

# Headlines

Issue 18 - 18.07.25



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Yet again the end of term rushes towards us and I can't believe we are almost at the end of the school year. Congratulations must go to all the children for their progress and attainment this year, academically and personally; they should be very proud of their achievements. The staff continue to do a fantastic job in helping them to do their very best and the children's progress reflects the hard work of the children themselves and everyone in school.

The Year 6 children have visited their new schools and continue to make their preparations for moving on to their new secondary schools. On Tuesday they presented their end of term production 'Star Warts: The Umpire Strikes Back' which was amazing! I am sure there were many proud parents in the audience and a few tears! We wish them all good luck as they move up and hope that they will stay in touch as they grow into happy and successful young people.

### INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

As promised, I am pleased to advise you that the final INSET Day for next academic year has now been set for Monday 8th June 2026. (Please see Page 6 for all five INSET Days for 2025/2026).

As this will be the last newsletter for this academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the following:

- Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all parents/carers. Your continued support and generosity is very much appreciated and definitely not taken for granted
- Thank you to the children, who remain happy and engaged. I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning
- Thank you to all Governors who continue to devote their time to Stepgates
- I would also like to say a huge thank you to our FOSS team, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the children are able to enjoy many fantastic activities throughout the academic year, for example, Gift Shops (Mother's Day, Father's Day, 'Elfridges'), Bag2School, Break the Rules Day, and, of course, their very successful Summer Fair, which raised a total profit of £1,624.45.
- And finally, I would like to say a very big thank you to my wonderful staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the children of Stepgates Community School

All year groups will finish school at 1:00pm on Tuesday 22nd July 2025. Children in Years 1-6 will return to school on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 8:45am **prompt** (doors open at 8:40am). Our new Reception and Nursery children have been advised separately of their starting arrangements.

I would like to wish you and your families a restful Summer break. I hope you remain safe and well and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school in September. (Please see Pages 5 /6 for a list of dates already in the school diary for next academic year; including our Whole School Trip to Bocketts Farm on Thursday 18th September for Years 1-6).

Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher

### ATTENDANCE

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

	30th June - 4th July	7th-11th July
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>93.2%</b>	<b>94.8%</b>
Ladybirds	90.9%	89.4%
Butterflies	95.6%	95.3%
Grasshoppers	93.9%	96.8%
Falcons	92.7%	97.1%
Hawks	91.6%	91.9%
Owls	92.7%	99.4%
Kites	94.4%	93.8%

# PROUD CORNER

## HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

- \* Joseph W, Year 2
- \* Elijah C, Year 3
- \* Bradley F, Year 3
- \* Cody H-C, Year 1

## 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!**

## ROCKSTEADY CONCERT



THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN HAVING SESSIONS WITH ROCKSTEADY WERE VERY EXCITED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS ON FRIDAY 4TH JULY 2025.

THE BANDS ALL GAVE A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE AND LOVED PERFORMING TO THE REST OF THE SCHOOL, STAFF AND PARENTS, WHO ALL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT.

## Well done to:

- ◆ Km O, Yr 3 - Gym Medal & Cup
  - ◆ Love O, Reception - Gym Medal & Cup
  - ◆ Bella G, Yr 4 - Gym Medals
  - ◆ Kallum B, Yr 1 - Football Medal
  - ◆ Grayson S, Yr 1 - Football Medal
  - ◆ Matthew F, Yr 4 - Netball Certificate & Taekwondo Certificate / Yellow Stripe Belt
  - ◆ Isla-Rose S, Yr 3 - Gym Badge, Cheerleading Medal & Gymnastics Shield & Medal
  - ◆ Alexa S, Yr 5 - Football Trophy
  - ◆ Ellie J, Yr 5 - Gym Medals
  - ◆ Ezra N-F, Yr 5 - Football Tournament Trophy & Medal
  - ◆ Elliemay S, Yr 3 - Karate Certificate
  - ◆ Dexter S, Yr 3 - Football Trophies
  - ◆ Dakota W, Yr 2 - Choreography Trophy & Dance Medals
  - ◆ Bradley F, Yr 3 - Taekwondo Certificate & Yellow Stripe Belt
  - ◆ Zach R, Yr 3 - Football Medals & Trophy
  - ◆ Layla W, Yr 4 - Gymnastics Shield & Medal
  - ◆ Crystal B, Yr 2 - Cheerleading Medals
  - ◆ Iris M, Yr 4 - Stage Coach Certificates
  - ◆ Sapphire B, Reception - Cheerleading Medal & Trophy
  - ◆ Bella C, Yr 5 - Gymnastics Medal / Participated in Gymnastics Championships
  - ◆ Bella G, Yr 4 - Gymnastics Medal
- Thank you for sharing your success with the children at our Whole School Assembly.

## **OWLS CLASS ASSEMBLY**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June we had our class assembly. It was all about rainforests.

We shared information about the different layers of the rainforest. Starting with the forest floor, understory, canopy and emergent. We told the children all about the many different animals, people, natural medicines and foods that are found in the rainforest.

We also sang a rainforest song.

