

Headlines

Issue 05 - 14.11.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term either at home or away. We have a very busy term ahead of us with many festive activities already in the diary.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and our amazing FOSS team (Friends of Stepgates Community School) for organising another very successful 'Break the Rules at Stepgates' on Thursday 6th November. The children had a wonderful day and raised a fantastic £400 breaking rules!

On Tuesday 11th November the children in Kites Class represented Stepgates Community School by participating in Armistice Day. The children made their own wreath in class which was placed at the War Memorial by our Head Boy, Kieran EHF and Head Girl, Ellie J.



Well done Kites Class! Once again you have been outstanding ambassadors for the school.

STAFFING

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to a new member of staff, Miss Laneya Jude, who has joined us this term as a Nursery Keyworker. I am sure she will soon feel part of the Stepgates team.

I am sad to announce that two highly valued members of support staff will be leaving Stepgates this term. Ms Doyle, our Swimming Instructor and Librarian, will be retiring, having been part of the team at Stepgates since 2011. I'm sure you would like to join me in wishing her a very happy retirement.

Mrs Scott, who has been part of the Stepgates team since September 2022 will also be leaving us as she has secured a new role; we would like to congratulate her on this wonderful opportunity.

Both members of staff will be greatly missed by staff and children. We wish them well for the future.

STEPGATES SHINING STARS

The focus for our Shining Stars this half term is Computing, with an English twist. We were extremely lucky to be given the rare opportunity to visit Sky Studios to participate in an exciting Digital Literacy project, alongside Mrs Conn. A huge thank you must be made to Mr & Mrs Rossiter for donating, and organising, this amazing experience for us.

Congratulations to the following children who were selected to attend:

Year 5 Max, Harry, Aaron, Lara, Layla and Bella
Year 6 Oscar, Reggie, Adam, Bella, Evie and Aine

The children received their Shining Star badges in assembly this morning.

REMINDER - INSET DAY MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025

Don't forget school will be closed on Monday, 1st December for an INSET Day.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to all parents for supporting our BBC Children in Need Mufti Day today (Friday 14th November). Your generous donations for this very worthy cause are much appreciated.

FOSS MUFTI DAY

Friday 28th November will be a Mufti Day. If you are able to donate a 'bottle' to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday 6th December, this would be very much appreciated.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all parents/carers who supported the Book Fair this week.

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

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

I understand there will be many other collections at this time of year but we would like to help as many families as possible within the community; Stepgates Community School will be supporting the following projects:

Chocolate Advent Calendars

Hawks Class are collecting chocolate advent calendars to give to Runnymede Foodbank for the children who won't have one this Christmas. If you would like to help the collection, please send in with your child and ask them to place this in the collection box in Hawks Class. All calendars will be collected on 26th November and taken to Runnymede Foodbank, ready for 1st December.

Last year 63 children received a calendar and a little festive joy each morning; it would be wonderful to spread the magic even further this year.

Christmas Decoration Project

We have volunteered to help make pom poms to decorate the Chertsey Community Christmas tree at St Peter's Church. We will be making them in school with the children and are asking for any donations of wool so that we can make as many as possible to help create a glorious tree for the community. If you would like to donate, please send wool in to school between now and Monday 24th November. Alternatively, if you would like to make pom poms at home and donate them we would be extremely grateful for your support.



When the tree is in situ we will take a group of children to hand deliver the pom poms personally.

SAINSBURY'S COMPETITION

Sainsbury's in Chertsey invited us to participate in an exciting Jute bag design competition and we are delighted to announce three children in Miss Tibble's art group won the competition. Congratulations to:

Lilly B (Year 5)	1st place
Crystal B (Year 3)	2nd place
Penelope DeG (Year 4)	3rd place

These children will be joining the opening on the 5th December at 9am to celebrate their amazing designs as part of the relaunch of Sainsbury's, Chertsey. We are thrilled that our art group have been involved and so proud of the children's work.

HOUSE CAPTAINS

As the selection for Head Boy/Head Girl becomes harder each year and the quality of the applicants continues to make it very difficult to choose, this year I have decided to introduce House Captains to represent our new house names. (Please see Falcons Assembly write-up on Page 4, which details the four inspirational people chosen to represent each new house name).

I am delighted to announce the following House Captains have been selected by the children, following some fabulous speeches! I know they will be wonderful ambassadors for their House.

KING (BLUE)	ATTENBOROUGH (GREEN)	KELLER (YELLOW)	WINDSOR (RED)
Oscar W Ellie J	Martha F Caleb L-R	Daisy D Chace H	Alexa S Reggie D-I

I am very conscious that, once again, we are requesting help and donations (with a few more requests still to come) and I would like thank all parents/carers for your continued support and generosity; this is very much appreciated and definitely not taken for granted.

