

Headlines

Issue 01 - 12.09.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very pleased to welcome you back to a new school year. I hope that you all had a wonderful Summer. I am also very pleased to welcome our new children and their families to Stepgates this term. The children have settled very well with their new class teachers and I am looking forward to a happy and successful year working together. I would like to thank you for your continuing support, which makes all the difference to your child's education at Stepgates.

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you on behalf of the staff at Stepgates for all the cards and gifts we received at the end of term. It is always sad to see the children we have worked closely with moving up to a new class or school but it is good to know that they have such happy memories to take with them as they grow up.

Thank you to all parents who took the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher at their 'Meet the Teacher' meetings; it was a pleasure to welcome you into school. If you were unable to attend there will be another opportunity to meet your child's class teacher later this term on either Monday 20th or Tuesday 21st October for Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening.

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome Mrs Woodcock, who has joined us this term as a Learning Support Assistant. I am sure she will soon feel part of the Stepgates team.

WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP (YEARS 1-6) TO BOCKETTS FARM

Next week (Thursday 18th September) we have our much anticipated Whole School Trip (Years 1-6) to Bocketts Farm, where the children will have an opportunity to explore the animal farm and other exciting attractions.

All children need to wear full school uniform and bring a packed lunch with them in a named carrier bag (No fizzy drinks or chocolate please).

I would like to say a huge thank you in advance to those parents who have offered their help on the day.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

On Friday 19th September we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day. If your child would like to participate in this great campaign, which supports children with Genetic disorders, they should come to school wearing their school shirt, tie, jumper/cardigan with jeans and trainers/shoes. This is an awareness day - no donation required.

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON FOLLOWED BY FOSS MACMILLAN BAKE SALE

On Friday 26th September we would like to invite all parent/carers to our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon from 2:30pm. We would be delighted if you could join us for tea/coffee and cake in the School Hall. This will be followed by FOSS Macmillan Bake Sale on the playground after school, all in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. If you are able to donate cakes for the Coffee Afternoon and Bake Sale, these would be gratefully received on Thursday 25th/Friday 26th September. As always, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

If you would like to make a donation, please follow the online Just Giving link to the FOSS fundraising page: [justgiving.com/CM25011904](https://www.justgiving.com/CM25011904)

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

All parents/carers, will shortly be receiving a further copy of my letter sent out at the end of Summer Term, outlining my expectations regarding attendance.

As you know, when school and families work as a team, children benefit the most. I would like to thank you in advance for working with us to ensure your child is in school every day.

CLUBS

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide variety of School Clubs to our children, both during and after school. Most of these are organised and run by Stepgates staff on a completely voluntary basis with one or two outside agencies adding to the selection of activities on offer.

You should have received the new Clubs Itinerary for Autumn Term this week; clubs will start week beginning Monday 15th September.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA REMINDER

As we start the new academic year I would like to remind parents of our Social Media Policy, in particular around WhatsApp groups. If you have any worries or concerns around school practices or procedures please speak to a member of staff in school. This enables issues to be dealt with swiftly and appropriately. WhatsApp groups are not designed for this purpose.

Please see below for guidelines around Stepgates Community School Social Media Policy:

The school encourages all members of the community in the same responsible and respectful use of social media that is taught to pupils. All matters regarding the school are to be communicated via appropriate channels so that they may be dealt with fairly and effectively for all concerned. Parents/carers are reminded to use existing structures when making any complaint about the school or a member of staff. If at any time during the child's time at Stepgates Community School, a parent wishes to make a complaint, then they are advised to follow the school's Complaint Policy and Procedure which can be found on the school website. We recommend that all parents and carers refrain from using social networking sites to discuss sensitive issues about the school.

Abusive, libellous or defamatory comments on social media (including WhatApp Groups etc.) regarding the school, staff or pupils will be reported to the site's 'report abuse' section, or School's Admin Team, for immediate removal. Procedures on how the school will deal with such issues are outlined in The School's Social Media Policy, Appendix A: What to do if a complaint is made on Social Networking by a Parent or Carer.

If you are attending a school event parents/carers do have permission to film and take photographs but please do not share publicly, including on social media. Should you have a genuine concern please see me.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

As a school we love to celebrate children's achievements and successes both in and outside of school. Have they achieved success in gymnastics, horse riding, football, swimming, playing an instrument, Cubs, Brownies etc.? Children may like to bring in a certificate or a photo of themselves involved in the activity and we celebrate their achievement with the whole school as part of our Friday assemblies.

SPECIAL AWARDS

In our final assembly on Tuesday 22nd July we presented our annual awards for Outstanding Achievement during the year and our termly Governors Awards for consistent effort, achievement and contribution to the school and Outstanding Sportsmanship. This year I am delighted to advise you that we also added a further award for 'Outstanding Pupil of the Year Group' during the year and this will continue going forward.

