

Headlines

Issue 13 - 27.03.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another exciting and busy term it doesn't seem five minutes since we came back after Christmas - where does the time go to? There have been many highlights, including World Book Day and amazing FOSS events such as the Easter Disco and Mother's Day Stall. We have also had some wonderful successes which include First Place for our Dance Crew who performed in the ERPSSA Dance Festival, along with many exciting trips, all of which have enabled the children to enjoy their learning. I am also very proud to have attended the Runnymede Borough Council Civic Awards 2026 at Thorpe Park, and continue to feel very humbled that we won the 'Special Recognition' Award for our efforts in school.

I would like to say a huge thank you to FOSS who provided the eggs for The Easter Egg Hunt this week; this was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

COMIC RELIEF 'RED NOSE DAY'

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents who supported Red Nose Day on Friday 20th March. Your contributions are much appreciated. We raised a total of £177.04 for this very worthy cause.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Last week our Year 4 children had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Sayers Croft. They took part in a wide range of fun activities, including orienteering, where the children familiarised themselves with the site and site boundaries by following maps and filling out missing information about different buildings and other facilities; they had great fun exploring the artificial caving system, looking for lots of different routes and trying to find the hidden ball pit. The children also completed a challenge course, which is a low-ropes activity, that involves the children working together to complete the course without touching the floor. (Please see Page 4 for further details). Their behaviour was exemplary and, once again, Stepgates children were outstanding ambassadors for the school.

As you all know I am extremely proud to be part of such a wonderful community and would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to the following:

- Thank you to the children! I am very pleased with their behaviour and attitudes to learning
- Thank you to all Governors who continue to devote their time to Stepgates Community School
- Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support, understanding, and generosity; this is very much appreciated by the staff at Stepgates and, of course, the children
- Thank you to our amazing FOSS Team who are already thinking about the Summer Term
- And finally.....Thank you to my wonderful staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the children

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 13th April 2026.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

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

	9th-13th March	16th-20th March
WHOLE SCHOOL	93.7%	93.5%
Ladybirds	91.9%	92.7%
Butterflies	97.0%	93.3%
Grasshoppers	96.1%	94.6%
Falcons	92.4%	93.0%
Hawks	91.4%	91.1%
Owls	90.0%	89.1%
Kites	98.2%	97.0%

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL



Milton Glaser

(26 June 1929 - 26 June 2020)

Art style: Graphic Design

Milton Glaser was an American Graphic Designer. He died at the age of 91. His most famous work was the I ♥ NY Logo. In the late 60's Milton worked on logos for DC Comics, Brooklyn Brewery and Stony Brook University.

He received many awards for his work, including the National Medal of the Arts award from President Barack Obama.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL



Michael Bublé

(9th September 1975)

Musical Genre: Jazz

Michael Steven Bublé is a Canadian singer and songwriter. Michael has sold over 75 million records worldwide. He has won numerous awards, including five Grammy Awards and fifteen Juno Awards.

Michael grew up listening to his grandfather's collection of Jazz records and credits his grandfather in encouraging his love of jazz music. Michael has collaborated with a diverse range of artists across pop, jazz and holiday genres.

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Paisley G ,Year 3 - Brownie Promise Certificate & Badges.
- ◆ Alexa S , Year 6 - Football 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:

- Raven C , Year 6
- Wonu O x 2, Year 6
- Ace F, Year 1
- Phoebe H, Year 5

PROUD CORNER

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!

SPRING TERM

GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

Infants

Annie D (Year 2) - For consistent demonstration of the school values, in particular, compassion.

Leo W (Year 2) - For improvement in his attitude to his learning.

Juniors

Ruby B (Year 6) - For her quiet resilience and incredible attitude across the curriculum.

Danny S (Year 5) - For a positive attitude across all areas of learning.

Sporting Achievement Awards were presented to:

Isla-Rose S (Year 4) - For her enthusiasm and application of Gymnastic skills both in and out of school.

Tyler C (Year 5) - For his growing confidence and excellent contribution to sport at Stepgates.

Willow RN (Year 2) - For outstanding dance contribution.

Grayson S (Year 2) - For always listening and using his understanding to improve his skills.

