

Headlines

Issue 19 - 17.07.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Yet again, the end of term has arrived all too quickly, and I can hardly believe that we are almost at the end of another school year.

Congratulations must go to all of our children for the progress and attainment they have made this year, both academically and personally. They should be extremely proud of all they have achieved. The staff continue to do a fantastic job in supporting and encouraging every child to be the very best they can be, and the excellent progress seen across the school reflects not only the hard work and determination of the children themselves, but also the commitment and dedication of everyone in our school community.

The Year 6 children have now visited their new schools and continue to make preparations for their move to secondary school. On Tuesday, they presented their end-of-term production, *Grossbusters: A Monster Musical*, which was phenomenal! I am sure there were many proud parents in the audience, and perhaps even a few tears. We wish them all the very best as they move on to the next stage of their education and hope they will stay in touch as they grow into happy, confident, and successful young people.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful FOSS team and all who joined us for the Black Cherry procession on Saturday 11th July.

This year the theme was Myths and Legends and, with this in mind, FOSS decided to bring it back to our local roots and highlight Chertsey's very own Blanche Heriot, a legendary heroine who lived in the 1400's during the War of the Roses. I am delighted to announce Stepgates won 'Best Float Overall!' Congratulations to all involved in this fantastic achievement! Whilst there were many people who contributed to this success, special thanks must go to Jodie Flynn for all her hard work on the FOSS float over many years.



I am also delighted to announce that, on Friday 10th July, the children of Kites Class were excited to receive a visit from the Mayor of Runnymede, who presented them with a certificate for achieving third place in the Runnymede Tallest Sunflower Competition.

Well done Kites!

INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

As promised, I am pleased to advise you that the final INSET Day for next academic year has now been set for Monday 7th June 2027. (Please see Page 5/6 for all five INSET Days for 2026/2027).

All year groups will finish school at 1:00pm on Wednesday 22nd July 2026. Children in Years 1-6 will return to school on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 8:45am **prompt** (doors open at 8:40am). Our new Reception and Nursery children have been advised separately of their starting arrangements.

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

As this will be the last newsletter for this academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the following:

- * Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers. When I take a moment to reflect on the many ways in which you support Stepgates, I am always incredibly grateful. Whether it is donating bottles for the Black Cherry Fair, raising sponsorship money for the Colour Run and Big Splash, providing cakes for the Macmillan Coffee Morning, or contributing to the various Mufti Days held throughout the year, your generosity consistently shines through. The list of your contributions is extensive, and every donation, no matter how big or small, helps to enrich the experiences and opportunities we can offer our children. Your continued support and generosity are truly appreciated and are never taken for granted. Thank you for all that you do for our school community.
- * Thank you to the children, who remain happy and engaged. I am delighted with their behaviour and positive attitudes to learning.
- * Thank you to all Governors who continue to devote their time, expertise, and commitment to supporting Stepgates. Your dedication plays a vital role in helping our school community thrive.
- * I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our amazing FOSS team, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the children are able to enjoy many fantastic activities throughout the academic year. These include Gift Shops for Mother's Day, Father's Day and 'Elfridges', Break the Rules Day and, of course, their very first Colour Run, which was a tremendous success and raised a total of £4761.15!
- * And finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to my wonderful staff for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the children of Stepgates Community School. Their unwavering support and care make a real difference every day, and I am truly grateful for everything they do.

I would like to wish you and your families a restful Summer break. I hope you remain safe and well and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school in September. (Please see Pages 5/6 for a list of dates already in the school diary for next academic year; including our Whole School Trip to Birdworld on Thursday 17th September for Years 1-6).

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher



Stepgates Colour Run 2026

Stepgates hosted their inaugural Colour Run on Friday 3rd July 2026 and a fantastic time was had by all! Again the sun was shining for us as pupils and parents alike took to the field, navigating the colour run obstacle course wearing their finest goggles and shower caps! Everyone was doused from head to foot in colour!