By Jackson & Alfie (Owls Class)

## **OWLS CLASS TRIP TO KEW GARDENS**

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Owls Class went on a trip to Kew Gardens. This was linked to our topic on rainforests. Firstly we explored the Princess of Wales Conservatory. We saw huge fish, small fish, gigantic leaves and the biggest catfish I've seen! It was very hot and humid in the rainforest area. It was also very wet!

We also went to two other glasshouses: Temperate House and the Palm House.

Owls Class looked around the edible science garden. Sadly we weren't allowed to eat any of the food. This helped us understand how the 4 children survived in The Explorer!

Whilst we were walking through the plants it made us think how Fred, Lila, Con and Max made dens!

Kew Gardens has over 50,000 living plants and 7 million preserved specimens. It was amazing to see some of these plants!

By Ellie (Owls Class)

## **LADYBIRDS CLASS TRIP TO WELLINGTON COUNTRY PARK**



Ladybirds had a wonderful trip to Wellington Park. They explored the playgrounds, farm and trails around the site. A highlight of the trip was feeding the animals, and having a train ride. The children were very well behaved and so excited to explore. Well done Ladybirds!



## **BUTTERFLIES CLASS ASSEMBLY & TRIP TO CHERTSEY MUSEUM**

Our Butterflies Class Assembly was a celebration of our work this year. We talked about our Maths and English, Phonics, Music, Topics and Art. We sang beautifully and we danced with musical instrument accompaniment in time, rhythm and showed our forwards and backs, lefts and rights.

The class were superb throughout and thoroughly enjoyed showing off their work. They are now ready for Grasshoppers!"

It's been a busy half term with the Assembly and only two days later our Class Trip. We went to Chertsey Museum for a fun-filled and educational morning of learning on our topic - The Seaside. The children were playing old fashioned beach games, dressing up in vintage beach attire and playing Punch and Judy. They even came away with a seaside souvenir of times gone by - a paper fan.

A packed lunch on the field and then playing rounders and Forest School time. The children loved every minute of it and to quote "It was my best day ever!"

## **KITES CLASS TRIP TO HARRY POTTER WARNER BROS.**



On Thursday 26th June 2025, Year 6 went on a trip to Harry Potter World. We started with the great dining hall, which was cool. Then we went to a green screen, where we had a photo taken on a broomstick. When it came to lunchtime, we all tried Butter beer, which was lovely!

My favourite part was learning about how they built and filmed the underwater scenes. We all had a great time and it was so magical.

By Oliver (Kites Class)



## **RNLI VISIT**

As part of our PSHE curriculum we welcomed Marc Wolff, a volunteer with the RNLI who spoke to our children about keeping safe around water. The talk began with a video which showed all the people the RNLI save and also the animals including cows, dogs and horses.

The children found out about the different flags used at the beach and what they represent. They learnt about the 'Float to Live' campaign. They have also practiced this important skill in their school swimming lessons.

They enjoyed the demonstration of a 'throw bag' being used to save a member of their class. This allows rescuers to reach someone in trouble without entering the water.

During an assembly the following day it was lovely to hear the children recall the key facts so easily and enthusiastically.

## DATES - SUMMER TERM 2025

Tuesday 22nd July

Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

### Have a lovely Summer Holiday!!



Don't forget school re-opens on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 8:45am prompt (doors open at 8:40am).



Our new Reception and Nursery children have been advised separately of their starting arrangements.

## DATES - 2025/2026

### UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2025

Wednesday 3rd September	INSET Day - School closed
Thursday 4th September	Children in Years 1-6 start school
Monday 8th September	'Meet the Teacher' Meetings this week ( <i>Date &amp; time for each class to be advised</i> )
Thursday 18th September	Whole School Trip (Years 1-6) to Bocketts Farm
Friday 19th September	Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 19th September	Kites (Year 6) Class Assembly
Friday 26th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 1st October	Flu Vaccinations - Years R - 6
Friday 3rd October	Owls (Year 5) Class Assembly
Wednesday 15th October	Individual School Photographs
Friday 17th October	Hawks (Year 4) Class Assembly
Mon 20th & Tues 21st October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Friday 24th October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 27th Oct to Fri 31st Oct	Half Term
Monday 3rd November	Children return to school
Friday 7th November	Falcons (Year 3) Class Assembly
Friday 21st November	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Monday 1st December	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 5th December	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
Friday 19th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 22nd Dec to Fri 2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays

## DATES - 2025/2026

### SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5th January	Children return to school
Thursday 12th February	Children finish at normal time for half term
Friday 13th February	INSET Day - School closed
Mon 16th to Fri 20th Feb	Half Term
Monday 23rd February	Children return to school
Friday 27th March	Last day of Spring Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 30th March to Fri 10th April	Easter Holidays

### SUMMER TERM 2025

Monday 13th April	Children return to school
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May	SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) Week
Wednesday 20th May	Class Photographs
Thursday 21st May	Sports Day (Weather Permitting)
Thursday 21st May	Children finish at normal time for half term
Friday 22nd May	INSET Day - School closed
Mon 25th to Fri 29th May	Half Term
Monday 1st June	Children return to school
Monday 8th June	INSET Day - School closed
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm



### INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

For the 2025/2026 Academic Year there are 5 INSET Days when Stepgates Community School will be closed to children. These are:

- Wednesday 3rd September 2025
- Monday 1st December 2025
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Friday 22nd May 2026
- Monday 8th June 2026