

# Headlines

Issue 8 - 14.01.22



## 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. The children have settled back into school quickly and we are all looking forward to an exciting term at Stepgates.

As we continue to navigate our way around COVID-19 I would like to reassure parents/carers that the welfare/health of our children and staff remains our priority, with the main focus on keeping our children in full-time education and having enough staff to maintain this. As a result, however, due to the high levels of infection we are not currently planning external trips and whilst we will be holding Parent-Teacher Consultations after half term, the date and format for these has yet to be decided. Again, I would like to reassure parents/carers of my dedication and commitment to you, your child(ren) and my staff.

You should all be receiving Curriculum Information for this half term and further information will be available on the website for each class (Please refer to paragraph below regarding the website). 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.

### WEBSITE UPDATE

I am delighted to advise you that our new website is up and 'Live'. You may need to carry out a hard refresh (CTRL + F5 / CMD, SHIFT + R) when first visiting the URL to get the best first impression of our brand new design. We are very proud of the new site and hope you enjoy looking around. Please bear with us as we update and transfer information to the new website.

### STAFFING

Some of you may be aware that Mrs Payn, our Busy Bees teacher / Inclusion Leader & Head of Communication and Interaction Needs (COIN) Centre was unwell at the end of Autumn term. Sadly, following tests and investigations, Mrs Payn is now undergoing long term treatment and is likely to be off school for some time. We very much miss having her in school, and staff and children have sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

### COVID-19 TESTING

As you will be aware the rules have changed, and continue to change. From 11th January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19. Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed. Currently guidance remains unchanged if someone in the household tests positive for COVID-19. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

### CLUBS

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide variety of School Clubs to our children, both during and after school. Most of these are organised and run by Stepgates staff on a completely voluntary basis with one or two outside agencies adding to the selection of activities on offer.

The new Clubs Itinerary for Spring Term will be sent home shortly and clubs will start week beginning 24th January.

### ATTENDANCE

Well done to the 54 children who achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term.

You will be receiving a Red, Amber or Green Attendance letter for your child based on their attendance last term. Individual attendance for a child should be at least 95%; anything above this generates a 'Green' letter. Attendance below 90% generates a 'Red' letter as this is well below what is expected, and attendance between 90% and 95% generates an 'Amber' letter. These figures do not relate to whether the absences are authorised or not, they are based on overall attendance for the term.

**Mrs T Ford**  
Headteacher

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**ATTENDANCE**  
 Congratulations to Ladybirds Class for the best attendance for the last week of Autumn term and Butterflies Class for the best attendance last week.

	13th -17th Dec	5th-7th Jan
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	<b>94.0%</b>
Ladybirds	97.3%	89.3%
Butterflies	92.1%	97.3%
Grasshoppers	92.1%	95.3%
Falcons	96.8%	94.4%
Hawks	88.0%	93.8%
Owls	90.3%	93.7%
Kites	94.2%	94.6%

## Thank you

A huge thank you to Diego and Aaron Cavaco's mother, who very kindly donated three trays of bulbs to Stepgates for our school garden.

### HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Well done to the following children who have been presented with Headteacher Awards:

- ◆ Timon Buczak
- ◆ Jayden Painter
- ◆ Harry Atkinson
- ◆ Riley Wilkinson

### SCHOOL HARVEST COLLECTION 2021

Thank you to all parents who donated to our School Harvest Collection. Runnymede Foodbank would like to say a very big thank you.

*A Big* **THANK YOU**



**Stepgates Community School**  
 for your Harvest donation of **87.7kg of items**  
 to **Runnymede Foodbank**

Your donations make a **BIG** difference  
 to local people in crisis.

Runnymede foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank network.



Registered Charity Number: 1095763 | Registered in England and Wales

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### Is your child starting school in September 2022?

If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 you will need to apply for a school place by **15th January 2022**.

Apply online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions)

### COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



#### Paul McCartney - Born: 1942

Sir James Paul McCartney CH MBE is an English singer, songwriter, musician, and record and film producer who gained worldwide fame as co-lead vocalist and bassist for the Beatles. His song writing partnership with John Lennon remains the most successful in history.

### 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 - 2021/2022



### Spring Term 2022



Friday 11th February	Last day of term - Children finish at normal time
Mon 14th to Fri 18th February	Half Term
Monday 21st February	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 22nd February	Children return to school
Friday 1st April	Last day of Spring Term - Children finish at 1:00pm
Mon 4th to Mon 18th April	Easter holidays



### Summer Term 2022



**ASSESSMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING MAY; THEREFORE NO AUTHORISED ABSENCES WILL BE GRANTED DURING THIS TIME**

Tuesday 19th April	Children return to school
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Friday 27th May	Last day of term - Children finish at normal time
Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June	Half Term
Monday 6th June	Children return to school
Monday 20th June	INSET Day - School closed
Friday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1:00pm