

# Headlines

Issue 17 - 12.06.26



## MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a busy start to this half term. Our Year 6 children had a wonderful time on their residential trip to the Isle of Wight last week, as you will see from the lovely photographs on Page 4 of this newsletter.

### CELEBRATION OF WORK OPEN EVENING

You are warmly invited to our Open Evening on Thursday 16th July between 3:30-5:00pm, when you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's report, see some of the work the children have completed this year, as well as saying 'Goodbye' to this year's teacher and 'Hello' to their new teachers.

### STAFFING

Staffing in September will be similar to this year and, whilst I am still working on the finer details, I am confident I will be in a position to update you on staffing for the next academic year shortly.

However, in the meantime, I am very sad to announce that Mrs Bywater will be leaving Stepgates at the end of this term, as she is moving out of the area to start a new chapter in her life. Mrs Bywater has been part of the Stepgates team since January 2024 and is a highly valued member of staff, who will be greatly missed by staff and children. Whilst we are very sad to be losing Mrs Bywater, we would like to wish her 'good luck' in her new, very exciting, journey

### FOSS EVENTS

FOSS have been very busy organising a variety of events for the children to enjoy during the last few weeks of this academic year, including their first ever Colour Run on Friday, 3rd July, which will be instead of the Summer Fair. Please see below for a 'timeline' of their upcoming events.



## FOSS 2026 SUMMER TERM PLANS!



Dates for your Diaries



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

**HAPPY SCHOOL BAGS CLOTHING DONATION BANK**

If you have recently had a sort out, or are planning a 'clear out', but have nowhere to take your unwanted clothes and items, don't forget FOSS took delivery of a Happy School Bags Clothing Donation Bank on 18th May. The Clothing Bank is situated in the School car park, just by the gates on the left hand side.

**SMALL SCHOOLS DISTRICT SPORTS**

On Wednesday (10th), 40 children from Years 3-6 travelled to Excel in Walton-on-Thames to take part in the Small Schools District Sports Competition. This event is covered in more detail in our Sports Newsletter which will be sent home later this term; however I would like to extend huge congratulations to all children who attended as they all tried their best and performed superbly.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who supported the children on the day.

It will be a busy, but exciting, half term and I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity. Your commitment and dedication to the children of Stepgates Community School is very much appreciated.

**Mrs T Ford  
Headteacher**

**ATTENDANCE**  
Congratulations to Falcons and Kites Classes for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

	18th-22nd May	1st-5th June
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>92.1%</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
Ladybirds	93.6%	92.1%
Butterflies	90.9%	91.7%
Grasshoppers	93.9%	93.9%
Falcons	95.8%	92.1%
Hawks	94.9%	94.1%
Owls	82.7%	89.4%
Kites	92.4%	97.6%

# PROUD CORNER

**Well done to:**

- ◆ Grayson S, Year 2 - Football - Best Defender Third Place.
- ◆ Sonny S, Year 3 - Football - Tackling & Saving Skills
- ◆ Sebbie H, Year 5 - Club Camp Badges
- ◆ Logan W, Year 5 - Club Camp Badges
- ◆ Penny T, Year 1 - Swimming Stage 2
- ◆ Dexter S, Year 4 - Tournament Trophies, 2nd Place
- ◆ Kit C, Year 1 - Football - Great Tackling

**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:

- Piper C, Year 4
- Annabelle HEK, Year 2

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### FALCONS CLASS TRIP TO HASLEMERE MUSEUM



Falcons has time travelled back in time to begin their exploration of Ancient Egypt . We had the privilege to visit Haslemere Museum where we learnt all about Egyptian times, how mummification was carried out and many more amazing facts. The children also mummified their own toy to take home. It is a truly wonderful museum full of so many interesting artefacts that we all want to go back!

### ROBINS CLASS TRIP TO WISLEY GARDENS

On 9th June, we set off by minibus for an exciting day at Wisley Gardens and what a fantastic day it was! From the moment we arrived, the children were eager to explore.

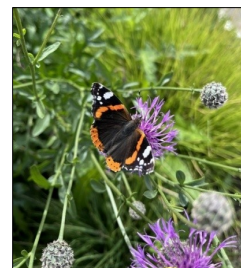
We headed straight to the Glasshouse, where we discovered an amazing variety of plants from warm, tropical environments, including beautiful orchids and unusual aloes. The highlight for many was the surprise of the mist spraying - there were lots of giggles as we were caught in it!

Afterwards, we explored more of the gardens and stopped to admire the 'Dancing Hares' sculpture, where Mrs Muller captured some lovely photographs. As we continued our walk, we reached the lake, where we spotted ducks, fish, and even a majestic heron standing proudly on the island in the middle.

Crossing two bridges, we made our way to the picnic area to enjoy lunch. The children then had great fun letting off some energy in the adventure playground.

In the afternoon, we climbed up to RHS Hilltop, taking in the stunning views across the gardens. Along the way, we walked through the beautiful bonsai and rose gardens. At the top, we had a well-earned rest and were delighted to be treated to a lollipop each, much to everyone's excitement!

Although we did a lot of walking, the day was full of fun, laughter, and discovery. In fact, the children enjoyed it so much that they didn't want to leave and all said they would love to return very soon!



## YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT



On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Kites Class went on a residential to PGL Little Canada on the Isle of Wight. We began the first part of our journey by coach to Portsmouth, where we spent some time on the beach before boarding the hovercraft. After a 10 minute journey, the hovercraft arrived at Ryde, where we took another coach to PGL, Little Canada, which is in Wootton Creek.

