

STEPGATES SPORTS NEWS

Spring Term 2026

It has been another very busy and exciting term for Sport at Stepgates, and we are incredibly proud of all the children, especially those who have participated in competitive events. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this term; we look forward to having you join us for many more exciting sporting opportunities in the Summer Term.

Physical Education at Stepgates

This term, we have been able to participate in a wide range of sports in school, such as gymnastics, dance, ball skills, basketball, bench ball, hockey and badminton. We are now looking forward to the warmer weather so we can resume swimming lessons and make better use of our school field. We are also beginning to prepare for Sports Day, which is currently due to be held on the morning of 21st May (weather permitting), where we hope you will join us on the school field (further details to follow).

Clubs at Stepgates

We are delighted that we have been able to continue to expand our provision of clubs across the school. This term, the children have enjoyed dance and football and those in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are about to begin athletics training, ready for District Sports in the Summer Term. Club letters were sent home before Easter, and we are delighted to be able to re-offer some of our most popular clubs from previous terms, including netball and Infant ball games.



Panathlon



On Monday 2nd February, some of Robins went on a sporting trip to Cleves School to take part in a Panathlon Challenge. We left school just after 9am to get on the mini-bus to drive to Cleves 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.

Robins Class



Football News



League Results

Our Year 5 and Year 6 football teams have shown tremendous spirit throughout this season's Small Schools League, taking on teams from Thorpe C of E, St Charles Borromeo, Ongar Place, Sayes Court, St Cuthberts and Holy Family. For many of our pupils, this was their very first experience of competitive football, and they rose to the challenge with determination and a strong sense of teamwork.

Year 5 finished 5th overall, but the progress that they have made both in skill and in confidence has been amazing. Their resilience, enthusiasm and willingness to learn have been a real credit to them and us as a school. Year 6 secured a well earned 3rd place, demonstrating strong teamwork and steady improvement with every match. They've developed not just as players, but as leaders and role models for others.

Both teams should feel incredibly proud of themselves and their achievements this year. The commitment, sportsmanship and positivity they have shown on and off the pitch has been outstanding and we are excited to see how they continue to develop. We can't wait to welcome many of our current Year 5 players back next year and encourage the current Year 4 pupils to think about getting involved too. We are especially reaching out to girls in Years 4 and 5, as we hope to rebuild our mixed Year 5/6 girls football team in September.

Miss Aira and Mr Williams



Year 5 Football Tournament

On Thursday 26th March, our Year 5 football team took part in an exciting tournament hosted at Royal Holloway University. The mixed team of boys and girls faced two very strong opponents in the group stage and despite their best efforts, were unfortunately knocked out at this stage. However, we were able to organise some additional friendly matches against other schools and thoroughly enjoyed having some additional game time.

What stood out far more than the results, was the team's attitude. They represented our school brilliantly, showing determination, resilience and real bravery. For several children, this was their first ever tournament, and they rose to the challenge with confidence and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of every player who took part. Their teamwork, sportsmanship and positive spirit made them fantastic ambassadors for our school.



DANCE NEWS



**1st
place!**



ERPSSA DANCE FESTIVAL 2026

On Thursday 5th March 2026, Stepgates Dance Crew competed in the ERPSSA Dance Festival at Notre Dame School. Every year there is an overall theme; the theme for this year was 'A Moment in History'. Our dance was based on World War II, showing not one but many different stories; it demonstrates how families were separated, friends were parted and how stepping up to fight for your country felt!

When Dance Crew arrived at the festival, there were five other schools waiting to compete (including Notre Dame), Ongar's Headteacher gave us a preview of how the day was going to go - we also got informed as to when we were going to compete.

After a while, we got changed into our WW2 themed costumes, warmed up and ran through our routine before going into the dress rehearsal. We had a short amount of time, 10 minutes, to practice our routine on the theatre stage. Once everyone had completed their rehearsals, we made our way into the theatre - where everyone sat down. We then had a warm up which was led by Notre Dame's dance coach.

It was now time to perform! Our dance showcased every single one of our talents with daring, eye-catching tricks and intricate choreography! All the dances were very impressive and helped us understand moments in time, showing emotion and bravery; every dance put across a strong message. Everyone felt nervous hoping that they impressed the teachers (who were voting for their favourite dance).

In first place was...STEPGATES!



Overall, dance crew felt proud and relieved that all our hard-work throughout the weeks had paid off! We were very grateful for how supportive all the schools were. Thank you to all the teachers who supported us and made this all happen!

By Ellie and Shola (Kites Class)



Swimming

We hope to recommence swimming lessons from Monday 27th April, weather permitting. Please refer to the information letter sent home on Friday 17th April for full details and a complete kit list to ensure children are fully prepared.

A huge thank you to everyone who has kindly donated towards the maintenance of the pool, your support is greatly appreciated and supports us to keep this valuable resource running for the children.