A huge thanks to the army of volunteers including parents, grandparents, community members, governors and teachers who made the day possible. A SPECIAL thanks to our very own Mr Williams for his incredible support on the day!

An incredible **£4,761.15** was raised, vital funds that will go directly back into equipment and experiences for the children.

Thank you!



PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ♦ Max P, Year 5 - Silver Badge Cubs & Farnham Town FC Tournament
- ♦ Lara C, Year 5 - 1st Place Gymnastics
- ♦ Lily B, Year 5 - Stagecoach Certificate 2 Yr Award
- ♦ Paisley J, Year 2 - Most Improved Medal, Cheerleading
- ♦ Ella T, Year 2 - Team Spirited Medal, Cheerleading
- ♦ Florence H, Year 5 - Gymnastics Level 4 Routine & 1st Place Medal
- ♦ Penny T, Year 1 - Gymnastics Competition, 2nd Place Medal
- ♦ Olive BC, Year 1 - Stage One Swimming & Level 1 Gymnastics
- ♦ Sapphire B, Year 1 - Cheerleading Trophy & 1st Place Medal
- ♦ Crystal B, Year 3 - Cheerleading Trophy & 1st Place Medal
- ♦ Isla-Rose S, Year 4 - Gymnastic - 2nd Volt, 1st Bars, 2nd Floor, 2nd All Round

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:

- Ace F, 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!

GRASSHOPPERS CLASS ASSEMBLY

The Summer Class Assembly from Grasshoppers was the perfect opportunity to show our friends and families all the wonderful learning we have done this year in Science about plants. We enjoyed talking about the facts we know and then finished the assembly with a song and some actions. At first, we felt a little nervous but throughout the year we have become confident performers and we really enjoyed ourselves!

GRASSHOPPERS CLASS TRIP TO LEGOLAND

Grasshoppers Class had a fantastic time at LEGOLAND on Thursday 9th July! We went to the Education Centre to create some amazing sculptures based on our knowledge of the continents and oceans, then we had some free time to explore the park and enjoy some rides! We really enjoyed ourselves and it was great to see some familiar sights in MiniLand as we ventured around the park. What a fabulous way to end our time in Year 2!

Butterflies Class Assembly

On Friday 3rd July, it was Butterflies Class assembly all about the history of the seaside. They told us about family days out in times gone by, from rock pooling to eating sticks of rock and penny licks.

The children showed us how a lady would use a bathing machine in the early 1900's and taught us all about the cheeky characters in Punch and Judy shows.

Not only did the children present their assembly with clear and confident speaking they also performed a wonderful version of 'Oh I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside' by composer John H, Glover-Kind accompanied with some fantastic dancing!

Well done Butterflies Class on a fun, informative and uplifting assembly!

ROCKSTEADY CONCERT



THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN HAVING SESSIONS WITH ROCKSTEADY WERE VERY EXCITED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS ON FRIDAY 10TH JULY 2026.

THE BANDS ALL GAVE A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE AND LOVED PERFORMING TO THEIR PARENTS, WHO ALL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO ATTENDED.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Kites Class Trip to Warner Bros Studio Tour: Harry Potter



On Thursday 25th June, Kites Class went to Warner Bros Studios, London. Firstly, we went into the tour where we watched a short documentary of Harry Potter, where the actors told us about what it was really like behind the scenes. Then, we all went into the Great Hall (where the Sorting Hat ceremony took place). Then they opened the doors into Gryffindor common room, where we also saw the boys' dorms and the Slytherin common room. Next, we got a live demonstration of the Quidditch match and how it was actually filmed in the movie.



After that, we went into a green screen room and sat on the Quidditch broom (it was really cool!). Then we went to Platform 9 3/4 and went onto the train. We were able to walk through each carriage! After all these really fun activities, we got an opportunity to go into the gift shop and buy a souvenir that would remind us of our amazing trip. Overall, we had a really fun day at Harry Potter.

By Wonu and Aine.

