

Headlines

Issue 01 - 11.09.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to welcome you all back for a new school year. I hope you had a wonderful summer. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their families joining Stepgates this term. The children have settled in very well with their new class teachers, and I am looking forward to a happy and successful year working together. Thank you for your continued support, which makes such a difference to your child's education at Stepgates.

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you, on behalf of all the staff at Stepgates, for the thoughtful cards and gifts we received at the end of last term. It is always sad to say goodbye to children we have worked closely with as they move on to a new class or school. However, it is wonderful to know that they leave with such happy memories of their time at Stepgates and take those memories with them as they continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you to all parents who are taking the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher during our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, which are taking place over the next two weeks. It is always a pleasure to welcome you into school and to strengthen the partnership between home and school. If you are unable to attend, there will be another opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher later this term during our Parent-Teacher Consultation Evenings, which will take place on Monday 12th October and Tuesday 13th October.

STAFFING

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Kallenbach, our new Year 4 teacher, and Miss Murgia, who has joined us as a Learning Support Assistant. We are delighted to have them both at Stepgates, and I am sure they will soon feel very much a part of our school community.

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL POLICY REGARDING EMAIL RESPONSE TIMES

If you are corresponding with a member of teaching staff by email, please be aware that emails may not be checked daily due to teaching responsibilities. As a result, it may take up to one week for a response.

If your enquiry is urgent, please contact the School Office by telephone or visit the School Office in person during the morning. This will ensure that your concern can be addressed as quickly as possible.

WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP (YEARS 1-6) TO BIRDWORLD

Next week, on Thursday 17th September, we are looking forward to our much anticipated Whole School Trip to Birdworld for children in Years 1 to 6. During the visit, the children will have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of bird species and learn about their habitats, behaviours and adaptations for survival, as well as enjoy the many other exciting attractions on offer.

All children should wear their PE kit and bring a packed lunch in a named carrier bag. Please note that fizzy drinks and chocolate are not permitted.

I would like to say a huge thank you in advance to all the parents who have kindly volunteered to help on the day. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps to make opportunities such as these possible for our children.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We are delighted to invite all parents/carers and younger siblings to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September. Come along to the School Hall from 9:00am, after dropping your child off at school, and join us for tea/coffee and cake, while helping to raise money for the fantastic work of Macmillan Cancer Support. We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes, which can be brought into school on Thursday 24th September. Any cakes remaining after the Coffee Morning will be available to purchase at the end of the school day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and generosity. We look forward to welcoming you and raising funds for this very worthy cause. (Further details will follow)

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

On Friday 18th September we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day. If your child would like to participate in this great campaign, which supports children with Genetic disorders, they should come to school wearing their school shirt, tie, jumper/cardigan with jeans/jean shorts/jean skirts/jean dungarees/jean hairband/anything jean related and trainers/shoes. This is an awareness day - no donation required.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA REMINDER

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to remind parents about our Social Media Policy, particularly in relation to WhatsApp groups. If you have any concerns or questions regarding school practices, procedures or your child's experience at school, please speak directly with a member of staff. This allows any issues to be addressed quickly, appropriately and effectively. While WhatsApp groups can be a useful way for parents to communicate with one another, they are not the appropriate forum for raising or resolving school-related concerns.

Please see below for guidelines around Stepgates Community School Social Media Policy:

The school encourages all members of the community in the same responsible and respectful use of social media that is taught to pupils. All matters regarding the school are to be communicated via appropriate channels so that they may be dealt with fairly for all concerned. Parents/carers are reminded to use existing structures when making any complaint about the school or a member of staff. If at any time during the child's time at Stepgates Community School, a parent wishes to make a complaint, then they are advised to follow the school's Complaint Policy and Procedures which can be found on the school website. We recommend that all parents and carers refrain from using social networking sites to discuss sensitive issues about the school.

Abusive, libellous or defamatory comments on social media (including WhatsApp Groups etc.) regarding the school, staff or pupils will be reported to the site's 'report abuse' section, or School's Admin Team, for immediate removal. Procedures on how the school will deal with such issues are outlined in The School's Social Media Policy, Appendix A: What to do if a complaint is made on Social Networking by a Parent or Carer.