**Mrs T Ford
Headteacher**

FALCONS CLASS ASSEMBLY

Falcons Class assembly on Friday 7th November showcased our new house names and the four inspiring people that we have chosen to represent them.

Red - Windsor after Queen Elizabeth II

Green - Attenborough after David Attenborough

Yellow - Keller after Helen Keller

Blue - King after Martin Luther King Jr.

These amazing people show us that strength, commitment and perseverance can help us to achieve our goals.



KITES CLASS EVACUEE DAY 2025

On Friday 7th November, 2025 Year 6 (Kites Class) got to experience being evacuated and tried out many other opportunities evacuees will have had. They had to use their imagination so they could understand more.

The class had the opportunity to dress like evacuees. They all looked amazing, Kites looked like real evacuees!

Suddenly, Year 6 got the horrible news that they were being evacuated, they made their way to the train where they waved goodbye to their parents. After a long (and quite boring) journey they made their way to the main town hall where they met their new carers. They discussed what type of jobs they would have done back in the 1940's.

Next, they sent a letter to their family about who they were staying with, what it was like and where they were. They were not 100% sure that their families would receive these letters, however they hoped they would. After they played some card games.

Throughout the day many air-raid sirens went off where they had to hide under their tables with their gas masks on. Once the all clear siren went off they could come back from under their tables.

During the afternoon, Kites Class got to see many real-life artefacts from World War II. Overall, Kites Class gained a deeper understanding of how evacuees felt and what the experience was like.

By Ellie and Bella

TRIP TO SKY STUDIOS

On Thursday 11th November, 12 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils visited Sky Studios, Osterley, where they created their own film trailers.

Immersed in a dynamic digital experience, they showcased outstanding creativity, communication, and collaboration. The children were exemplary ambassadors, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and skill. A truly inspiring day of learning beyond the classroom!

Mrs Conn and Miss Blankert

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

HENRI MATISSE

(31 December 1869 – 3 November 1954)



Henri Émile Benoît Matisse was a French artist, known for both his use of colour and his fluid and original draughtsmanship. He was a draughtsman, printmaker, and sculptor, but is known primarily as a painter.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

SIR KARL JENKINS

(Born 17 February 1944)



Sir Karl William Pamp Jenkins, is a Welsh multi-instrumentalist and composer. His best known works include the song "Adiemus" (1995, from the *Adiemus* album series), *Palladio* (1995), *The Armed Man* (2000), his Requiem (2005) and his Stabat Mater (2008).

He was educated in music at Cardiff University and the Royal Academy of Music, and he is a fellow and an associate of the latter. He joined the jazz-rock band Soft Machine in 1972 and became the group's lead songwriter in 1974. He continued to work with Soft Machine until 1984.

He has composed music for advertising campaigns and has won the industry prize twice.



**It's cold
outside!!**



Remember that just because it looks fine in the morning, things can change by lunchtime and your children may be outside for a considerable time throughout the school day.

Children must wear a warm winter coat and hat and gloves if they want them. If you would like your child to wear boots to school, they must bring in a spare pair of shoes to wear whilst inside the school building.

**The Value we are learning about
this half term is.....**



Resilience



INSET DAY

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025
FOR AN INSET DAY**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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

OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

We welcome all prospective parents to visit our wonderful school.

Our Open Morning tours were held on:

Wednesday 8th October - 9:30am
Thursday 9th October - 9:30am
Tuesday 14th October - 9:30am

If you were unable to attend our Open Morning tours, but would like to visit Stepgates Community School, please contact the school office.

Our Open Evening tours will be held on:

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

DATES - 2025/2026

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2025

Friday 21st November	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly FOSS 'Hot Chocolate' Friday - 3:15pm Infant Playground
Friday 28th November	FOSS Mufti Day - Bottle donation to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday 6th December FOSS 'Hot Chocolate' Friday - 3:15pm Infant Playground
Monday 1st December	INSET Day - School closed
Tues 2nd to Thurs 4th December	FOSS 'Elfridges' Gift Shop
Friday 5th December	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
Saturday 6th December	Chertsey Goose Fair
Friday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch followed by Pantomime
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

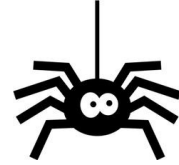
SUMMER TERM 2025

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



FOSS HALLOWEEN DISCOupdate



We are delighted to announce the Halloween Disco raised a fantastic £695.53.

Another huge success! Well done to all involved!



Please come along and support
STEPGATES COMMUNITY SCHOOL
at Chertsey Goose Fair 2025
Saturday 6th December, 10:00am – 3:00pm

MUFTI DAY!

Friday
28th November

In order to support the planned Stepgates stall at the Goose Fair, children are invited to wear mufti in exchange for a "bottle" on Friday 28th November.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support!

