

Headlines

Issue 03 - 10.10.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you very much to everyone who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Friday 26th September - it was lovely to see so many of you. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who donated and bought cakes for the FOSS Macmillan Bake Sale after school; it was a great success.

Through a combination of the online Just Giving link and the Bake Sale, we raised an amazing £438 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

To celebrate Harvest, the children from Reception to Year 6 will be performing a service at St Peter's Church, on Thursday 23rd October. (Please see separate letter dated 2nd October, giving further details).

We would ask, if possible, for any voluntary donations of non-perishable or tinned food items to be sent in to school with your child, during the week Monday 13th to Friday 17th October. These will be donated to the Runnymede Foodbank, which provides food packs together with help and support for many families in our local area.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and invite all parents/carers to join us for the service at St Peter's Church.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

On Wednesday 15th October the photographers are scheduled to take individual school photographs. Please ensure your child is smart and in full school uniform.

PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings for this term will be held on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October. We will follow the same format, i.e. face-to-face, with appointments held in the School Hall. Further details will be sent home in due course.

As these meetings are a valued opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements and support their learning, please contact your child's class teacher if you are not able to attend the meeting.

There will also be an opportunity for parents in Years 1 to 6 to attend our very popular 'Celebration of Pupils Work' sessions. As you know these are designed to give an opportunity to look through your child's work and see their classroom and learning environment. All parents in Years 1 to 6 should have received separate details, including the date and time. Please can you confirm with the class teacher if you plan on attending.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

All of our children across the school have been busy creating their own unique Christmas card designs. The project, run by Class Fundraising.co.uk, will be printing their designs and parents/carers will be able to order a range of products after half term. This project enables the school to raise additional funds for Art resources at Stepgates.

PURPLE AND YELLOW MUFTI DAY

Surrey County Council's Speech and Language Therapy Team (SALT) are raising awareness of Developmental Language Disorder and marking the International Awareness Day. To raise awareness and show support Stepgates are having a DLD themed Mufti Day on Friday 17th October. This will also be a 'no pens' day at school.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

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

	22nd-26th September	29th Sept-3rd Oct
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.5%	93.5%
Ladybirds	96.9%	90.0%
Butterflies	93.9%	89.7%
Grasshoppers	93.0%	93.6%
Falcons	93.6%	93.9%
Hawks	96.5%	95.7%
Owls	89.4%	91.2%
Kites	97.9%	100%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Grayson S, Yr 2 - Football Trophy
 - ◆ Elliemay S, Yr 4 - Karate Competition Certificate
 - ◆ Sebbie H, Yr 5 - Cub Badges
 - ◆ Florence H, Yr 5 - Gym Trophy
 - ◆ Bronte W, Yr R - Encore Tap Rosettes & Certificate
- 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:

- ◆ Annabelle HEK, Year 2

School Council - 2025-2026

Our School Council plays a key role within their classes and across the school. The children become School Councillors by being voted for by their classmates to be their School Council representatives for the year. They have a range of roles across the school. As well as helping with fundraising both for our school and selected charities, they are also the spokespeople for ensuring the children's views and opinions in our school are heard. They achieve this by sharing any issues, questions or ideas, with Mrs Ford, Headteacher, as well as other staff across the school.

Congratulations to this year's School Council representatives:

- Butterflies Class – Penny and Maxwell
- Grasshoppers Class – Zac and Lucy
- Falcons Class – Eddie and Ezra
- Hawks Class – Florence and Archie
- Owls Class – Matthew and Piper
- Kites Class – Bella and Adam

Eco-School Council - 2025-2026

Our Eco-School Council also plays a key role within their classes and around the school. Representatives for this are elected within their classes and will attend meetings together across the year, planning events and projects to improve our understanding of our environmental impact.

Their aim is to guide, empower and motivate fellow pupils to drive change and improve environmental awareness in our school, the local community and beyond.

Congratulations to this year's Eco-School Council representatives:

- Falcons Class - Dakota and Samson
- Hawks Class - Bianca and Elijah
- Owls Class - Lara and Max
- Kites Class - Adewonuola and Romeo



OWLS CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Friday 3rd October it was Owls Class first assembly of 2025. We shared information about Black History Month and we talked about some heroes that changed the world.

This included, Mary Seacole who was a nurse and helped soldiers during the Crimean war, Doctor Mae Jemison was the first black woman in space and Walter Tull who was the first black professional football player. We also spoke about the Windrush Generation who came to Britain after World War 2 and helped rebuild the country.