If you are attending a school event, parents and carers are welcome to take photographs and film their own children. However, we kindly ask that these images or recordings are not shared publicly, including on social media, in order to respect the privacy of all members of our school community. If you have any genuine concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me directly.

I would also like to remind parents that smartphones are not permitted in school. Whilst we understand that some families may provide a phone for their child for safety or communication reasons outside of school hours, Stepgates Community School made the decision to ban smartphones back in September 2025 following a noticeable increase in issues related to inappropriate use, including messages within 'chat' groups or unkind posts on social media platforms about other students and students threatening to harm others/take their own lives, and more concerning, the sharing of indecent images/videos. Although Stepgates have provided information regarding 'safeguarding dangers' and have spoken with our children regarding the dangers quite clearly, I do appreciate they are your child(ren) and it is your decision whether you give them a phone of any type in the first instance, and, if so, what type of phone it is. Therefore, ultimately, it is your responsibility and teachers will not be addressing any phone issues at school. In recent years phone incidents have had a huge impact on social interaction and wellbeing, even among our younger pupils. Please note the following:

- Children must not bring smartphones to school.
- If a child is found with a smartphone phone, it will be held in the school office and must be collected by a parent or carer.
- If your child genuinely needs to bring a phone for use after school (e.g. walking home alone), in such cases, phones must be handed into our office staff upon arrival and collected at the end of the day.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

At Stepgates, we love to celebrate our children's achievements and successes, both in and out of school. Has your child recently achieved something special in gymnastics, horse riding, football, swimming, learning a musical instrument, Cubs, Brownies or any other activity? If so, we would love to hear about it!

Children are welcome to bring in a certificate, medal, trophy or photograph showing them taking part in their activity. We will be delighted to celebrate their achievements with the whole school during our Friday assemblies. Sharing these successes helps to inspire others and recognise the many talents of our wonderful pupils.

SPECIAL AWARDS

In our final assembly on Wednesday 22nd July, we were delighted to present our annual awards for Outstanding Pupil of the Year Group, Outstanding Achievement during the year and our termly Governors' Awards for consistent effort, achievement and contribution to school life, as well as Outstanding Sportsmanship and Arts.

Congratulations to all of the children who received awards and to every pupil for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. For further details, please see pages 3 and 4.

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

UNIFORM

I would like to thank all parents for sending the children back to school looking so smart and ready to learn. They are a credit to both their families and the school. Please can you ensure that children wear the correct school uniform, including appropriate footwear, at all times. High standards of presentation help to foster a sense of pride in our school and prepare children for the expectations of the next stage of their education.

Please make sure that all clothing, shoes and belongings are clearly named, as this makes it much easier for lost items to be returned to their owner. If you still need to purchase any uniform items, these can be ordered online: <https://www.sportsofaddlestone.co.uk/> or telephone 01932 849333.

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. Clubs for Years 1-6 will start the week beginning 14th September.

I look forward to another successful year and to working closely with you in the months ahead. Together, we can continue to provide the very best opportunities and support for our children, helping them to thrive both academically and personally.

Mrs T Ford, Headteacher

PROUD CORNER

SUMMER TERM GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

I am delighted to announce that the following children were presented with Governors' Achievement Awards for their achievements in Summer term:

Infants

Charlie W (Yr 2) - For excellent leadership skills .
Maya B (Yr 2) - For a consistently positive attitude towards her learning.

Juniors

Adam P (Yr 6) - For his fantastic attitude to learning, increased confidence and no-nonsense approach to trying new things.
Rose M-B (Yr 6) - For her incredible resilience, increased confidence and overall kindness.

Sporting Achievement Awards were presented to:

Grayson O (Yr 2) - For resilience and working hard on his application of skill even when things are tough.
Ivy R-N (Yr 2) - For outstanding skill and supporting others to make progress in their sports journey.
Chace H (Yr 6) - For developing an excellent sense of sportsmanship and for supporting his team mates.
Aine A (Yr 6) - For her contribution to and huge improvement in dance technique and performance.