After having our packed lunch, the adventures began! First, it was climbing, followed by a beach walk. We were surprised to have more activities after dinner every night and our first evening was Giant Cluedo.

We woke up the next morning (after a good night's sleep in our log cabins) to an early 7:15am breakfast – which was absolutely delicious – cooked and cold choices! The rest of the week followed a similar timetable, with two activities before lunch, two before dinner and an evening activity – every day! Some of these were: Giant swing, Sensory trail, Jacob's ladder, Laser tag, Zip wire, Survivor, Buggy building, Archery, Trapeze, Aeroball, Abseiling, Kayaking, Fencing, Vertical challenge and Campfire – it was a jammed packed programme full of fun and adventure!

We all had an amazing time!

**Written by: Joey, Onur, Aine and Martha**



## YEAR 6 ACTIVITY WEEK

Whilst the majority of Kites Class went to the Isle of Wight, the rest of us stayed at school for an exciting activity week. We were allowed to come in to school every day in our own clothes and didn't have any normal lessons! We had such fun doing



a range of activities, such as: arts and crafts, tie dyeing, a visit to Woking Park, a trip to Costa, bell ringing at St Peter's Church, a barbeque and games, swimming, Forest school and movies.

We all had a great week!

**By Rose and Amber**



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### ARTIST OF THE MONTH

#### CLARICE CLIFF



(Born 20th Jan 1899 - Died 23rd Oct 1972)

Clarice Cliff was a revolutionary English ceramic artist who defined the Art Deco era. Born in Stoke on Trent, she rose from a working-class apprentice to one of the 20th century's most influential pottery designers, famous for her bold, brightly coloured and highly collectible wares.

Cliff left school at 13 to work as a gilder in the local pottery industry, painting gold lines on traditional ceramics.

Over 5 million pieces from her Bizarre range were sold during in the height of her popularity.

### COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

#### Ludvig Van Beethoven



(Born 17th Dec 1770 - Died 26th Mar 1827)

Ludvig Van Beethoven was a German composer, conductor and pianist. Mentored during the Classical period, Beethoven's musical style was a key driver of the transition to Romantic music, and the expansion of popular forms such as the symphony and string quartet. His compositions have attracted casual and scholarly interest, and remain among the most performed in the world.

Beethoven best works span a variety of musical forms. His crowning achievement is the Symphony No.9 in D minor "Choral".

Beethoven started losing his hearing in his late 20's (around 1798). Despite his hearing loss being virtually complete by age 44, he composed some of his greatest masterpieces - including the Ninth symphony - by relying on his innate musical imagination and physical vibrations.

The Value we are learning about this half term is...



### Integrity

### REMINDER

**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.**



# DATES - 2025/2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER TERM 2026

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	MUFTI Day for Stepgates 'Bottle Tombola' at the Black Cherry Fair
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
Friday 3rd July	FOSS 'Colour Run'
Thursday 9th July	Grasshoppers Class (Year 2) trip to Legoland
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>
Wednesday 15th July	Butterflies Class (Year 1) trip to Milestones Museum
Thursday 16th July	Celebration of Work Evening - 3:30-5pm
Friday 17th July	FOSS Break the Rules at Stepgates Day
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 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



# FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



A selection of gifts will be available for your child to purchase as a gift for that special person in their life.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

The gift shop will take place during school hours.  
Please send money in the week before to ensure the shop is fully stocked.  
Any money received after Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June will be returned.

Please enclose the correct funds (£3.50 per gift) in a sealed envelope to the school office stating on the front the **child's name/class/who the gift/s are for** or use the form below if you have access to a printer



## Next FOSS meeting

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June  
@ 6:00pm,  
Shared area at school

Everyone and anyone welcome!



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Wear your favourite crazy hat or hairstyle for the day.

*Thank you!*



# CRAZY HAIR OR HAT DAY





*Thank you!*



To celebrate our first ever **Colour Run** event (more information to follow), each year group is being asked to 'own a colour' and organise a Colour Hamper as part of a school raffle.

Please see below your year group colour and some inspiration for you. Any non-perishable items are welcome. Sweets, biscuits, shower gel, cosmetics, household items... the possibilities are endless!

Please hand in by **Monday 22nd June**

<b>Sunbeams</b> 	<b>Ladybirds</b> 	<b>Butterflies</b> 	<b>Grasshoppers</b> 	<b>Falcons</b> 	<b>Hawks</b> 	<b>Owls</b> 	<b>Kites</b> 
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# 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.*

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THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

THE  
**ADDAMS  
FAMILY**  
— THE MUSICAL —

**AUDITIONS**

HORSHAM & GODALMING

STEP INTO THE WONDERFULLY WEIRD WORLD OF THE ADDAMS FAMILY

GODALMING CAST	HORSHAM CAST
<b>AUDITION DATES</b> Tuesday 14th July 2026 Tuesday 21st July 2026	<b>AUDITION DATES</b> Thursday 16th July 2026 Thursday 23rd July 2026
<b>VENUE</b> Godalming (Venue TBC)	<b>VENUE</b> Bohunt School, Horsham

**REHEARSALS**  
W/C 14th September 2026 – W/C 8th February 2027  
7:00pm – 9:00pm

**SHOW WEEK**  
W/C Monday 8th February 2027

**BOOK YOUR AUDITION**

hello@encoretheatreproductions.com

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