Giving every child the chance to shine
Generosity
Determination
Confidence
Trust
Positivity
Compassion
Respect
PUPILS
PARENTS AND CARERS
STAFF
GOVERNORS
COMMUNITY

School Newsletter 19.06.2026

Headteacher's Update

What a fantastic week it has been here at Steeple Claydon School!

It was certainly a week to remember for our Year 6 pupils, who attended their residential visit to Youlbury. Over three action-packed days, they took part in a huge range of activities including climbing, the giant swing, orienteering, axe throwing and so much more. They have undoubtedly created memories that will last a lifetime. If you haven't already, do check out our social media pages for all the photos from the trip. A huge thank you goes to the staff who generously gave up their time (and sleep!) to make the visit possible. Year 6 - you are all legends!

On Tuesday, a group of Year 3 and 4 children represented the school brilliantly at a Rounders Festival. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the event and were proudly presented with their certificates in assembly today.

Wednesday saw the first of our transition sessions for the summer term. In addition to our whole-school transition day in July, we provide several opportunities for children to meet their new teachers and become familiar with their new classrooms. This is particularly important for our youngest learners. Our Preschool children spent the afternoon in the Reception classroom and were absolutely fantastic! They introduced themselves confidently, explored their new environment with curiosity and showed great enthusiasm throughout the session. We look forward to welcoming all children to further transition sessions over the coming weeks.

On Thursday, twelve children from Years 5 and 6 began their Bikeability course. After spending some time developing their skills on the playground, they headed out into the village to put their learning into practice. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience while developing important life skills.

Today was a real highlight for me. Following the success of our FUDGE Morning earlier in the year, we held our first MAGEE Morning. It was wonderfully attended, with mums, aunties, grans and other family members joining us in classrooms to create, craft and make alongside the children. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the morning such a success. The presentation from the event is now available on the school website.

A few other important updates from this week: I recently shared our new Relational and Positive Behaviour Policy. This policy reflects our commitment to building strong relationships with children and families, while clearly outlining the expectations we have for behaviour across the school. If you haven't had an opportunity to read it yet, please do take a look.

Looking ahead, next week is another very busy one!

Most children will be taking part in assessment week, completing reading, writing and mathematics assessments to showcase the fantastic progress they have made this year. Year 2 pupils will also be completing their KS1 SATs.

On Monday, we welcome St Michael's Church into school to deliver an assembly. Tuesday brings even more visitors, with a rail safety assembly taking place and Bucks Radio coming in to interview some of our Year 2, 3 and 4 children. We also have our second Preschool-to-Reception settling-in session from 9:00 - 10:30am. To round off the day, Mrs Tapping and I will be meeting our new Reception parents from 5:00 - 6:00pm - leaving plenty of time for everyone to get home for the football! We hope to see many of you there.

Thursday is Sports Day, and you'll find all the information you need later in this newsletter. Then on Friday, we will be holding a MUFTI Day in exchange for a prize donation for the Summer Fete tombola.

As you can see, this term is packed with opportunities and exciting events. There is certainly a lot going on, but I can honestly say that Steeple Claydon School is a very fun place to be right now!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr Sperring

Link to the school calendar

https://www.steepleclaydonschool.com/calendar/?calid=1&pid=6&viewid=2

Year Group Updates

Preschool

What an exciting week we have had in Preschool!

This week, we have been learning all about the incredible adventures of Ernest Shackleton and his famous expedition to Antarctica. The children were fascinated to hear how Shackleton and his crew became stranded in the icy wilderness and how he bravely led them to safety. To help us imagine just how cold Antarctica must have been, the children explored ice cubes and discussed the freezing conditions Shackleton experienced. We also enjoyed creating our own meals inspired by some of the places he travelled on his remarkable journey.

Our learning has been full of fun and exploration! The children have been carefully balancing Antarctic animals on ice, developing their concentration and coordination skills. They have also loved making "ice creams" with foam, practising scooping, sharing resources, and taking turns with their friends.

To support our hand-eye coordination, we used fishing rods to catch fish from our tuff tray ocean. The children showed fantastic determination and perseverance—although it must be said that Miss Harding took nearly twice as long as some of the children to catch any fish!

We also became scientists this week as we investigated which objects float and which sink. The children tested a variety of everyday items and learned some wonderful new scientific vocabulary. There were plenty of surprises along the way, with many children amazed to discover that an apple floated on the water while a tomato sank to the bottom! We made some fantastic predictions and celebrated lots of exciting discoveries.

A reminder that Sports Day will take place on Thursday 25th June, please arrive before 9:30 as we aim to start promptly. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the day's activities. We are looking forward to an action-packed day filled with fun, teamwork, and opportunities for everyone to have a go!

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Reception

Another week seems to have come and gone in a blink of an eye, it must be true that time flies when you are having fun, and this certainly is the case in Reception class!

The sun has been shining, meaning the children have spent muck of their time outside. There has been den building, dinosaur painting, Kings and Queens role play and lots of sea creature water play - which has linked well with our vehicle text - ‘The Storm Whale’. The children also enjoyed a trip to the natural area on Wednesday afternoon as I welcomed our new Reception cohort into the classroom for their first transition session.

In our topic work we have been learning about the Coronation, we enjoyed watching a short video clip of the Coronation of King Charles III and listened to the iconic choralanthem 'Zadok the Priest'. The children were particularly interested in the moment he had the crown placed on his head. So we decided to create our very own versions of the St Edward's Crown.

In literacy we have started planning and writing our example text; 'Noi and the Whale'. I was so pleased to see that all the children were able to have a go at writing their own phrases and sentences, a huge achievement for some of our children! I was amazed at their understanding of sentence structure, even recognising and explaining the use of an exclamation mark and a question mark!

In maths we have been recapping counting to 20, using the different strategies we have learnt this year to ensure they were able to accurately count larger groups of objects.

A huge thank you to Mrs Durrant for her donation of Stickle Bricks, which have proved to be hugely popular with our children, who have used their imagination to build some fantastic creations.

Thanks to all our families who attended the MAGGIE morning. Everyone had great fun creating their Father's Day gifts and the children are looking forward to giving them to their special person on Sunday.

We have been busy preparing for our Early Years Sports Day which is at 9.30am on Thursday 25th June. Please remember this year parents are required to participate so please wear suitable footwear and with the predicted hot weather I would recommend you bring a drink and wear a sun hat. Children need to come to school dressed in their PE kit, with a full water bottle and a sun hat and sun cream already applied. I look forward to seeing you there.

Year 1

We have had a busy and productive week in Year 1. In science, we investigated bicycles, exploring the suitability of different materials for making them and learning about the history of the Dunlop company, who invented the rubber tyre. In English, we started our new class text, "The Last Wolf," and the children used their knowledge of traditional tales to make predictions about the plot. During art, we explored the work of Edgar Degas and used clay to sculpt our own seated figures. In PE, we continued our sports day preparation and practiced our throwing technique using our new foam javelins. Finally, it was lovely to see so many of you join Year 1 this morning; the children had a brilliant time and it was super to see how excited they were to have you in our classroom!

Year 2

We are coming to the end of Week 3 already, and what a busy and creative week it has been in Year 2.

In Maths, we have been revising our learning on addition, subtraction and division. We first learned these skills in Autumn 1, so it has been a really useful chance to revisit the basic strategies that help us. The children have been partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones, using a number line, exploring how a 100 square can help with adding and subtracting ones and tens, and using Base 10 to support their calculations. As always, the children are encouraged to show their working out so that they can explain which strategy they have chosen and why.

A real focus at this point in the year is knowing times tables and number bonds to 10 and 20 confidently. Lots of extra practise at home this weekend would be hugely beneficial.

In English, the children have been completing their invention narrative texts, and I have been so impressed by their imagination and enthusiasm. We have had some fantastic ideas, including a bird identifier, a cheese ball launcher, a wooden bike, a security robot, and many more wonderfully inventive creations. It has been lovely to see the children's creativity shine through in their writing.

In Science, we have been learning about the different phases of the Moon and why the Moon appears to change its shape. The children have enjoyed exploring this topic and asking some thoughtful questions.

This week also saw the completion of our beautiful watercolour self-portraits. The children added a motif in the background to represent something special to them, such as a hobby or an image they liked. The finished artwork looks fantastic, and the results really are amazing.

In History, our Powerful Voice this week has been Malala Yousafzai. We learned about how she spoke out publicly in her birth country of Pakistan and powerfully argued that girls have just as much right to an education as boys. Her courage and determination were inspiring for us all.

I will end this week's newsletter with Malala's powerful words:

"One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world."

Year 3

This week, in English, the children have really enjoyed and have work very hard on writing their environment letters. In maths, the children have been working hard in our statistic lessons. In history, the children have continued to enjoy learning about the Anglo-Saxons. In computing, the children enjoyed creating algorithms to make a pencil “Sprite” draw. The highlight of the children’s week was when they painted their “in-relief” tiles – they all look brilliant!

Year 4

See Seesaw

Year 5

The week has been another busy one, and that doesn't seem set to change any time soon! Year 5 are now writing their monster dilemma stories inspired by *King Kong*, and so we've done drama and explored ideas involving a multitude of prehistoric, mythological and monstrous beasts! Their stories will involve a great deal of dramatic tension between the two main characters... and that's before they encounter the monster!

In maths, we've finished converting measurements, and have just begun learning about statistics. This is, I think, my very favourite area of maths, as it impacts so many different areas of daily life? Where else could a lesson echo a weather forecast, sports round up, and a politics study? And where else would there be a question tracking the number of biscuits in the staffroom (always a risky thing to look at too closely)?

The class is enjoying our current art focus, which is looking at Chinese painting. Today, we've been painting Chinese characters and letters - apparently, there are over 100,000 of them, and an educated person might be expected to read about 5,000 of them! Yikes. But they are very beautiful, and we saw how they've evolved from pictographs (a picture representing the object) to a more abstract symbol. For our meteorology work in science, we looked at air masses, and have correctly deduced that our current warm-but-cloudy weather is due to a tropical maritime air mass from the warm Atlantic Ocean. So now you know. Our music work on *Dancing in the Street* doesn't just include singing, but *two* different recorder parts, *and* a separate glockenspiel part! But, um, no dancing.

And we haven't done this yet, at the time of writing, but we're looking forward to making paracord keyrings at the MAGEE morning. It's going to be fun!

Year 6

This week, Year 6 enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Youlbury, packed with adventure, teamwork, and plenty of fun. From the moment they arrived, the children embraced every opportunity to challenge themselves and make lasting memories with their friends.

Throughout the trip, the children took part in a wide range of exciting and demanding activities. These included climbing, crate stacking, abseiling, and riding the thrilling 3G swing, alongside many other team-building tasks and outdoor challenges. The pupils approached each activity with enthusiasm, determination, and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones.

One of the highlights of the trip was the campfire evening, where everyone enjoyed playing games, singing fun songs, and spending time together. The outdoor games night was another favourite, with pupils working in teams to take part in a variety of energetic and enjoyable activities.

We were incredibly proud of how well the children worked together throughout the residential. They showed great confidence and bravery when facing new challenges and demonstrated excellent teamwork by encouraging and supporting one another every step of the way. Their positive attitudes, resilience, and kindness were evident throughout.

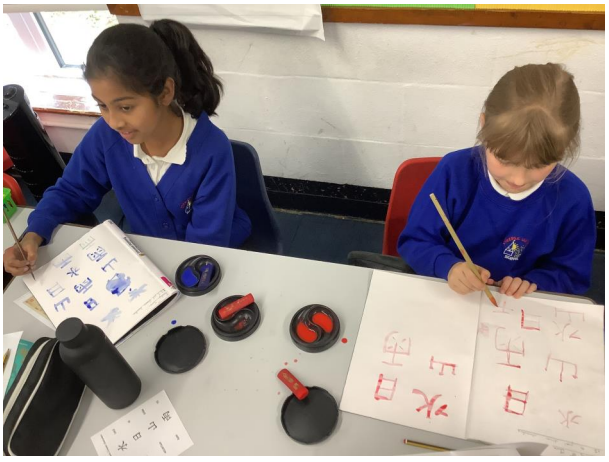
The Youlbury residential was filled with laughter, adventure, and opportunities for personal growth, making it a memorable trip that the children will remember for many years to come.

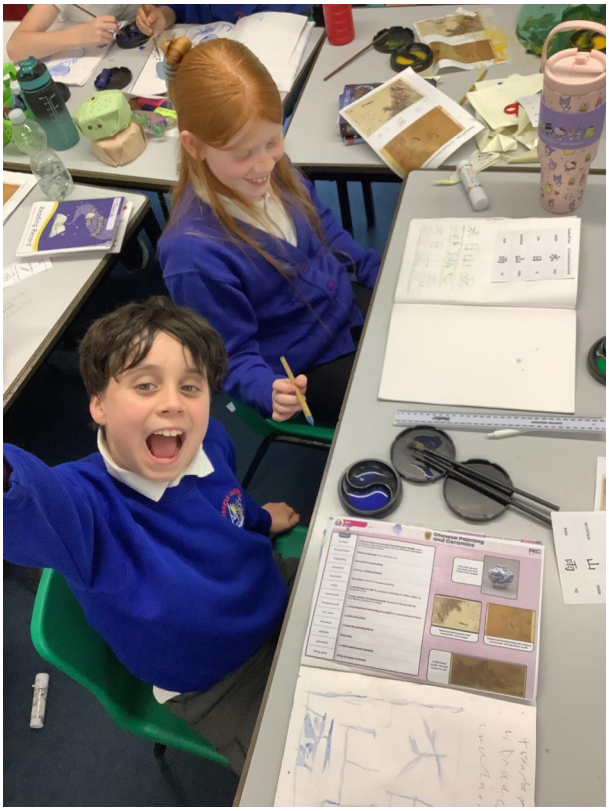
On our return, a number of Year 6 children have been taking part in a Bikeability course. During the sessions, they have been learning important cycling skills, including how to ride safely on the road, follow traffic rules, and improve their confidence when cycling.

Well done to all of Year 6 for their hard work and enthusiasm!

Reception Photos

Year 5 Photos





Year 6 Photos

Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Arslan - for such a huge improvement in both his reading and writing this year

Year 1 - Ayla - for her incredibly kind and caring nature. She is such a good role model for her classmates.

Year 2 - Ollie - for being a Maths superstar, trying so hard with all four operations.

Year 3 - Clarissa - for making and painting an impressive 'in-relief' clay tile

Year 4 -Lykan - for working really hard to improve his handwriting and earning his handwriting pen

Year 5 - Sophie - for her beautifully delicate brush strokes when trying Chinese style painting

Year 6 - Flo - for showing great determination and confidence to overcome challenges not only in the year 6 classroom but on residential too!

Value Awards

Reception - George G - Confidence - for having the confidence to share his ideas, answer questions and make valued contributions during whole class learning.

Year 1 - Bethany - Respect - for trying her best this week to be respectful to everyone and everything.

Year 2 - Harper - Positivity - for always having a positive attitude and being a really kind friend.

Year 3 - Jake S - Positivity - for approaching every lesson with great positivity and a brilliant can-do attitude.

Year 4 -Eliza - Respect - She is respectful towards others in EVERYTHING she does. A great role model for all.

Year 5 - Daniel - Confidence - for his intricate dragon artwork in the style of Chinese art.

Year 6 - Baxter - Determination - for showing great determination and perseverance when things are difficult. He always has the confidence to give it a go!

House Point Winners

Silver Award

Year 3 - Jacob, Aiden

Gold Award

Year 1 - Jake

Year 2 - Harry, Omika, Timmy, Jacob, Louie

Year 4 - Ava, Sulaimon, Teddy

Platinum Award

Year 1 - Archer

Year 4 - Iris, Amber

Games, Puzzles, Cards and Colouring Donations

We are looking to build up our collection of wet play resources, brain-break activities and enrichment opportunities for the children across the school.

