

Headlines

Issue 03 - 09.10.26



MESSAGE FROM MRS FORD, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It seems impossible that it is almost half term - where do the weeks go?! It has been a great start to the new school year and I am delighted the children, and parents, have been able to participate in a range of exciting activities, including our Macmillan Coffee Morning, Jeans for Genes Day, 'Meet the Teacher' Meetings and our Harvest celebrations.

We already have many exciting events and activities planned after the half term break, including the very popular FOSS Autumn Disco on Wednesday 4th November.

Thank you to all the children in Kites Class who were outstanding ambassadors for the school during our Prospective Parents Open Mornings on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th. We have a further Open Morning scheduled for Tuesday 13th October.

Our Year 6 children welcomed our visitors and conducted tours of the school. Once again, the feedback from prospective parents was extremely positive, with many commenting on how impressed they were by our children's excellent behaviour and how friendly, polite and welcoming they were. Well done Kites! (We will also be holding an Open Evening for prospective parents on Tuesday 10th November between 5pm and 7pm - Last tour 6:30pm - Places must be booked in advance).

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival celebrations have been a wonderful success again this year. On Tuesday, 29th September, children from Reception to Year 6 walked to St Peter's Church, where they took part in our Service of Thanksgiving, performing a wonderful selection of Harvest songs and readings.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for their generous donations of non-perishable items for our Gratitude Baskets. These were presented to Ashford & St Peters Charity during our Harvest Festival and gratefully received on behalf of our local doctors and nurses as a token of our appreciation for all that they do.

Thank you also to all the parents and carers who kindly offered their support on the day. Your help is, as always, very much appreciated.

PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATION MEETINGS

A reminder to all parents and carers that our Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings will take place next week, on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October.

We will follow the same format as previously, with face-to-face appointments held in the School Hall.

These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements, discuss their progress and consider how we can continue to support their learning together. If you are unable to attend your appointment, please contact your child's class teacher.

As we reach the end of another busy half term, and as this is our final issue of Headlines before the break, I would like to thank our Governors, FOSS (Friends of Stepgates School), staff, parents/carers and children for the wonderful support, commitment and dedication they continue to show to Stepgates.

It is the contribution of everyone within our school community that makes Stepgates such a very special place, and your continued support is always greatly appreciated.

Children finish school at the normal time on Friday 16th October. In the meantime I would like to wish all our children and families a happy, restful and enjoyable half term break. I hope you have the opportunity to relax and enjoy some special family time, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Stepgates on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Mrs T Ford
Headteacher



Attendance Matters

Regular attendance and punctuality are incredibly important to your child's education, progress and wellbeing.

We completely understand that children do become unwell and sometimes absence is unavoidable. If your child is unable to attend school, **please contact the school office as soon as possible** and provide supporting evidence, such as a doctor's note or prescription, where appropriate.

Please remember:

- Unexplained absences may be recorded as **unauthorised**.
- Holidays taken during term time without authorisation will be recorded as **unauthorised absence**.
- Unauthorised absences will lead to a **penalty notice referral** in line with attendance requirements.

Being on time matters too. Persistent lateness affects your child's attendance and their learning.

Stepgates is required to follow the attendance requirements set by Surrey Attendance Service. We always aim to work with our families in a supportive and understanding way, but we must also ensure that attendance procedures are followed consistently.

If you are experiencing difficulties that are affecting your child's attendance, **please speak to us. We are here to help.**

Thank you for your continued support in helping every one of our pupils to get the most from their education. Let's support each other and work together to make the next term our best yet.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Butterflies and Kites Classes for the best attendance in the last two weeks.

	21st-25th September	28th Sept-2nd Oct
WHOLE SCHOOL	94.3%	94.2%
Ladybirds	92.9%	85.9%
Butterflies	98.5%	96.7%
Grasshoppers	96.3%	96.3%
Falcons	92.9%	95.6%
Hawks	95.0%	95.6%
Owls	95.4%	92.6%
Kites	89.1%	97.1%

PROUD CORNER

Well done to:

- ♦ Archie L, Year 5 - Football Medal & Certificates
- ♦ Ellie-May S, Year 5 - Karate Competition Certificate
- ♦ Ivan K, Year 1 - Swimming Medal
- ♦ Dexter S, Year 5 - Scuba Diving Certificate
- ♦ Penny T, Year 2 - Gymnast of the Month Trophy

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:

- ♦ Hariprasadh G, Yr 1
- ♦ Charlie B, Year 1
- ♦ Hunter EF, Year 1
- ♦ Bronte W, Year 1
- ♦ Evelyn C, Year 1
- ♦ Blake G, Year 3
- ♦ Mia N, Year 4
- ♦ Summer T, Year 5
- ♦ Bradley F, Year 5
- ♦ Toby E, Year 5 X 2
- ♦ Lenny B, Year 5
- ♦ Aaliyah O, Year 5
- ♦ Lilly B, Year 6
- ♦ Matthew F, Year 6
- ♦ Isabella HEK, Yr 6 X 2
- ♦ Paige W, Year 6
- ♦ Georgia W, Year 6
- ♦ Mikey CF, Year 6
- ♦ Sebbie H, Year 6

OWLS CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Friday, it was Owls Class Assembly. We talked about Black History Month and learned about three inspiring people.

First, we sang a song about Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. We learned how he worked to make the world a fairer place for everyone.

Next, we talked about Rosa Parks and how she bravely refused to give up her seat on a bus. Her actions helped to bring about change and inspire others.

