

# Headlines

Issue 02 - 26.09.25



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

On Thursday 18th September we had a very successful whole school trip to Bocketts Farm. The children had the opportunity to explore the animal farm and had lots of fun on the tractor ride. This was a fantastic trip, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the staff and children. I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who offered their help on the day and to the children, who were outstanding ambassadors for the school during the trip; their behaviour was exemplary!

### FOSS (FRIENDS OF STEPGATES SCHOOL)

As all parents/carers will be aware I am incredibly proud to have such an amazing FOSS Team who work tirelessly organising many wonderful events and activities for the children of Stepgates Community School. In fact, they are already busy planning a variety of events for Autumn Term.

I cannot emphasise enough just how much FOSS do for Stepgates Community School and, more importantly, for our children.

The Committee consists of a few dedicated members who continue to devote their time to ensure all events are a huge success, enabling them to continue to make the many donations for our children. For example, please see below for just a few items FOSS have contributed towards over the last two academic years:

- \* Year 6 hoodies
- \* £200 for every class, including Sunbeams Nursery, to be spent where necessary
- \* Reception Class (new intake) rucksacks
- \* CGP Revision books for Year 6
- \* World Book Day T-shirts in 2024 and a wooden spoon for every child in 2025
- \* Activities and clubs across the school relating to ELSA
- \* £7.50 per child towards the Shrek Musical at Woking Theatre
- \* Books for the library
- \* FOSS also made a large donation towards the swimming pool

However, by far the biggest and most valuable contribution is their time!

I know the 'Team' would love to welcome new members. It is such a great way to be involved with school life and meet new people. Even if you can only spare just a little bit of your time, on an occasional basis, this can make such a huge difference. Perhaps you could help towards:

- \* Halloween Disco / Spring Disco (by decorating the hall and/or helping for a short time during the disco)
- \* The Summer Fair / Black Cherry Fair / Chertsey Goose Fair (helping beforehand, helping on a stall on the day)
- \* Mother's Day / Father's Day / 'Elfridges' Gift Shop (helping on the day/gift wrapping)
- \* Other seasonal activities throughout the year, including a gift from Santa at Christmas.

I personally would like to thank our amazing FOSS Team, who have been instrumental in so many wonderful events. They are friendly, approachable and are very keen to welcome new members. It is such a great way to be involved with school life and meet new people.

On behalf of all the children and staff at Stepgates, I would like to thank you for any support/assistance you are able to offer our lovely FOSS Team and, ultimately, help to raise funds for our children.

If you would like to know more, can spare some time and would like to help save FOSS, please contact [friendsofstepgateschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstepgateschool@gmail.com)

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

**PLEASE NOTE - EMAIL RESPONSE EXPECTATIONS**

If a parent/carer is corresponding with a member of teaching staff by email, please be mindful that emails are not always checked on a daily basis due to teaching commitments and it may take up to a week for a response.

To avoid any anxiety in the future, can I ask that if your email is urgent, please come to the School Office in the morning, or telephone the School Office if that is more convenient.

As always, thank you for your understanding.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON FOLLOWED BY FOSS MACMILLAN BAKE SALE**

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers for your donations towards our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon and FOSS Bake Sale today. Your continued support and generosity is very much appreciated by the staff at Stepgates and, of course, the children.

If you would still like to make a donation it is not too late; please follow the online Just Giving link to the FOSS fundraising page: [justgiving.com/CM25011904](https://www.justgiving.com/CM25011904)

**REMINDER - SAFEGUARDING**

Please could I ask parents/carers to ensure you supervise your child(ren) and they remain with you at all times. To ensure the safety of all children, we do not allow children onto the Junior playground before or after school. There have been one or two incidents at the end of the school day whereby children who have been collected from the Infant playground have been running around on the Junior playground whilst the Year 6 children are being dismissed; this has caused difficulty for the staff, parents and children alike.

Please also note 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.

Finally, I would also be grateful if parents/carers could 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.

**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 remind you that the car park for Chertsey Health Centre is reserved exclusively for patients attending medical appointments, many of whom have mobility challenges or health needs; this should not be used for pick-up and drop-off as it compromises the accessibility of their facility. 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.

