

Headlines

Issue 02 - 25.09.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

On Thursday 17th September, Years 1 to 6 enjoyed a fantastic whole-school trip to Birdworld. The children had a wonderful opportunity to see an amazing variety of birds, including macaws, flamingos, penguins, lovebirds, pelicans, owls and toucans.

This was a fantastic trip, filled with memorable experiences, and was thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and staff. We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who offered their help on the day and to the children, who were outstanding ambassadors for the school during the trip; their behaviour was exemplary! (Please also see Page 4 for highlights of the trip).

FOLLOW STEPGATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Don't forget to follow Step gates on Instagram and Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest news, events and wonderful things happening across our school. We regularly share photographs, celebrations, reminders and highlights from school life, so it's a great way to stay connected and see what our children have been enjoying and achieving.



<https://www.instagram.com/stepgatescommunityschool>



<https://www.facebook.com/StepgatesCommunitySchool/>

Additionally, as we start a new academic year, I would like to remind all parents/carers to take a look around our website (www.stepgatescommunityschool.co.uk) which contains lots of useful information. This is updated regularly and includes our Upcoming Events, as well as Latest News, INSET Days, Term Dates, our school newsletter, Headlines, useful links and much more.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS

Late collection of children: I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers of the importance of collecting children promptly at the end of the school day. It can be upsetting for children to be left waiting after their classmates have gone home, particularly when they are unsure of the whereabouts of their parent/carer.

I fully appreciate that, on occasion, unforeseen circumstances may result in you being delayed; however, it is essential that you contact the School Office as soon as possible to let us know.

As teaching staff have professional commitments after the school day, any child who is not collected on time will be taken to our after-school club, The Burrow, where the usual charge will apply.

Playground safety before and after school: I would like to remind all parents/carers that, for safety reasons, children are not permitted to use the Trim Trail, swing on the staircase railings or climb on any of the plant structures in the playground before or after school. These activities present a serious risk of injury when the areas are not being supervised by school staff.

Please ensure that your child(ren), including younger siblings, remain with you and are appropriately supervised at all times while on the school grounds.

We would also like to remind parents/carers that children should not use the MUGA before or after school. This area is for supervised use by staff and pupils during the school day only.

Finally, please remember that bikes and scooters must not be ridden on the school grounds.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and continued support in helping us to keep all of our children safe, both at the end of the school day and while on the school grounds.

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

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

I am delighted to congratulate our newly appointed Head Boy, Matthew F, Head Girl, Ella C, Deputy Head Boy, Ene A and Deputy Head Girls, Isabella HEK and Florence H. This is a wonderful achievement, and I am incredibly proud of them for taking on these important roles within our school community. I am confident they will be fantastic role models, representing the school with pride, kindness and enthusiasm, and I look forward to seeing them flourish in their new roles. Well done and congratulations to you all!

JEANS FOR GENES DAY

On Friday 18th September, we were delighted to support Jeans for Genes Day, which raises awareness to support children and families affected by genetic disorders. A huge thank you to all the children who wore denim and helped us support this fantastic cause!

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers for your cakes and donations towards our Macmillan Coffee Morning today. Your continued support and generosity is very much appreciated by the staff at Stepgates and, of course, the children.

If you would still like to make a donation it is not too late; please follow the online Just Giving link to the FOSS fundraising page:

[Will you donate to Stepgates Macmillan Coffee Morning 2026?](#)

HARVEST FESTIVAL REMINDER

To celebrate Harvest, the children of Stepgates Community School will be taking part in a special service at St Peter's Church on Tuesday 29th September.

This year, we are collecting non-perishable items to create gratitude baskets for local doctors and nurses, as a small gesture of thanks for the care and support they provide to so many within our community.

If you are able to contribute, we would be very grateful for any voluntary donations of non-perishable items. Please send these into school with your child by Monday 28th September. Further information can be found in the separate letter dated 11th September.

We would also like to warmly invite all parents/carers to join us for the service at St Peter's Church. We very much look forward to sharing this special community celebration with you and your children

ATTENDANCE

This year we are aiming for whole school attendance above 95%. Congratulations to all classes who have achieved this over the last two weeks. Hopefully we can all avoid the bugs and seek to keep up the good attendance for the rest of this term.

	7th-11th September	14th-18th September
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.2%	93.8%
Ladybirds	90.1%	93.2%
Butterflies	96.1%	98.2%
Grasshoppers	95.6%	95.0%
Falcons	96.8%	95.0%
Hawks	97.2%	89.7%
Owls	96.9%	94.9%
Kites	92.4%	90.9%

**Mrs T Ford
Headteacher**

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ♦ Dexter S, Year 5 - Football Trophy and Medals
- ♦ Oscar H, Year 1 - Beavers Badges
- ♦ Archie M, Year 5 - Sports Camp Trophy, Dodge Ball Trophy and Football Medal

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



School Council - 2026-2027

Our School Council plays a key role within their classes and across the school. The children become School Councillors by being voted for by their classmates to be their School Council representatives for the year. They have a range of roles across the school. As well as helping with fundraising both for our school and selected charities, they are also the spokespeople for ensuring the children's views and opinions in our school are heard. They achieve this by sharing any issues, questions or ideas, with Mrs Ford, Headteacher, as well as other staff across the school.