Finally, we shared information about Mary Seacole and how she cared for soldiers during the Crimean War. We learned about her famous saying: "A wounded man is a wounded man," which showed that she helped anyone who needed care.

We really enjoyed sharing what we had learned and hope everyone enjoyed our assembly.

WRITTEN BY OWLS CLASS

Harvest Festival at St Peter Church

On Sunday, some of the children in Years 5 and 6 went to St Peter's Church to join in with their Harvest Festival. We said prayers that we had written and sung 'My Lighthouse' and 'Shine, Jesus, Shine.' We all had a lovely time.

WRITTEN BY OWLS CLASS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Stephen McMennamy
(Digital)

(Born 25th September 1972)

Stephen was born in Georgia, US. He is a digital artist, his art involves skilfully merging two seemingly unrelated photos to create a single, amusing image that often plays with scale, perspective, and context.



His work has been commissioned by Apple, Hermes, Callaway Golf, Instagram and HSBC.

COMPOSER OF THE MONTH



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(Classical)

(Born 27th Jan 1756 - Died 5th Dec 1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a classical composer and musician. He was born in Salzburg and it emerged that he was a child prodigy under the training of his father Leopold. At the age of 5, he was already competent on keyboard and violin.

He completed more than 800 works in his life. Some of his most famous compositions are Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Horn Concerto no 2 E Flat, Symphony No. 40.

Sadly he passed away at the age of 35, leaving The Requiem composition unfinished.

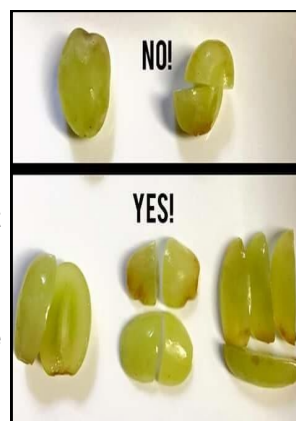
If you are sending your child in with a packed lunch containing grapes, please read the following carefully

Did you know whole grapes are a dangerous choking hazard for babies, toddlers and young children?

Grapes can be a healthy treat for young children, but they're also the third most common cause of death among children who die in food-related choking incidents.

Due to the size, shape and texture of grapes they can be hazardous for small children, whose airways can get blocked when they try to swallow them. Unfortunately, a lack of awareness of this danger has led to severe choking and even deaths in youngsters as the usual first aid procedures are less likely to work.

To prevent any problems, slice grapes in half - or ideally quarters - lengthways. Cutting them this way makes them thinner so they're able to pass through small windpipes more easily. Grapes cut in half along the width can still get lodge in children's throats so this should be avoided at all times.



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

Mon 12th & Tues 13th October	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings
Friday 16th October	Children finish at normal time for half term
Friday 16th October	FOSS Sweet C one Sale
Mon 19th Oct to Fri 30th Oct	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
Wednesday 4th November	Year 6 Junior Citizen
Wednesday 4th November	FOSS Autumn Disco
Friday 6th November	Falcons (Year 3) Class Assembly
Monday 9th November	Book Fair this week
Friday 13th November	Kites Class (Year 6) Evacuee Day
Friday 13th November	Grasshoppers (Year 2) Class Assembly
Monday 16th November	Owls Class (Year 5) to Chertsey Museum
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



Stepgates Autumn Disco

Wednesday 4th November

Infants: 3:20 – 4:30pm Juniors: 4:45 – 6:00pm

Tickets: £5 per child | Additional siblings: £4.50 each
Includes entry to the disco, a bag of sweets, an ice pop, a drink and a glitter tattoo

How to Buy Tickets

Friday 16th October from 3:15pm in the infant playground
Or give correct change in a named envelope (with class name) to the office or posted in the red box by reception.
Please note: no physical tickets. Names are added to a list. No money in school bags please.

Infants Infants go directly from class to the disco and are collected at 4:30pm from the infant playground by the hall doors. Please put a change of clothes/ costume if dressing up in their school bag.	Juniors Juniors can be dropped off and picked up from the school hall doors in the infant playground.
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FOSS Prizes!

There will be prizes for: Best Dressed and Best Dancer!

Turn Your Old Clothes Into New Opportunities for Our Children!



Our New Outdoor Bank Scheme!

Easy, Convenient, Effortless!

CLOTHING DONATION BANK
Donate Here
THANK YOU

Happy School Bag accepts:

- Adults and children's clothing
- Paired shoes
- Handbags, belts, hats, jewellery
- Toiletries, perfumes
- Souvenirs, unwanted gifts

Recycle for funds & invest into your school

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.

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.

TA SPORTS
GIRLS FOOTBALL COACHING

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Supported by Nike Teamwear

FREE TASTER SESSION AVAILABLE
Come along, meet the coaches & experience a session. No commitment.

MONDAY GIRLS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Our Girls Football Development Centre was launched in 2021 and provides unparalleled expertise in Girls Football Coaching for U7 – U11 players.

Abbey Rangers FC
3G Pitch
KT15 2QH

Monday
5pm - 6pm

U7 – U11 PLAYERS

Sessions are offered to girls that have desire to learn & improve, develop confidence, decision making & physical performance.

WHAT WE DO

- Fun football experiences for girls aged 6-11 years old.
- Improve knowledge, speed, technique & tactics in 1v1 scenarios.
- Develop new skills & tools to be effective in 1v1 situations.
- Improve decision making & develop confidence through midfield & final thirds to beat opponents.

BOOK YOUR FREE TASTER

Tom Arnold - 07825 089500
tom@tasportscoaching.co.uk
Follow me @tasportslimited

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT