

Headlines

Issue 08 - 09.01.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to a new term at Stepgates. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and healthy Christmas. I would also like to thank you all for the good wishes, cards and end of year class presents and treats for the staff - these are very much appreciated. The children have settled back into school quickly and we are all looking forward to an exciting term at Stepgates. You should all be receiving Curriculum Information for this half term; this explains the children's learning for this term, regular events e.g. PE, homework expectations etc. and how you can support them at home. Further information is also available on the website for each class, including 'A Snapshot of Our Children's Learning'.

STAFFING

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

PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings for this term will be held on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March. 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.

CLUBS

As a small school we are very lucky to be able to offer such a varied range of after school clubs and activities for the children. I would like to thank the teaching staff, the LSA's and the parents who give freely of their time to help ensure the continued success of our clubs programme. You might not be aware that staff and parents offer these clubs on a **voluntary basis** only and I am very grateful to them for their continued support, commitment and enthusiasm without which our selection of clubs would be much reduced. If there are any parents who would like to assist with a club, please contact the school office.

SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you to all parents for supporting our Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 12th December. We raised a total of £141.43 for this very worthy cause. Your generous donations are much appreciated.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to the 65 children who achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term.

	8th-12th December	15th-19th December
WHOLE SCHOOL	92.0%	87.7%
Ladybirds	89.4%	91.8%
Butterflies	90.3%	91.8%
Grasshoppers	92.4%	88.8%
Falcons	92.4%	88.2%
Hawks	93.1%	76.6%
Owls	90.6%	85.0%
Kites	96.4%	90.0%

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

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

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ♦ Albert M, Year 2 - Judo Belt, Certificate and Silver Medal
- ♦ Jackson S, Year 6 - Art Work
- ♦ Kieran EHF, Year 6 - Football Award and Medal

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:

- Adam P, Year 6
- Romeo Rafael I, Year 6
- Maxwell N, Year 1
- Sapphire B, Year 1

AUTUMN TERM GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

I am delighted to announce that the following children were presented with Governors' Achievement Awards for their achievements in Autumn term:

Infants

- Zachary A** (Year 2) - For outstanding attitude to learning and applying his own skills.
Delylah S (Year 2) - For taking ownership of her own learning and making tremendous progress in reading.

Juniors

- Chrissy G** (Year 6) - For her resilience and teamwork demonstrated at Forest School.
Callum D (Year 6) - For his sportsmanship and resilience demonstrated across a range of disciplines.

Sporting Achievement Awards were presented to:

- Meliza J** (Year 4) - For showing determination, resilience and bravery within her swimming lessons.
Sebbie H (Year 5) - For his dedication in broadening his interest and skill set in a wide range of sports.
Annabelle HEK (Year 2) - For her wonderful interpretive dance skills.
Finley S (Year 2) - For his outstanding effort in Gymnastics floor work.

The Arts Awards were presented to:

- Shola B** (Year 6) - For her quiet, modest enthusiasm & excellence across all the arts.
Max K (Year 6) - For his precision and excellence in technical artistry.
Frankie-Lewis C (Year 2) - For his enthusiasm and incredible work in Design Technology.
Billie-Rose T (Year 2) - For her outstanding, expressive artwork.

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND PANTOMIME

On Wednesday 17th December the children enjoyed their Christmas lunch and were very excited to receive a visit from Father Christmas.

This was followed by a pantomime performed by Troubadour Productions, who presented their version of Beauty and the Beast, much to the delight of the children, who all had a fantastic time.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



John Philip Sousa

6 November 1854 - 6 March 1932

John Philip Sousa was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era known primarily for U.S. military marches. He is known as "The March King" or the "American March King", to distinguish him from his British counterpart Kenneth J. Alford.

Among Sousa's best-known marches are "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (National March of the United States of America), "Semper Fidelis" (official march of the United States Marine Corps), "The Liberty Bell", "The Thunderer", and "The Washington Post".

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Alex Konahin - Born 1981

Alex Konahin is a self-taught artist, born in 1981 in Goulkevitchi, Russia. He lives and works in Riga, Lithuania. Well known internationally since 2012, especially due to the internet, he has been working for famous organisations like Amnesty International and Penguin Random House.

Alex Konahin is inspired by major movements and great artists from the past. He is able to create precise and detailed work, which border visual perfection. The artist stands out due to his ability to erase the limits between a magical universe and scientific reality. To do this, he works with a pencil, fountain pen or Indian ink.

Alex Konahin regularly exhibits his work in London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris and New Orleans. His creations are also part of several private collections around the globe.

Our Value for this Half Term is:



Compassion

DATES - 2025/2026

UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2026

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
Thursday 12th February	FOSS Krispy Kreme Valentines Doughnut Sale (after school)
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



INSET DAY

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY
13TH FEBRUARY 2026 FOR
AN INSET DAY**

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

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.



**NEEDS
YOU**

YOU CAN HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN

**Charlotte's
Web**



**Please contact us
BY JANUARY 20th
for further information
EMAIL@KATS.ME
WWW.KATS.ME**



**SHOW WEEK
11th May
New Haw
Community Centre**

**REHEARSALS
Tuesdays 6.30-8.30
OTTERSHAW
VILLAGE HALL**