We would be incredibly grateful for donations of board games, puzzles, Top Trumps, UNO, playing cards, colouring books, colouring supplies and any other age-appropriate activities that children would enjoy during indoor playtimes and enrichment sessions.

This could be a great opportunity to have a clear-out at home. If your children have games they no longer play with, puzzles they have outgrown, or card games gathering dust in a cupboard, we would love to give them a new home at school. The only thing we ask is that donations are clean, complete and in good condition. Equally, if you happen to spot any bargains in charity shops, car boot sales or community swap groups, please think of us!

These resources make a real difference to our children, helping them to collaborate and have fun together. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

FOSCS - Update

Message from Mr Sperring:

Having had a pre-Summer Fete planning meeting last week, we attempted to allocate volunteers to stalls and stands based on the times people had offered. Unfortunately, we simply do not have enough volunteers to cover all of the time slots.

I know that many of you are planning to attend the fete, and I also know that your children would love to help out on a stall with you! Could you spare just 30 minutes of your time? It really would make a huge difference. You'll have a great time, meet other members of our school community and know that you are helping to make the event a success for all of our children.

If you can only commit to half an hour, that's absolutely fine - that's all you'll be asked to do. If you are able to help, please get in touch with FOSCS or contact the school office. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

Thank you.

If you do nothing else at the Summer Fete, make sure you buy a raffle ticket! Just look at these prizes! I have seen some fantastic raffle prizes over the years, but I can honestly say I have never seen anything quite as good as this. A huge thank you to the FOSCS team for

sourcing such an incredible selection of prizes. You really have outdone yourselves this year. Absolute legends!

Raffle prizes Steeple Claydon School Fete Saturday 4th July to be drawn at 2.45pm

1st prize; Found Festival weekend ticket for 2A & 3C

2nd prize; Alpaca Evolution farm tour 2A & 3C

3rd prize; Family ticket to Bucks County Show

Woburn Safari park ticket 2A & 2C

Buckingham Railway Centre ticket for 2A & 4C

Family visit to Hogshaw Farm 2A & 2C

1 hour photo session with Laura Louise photography and 3 digital images

1 hour pet or family photoshoot with Helen Carter

£100 gift voucher for P&L boutique

Day pass for 2 people to David Lloyd club Bicester

Day pass for 2 people to David Lloyd club Bicester

£50 Buckingham Garden Centre voucher

Afternoon tea for 2 at Horwood House

£25 snowdome voucher @ Hemel Hempsted

£20 voucher for Wayne the Handyman

Prego Buckingham gift voucher

Enfes Buckingham gift voucher

£20 voucher for Mey Buckingham

Dipalee voucher, Buckingham

Cupcake bouquet from simply sweet cupcake boutique

Molly's Community Café voucher, tea & cake for 2

Meadow Row Tea Rooms, cream tea for 2

Tea and cake for 2 @ phoenix tearooms

Headteacher for the day

Lucky Star Chinese £10 voucher, Steeple Claydon

Lucky Star Chinese £10 voucher, Steeple Claydon

A massive thankyou to everyone who has donated a prize towards our raffle.

Please also see below details for the 'Tombola Mufti' on Friday 26th June.

Sports Day - Thursday 25th June

Sports Day for all children will take place on Thursday 25th June and the timings will be as follows:

Pre-School & Reception: 9:30 approximately - 10:30am. Years 1- 6: 1:30-3:00pm

Parents are welcome to come and cheer their child(ren)'s races - Please come in through the office door after 9:20am and/or 1:10pm respectively. Reception parents/carers are asked to wear comfortable shoes as participation will be required!

Parents will be asked to go home in between the two events.

On the day, all children should be in PE kit with the house coloured t-shirt (more on this further down) with weather appropriate extras - hats and sun cream or extra layers. Children can wear items additional items in their house colours too. We suggest that children in Catherine House do NOT wear yellow t-shirts but stick with white; through experience we have found that yellow t-shirts attract summer insects. Please check with your child's teacher if you are not sure which house they are in.

House names/ t-shirt colours:

Chaloner - Blue

Verney - Green

Nightingale - Red

Catherine - White

Every child MUST bring a water bottle. Lunch for children will be as normal.

At 3:00pm, children will return to their classrooms and will meet parents in the usual end of day locations.

NB Photography and video is strictly prohibited during Sports Day. Staff will take photos of every event and we will send a link to a special edition Sway Sports Day newsletter before the end of term.

FOSCS will be selling cold drinks during Sports Day, and ice lollies after school.

We are hiring!

Steeple Claydon School is seeking an enthusiastic, dedicated and highly motivated Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to join our supportive and ambitious team. This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in children's learning, working across the school to support teaching and learning, deliver interventions and provide high-quality classroom cover when required. As we embark on an exciting new chapter under new leadership, we are looking for someone who shares our commitment to giving every child the chance to shine. To apply, please complete the application form available here: https://jobs.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/job_detail/342086/ and return it to bursar@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk by 30th June 2026. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office on 01296 738132. Interviews will take place on Friday 3rd July 2026.

Tell your friends!

Talent Show

We are delighted to announce that Steeple's Got Talent will take place on Friday 10th July! This is open to every child in the school and is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to showcase their talents, interests and passions. We would love to see as many children as possible taking part and representing their year groups.

We encourage ALL talents! Whether your child enjoys: Singing, dancing, acting, playing a musical instrument, magic, poetry, comedy, gymnastics, sports skills or any other talent that can be safely performed in the school hall... we would love to see them take to the stage!

In the fortnight leading up to the final, each class will hold a semi-final, where children who wish to participate will perform in front of their classmates. Class teachers will let parents know when these will take place, giving children plenty of time to prepare and practise. Following the semi-finals, two children from each year group will be selected by the adults in school to progress to the grand final. The selection will be made by staff rather than the children.

This event is all about celebrating the incredible talents within our school community. Whether children are performing for the first time or are seasoned entertainers, we want every participant to feel proud of themselves and have the opportunity to shine in front of the whole school.

So, dust off those dance moves, tune those instruments, perfect those magic tricks and start rehearsing! We can't wait to see the amazing talents of Steeple Claydon School!

Attendance

Regular attendance at Steeple Claydon is vital. Research from the DFE (Department for Education) shows pupils with higher attendance are significantly more likely to achieve expected age-related standards at both Key Stage 2 (Year 6) and Key Stage 4(GCSEs), with as little as 10 missed days a year lowering the odds of strong outcomes. Being present in school also supports social development, wellbeing and future opportunities, equipping our pupils with the skills they need for later life and building valuable relationships.

If your child is well enough, please send them to school.

In the event of your child being ill and unable to attend school or preschool, please ensure you phone or email the office before 8.45am on each day of illness to report the absence.

Safeguarding

In school, we consistently reinforce a clear message: if a child sees or hears anything online that worries them, makes them feel uncomfortable or unsure, they must tell a trusted adult straight away. Please continue to echo this message at home. Working together, we can help ensure our children enjoy the benefits of technology safely and responsibly.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Harry Sperring (Headteacher). The Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Theresa Wheeldon (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Georgina Tapping (EYFS lead). The Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Jenny Shaw. The Designated Person for Looked After Children (LAC) and Pupil Premium is Mrs Theresa Wheeldon. If you are concerned about the safety of a child, you can email the DSLs on safeguarding@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk or you can contact the Bucks Safeguarding Team who will be able to assist. If you feel a child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

Good news!

Last weekend, William, in Year 6, took part in a triathlon at Stowe School. Set in beautiful surroundings, he completed 8 lengths in the pool, 4km on the bike and a 1.8km run. After a short break he then joined a team of 4 for the relay. His grandad came along to watch too.

BEACHBOROUGH & BRACKLEY TRIATHLON
BEACHBOROUGH & BRACKLEY TRIATHLON
SWIM·BIKE·RUN
FINISHER
14th June 2026
SWIM·BIKE·RUN
FINISHER
14th June 2026

This summer, Edward, In Year 3, has been captaining the under 8 team for Thornborough Cricket Club. They have currently won every match and are hoping to continue that run through the season!