**WEBSITE**

I would like to remind all parents/carers to take a look around our website ([www.stepgateschool.co.uk](http://www.stepgateschool.co.uk)) which contains lots of useful information. This is updated regularly and includes our Upcoming Events, as well as Latest News, INSET Days, Term Dates, our school newsletter, Headlines, useful links and much more.

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

**ATTENDANCE**

This year we are aiming for whole school attendance above 95%. Congratulations to all classes who have achieved this over the last two weeks. Hopefully we can all avoid the bugs and seek to keep up the good attendance for the rest of this term.

Class attendance for the last two weeks is:

	8th-12th September	15th-19th September
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>93.9%</b>	<b>95.2%</b>
Ladybirds	99.0%	95.9%
Butterflies	96.4%	93.0%
Grasshoppers	96.7%	97.3%
Falcons	97.3%	96.7%
Hawks	98.2%	93.5%
Owls	90.6%	91.8%
Kites	97.0%	97.6%

Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher

# PROUD CORNER

**Well done to:**

- ◆ Molly F, Yr 3 - Mountain Bike Certificate
- ◆ Dexter S, Yr 4 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Lilly B, Yr 5 - Jiu-jitsu Medal
- ◆ Isabella HEK, Yr 5 - Ballet Certificate & Trophy
- ◆ Paige A, Yr 3 - Dance Exam Certificate & Rosette
- ◆ Dakota W, Yr 3 - Dance Exam Certificate & Rosette
- ◆ Adewonuola O, Yr 6 - Dance Exam Certificates & Trophies
- ◆ Ellie J, Yr 6 - Cricket Trophy
- ◆ Ella C, Yr 5 - Football Trophy

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:

- ◆ Archie P, Year 2
- ◆ Ene A, Year 5
- ◆ Mo R, Year 5
- ◆ Tyler C, Yr 5

**Kites Class Assembly**

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Kites Class performed their assembly, which was about Farm to Fork. They begun with a scene from *Oliver* and entered the hall to 'Food, glorious food!' They then took the audience on a journey, demonstrating how food starts off at the farm and ends up on our plate. During the assembly, they shared lots of interesting facts and gave demonstrations of Taekwondo and Gymnastics, as well as suggestions about healthy snacks, and dramas about keeping healthy – they even made a cucumber wrap on stage. From one wrap to another, they ended their performance with a rap about Farm to Fork and even provided their own human beat-box!

**By Kites Class**

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> October - 9:30am

## Open Evening

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)

## DATES - 2025/2026

### UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2025

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

# FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



## HAPPYSCHOOLBAG CLOTHES COLLECTION

HappySchoolBag is an organisation that helps raise funds for schools and other charities by collecting unwanted clothes.

If you have recently had a sort out, or are planning a 'clear out' but have nowhere to take your unwanted clothes and items, look no further than here!

Please return filled bags to the collection point (school car park gates) on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October between 8.00am and 9.00am and 3.00pm and 4.00pm.

Thank you for your support!

## EASYFUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Friends of Stepgates School?

There are over 4,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Etsy, Just Eat, Screwfix, eBay, Argos, Asda and Sainsbury's; the list is huge and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- 1. Join.** Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stepgates/> and sign up for free.
- 2. Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- 3. Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of Stepgates School will be really grateful for your donations.

# 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

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

**Venue:- Abbey Rangers Football Club (KT15 2QH)**  
**Times:- 8.30am – 4.00pm**  
**£35.00 Daily / £70.00 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](mailto:tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk)






## BOYS THURSDAY FOOTBALL

### 1 Day October Camp



In partnership with

**WHAT?**  
Technical development/1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
**30<sup>th</sup> October**

**AGE?**  
Under 5 (Reception)  
Under 6 (Year 1)  
Under 7 (Year 2)  
Under 8 (Year 3)  
Under 9 (Year 4)  
Under 10 (Year 5)

**COST & TIMES?**  
**£35.00 per day**  
**8.30am – 4.00pm**





M:07825 089500

E: [tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk](mailto:tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk)