

Headlines

Issue 16 - 22.05.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It seems impossible that it is half term next week! I am very proud of all children who have completed their assessments, but especially the Year 6 children who have completed their SATs - their efforts and attitude to do the very best they can has been amazing.

I would like to thank all parents for ensuring the children were in school in time to enjoy breakfast and also my wonderful staff who continue to work tirelessly to support our children, but particularly to the many staff who offered their support to our Year 6 children/team last week. I was, once again, reminded of the wonderful community we have at Stepgates.

FEELING GOOD WEEK

What an exciting time the children at Stepgates have had this week. Each day, the children have taken part in many different activities, including 'Feeling Good Week' dance sessions on the playground during break/lunch and practising their PE events in mixed year groups.

I would like to say a very big thank you to you all for sponsoring the children in their 'Sponsored Swim', which will help raise money for our swimming pool roof. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the 'Sponsored Swim' for Years 1-6 was unable to take place; however, I am delighted to announce this will go ahead after half term when, hopefully, the weather will be warmer.

Today we finished 'Feeling Good Week' with our very popular Sports Day, which was a huge success. Thank you to all parents/carers and our whole school community for supporting this event and various activities throughout the week. We have had a wonderful week where we were able to join together across the school.

COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

I would like to remind parents/carers to continually check our school website for updates regarding upcoming events and activities (for example Class Assemblies; School Trips; INSET Days; Term Dates; FOSS Events): <https://www.stepgateschool.co.uk/>

The website contains a lot of useful and interesting information as well as useful links and much more.

You will also find Headlines, this newsletter, within the 'Parents' tab on the school website. As you will be aware this is circulated fortnightly and is our main tool for communicating within our school community.

We make every effort to update the 'Dates Section' as regularly as possible to ensure parents/carers are given as much notice as possible regarding some of our 'bigger events' where we are aware parents would like to attend; Sports Day for this academic year and Class Assemblies for Autumn Term, for example, were advertised in the Summer Term of last academic year. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to give exact timings as we are, occasionally, reliant on outside sources.

REMINDER - INSET DAY FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2026

Don't forget school will be closed tomorrow (Friday 22nd May) for an INSET Day.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the parents, children, governors, FOSS (Friends of Stepgates School) and staff who continue to show their support, commitment and dedication to Stepgates.

I hope that you and your families are able to have a restful half term and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 1st June 2026.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

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

	4th-8th May	11th-15th May
WHOLE SCHOOL	93.4%	94.8%
Ladybirds	99.2%	99.1%
Butterflies	92.1%	94.2%
Grasshoppers	92.8%	96.7%
Falcons	93.9%	93.0%
Hawks	92.3%	94.4%
Owls	90.4%	87.1%
Kites	92.4%	98.2%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ◆ Mason C, Year 3 - Top Goal Scorer & Squad Member Award
- ◆ Cameron H, Year 1 - Football Award
- ◆ Dakota W, Year 3 - Acrobatics, Acrobat of the Month
- ◆ Kit C, Year 1 - Football Tournament
- ◆ Delylah S, Year 2 - Gymnastics, 1st in Vault, 2nd in Floor, 3rd in Trampoline
- ◆ Florence H, Year 5 - Diamond Artwork & Writing Competition Certificate
- ◆ Summer S, Year 5 - David Attenborough Signed Book
- ◆ Alfie G, Year 3 - Football Trophy
- ◆ Ezra H, Year R - Football Trophy
- ◆ Ayla-Rose S, Year 4 - Gymnastics Medals Silver & Gold
- ◆ Dexter S, Year 4 - Football Tournament Medal
- ◆ Clay H, Year 4 - Football Tournament Medal
- ◆ Max P, Year 5 - Football Trophy For Winning A Tournament
- ◆ Ethan N, Year 3 - Football Trophy For Teamwork & Judo Belt for Star Of The Week
- ◆ Layla W, Year 5 - Writing Competition Certificate
- ◆ Lily B, Year 5 - Writing Competition Certificate
- ◆ Paige W, Year 5 - Writing Competition Certificate
- ◆ Lara C, Year 5 - Writing Competition Certificate
- ◆ Georgia R, Year 5 - Writing Competition Certificate

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:

- Alexa S, Year 6
- Jude R, Year 5
- Penelope DG, Year 4
- Ace F, Year 1
- Bella M, Year 1
- Vienna W, Year 1
- Zach G, Year 1

Well Done!

A very well done to all children who received a Well Done Certificate for this half term.

Keep up the good work!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Falcons Class Assembly

On Friday 8th May it was Falcons Class assembly. The assembly was about V.E.Day. We spoke about how life was very different for children during the war so when Winston Churchill announced it was over, everyone celebrated with dancing, music and street parties. We also spoke about the importance of remembrance and choosing kindness. We ended the assembly with a performance of "We'll meet again."



WHOLE SCHOOL CATERPILLAR PROJECT



Our butterflies have fully grown, and have 'flown the nest'! This successful project across school has seen pupils engage with learning about the life cycle of these beautiful species, over the last five weeks. Seeing them grow from tiny caterpillars to fully formed adult butterflies has been exciting, and has created a starting point for lots of cross-curricular learning for all age groups.



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.



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

Our Value for this
Half Term is




Courage

DATES - 2025/2026


UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER TERM 2026

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
Friday 12th June	Busy Bees Class trip to Look Out, Bracknell
Monday 15th June	Kites Class (Year 6) to Guildford Cathedral
Monday 15th June	FOSS Father's Day Stall
Tues 16th & Wed 17th June	Butterflies Class (Year 1) Parents Evening (Rearranged from earlier in the term) - Further details to follow
Wednesday 17th June	FOSS Father's Day Stall
Thursday 18th June	FOSS Meeting 6pm
Friday 19th June	Ladybirds (Reception) Class Assembly
Friday 19th June	FOSS Crazy Hair Day
Thursday 25th June	Kites Class (Year 6) trip to Harry Potter, Warner Bros Studio
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 - (Please check with individual school for further details)
Friday 3rd July	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
Saturday 11th July	Black Cherry Fair
Tuesday 14th July	Kites Class (Year 6) Production (Afternoon & Evening Performance) – <i>Further details to follow in due course</i>
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 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



On Monday 18th May 2026 FOSS took delivery of a Happy School Bags Clothing Donation Bank. The Clothing Bank is situated in the School car park just by the gates on the left hand side.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING VIA CLOTHING DONATIONS



DROP IN TEXTILE BANK ON SITE

SUPER SIMPLE, BAG UP YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES AND DONATE INTO THE TEXTILE BANK



CLOTHING DONATION BANK
Donate Here

Thank You

Recycle clothes to raise funds and invest into your school

We accept:

- ✓ Adults and children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes
- ✓ Handbags, belts, hats, jewellery

We do not accept:

- X NO SCHOOL CLOTHING
- X NO WET/RIPPED/SOILED/UNWEARABLE CLOTHING

Need to contact us?
www.happyschoolbag.co.uk / 0170 868 5071
info@happyschoolbag.co.uk / 0800 242 5838