HAWKS CLASS TRIP TO CHERTSEY MUSEUM

On Monday 29th June, Hawks Class visited Chertsey Museum on a school trip. We went to the museum to learn all about the Romans, which is our current History topic. We were split into groups.

Some of us had to explore the museum and find the symbols of different Roman Gods and Goddesses. Other groups made Roman Temples, drew and looked at Roman artefacts and others were looking at the Roman displays in Runnymede. We got to swap around so that everyone had a go at each of the activities. Lots of us particularly enjoyed taking part in drama activities. We also got to make wax writing tablets and clay pots and even had a go at writing in Latin!

We really enjoyed our time at the museum and had a lot of fun.

Written by Hawks Class.

Butterflies Class Trip to Milestones Museum

On Wednesday 15th July, Butterflies Class visited Milestones Living Museum in Basingstoke as part of their history learning.

The children enjoyed playing games from the year 1897 such as hopscotch, skipping and tiddly winks. They also had an important role in organising toys from the 1940's to the 2000's and finding teddies from a collection of 250 to prepare orders for the toy shop.

After lunch the children were very excited to be given some old-fashioned pennies to spend on the pier where they played arcade games and watched puppet shows from the olden days.

The day was completed with a tour around the museum, exploring old homes, shops and transport. This was topped off by a story in a restored Victorian tram. It was a fantastic trip, enjoyed by all and made even more special by the children's excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement. Thank you to the parents and staff who supported us on this very special trip!

DATES - 2025/2026

Wednesday 22nd July

Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm

Have a lovely Summer Holiday!!



Don't forget school re-opens for Years 1-6 on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 8:45am prompt (doors open at 8:40am).



Our new Reception and Nursery children have been advised separately of their starting arrangements.

DATES - 2026/2027

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2026

Tuesday 1st September	INSET Day - School closed
Wednesday 2nd September	Children in Years 1-6 start school
Monday 7th September	'Meet the Teacher' Meetings this week (Date & time for each class to be advised)
Thursday 17th September	Whole School Trip (Years 1-6) to Birdworld
Friday 18th September	Kites (Year 6) Class Assembly
Wednesday 23rd September	Individual School Photographs
Friday 25th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Friday 2nd October	Owls (Year 5) Class Assembly
Friday 9th October	Hawks (Year 4) Class Assembly
Mon 12th & Tues 13th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Friday 16th October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 19th Oct to Fri 30th Oct	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
Friday 6th November	Falcons (Year 3) Class Assembly
Friday 13th November	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Friday 27th November	Butterflies (Year 1) Class Assembly
Friday 18th December	Last day of Autumn Term - Children finish at 1pm
Mon 21st Dec to Fri 1st Jan	Christmas Holidays

DATES - 2026/2027

SPRING TERM 2027

Monday 4th January	Children return to school
Friday 12th February	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb	Half Term
Monday 22nd February	Children return to school
Thursday 25th March	Last day of Spring Term - Children finish at 1pm
Fri 26th March to Fri 9th April	Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2025

Monday 12th April	Children return to school
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Monday 10th May	SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) Week
Friday 21st May	Sports Day (Weather Permitting)
Friday 28th May	Children finish at normal time for half term
Mon 31st May to Fri 4th June	Half Term
Monday 7th June	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 8th June	Children return to school
Friday 23rd July	Last day of Summer term - Children finish at 1pm
Monday 26th July	INSET Day - School closed
Tuesday 27th July	INSET Day - School closed
Wednesday 28th July	INSET Day - School closed



INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

For the 2025/2026 Academic Year there are 5 INSET Days when Stepgates Community School will be closed to children. These are:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Monday 7th June 2027
- Monday 26th July 2027
- Tuesday 27th July 2027
- Wednesday 28th July 2027

FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



We are excited to launch our textile bank clothing collection scheme to help raise valuable funds for the school.

Donations of unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories can make a real difference to our pupils while also helping the environment through recycling and reuse.

Every bag donated helps support school resources and activities.

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**



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.

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