Congratulations to the following children for their hard work and enthusiasm:

Infants Termly Achievement Award - Austin C and Yeva B
Juniors Termly Achievement Award - Eric L and Maggie M
Sports Award - Junior - Wisdom O and Bella L
Sports Award - Infant - Kohaku L and Lottie T
Arts Award - Junior - Edward J-E and Daphne C-P
Arts Award - Infant - Harvey B and Paisley G
Penny Wise Cup for Swimming - Bella B
Cappiello Cup for Reading - Kyffin C
Ellen Taylor Attendance Cup - Emma H
Junior Outstanding Achievement Award - Freddie C
Infant Outstanding Achievement Award - Edward C
Outstanding Pupil in Reception - Layla W
Outstanding Pupil in Year 1 - Ayla-Rose R
Outstanding Pupil in Year 2 - Lucas G
Outstanding Pupil in Year 3 - Penelope D G
Outstanding Pupil in Year 4 - Georgia R
Outstanding Pupil in Year 5 - Onur A
Outstanding Pupil in Year 6 - Oliver B

The Ray Lowther Award for Outstanding Citizenship was presented to Mrs Sarah Fewell for her outstanding contribution to Stepgates Community School.

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

UNIFORM

Finally, I would like to thank you all for sending the children back to school looking so smart. Please can you ensure children are in the correct uniform, including shoes, at all times, as this helps children prepare for their next phase of education.

Just a reminder, PE kit is a red T-shirt with logo, black shorts (unbranded) and trainers. During the colder months the children are asked to wear black tracksuit bottoms and a red round neck sweatshirt (can be unbranded). **Please make sure that everything is named as it is so much easier to return it to its owner!** If you still need to buy new uniform then please order online at www.sales@sportsofaddlestone.co.uk (telephone number 01932 849333).

**Mrs T Ford
Headteacher**

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Dame Phyllida Barlow DBE RA

(Born 4th April 1944)

Dame Phyllida Barlow DBE RA is a British artist. Barlow studied at Chelsea College of Art (1960–63) and the Slade School of Art (1963–66). After joining the staff in the late 1960s, Barlow taught at the Slade School of Art for more than forty years before retiring in 2009 and is now Emerita Professor of Fine Art. Phyllida Barlow has had an important influence on younger generations of artists through her work and long teaching career in London art schools. At the Slade School of Fine Art, her students included Turner Prize-winning and nominated artists Rachel Whiteread and Angela de la Cruz. In 2017, Barlow represented Great Britain at the Venice Biennale.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



Hans Zimmer

(Born 12th September 1957)

Hans Florian Zimmer is a German film composer and music producer. He has received numerous accolades, including two Academy Awards, a BAFTA Award, and three Golden Globe Awards as well as nominations for five Grammy Awards and seven Emmy Awards.

His works are notable for integrating electronic music sounds with traditional orchestral arrangements. Since the 1980s, Zimmer has composed music for over 150 films. He has won two Academy Awards for Best Original Score for *The Lion King* (1994), and for *Dune* (2021). His works include *Gladiator* (2000), *The Last Samurai* (2003), the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series (2006–2011), *The Dark Knight* trilogy (2005–2012), *Inception* (2010), *Man of Steel* (2013), *Interstellar* (2014), *Dunkirk* (2017), *No Time to Die* (2021), and the *Dune* series (2021–)

**Our Value for this
Half Term is**



Collaboration

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

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

Awards:

- ◆ Marley C (Year 2)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

We welcome all prospective parents to visit our wonderful school.
Our Open Morning and Open Evening tours will be held on the following dates:

Open Mornings

Wednesday 8th October - 9:30am

Thursday 9th October - 9:30am

Tuesday 14th October - 9:30am

Open Evening

Tuesday 18th November

Between 5pm and 7pm (Last tour: 6:30pm)

Please contact the school office either by telephone (01932 563022) or email (events@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk) to book a space. (If emailing, please specify which date you would prefer and provide a contact telephone number).

All visits must be booked in advance

Is your child in Year 6?

If your child was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 you will need to apply for a secondary school place **by 31st October 2025**.

Apply online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

Is your child starting school in September 2026?

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 you will need to apply for a school place between **3rd November 2025 and 15th January 2026**.

Apply online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

DATES - 2025/2026

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2025

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 Afternoon followed by FOSS Bake Sale
Wednesday 1st October	Flu Vaccinations - Years R - 6
Friday 3rd October	Owls (Year 5) Class Assembly
Tuesday 7th October	FOSS Happy Clothes Collection
Wednesday 15th October	Individual School Photographs - Smart school uniform
Friday 17th October	Hawks (Year 4) Class Assembly
Mon 20th & Tues 21st October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 22nd October	FOSS Halloween Disco (For children in Reception to Year 6)
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
Thursday 6th November	FOSS Break the Rules at Stepgates Day
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

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