The Arts Awards were presented to:

Daisy D (Year 6) - For her quiet enthusiasm and expressive performance in dance.

Joey D (Year 6) - For his powerful and expressive performance in dance.

Mia G (Year 2) - For using technical understanding to improve her art skills.

Blake G (Year 2) - For his understanding of Design Technology and ability to fix most things!

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Year 4 Residential to Sayers Croft

Wednesday 18th March – Friday 20th March

On Wednesday 18th March, we excitedly got ready to board the coach, which would take us to our residential site at Sayers Croft. When we got there, we settled into our dormitories and were busy making our beds. Then, we had a snack and a delicious first lunch, which was pizza. In the afternoon, we took part in our first activities, which were orienteering and woods compass. We had beef casserole with mash and sponge cake with chocolate custard for dinner, and then went back to our cabin to enjoy a movie and a hot chocolate. We were very tired!

When we woke up after our first night, it was very early but we had lots of energy! The adults took us outside for a run around before breakfast. Breakfast was very delicious, with lots of choices like toast, scrambled eggs, hash browns and cereal. We started off the day by exploring the Roman roundhouse and looking at some replica weapons and shields. We practiced shield formations, fire lighting and throwing spears – it was great fun! After a quick lunch of soup, quiche and sandwiches, we were ready for our two afternoon activities. Bouldering and caving were enjoyed by all and took a lot of bravery and resilience. After a lovely day in the sunshine, we had a roast dinner, followed by a banana and toffee sponge pudding. Finally, we went on a night walk and used our torches to find our way along the reflector trail. By the end of the walk, we were all very ready for bed and managed to get a lot more sleep than the first night.

On our last morning, we had to pack all of our things away and take the sheets and pillowcases off of our beds. After breakfast, we completed our final activities, making nature art and working as a team to complete an adventure ropes challenge. We ended our visit to Sayers Croft with a lunch of fish and chips, before getting on the coach, ready to return home and excited to see our friends and families.

Falcon's Feet First Walk

On Wednesday 25th March Falcons Class took part in their 'Feet First' training. We went out in three groups where we learnt all about:

- The Green Cross Code
- Road signs and pedestrian crossings
- Recognising safer and unsafe places to cross
- How to cross between parked cars
- The benefits of active travel

After each child received a certificate, activity book, pencil and keychain.

"We all had lots of fun and really enjoyed the training!"



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

THE MINI EGG CHOKING HAZARD PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THIS EASTER!

Parents are being reminded of the age warnings on chocolate treats such as Mini Eggs this Easter. While great attention is given to the risks involved with common foods such as grapes - and the need to chop them up correctly - families can sometimes be unaware of the dangers posed by seemingly harmless treats.

An anonymous mother decided to recall her harrowing ordeal, after her daughter tragically choked on the treat. Filled with milk chocolate and containing a crispy sugar shell, chocolate Mini Eggs are often a go-to sweet treat during the Easter season. However, the size of the chocolate pieces make them unsuitable for young children. A visible warning about this is clearly marked on some packets, stating that they are not suitable for children under the age of four. However, sadly Sophie the little girl who died was five, so care must be taken whatever the age of the child.

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

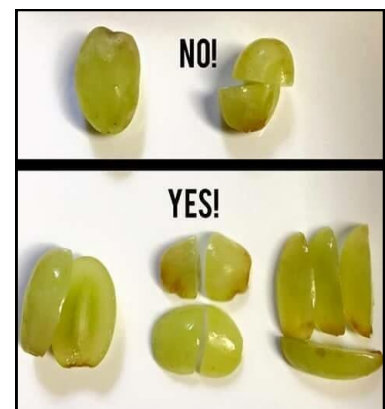
Did you know whole grapes are a dangerous choking hazard for babies, toddlers and young children?

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 windpipe 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.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Are you looking for a Nursery place for your child in September 2026?

We are now commencing the admission process for our Sunbeams Nursery for September 2026

If your child was born between

1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024

If your child is under three years of age, we offer EITHER five morning sessions (9:00am to 12:00 noon) OR five afternoon sessions (12:30pm to 3:30pm). You may choose less than five sessions but we would recommend you choose at least two sessions per week.