The Arts Awards were presented to:

Haruki M (Yr 2) - For skills in musicality and dance.
Bella M (Yr 1) - For outstanding effort in Art, not only does she work hard and listen to instructions, but she also uses her creativity to produce wonderful work, especially her interpretation of Van Gogh's Sunflowers.
Adewonuola O (Yr 6) - For excellence across all Arts discipline, demonstrating skill and leadership.
Jackson S (Yr 6) - For incredible talent across the Arts, particularly Arts and Dance.

Congratulations to these children for their hard work and enthusiasm.

PROUD CORNER

YEARLY GOVERNORS' ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children for their hard work and enthusiasm:

Outstanding Pupils Award

Hunter E-F (Year R)

Sapphire B (Year 1)

Lucy W (Year 2)

Finn L (Year 3)

Alfie H (Year 4)

Alfie P (Year 5)

Romeo I (Year 6)

Outstanding Achievement Award

Infants

Ella T (Year 2)

Juniors

Ellie J (Year 6)

Cappiello Cup For Reading

Alexa S (Year 6)

Taylor Cup For Attendance

Bella C (Year 6)

Penny Wise Cup For Swimming

Evie R (Year 6)

Ray Lowther Award For Outstanding Citizenship

Mrs Jodie Flynn — For her outstanding contributions to Stepgates Community School.

Well done to:

- ◆ Grace U, Year 4 - Top Golf Medal & 25 metre Swimming Badge
- ◆ Alfie G, Year 4 - Beaver Shield
- ◆ Lottie J, Year 1 - Rainbows First 3 Badges
- ◆ Oscar H, Year 1 - Stagecoach Certificate
- ◆ Georgia W, Year 6 - Green Belt Teakwondo
- ◆ Bradley F, Year 5 - Green Belt Teakwondo
- ◆ Penelope DG - Year 5 - Sports Camp Medal

Thank you for sharing your success with the children at our
Whole School Assembly.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH

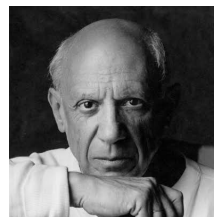


John Williams

John Williams was born the 8th February 1932. He is an American composer and conductor. Over his seven decade career, he has composed many of the best known scores in film history. John Williams has won 27 Grammy Awards, 5 Academy Awards, 7 BAFTA Awards, 3 Emmy Awards and 4 Golden Globe Awards.

John Williams most famous and iconic scores are: Star Wars (1977), Jaws (1975), Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981), ET (1982), Jurassic Park (1993) and Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone (2001).

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Pablo Picasso
(25 October 1881 - 8 April 1973)

Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter and sculptor. He is probably one of the most important figures of the 20th century, in terms of art, and the art movements that occurred over this period.

Pablo's famous paintings include Guernica, Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J. version O), and Weeping Women. Pablo's career spanned more than 76 years from his late teens to his death in 1973.

Our Value for this
Half Term is



Collaboration

**STEPGATES COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH

(Further details to follow)

**ALL PARENTS
WELCOME**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

We welcome all prospective parents to visit our wonderful school.
Our Open Morning and Open Evening tours will be held on the following dates:

Open Mornings

Wednesday 7th October - 9:30am

Thursday 8th October - 9:30am

Tuesday 13th October - 9:30am

Open Evening

Tuesday 10th November

Between 5pm and 7pm (Last tour: 6:30pm)

Please contact the school office either by telephone (01932 563022) or email (events@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk) to book a space. (If emailing, please specify which date you would prefer and provide a contact telephone number).

All visits must be booked in advance

Is your child in Year 6?

If your child will reach the age of 11 between 1st September 2026 and 31st August 2027, they will be due to start secondary school in September 2027.

You can **apply** for a secondary school place **from 1st September 2026**.
The **closing date** for on-time applications for secondary schools is
31st October 2026

Apply online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

Is your child starting school in September 2027?

If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 you will need to apply for a school place between **2nd November 2026 and 15th January 2027**.

Apply online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

DATES - 2026/2027

UPCOMING EVENTS - AUTUMN TERM 2026

Thursday 17th September	Whole School Trip (Years 1-6) to Birdworld
Friday 18th September	Kites (Year 6) Class Assembly
Friday 18th September	Jeans for Genes Day
Wednesday 23rd September	Individual School Photographs
Friday 25th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 29th September	Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church
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

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 2027

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