joseph (Learning Support Assistants) will also be leaving us at the end of this term. Whilst they have joined us more recently they are highly valued members of staff and will also be greatly missed by staff and children. Whilst we are very sad to be losing Mrs Fernandez, Mrs Wallace and Miss Joseph, we would like to wish them 'good luck' in their new, very exciting journeys.

Finally, whilst I am sad to announce that Mrs Kittle will no longer be employed as a Learning Support Assistant, I am delighted to say she will be joining the School Office Team from September. I know she will be a valuable asset to the team.

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

DISTRICT SPORTS

On Wednesday 11th June 42 children from Years 3 - 6 travelled to Excel in Walton-on-Thames to take part in the District Sports Competition. The event is covered in more detail in our Sports Newsletter which will be sent home later this term; however, I would like to extend huge congratulations to all children who attended as they all tried their best and performed superbly. I am very proud to announce they achieved 14 medals overall.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who supported the children on the day.

SAFE PARKING

I fully appreciate how difficult it can be to park near the school when picking up and dropping off your children; however, can I ask parents to show consideration to the residents of Stepgates/Stepgates Close by not parking across, or in, driveways or the school's electronic gates. Please can I also ask you to take care with your speed when pulling in to park, pulling out or driving along Stepgates. It is dangerous and makes crossing the road unsafe for our children, as well as being very irritating for our neighbours.

I would also like to ask parents to refrain from parking on the Yellow Zig-Zag lines and remind you all of the purpose of Yellow Zig-Zag lines:

Yellow Zig-Zag lines on the road indicate a no-stopping area, often found outside schools, hospitals, and other places where safety is a priority. These lines are a visual warning to drivers that they should not wait, stop, or park within the marked area. They are typically accompanied by signs specifying the times when these restrictions are in place.

These markings are in place to ensure visibility and safety for children and other road users, especially during peak times when children are arriving or leaving school.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and safe parking.

Finally, all parents/carers are warmly invited to our Celebration of Work Open Evening on Thursday 17th July between 3:30-5:00pm.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

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

	9th-13th June	16th-20th June
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.1%	93.0%
Ladybirds	88.3%	83.6%
Butterflies	97.4%	91.2%
Grasshoppers	96.0%	90.0%
Falcons	97.4%	97.1%
Hawks	93.0%	93.8%
Owls	99.6%	97.9%
Kites	93.4%	97.5%

PROUD CORNER

P.E. SHINING STARS

Congratulations to our PE Shining Stars, who have worked alongside Miss Aira to train, and then participate, in the annual District Sports competition. The children fully embodied and demonstrated our school values of Respect, Resilience and Courage.

We are all very proud of their achievements.

	BOYS	GIRLS
Year 3	Clay Dexter Zac Archie M Jack	Rose Penelope Isla-Rose Km Jasmine
Year 4	Max P Sebbie Tyler Harry Jake	Bella G Florence Georgia R Ella Layla Lilly
Year 5	Max K Ezra Jackson Onur Kieran Joey	Bella C Ellie Shola Wonu Ruby
Year 6	Oliver James F John Dylan Freddie	Daphne Victoria Bella L Aneesa Mia

Well done to:

- ◆ Isla-Rose S, Yr 3 - Gymnastics and Cheerleading Competition Medal
- ◆ Dakota W, Yr 2 - Dance Rosette Exams x 4
- ◆ Mason H, Yr 2 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Eddie C, Yr 2 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Ethan N, Yr 2 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Lucas G, Yr 2 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Noah V, Yr 2 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Samson V, Yr 2 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Toby E, Yr 3 - Football Trophy and Medal
- ◆ Isabella HEK, Yr 4 - Tap/Acro Exam Certificates
- ◆ Kieran EHF, Yr 5 - Football Trophy

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

REMINDER

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.



KITES CLASS VISIT TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL



We started our journey at around 9am, on a coach to Guildford Cathedral. At 10am we arrived and went straight to our first activity, which was to create a flag of our favourite memory of being at Stepgates. We all enjoyed it a lot. After that, we made pipe cleaner people, and focused on this as a person we wanted to say thank you to. We then went on to think about things we are looking forward to about moving on to secondary school and then finally, an activity where we thought about our regrets and 'washed these away' by washing soil off stones and placing them on a cross.

It was then time for the service in the Cathedral, which is such an impressive building! We joined in the service by singing songs, listening to readings, carrying our school standard and lighting a candle to represent our school.

It was a lovely morning and we appreciated having the chance to take time to reflect on our memories of Stepgates and to look forward to new memories we will go on to make in our new schools.

