

# Headlines

Issue 15 - 08.05.26



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

As mentioned in the last issue of Headlines, SATs tests for Year 6 will be starting the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Assessments will also be taking place in all year groups during the Summer Term. PLEASE make sure your child is in school every day so they do not miss any preparation work or tests. Year 6 are ready and raring to go with their SATs tests!! They have worked very hard with all the staff and we wish them 'Good Luck' - we know they will all do their very best and we will be proud of their achievements.

### HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to our previous Head Boy, Jackson S and Head Girl, Adewonuola O, Deputy Head Boy, Alfie J and Deputy Head Girl, Ruby B. All have been excellent role models.

Huge congratulations to our new Head Boy, Adam P and new Head Girl, Bella C, for this term. Congratulations also to our new Deputy Head Boy, Ezra N-F and new Deputy Head Girl, Daisy D. I am sure they will also be excellent role models in our school community.

### CLASS PHOTO

Class Photos are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Please ensure your child is smart and in full school uniform.

### FEELING GOOD WEEK

The week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May is 'Feeling Good Week', which will include a variety of activities for the children, including our annual Sponsored Splash event. We also have our Sports Day (weather permitting) on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Please see letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> May for further information, including timings.

### PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all parents who have completed the online questionnaire; I am delighted to say these have been very positive. Thank you! If you have not yet completed the questionnaire, it is not too late. Your feedback is always valued.

I would like to remind parents that if you do have any concerns, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance to discuss.

### MUFTI DAY

Thank you to all parents for supporting our Mufti Day today, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough. The children have had a fantastic day and all looked amazing in their nature themed costumes.

### THANK YOU

I would like to extend our gratitude and say a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Jackson-Eeles who have very kindly donated a piano to Stepgates Community School. This has been very well cared for by the previous owner and I know the children will also take good care of the piano. I have no doubt it will be well used!



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

**BIRD BOX 2026**

I hope you have all had an opportunity to view our Bird Box videos which can be found on our website in the Parents Section under Events & Achievements:

<https://www.stepgateschool.co.uk/>

We have waited for three years for the birds to use one of our bird boxes. Mrs White, with Mr Williams help, had installed a camera and have been eagerly checking throughout this time.

Finally, a family of Great Tits nested and moved in a few weeks ago. Mrs White has been keeping an eye on the family, and was very excited when she spotted eggs in the nest. The live feed has been beamed into the classes across the school and the adults and children were able to watch when the eggs hatched into chicks. The Great Tits are now very close to fledging!

It has caused great excitement throughout the school, especially for Mrs White, our own Mother Hen!

**SAFEGUARDING**

I would like to remind parents/carers that we do not allow the children to play on the 'trim trail', swing on the staircase railings, or climb any of the 'plant' structures in the playground before or after school, due to the serious risks involved. Please could I ask all parents/carers to ensure your child(ren) are supervised and that all children including siblings, remain with you at all times.

Please could I also ask parents/carers to refrain from allowing their child(ren) to use the MUGA before or after school; this is for use by staff during the school day only. Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this.

Please also don't forget bikes and scooters are not permitted on the school grounds.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

I have seen an increase in the number of children wearing trainers to school and would like to remind parents trainers are not permitted in school, unless your child is wearing their PE Kit or is taking part in Forest School sessions. I would like to see all children wearing black school shoes - no heels, trainers or boots are allowed. If there are exceptional circumstances, or you are experiencing difficulties, please contact your child's class teacher to discuss.

**Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher**

**ATTENDANCE**  
Congratulations to Ladybirds,  
Kites Classes for the best  
attendance in the last two  
weeks.

	20th-24th April	27th April-1st May
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>92.4%</b>
Ladybirds	97.3%	91.2%
Butterflies	93.0%	91.2%
Grasshoppers	93.9%	94.6%
Falcons	94.6%	90.6%
Hawks	93.2%	95.3%
Owls	85.6%	89.7%
Kites	97.3%	93.9%

# PROUD CORNER

## Well done to:

- ◆ Paisley J, Year 2 - Brownie Badges
- ◆ Isabelle HEK, Year 2 - Star of the Week for Gymfinity & Blackpool Dance Competition T-Shirt
- ◆ Evie WT, Year 1 - Award 3 for Swimming
- ◆ Max N, Year 1 - Football Trophy, Best Trainer
- ◆ Jesse C, Year R, Football Trophy Great Football
- ◆ Oscar H, Year R, Stage Coach Certificate
- ◆ Paige A, Year 3 - Blackpool Dance Competition T-shirt
- ◆ Bronte W, Year R - Blackpool Dance Competition T-shirt
- ◆ Dakota W, Year 3 - Blackpool Dance Competition T-shirt
- ◆ Mia N, Year 3 - Blackpool Dance Competition T-shirt
- ◆ Grace H, Year 3 - Blackpool Dance Competition T-shirt
- ◆ Wonu A, Year 6 - Blackpool Dance Competition T-shirt
- ◆ Layla W, Year 5 - Gymnastics Competition, 2nd Overall, 2nd in Volt and 3rd on Floor

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:

- Samuel V, Year 3
- Harvey B, Year 3
- Joseph W, Year 3
- Butterflies Class

## Hawks Class Assembly

On Friday 24th April, Hawks Class presented a class assembly all about the Spanish language. This was to celebrate National Spanish Language Day, which fell on 23rd April. In preparation for our assembly, we learnt all about the countries around the world where Spanish is officially spoken and couldn't believe how many there were! It was really interesting to look at different flags and explore similarities and differences in their colours and patterns. We also had lots of fun including some Spanish words and phrases that we have been practicing throughout the year in our weekly Spanish lessons. Finally, we chose to end our assembly with one of our favourite songs from 'Coco', which had both Spanish and English lyrics.

## OWLS CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May it was Owls Class assembly. The assembly was all about May Day. We had Maypole dancers who danced whilst holding and winding ribbons. There was also Morris Dancers who marched and danced whilst jingling bells along to music 'played' on an accordion by Lilly. We crowned our very own May Queen (Piper). We taught the children how important May Day is and we hope they will teach others in the future.

Written by Layla and Iris



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



### **Here comes the sun!!!**

**Now that the warmer weather has arrived, please could you make sure that you send your children into school with a water bottle and hat.**

**All KS1 children need to have sun cream applied before they come into school each day.**

**KS2 children can bring sun cream in and apply it themselves.**

### ARTIST OF THE MONTH



#### **Vincent Van Gogh**

(30 March 1853—29 July 1890)

Vincent Van Gogh was a Dutch Post – Impressionist painter, who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western Art. In just over a decade he created about 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings. They included landscapes, still life, portraits and self portraits. The paintings are characterized by bold colours and dramatic, impulsive and expressive brushwork.



Our Value for this  
Half Term is  
**Courage**



### COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



#### **Bill Wheelan**

( 22nd May 1950)

**Musical Genre: Irish Music**

Bill Wheelan is an Irish Composer and musician. He is best known for composing "Riverdance."

The music accompanies a new take on traditional Irish Stepdance that became a full length stage production.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

### **Tests Week!**

Please remember that the week commencing Monday 11th May Year 6 will be sitting their SATs tests. Assessments will also be taking place in all year groups during the Summer Term.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we cannot authorise any absences during May. Please ensure your child is in school every day.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

### **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](mailto:admin@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk)

# DATES - 2025/2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER TERM 2026


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

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May	SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) Week
Monday 18th May	Feeling Good 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	Kites Class (Year 6) Residential Trip
Thursday 4th June	Falcons Class (Year 3) trip to Haslemere Museum
Monday 8th June	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 9th June	Robins Class trip to RHS Wisley
Wednesday 10th June	Small Schools District Sports
Thursday 11th June	Owls Class (Year 5) trip to Kew Gardens
Monday 15th June	Kites Class (Year 6) to Guildford Cathedral
Monday 15th June	FOSS Father's Day Stall
Wednesday 17th June	FOSS Father's Day Stall
Friday 19th June	Ladybirds (Reception) Class Assembly
Friday 26th June	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Monday 29th June	Hawks Class (Year 4) trip to Chertsey Museum
Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July	Secondary School Induction Days - <b>(Please check with individual school for further details)</b>
Friday 3rd July	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
Saturday 11th July	Black Cherry Fair
Thursday 16th July	Celebration of Work Evening - 3:30-5pm
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm



## INSET DAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL  
 WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY  
 22ND MAY 2026 FOR AN  
 INSET DAY



## INSET DAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL  
 WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY  
 8TH JUNE 2026 FOR AN INSET  
 DAY

## **TERM DATES ACADEMIC YEAR - 2026/2027**

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

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2027
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2027
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 - INSET Day - School closed

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 - Children in Years 1-6 start school

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026 - Children finish at normal time for half term

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

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 - Children return to school

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

(Christmas holidays - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027)

### **SPRING TERM 2027**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027 - Children return to school

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2027)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027 - Children return to school

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

(Easter holidays - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2027)

### **SUMMER TERM 2027**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027 - Children return to school

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 - Bank Holiday - School closed

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027 - Children finish at normal time for half term

(Half Term - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2027)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027 - Children return to school

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

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2027 - INSET Day - School closed

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2027 - INSET Day - School closed

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2027 - INSET Day - School closed

# 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.*

**RUNNYMEDE RAPTORS BASKETBALL**

**FREE!**  
JUST TURN UP & PLAY!

**POP-UP PARK BASKETBALL**  
TASTER SESSIONS - COME, TRY & HAVE FUN!

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
AFTER SCHOOL

**4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**CURRENT**  
YEAR 2, 3, 4,  
5 & 6

**GOGMORE FARM PARK**  
CHERTSEY

**JOIN THE RAPTORS FAMILY!**

**LAUNCHING**  
OUR UNDER 8s &  
UNDER 10s GROUP  
SESSIONS!

**STARTING JULY 2025**  
AT **CHERTSEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
MORE DETAILS & REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

**BUILD SKILLS**  
MAKE FRIENDS

**HAVE FUN**  
STAY ACTIVE

**BE PART OF**  
SOMETHING GREAT

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES & MORE INFO

**RUNNYMEDE RAPTORS BASKETBALL**

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**Wild Cats**  
GIRLS' FOOTBALL

**Have Fun!**

The perfect way for girls aged 5-11 to get involved with football

📅 TIME AND DATE	📍 LOCATION	£ COST

**WHO WE ARE**

👉 **NEXT STEPS**  
head to [www.Englandfootball.com/wildcats](http://www.Englandfootball.com/wildcats) to book your first session, or contact us to find out more

**#LET GIRLS PLAY**