For eligible parents we offer four 'Free Early Education for Two year olds' (FEET) places, for which a copy letter proving eligibility from Surrey County Council needs to be provided to secure this place.

(For eligibility please see: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/childcare-professionals/providing-free-early-education/providing-free-early-education-for-two-year-olds#>)

If your child was born between

1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023

We offer 15 hour funded places on a two and a half day split; either Monday full day, Tuesday full day and Wednesday morning OR Wednesday afternoon, Thursday full day and Friday full day.

For eligible parents we offer 30 hour free childcare places, for which a code from HMRC's Childcare Choices Website needs to be provided to secure this place. For eligibility please see: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

For further information and/or an Application Form, please contact:

Mrs C Purkiss. Business Manager
Telephone: 01932 563022 / Email: admin@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk

BOOK FAIR



The Book Fair is returning to Stepgates the week beginning Monday 13th April. Don't forget to come in after school and take a look.

Remember the more books you buy, the more free books we can get for our school.



ROCKSTEADY CONCERT

THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN HAVING SESSIONS WITH ROCKSTEADY WERE VERY EXCITED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS ON FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2026.

THE BANDS ALL GAVE A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE AND LOVED PERFORMING TO THE REST OF THE SCHOOL, STAFF AND PARENTS, WHO ALL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO ATTENDED.

DATES - 2025/2026

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April **Easter Holidays**



LAST DAY OF TERM

**SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1:00PM ON
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026**

**SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN ON
MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026**

UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER TERM 2026

**DURING MAY ASSESSMENTS FOR ALL CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE.
NO AUTHORISED ABSENCES WILL BE GRANTED DURING THIS TIME**

Monday 13th April	Children return to school
Monday 13th April	Book Fair this week
Monday 13th April	FOSS Happy School Bag 'Drop Off'
Friday 24th April	Hawks (Year 4) Class Assembly
Friday 1st May	Owls (Year 5) Class Assembly
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Friday 8th May	Falcons (Year 3) Class Assembly
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
Mon 1st - Fri 5th June	Year 6 Residential Trip
Monday 8th June	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 19th June	Ladybirds (Reception) Class Assembly
Friday 26th June	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July	Secondary School Induction Days - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Friday 3rd July	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

TERM DATES ACADEMIC YEAR - 2026/2027

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE 5 INSET DAYS WHEN THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO CHILDREN. THESE ARE:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Monday 26th July 2027
- Tuesday 27th July 2027
- Wednesday 28th July 2027
- **There will be one further INSET Day to add, which will be in June. This will be advised as soon as possible**

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - INSET Day - School closed

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Children in Years 1-6 start school

Friday 16th October 2026 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October 2026) - **Two weeks**

Monday 2nd November 2026 - Children return to school

Friday 18th December 2026 - Last day of Autumn term - Children finish at 1pm

(Christmas holidays - Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027)

SPRING TERM 2027

Monday 4th January 2027 - Children return to school

Friday 12th February 2027 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2027)

Monday 22nd February 2027 - Children return to school

Thursday 25th March 2027 - Last day of Spring term - Children finish at 1pm

(Easter holidays - Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027)

SUMMER TERM 2027

Monday 12th April 2027 - Children return to school

Monday 3rd May 2027 - Bank Holiday - School closed

Friday 28th May 2027 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027)

Monday 7th June 2027 - Children return to school

Friday 23rd July 2027 - Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

Monday 26th July 2027 - INSET Day - School closed

Tuesday 27th July 2027 - INSET Day - School closed

Wednesday 28th July 2027 - INSET Day - School closed

FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



FOSS SPRING DISCO

A wonderful time was had by all at this week's Spring Disco!

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and staff who helped and supported the event.

Your time and contribution are truly appreciated, and we are so grateful for everything you do.



HAPPYSCHOOLBAG CLOTHES COLLECTION

HappySchoolBag is an organisation that helps raise funds for schools and other charities by collecting unwanted clothes.

If you have recently had a sort out, or are planning a 'clear out' but have nowhere to take your unwanted clothes and items, look no further than here!

Please return filled bags to the collection point (school car park gates) on Monday 13th April between 8.00am and 9.00am and 3.00pm and 4.00pm.

Thank you for your support!