

# Headlines

Issue 10 - 06.02.26



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe we are almost half way through the Spring Term. It has been a busy time in school and the children have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities, with many more planned for the second half of Spring Term.

### THEMED WEEK 'AROUND THE WORLD'



Themed Week began with Stepgates being transformed into an airport and airplane. The children excitedly moved through security, collecting their boarding cards and passports, before boarding flight SG067.

Throughout the week, the children travelled around the world learning facts about each country and taking part in an activity. This included making penguins from Antarctica, friendship bracelets from Jamaica and rain sticks from Brazil. They were also able to use VR headsets to virtually travel to each country.

### Welcome to Stepgates Airport

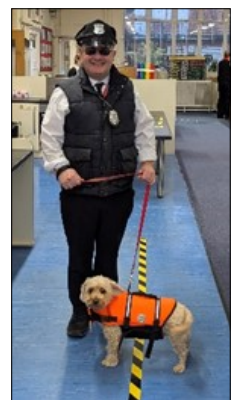
Departures		
9:00	Antarctica	SG067 Flight closing 7
9:00	India	SG067 Flight closing 1
9:00	Jamaica	SG067 Boarding 2
9:00	Australia	SG067 Boarding 3
9:00	Turkey	SG067 Go to Gate 4
9:00	Brazil	SG067 Go to Gate 5
9:00	Nigeria	SG067 Go to Gate 6



The fun filled week ended on Friday where each class presented a short creative presentation from their country (lots of dancing) and then got to sample foods from each country at a Food Festival.

Sunbeams also joined in with Themed Week as they, too, travelled around the world each day, making crafts and eating foods from around the world. They tried soda bread from Ireland, plantain chips and even made their own jollof rice from Ghana.

The children were phenomenal! It was wonderful to walk through school and see the children and staff enjoying the many fantastic activities.



### WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, which will be a Mufti Day. The children may come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book, and bring the book along to share with their friends. To celebrate World Book Day the children will also have a fantastic opportunity to use the creative arts alongside reading, as each class will be taking part in a workshop lead by 'West End in Schools'. (Further details will be sent home separately).

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

**INFANT PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

I am sure you will have noticed the new play equipment on the Infant playground. This represents a significant investment from our amazing FOSS team (Friends of Stepgates School) along with their commitment to improving and enriching the children's environment and experiences at school. The children and staff would like to say a huge thank you to our FOSS team for their continued dedication to the children of Stepgates and, of course, to all parents/carers for your support and generosity in our fundraising efforts.



**MID-YEAR REPORTS**

All parents/carers will receive a copy of their child's Mid-Year Report next week, which I hope you will find useful. I am very pleased that the vast majority of children have been in school regularly, worked hard and have made good progress and I would like to thank you for your continued support for their education. There will be an opportunity to discuss the Mid-Year Report further with the class teacher during Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings, which will be held on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March. Further details will be sent home after half term.

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 R 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. Please can you confirm with the class teacher if you plan on attending. Further details, including the date and time, will be sent in due course.

**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 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.

**REMINDER - INSET DAY FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026**

Please note that school will be closed on Friday, 13th February for an INSET Day.

As this will be the last issue of Headlines this half term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful half term break.

**Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher**

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

	19th-23rd January	26th-30th January
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>92.1%</b>
Ladybirds	91.8%	91.8%
Butterflies	95.2%	94.2%
Grasshoppers	91.5%	93.6%
Falcons	86.7%	89.4%
Hawks	78.3%	91.7%
Owls	84.4%	85.0%
Kites	97.6%	98.8%

# PROUD CORNER

## Well done to:

- ◆ Maxwell N, Year 1 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Alfie G, Year 3 - Beaver Scout Of The Week Trophy
- ◆ Penny T, Year 1 - Gymnast Of The Month Trophy
- ◆ Albert M, Year 2 - Judo Blue Belt
- ◆ Haku L, Year 3 - Player Of The Week Rugby 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:

- Yasir T, Year 4
- Marley C, Year 2
- Grace H, Year 3
- Molly F, Year 3
- Sapphire B, Year 1
- Vivienne T, Year 5
- Phoebe H, Year 5

## COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



### NILE RODGERS

(19 SEPTEMBER 1952, AGE 73)

Nile Gregory Rodgers Jr; is an American musician, songwriter, guitarist and record producer. Nile was in the bands Chic, The Honeydrippers and New York City. Nile has worked with other musicians such as Pharrell Williams, Sister Sledge and David Bowie. The songs "Le Freak" and "Good Times" both reached number one. Nile Rodgers and Chic played Glastonbury on the 29th June 2025, apparently he brought the party to the Pyramid Stage.

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH



### ANDY WARHOL

(6 August 1928 – 22 February 1987)

Andy Warhol born Andrew Warhola Jr.; was an American artist, film director, and producer who was a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. His works explore the relationship between artistic expression, advertising, and celebrity culture that flourished by the 1960s, and span a variety of media, including painting, silk screening, photography, film, and sculpture.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Welcome to Owls  
Class Assembly



On Friday 30th January 2026 Owls had their class assembly. It was all about theme week, 'Around the World'. We talked about our experiences at the airport, on the airplane and at each destination – Antarctica, Australia, India, Jamaica, Brazil, Turkey and Nigeria. We shared facts that we learnt and showed off some crafts we made during our fun packed week. Harry even showed off some of his Indian dance moves. We didn't have much time to practise, as we were busy travelling all week, but we pulled it off at the end!

