

Headlines

Issue 07 - 07.12.25



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness, how quickly this term has gone! It has been a very busy term and I am delighted the children, and parents, have been able to participate in a range of exciting activities. We have really enjoyed the start of our Christmas festivities and Winter activities this week.

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents into school; it was lovely to see so many of you at our Infant Nativity performances this week, as well as our Sunbeams Nursery Christmas Concert on Tuesday. I know the children were very proud to perform their Nativity and festive songs to you all.

We also saw some wonderful Christmas jumpers, 'sparkles' and Christmas themed outfits, with all donations going towards 'Save the Children Fund'. Again, thank you to all parents for supporting this very worthy cause.

Next week we look forward to welcoming all Junior (KS2) parents to St. Peter's Church, Chertsey where children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be performing their Carol Concert. We have a very busy day in school on Wednesday 17th December; we are expecting a very important visitor with gifts for the children, as well as our Christmas lunch and Pantomime.

I am sure many of you will have noticed the lovely Christmas tree (plus lights, stand and wicker tree skirt) in the school hall this week. I am very proud to announce that Stepgates Community School won Longacres Bourne Valley Garden Centre School Christmas Tree Competition, as nominated by members of the public on Instagram. Thank you to all who took the time to vote for us!

ONLINE SAFETY

Christmas is the time of year when many of you may receive electronic items (tablets/mobile telephones etc) as gifts. Please be mindful of child safety and ensure child filters are in operation.

WEBSITE

There is a lot of useful information on our school website (www.stepgatesschool.co.uk), including all newsletters for this academic year, latest news, upcoming events, INSET days, term dates, useful links and much more. I hope you find the site interesting and informative.

CHERTSEY GOOSE FAIR

I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful FOSS (Friends of Stepgates School) Team and all who contributed to the success of the Stepgates Stall at Chertsey Goose Fair on Saturday 6th December.



CHOCOLATE ADVENT CALENDARS

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our Stepgates parents/carers, I am delighted to let you know we were able to donate 123 advent calendars to Runnymede Foodbank. 123 children will receive a calendar and have a door to open throughout December in the build up to Christmas. Amazing!



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



CHRISTMAS DECORATION PROJECT

Thank you to all parents/carers for your support and kind donations of wool, which enabled the children (and staff) to make pom poms, creating a glorious Community Christmas tree at St Peter's Church, Chertsey.



As this will be the last issue of Headlines this year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas holiday and say a very big thank you to the following:

- ◆ My wonderful staff for their dedication and commitment to the children;
- ◆ All governors who continue to devote their time to Stepgates;
- ◆ All parents for your support! It is because of you our events are so successful, which enables the children to participate in the many wonderful activities we are able to provide at Stepgates. Your generosity is amazing!
- ◆ Friends of Stepgates (FOSS) Team, who continue to work tirelessly organising the many events and activities for our children, including their very popular 'Elfridges' gift stall and the Chertsey Goose Fair;
- ◆ And finally, I would like to thank the children! They remain happy and engaged. I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning. It is always lovely to walk through school and be reminded, on a daily basis, why I am in this profession!

I hope you and your families remain safe and well and I look forward to seeing the children on Monday, 5th January 2026.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Kites and Grasshoppers for the best attendance in the last two school weeks.

	10th-14th November	17th-21st November
WHOLE SCHOOL	93.8%	95.1%
Ladybirds	95.5%	97.0%
Butterflies	95.5%	95.8%
Grasshoppers	95.5%	98.8%
Falcons	87.6%	95.5%
Hawks	94.3%	94.9%
Owls	88.5%	87.9%
Kites	97.0%	95.2%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Joseph W, Year 3 -Taekwondo Certificate and Belt
- ◆ Matthew F, Year 5-Taekwondo Certificate and belt
- ◆ Bradley F, Year 4 - Taekwondo Certificate and Belt
- ◆ Marley H, Year 3 -Taekwondo Certificate and Belt
- ◆ Kohaku L, Year 3 - Rugby Medal
- ◆ Ethan BDS, Year 2- Swimming level 2 Certificate
- ◆ Isla- Rose, Year 4-Gymnastics Competition 1st Place
- ◆ Summer S - Gymnast of the month
- ◆ Sebbie H, Year 4 - Cub Badges

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:

- Summer S , Year 5
- Grayson O, Year 2

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!

SAINSBURY'S COMPETITION

The winning children of the 'design a bag' for the grand opening of the newly refurbished Sainsburys, Chertsey, had a wonderful time receiving their prizes on Friday 5th December. Well done Lilly, Crystal and Penelope for your wonderful art work.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

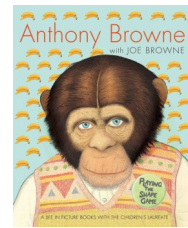


MARIAH CAREY

Born: 27 March 1969 (age 56 years)

Mariah Carey is an American singer-songwriter, record producer, and actress. Dubbed the "Songbird Supreme", Carey is known for her five-octave vocal range, melismatic singing style, signature use of the whistle register, and diva persona. An influential figure in music, she was ranked as the fifth-greatest singer of all time by *Rolling Stone* in 2023.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



ANTHONY BROWNE

Born: 11 September 1946 (age 79 years)

Anthony Edward Tudor Browne CBE is a British writer and illustrator of children's books, primarily picture books. Browne has written or illustrated over fifty books, and received the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2000. From 2009 to 2011 he was Children's Laureate.

BUTTERFLIES CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Friday 5th December, Butterflies Class performed their class assembly. All term we have been working on our topic, "Toys" and so we thought we would share this knowledge with the rest of the school and our adults. Each child told a vital part of the changes in toys, from Victorian times to modern day. They also did a beautiful rendition of Toys Story's "You've Got a Friend in Me" and an encore! As a class though, they decided that whenever the toys were from and whatever the toys are, the ones they like best are the ones they are playing with now.

'Elfridges' (Santa's Gift Stall)

A very big thank you to all the ladies from FOSS for organising Santa's Gift Stall - 'Elfridges' last week; once again, this was a huge success.

We would also like to say a very big thank you to parents for their contributions, enabling the children to buy their gifts. The money raised will be put towards the very many activities and resources FOSS contribute towards each year.



Thank you from all the staff and children at Stepgates Community School.



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

Tuesday 16th December	KS2 (Junior) Christmas Concert at St Peter's Church
Tuesday 16th December	FOSS Christmas Market - From 3pm in the school hall
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch followed by Pantomime
Friday 19th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Friday 19th December	FOSS Christmas Sweet Sale - 1pm on the playground
Mon 22nd Dec to Fri 2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays



LAST DAY OF TERM

**SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1:00PM ON FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN ON MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5th January	Children return to school
Friday 16th January	Kites (Year 6) Class Assembly
Friday 23rd January	Ladybirds (Reception) Class Assembly
Friday 30th January	Owls (Year 5) Class Assembly
Friday 6th February	Hawks (Year 4) Class Assembly
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 February	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Friday 6th March	Falcons (Year 3) Class Assembly
Mon 9th and Tues 10th March	Parent-Teacher Consultation Evenings (<i>Details to follow in due course</i>)
Friday 13th March	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
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



Thank you

Dear parents, carers and friends

It has been a busy few months for FOSS with a number of successful activities including the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Halloween Disco and Break the Rules.

Elfridges and the Chertsey Goose Fair have seen lots of festive fun and the children have thoroughly enjoyed selecting family/friend presents!

We wish to thank everyone who has donated time, money, cakes and bottles - the generosity is greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to a successful 2026.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday!

Merry Christmas