We ended our assembly with a song about Martin Luther King.

By Layla and Ella



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

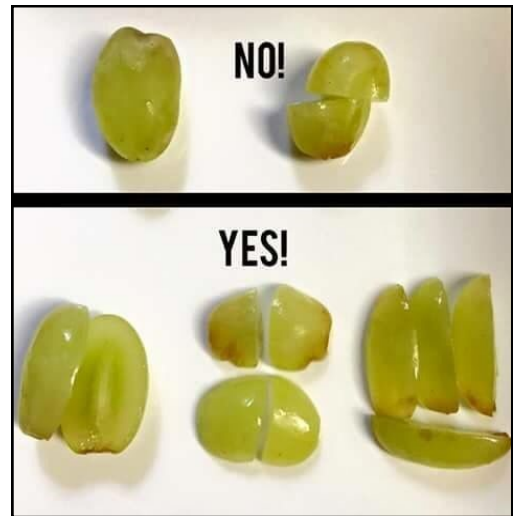
If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch containing grapes, please read the following carefully

Did you know whole grapes are a dangerous choking hazard for babies, toddlers and young children?

Grapes can be a healthy treat for young children, but they're also the third most common cause of death among children who die in food-related choking incidents.

Due to the size, shape and texture of grapes they can be hazardous for **small children**, whose airways can get blocked when they try to swallow them. Unfortunately, a lack of awareness of this danger has led to severe choking and even deaths in youngsters as the usual first aid procedures are less likely to work.

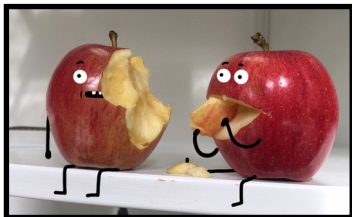
To prevent any problems, slice grapes in half - or ideally quarters - lengthways. Cutting them this way makes them thinner so they're able to pass through small windpipes more easily. Grapes cut in half along the width can still get lodged in children's throats so this should be avoided at all times.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Sean Charmatz

Born: 28 August 1980 (age 45 years)



Sean Charmatz is an artist and animator from California, who is currently a director at DreamWorks. He has worked in the animation industry since 2005 and has most notably served as a writer and director on *SpongeBob SquarePants*, in addition to designing, storyboarding, and developing shows for Disney and DreamWorks.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

Aretha Franklin

25 March 1942 - 16 August 2018



Aretha Louise Franklin was an American singer, songwriter and pianist. Honoured as the "Queen of Soul", she was twice named by *Rolling Stone* magazine as the greatest singer of all time.

Franklin is one of the best-selling music artists, with more than 75 million records sold worldwide. She charted 112 singles on the *US Billboard* charts, including 73 Hot 100 entries, 17 top-ten pop singles, 96 R&B entries and 20 number-one R&B singles.

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

Wednesday 15th October	Individual School Photographs - Smart school uniform
Friday 17th October	Hawks (Year 4) Class Assembly
Friday 17th October	Purple & Yellow Mufti Day to raise awareness for Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). This will also be 'no pens' day at school
Fri 17th & Mon 20th October	FOSS Halloween Costume Sale & Disco Ticket Sale
Mon 20th & Tues 21st October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 22nd October	FOSS Halloween Disco (For children in Reception to Year 6)
Thursday 23rd October	Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church (Children from Reception to Year 6)
Friday 24th October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Friday 24th October	FOSS Sweet Sale (after school)
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



Wednesday 22nd October
Infants 3:20 - 4:30
Juniors 4:45 - 6:00

£5.00* all inclusive.
Entrance, bag of sweets,
ice-pop, drink, glitter tattoo

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DISCO!

Tickets will be sold after school on **Friday 17th** and **Monday 20th October** in the playground. You will be able to pay on the door, but it is much easier to organise in advance.

SWEET SALE

Friday 24th October
After school (3:15pm) in
the school playground

FOSS HALLOWEEN COSTUME SALE

DONATE your unwanted Halloween Costumes
and buy a new one for only **£2!**
Friday 17th & Monday 20th October 2025

BREAK THE RULES

at StepGates

HAPPYSCHOOLBAG CLOTHES COLLECTION

A huge thank you to all parents who dropped filled bags on Tuesday 7th October.

Your support is very much appreciated.

**FOSS BREAK THE RULES AT
STEPGATES DAY
WILL BE ON**

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

Further details to follow