By Jack B and Leo

HAWKS CLASS ASSEMBLY - FRIDAY 20TH JUNE

On Friday 20th June, Hawks Class performed an assembly all about our Year 4 memories. During the assembly, we got to share all of the best things that have happened at school this year. Lots of us talked about how much we enjoyed our residential trip to Sayers Croft. Some of the children in our class used drama to bring our memories to life which made our assembly very funny. It was a very fun assembly to create and perform. We have enjoyed Year 4 so much that we do not want to leave! But, we are also excited to start a new journey in Year 5 with new teachers.

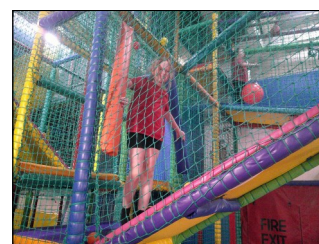
By Ene and Florence in Hawks Class

YOUNG CARERS ENJOY FUN AT THE PLAY STORE IN WOKING

On the 4th June, a group of our amazing young carers enjoyed a fantastic afternoon out at The Play Store in Woking. There was a lot of laughter, climbing, sliding and plenty of fun. The outing offered these hardworking young people a chance to relax and simply enjoy being children.

The children explored obstacle courses, raced through tunnels and, despite the group being from different classes, played together and formed new friendships.

Ms Blankert and Mrs O'Mara are proud to support these young carers and look forward to our next adventure together.



DATES - SUMMER TERM 2025

Tuesday 1st July and	Secondary School Induction Days - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Friday 4th July	Year 1 (Butterflies) Class Assembly 9:05am
Monday 7th July	Year R (Ladybirds) trip to Wellington Country Park
Week beginning Monday 7th July	Celebration of Pupils Work sessions this week (Further details including date and time will be sent separately)
Tuesday 8th July	Year 1 (Butterflies) trip to Chertsey Museum
Saturday 12th July	Black Cherry Fair
Monday 14th July	Year 5 (Owls) trip to Kew Gardens
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

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



Stepgates Summer Fair 2025

Another year, another fabulous (and hot) Stepgates Summer Fair!


A hot and fantastic day was had by all at this year's annual Summer Fair which took place on Friday 20th June 2025. A range of fair favourites such as our amazing grand prize raffle, bouncy castles, lucky lolly, welly-wanging, penalty shoot-out, teddy tombola, glitter tattoos, refreshments, bottle tombola, hook-a-duck, coconut shy and many others provided non-stop entertainment!

We were blessed with lovely sunshine and are now busy counting LOTS of coins - vital funds that will go directly back into equipment and experiences for the children, all the while having fun in the process. Thank you to everyone who came along in the heat and spent their hard-earned cash! A huge thanks to the army of volunteers including parents, grandparents, community members, governors and teachers who made the day possible. A SPECIAL thanks to our very own Mr Williams for his incredible support on the day!

Thanks also to all the families who loaned props and equipment, donated toys, created and designed stalls, gave up their time before, during and after the event. And our fantastic local businesses who generously donated prizes including:

Stoneleigh's Family Butchers * Abbey Rangers FC * Aziatics * Biscuits by Sophie * Bocketts Farm Park * Dinky Dove * Foxhills * Great Cockcrow Railway * Great Fosters * Headmasters * Hobbledown Epsom * Hounslow Urban Farm * Ingrid Wheel Photography * Jon's Barber * KickX * Leah Durrant * Munchkins Soft Play * Nuffield Health * Squires Garden Centre * The Entertainer - Staines * The Kingfisher * Thorpe Park * Waterstones - Staines and many others! We are thankful for the support of our local community.

Finally, of course, we really hope everyone had a great time and will continue to support the school with many more future events. We will report back soon on the total funds raised.



THE FLINTSTONES

Every year, Stepgates creates its own fabulous float and proudly walks the route. To continue this tradition, we rely on the participation of our community of children, parents, carers and friends.

Last year, we won BEST FLOAT! To follow up on this success, we are planning on shining within our community by creating a simple walking procession.

The theme this year is Classic Cartoons. With this in mind, we have decided to go with the FLINTSTONES as our school theme.

As always, we need your help with this. This year, it is very simple. We need as many children and parents as possible to turn up and walk with us! Turn up wearing...

- **Any character from the Flintstones**
- **Dinosaur costume**
- **Leopard/animal print**
- **OR any interpretation of this theme you like.**

We will have props to walk with or carry, but if you have anything you can think of, please do bring it along too.

**Saturday
12th July
2025**

Yabba Dabba Doo!

* Infants and Juniors will need to be accompanied to the starting point of Free Prae Road and then picked up immediately after the procession at Abbey Fields. Sunbeams children will need to be accompanied on the procession. Adults are also invited to join us to walk. Exact timings will be given nearer the time, although likely to be between 9.15 - 11 am.