Congratulations to this year's School Council representatives:

Butterflies Class – Oscar H and Lottie J

Grasshoppers Class – Jackson K and Bella M

Falcons Class – Frankie L-C and Annie D

Hawks Class – Kohaku L and Crystal B

Owls Class – Bradley F and Isla-Rose S

Kites Class – Logan W and Georgia R

Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you for the very kind donation of a football/pool table for our children to use in The Burrow, our wraparound provision for Stepgates children.

The children are absolutely loving playing with it already!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Whole School Trip to Birdworld

On Thursday 17th September 2026, Stepgates Community School had their annual whole school trip. This year, it was to Birdworld! We were very excited, as we had been doing lots of learning about the birds there and their natural habitats. We had also been learning about conservation and biodiversity, so this made the trip even more relevant. During our visit, we saw so many birds such as; Macaws, Flamingos, Penguins, Lovebirds, Pelicans, Owls, Toucans and so many more! They were all very unique and some were incredibly beautiful - some were even a bit smelly! We were lucky enough to see the penguins being fed, where a wild heron also arrived uninvited and the keeper said that it lands there every day to join in and have some breakfast! The parrots were very chatty and some of them repeated what we said. Not only did we get to see hundreds of species of birds, but we also got to play in the 'bird baths', where we used our problem-solving skills to fill various containers with water via different routes. We also went in the Mary Anning hut, where we could dig for fossils. At the end of the day, we all played in the Tree Top Adventures, which was a huge, awesome play area, with lots of climbing ladders, swings and huge slides! We had an awesome time!

By Kites Class.

Kites Class Assembly

On Friday 18th September, Kites Class presented the first class assembly of the academic year. This was based on our Whole School Themed Week: 'Guardians of the Earth' and linked to our whole school trip to Birdworld, where we not only learnt about birds, but what we can do to protect the environment so that they can continue to thrive. The assembly started with some dance and gymnastics, which was based on a piece originally performed by Stepgates Dance Crew in 2024 where we took first place for our performance entitled, 'How Dare You' and was about climate change. We then presented lots of important and memorable facts that our audience could relate to, and this included a poem about the small things we can do to help our planet. We ended by singing Michael Jackson's 'Heal the World' which we chose because we thought it was appropriate and would encourage the audience to reflect on our message.

Thank you to everyone who supported us by coming to watch.

By Kites Class

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

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
Monday 9th November	Book Fair this week
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

FOSS NEWS AND EVENTS



EASYFUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Friends of Stepgates School?

There are over 4,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Etsy, Just Eat, Screwfix, eBay, Argos, Asda and Sainsbury's; the list is huge and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- 1. Join.** Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stepgates/> and sign up for free.
- 2. Shop.** Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- 3. Raise.** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of Stepgates School will be really grateful for your donations.



Turn Your Old Clothes Into New Opportunities for Our Children!

We are excited to invite all parents, carers, families, and friends to take part in our Textile Bank Clothing Collection Scheme — an easy way to support our school while helping the environment. Every bag of donated clothing helps raise valuable funds that will go towards improving resources, activities, and opportunities for our pupils.

We accept:

* Adults and children's clothing * Paired Shoes * Fashion accessories * Handbags, Belts Hats, Scarves
* Jewellery, * Perfumes

We don't accept:

Dirty, Damaged, Wet Clothes; Uniforms; Underclothing; Toys; Books; DVD's; CD's; Duvets; Pillows;
Household linen; Carpets; Blankets; Curtains; Bric-a-Brac.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

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.



BOYS FOOTBALL

2 Day October Camp

WHAT?
Technical development/1st touch/receiving the ball.
Team games / combinations / 3v3, Defensive techniques and understanding.
Finishing & 4 aside transitions – attacking and defending.

WHERE?
3G Pitch
ABBAY RANGERS FC
Addlestone
KT15 2QH

WHEN?
Wednesday 28th October
Thursday 29th October
(8.30am – 4.00pm)

AGE?
Under 5 (Reception)
Under 6 (Year 1)
Under 7 (Year 2)
Under 8 (Year 3)
Under 9 (Year 4)
Under 10 (Year 5)
Under 11 (Year 6)

DAILY COST?
£35.00



In partnership with






M:07825 089500

E: tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk





GIRLS FOOTBALL COURSE

Thursday 29th October 2026

Venue:- Abbey Rangers Football Club (KT15 2QH)
Times:- 8.30am – 4.00pm
£35.00 Daily

Designed for girls of all abilities aged between 5yrs to 13yrs!



If you would like further information or would like to book a place for your daughter to attend please kindly contact Tom on 07825 089500 or email tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk

- ☐ Playing in a fun, challenging & safe environment.
- ☐ Meeting new friends that have an interest in football.
- ☐ Develop technique, speed, tactics & improve skills & confidence.
- ☐ Professional FA qualified coaching.
- ☐ 3G Pitch and use of clubhouse.