Written by Max and Florence



**BELL AIR**



## LADYBIRDS CLASS ASSEMBLY



We were so proud of our Ladybirds on Friday 23rd January as they presented their first ever assembly to the whole school. Based on a story they have been looking at as part of their theme this half term, Magic and Powers, and their experiences of the pantomime over the Christmas period, they performed their very own take on Cinderella. They demonstrated confidence, clear speaking and showed us some fabulous dance moves from their PE lessons. However, most important of all, they all loved participating.

Well done Ladybirds - you really were all absolutely MAGIC!



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



### FALCONS CLASS TRIP TO CHERTSEY MUSEUM

Falcons Class had a fantastic day out at Chertsey Museum on Tuesday 3rd February. We spent the day investigating pre-history which included how people lived, the tools that they made and used as well as the different animals that were alive.

We examined and drew lots of artefacts from pre-history, including bones and discovered what they were used for. We also enjoyed exploring the museum and dressing up as Stone Age people, we had a great day!

Please don't forget to visit and support our local museum.

### ERPSSA PANATHLON CHALLENGE

On Monday 2nd February some of Robins went on a sporting trip to Cleve's School to take part in a Panathlon Challenge. We left school just after 9am to get on the mini-bus to drive to Cleve's School. When we arrived, we were given our area and put into teams. Once all the schools had arrived we listened to the coach who told us about how the morning would go. We then went to our first activity. The activities included Skittles, Basketball, Bean Bag Throw, Curling, and Target Throwing. We all had different favourite activities. After all the activities were finished we got together in a big group to see how each team did. Our team were the first runners up and we each got a medal! Although we felt nervous, we worked together as a team and we all had a fun time.



### SURREY FIRE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

This week Year 5 had a visit from Surrey Fire Education Department, which was fantastic and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The talk included videos, games and role play which brought the lessons to life; the children were left with a sticker, activity sheet and book to keep in order to remember the fundamental guidance around fire safety for children.

We are so grateful for this fantastic resource and support of the children within our Community.

# DATES - 2025/2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2026

Thursday 12th February	Children finish at normal time for half term
Thursday 12th February	FOSS Krispy Kreme 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
Thursday 26th February	FOSS Meeting 6pm
Friday 27th February	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Friday 27th February	'Favourite Sports Person' Mufti Day
Friday 6th March	Falcons (Year 3) Class Assembly
Monday 9th March	FOSS Mother's Day Gift Stall
Monday 9th March	Parent-Teacher Consultation Evenings ( <i>Details to follow in due course</i> )
Tuesday 10th March	Parent-Teacher Consultation Evenings ( <i>Details to follow in due course</i> )
Wednesday 11th March	FOSS Mother's Day Gift Stall
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

# FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



## KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUTS

On sale in the playground after school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February. | £1 per doughnut  
£12 for a box of 12\*

\*If you would like a box, please use the below link to pre-order by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February ensuring you state your name/class:  
<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QSJ7PXNC>



## Next FOSS meeting

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
@ 6:00pm,  
Shared area at school

Everyone and anyone welcome!



A selection of gifts will be available for your child to purchase as a **Mother's Day** gift for that special person in their life.

**£3.50 per gift**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

The gift shop will take place during school hours.

# 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.*



## More to do at CHERTSEY MUSEUM

### Museum Makes

A simple and fun free craft every first Saturday of the month. No need to book, just drop by.



### Visit for Free!

Chertsey Museum is free to visit. Explore the collections of clothes, local history, archaeology, and frequently changing exhibitions. Children's trails, wheelchair & pram accessible, toilets etc available.

Opening times (closed Sun & Mon)

Tues - Fri : 12.30pm - 4.30pm

Sat: 11am - 4pm



### Contact us

Chertsey Museum, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8AT, Tel: 01932 565764



General: enquiries@chertseymuseum.org.uk

Families: education@chertseymuseum.org.uk

For more details see [chertseymuseum.org](http://chertseymuseum.org)

There's something on offer for all ages!



## More to do at CHERTSEY MUSEUM

### Archaeology club for 8-16 yrs

Every 3rd Saturday of the month. Morning or afternoon sessions. Activities, fun and all things archaeological!

young archaeologists' club

### Holiday Crafts

Low-cost craft sessions every school holiday for ages 6-12. Join in the fun and bring a friend. Join our mailing list to hear what we're creating next!



### Museum Monkeys

Under 5's, regular Fridays.

See website for dates.

9:30-11am. A great way for

children and parents to explore the museum with crafts, songs and a treasure hunt! With drinks and biscuits for adults and children.



For more details see [chertseymuseum.org](http://chertseymuseum.org)

There's something on offer for all ages!