



School Newsletter 12.06.2026

Headteacher's Update

The end of another fantastic week at Steeple Claydon School! This week, the school has well and truly been gripped by World Cup fever. Flags from all 48 participating countries are proudly displayed around the school, and classes have spent time learning about some of the lesser-known nations taking part. We were also fortunate to hear from Maisy in Year 6, who spoke confidently to the school about the benefits of sport and the importance of keeping our bodies healthy and active. Thank you, Maisy!

On Tuesday, Year 5 enjoyed a brilliant visit to the Black Country Living Museum. The children had a wonderful time stepping back in time and bringing their learning to life. Be sure to take a look at some of the fantastic photographs on social media!

Wednesday was an action-packed day for Year 6. A group of pupils were invited by the Rotary Club to spend the day at Whipsnade Zoo, whilst those in school enjoyed an equally exciting day filled with Forest School activities, pizza making and much more. It certainly looked like a day to remember for everyone involved. Again - These photos can be found on our social media pages.

Today, we welcomed prospective parents and families into school for our Open Morning. It was a pleasure to share what makes Steeple Claydon so special, including our relational approach, commitment to inclusion, the wide range of opportunities available to our children and the importance we place on building resilience. Visitors commented on the warm atmosphere around the school and were particularly impressed by our learning environments, both indoors and outdoors.

To round off the week, FOSCS hosted a doughnut sale after school. Thank you to everyone who supported it. The timing couldn't have been better - perfect fuel for those late-night World Cup kick-offs!

A small plea from me: please take a moment to read the section later in the newsletter regarding donations of games, puzzles, Top Trumps, playing cards and similar items. We would be incredibly grateful for any donations that could help support our children during social times and enrichment activities.

Looking ahead to next week, Year 6 set off for Youlbury Residential on Monday. I can still vividly remember my own Year 6 residential experience - it is one of those school memories that stays with you forever. Have an amazing time, Year 6, and make the most of every moment!

On Tuesday after school, some of Year 3 and 4 are taking part in a Rounders Festival. On Thursday, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils begin working towards their Bikeability Level 2 award. Then on Friday, we will be holding our very first MAGEE Morning. Please read further in the newsletter for more information about these exciting events.

Have a wonderful weekend and if you're watching, enjoy the football!

Mr Sperring

[Link to the school calendar](#)



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

This week in Preschool, the children have been learning about astronaut Tim Peake and exploring the wonders of the Moon and outer space.

Our young explorers have enjoyed embarking on exciting space missions in their rockets, creating challenging obstacle courses, and producing fantastic space-themed artwork using chalk. We have also been developing our mark-making skills by completing a Captain's Log aboard our imaginary spacecrafts, recording our adventures and discoveries.

One of the highlights of the week was releasing our butterflies. We were delighted to see five beautiful butterflies hatch. The children showed great curiosity and excitement as they observed the butterflies' life cycle and watched them spread their wings and fly away.

Next week, we will be setting off on a polar adventure as we learn about Sir Ernest Shackleton and his incredible Antarctic rescue mission. We look forward to discovering more about exploration, perseverance, and life in the icy wilderness.

Please ensure your child brings a set of spare clothes each day, including extra socks. We love making the most of our outdoor learning experiences and sensory play, which often involves rain, mud, slime, paint, and plenty of messy fun!

Reception

There has been a buzz of activity in the Reception classroom this week, mostly due to the rather wet and windy weather we have been experiencing, meaning most of the children have been choosing to select activities from inside the classroom. We have continued to learn about the Royal family, focusing on where the Royal Family live. The children have been showing their creativity with lots of imaginative play in our very own Buckingham Palace, and in our castle and Kings Guard small world.

We had an exciting delivery of an army of caterpillars. The children have enjoyed observing the caterpillars and watching for any changes. We made our own lifecycle of a butterfly booklets. We look forward to seeing more changes next week.

In maths we have been recapping subitising, and have introduced doing this using the Rekenrek's. The children have really enjoyed using these practical resources and were able to listen carefully, follow the instructions and use the apparatus carefully. In Literacy we have started our new story; 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies, a heart-warming take of friendship between a young boy and a stranded whale.

We have had another group complete the blkeability - balance bike sessions - learning to confidently balance, manoeuvre and glide when completing simple activities, for example dropping bean bags and making figures of 8. The remaining two groups will complete their sessions over the next few weeks.

Year 1

In Science, our clever Year Ones have been sorting items by their properties. We took it a step further by discussing how a single item can have more than one property, and the children did a fantastic job using hoops to create physical Venn diagrams to represent this. Over in Maths, we have been working hard on counting all the way to 100; any extra practice at home with this would be much appreciated! Our English lessons have been full of creativity as we began planning and writing our diary entries based on *The Secret of Black Rock*. In PE, the sports day excitement is building! We continued our practice by perfecting our beanbag-in-hoop throwing and mastering the tricky egg-and-spoon race. Finally, in Art, the children brought their creativity to life as we beautifully painted our penguin sculptures.

Year 2

Can you believe Week 2 is already behind us?! It really has flown by — the children have been busy, and there is so much to share! This week in English we have been immersing ourselves in the rich vocabulary from our class book, exploring words such as *engineer*, *incredible* and *astounded*. The children have studied an example text closely, identifying fantastic language features and discussing how the writing is structured. It has been brilliant to see them thinking like authors!

In Maths, we have completed our data representation unit and have now moved into positional language. The children have been practising key vocabulary: left, right, on top of, behind, to the left of, to the right of - you could design a treasure hunt using positional language as clues. Please keep practising times tables and bonds to 10 and 20 at home - these will be a huge help as we think about moving into Year 3.

In History we have been learning about powerful voices - people who used their courage and determination to change history. Last week we explored the life of Gandhi, and this week the children have been learning about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., who both fought peacefully for equal rights for Black people in America. Some very thoughtful discussions have taken place in class! Our Solar System learning continues in Science! This week the children discovered that the Earth orbits the Sun, while the Moon orbits the Earth - all whilst both are rotating at the same time. Our key vocabulary this week is orbit and rotate. Ask your child to explain it to you to see how much they can remember. Finally, in Art the children used watercolour paints to mix their own skin tones and applied them to their self-portrait sketches. It was a tricky technique but the results have been truly impressive - well done, everyone!

A couple of reminders: please keep up with spelling practice at home, and if you have a spare moment, check out the handwriting videos posted on Seesaw - more will be added this weekend!

Year 3

This week, in English, the children have really enjoyed exploring our vehicle text "Dear Earth" further. In maths, the children have worked hard on learning how to find fractions of amounts. In history, the children really enjoyed our first lesson on the Anglo-Saxons! In computing, the children enjoyed learning how to change the size of their "Sprite" on Scratch. The highlight of the children's week was when they made their "in-relief" tile out of clay. They all look amazing – the children are patiently waiting for them to dry so they can paint them!

Year 4

Another busy and enjoyable week in Year 4! In English, we have continued reading *Manfish* and have been focusing on writing character feeling descriptions. We explored how to

describe Jacques Cousteau's emotions and used ambitious vocabulary to convey the tension and anxiety he experienced as he pursued his dreams and faced new challenges.

In Maths, we have completed our unit on time. The children have worked hard, but some have found the concept of the 24-hour clock particularly challenging. Please continue to practise telling the time at home, especially converting between 12-hour and 24-hour times, as this will really help to build confidence.

In Science, we have been investigating simple electrical circuits. The children have enjoyed creating circuits with a bulb and a cell as well as experimenting with circuits containing two bulbs and/or a switches. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and problem-solving skills in action.

In Art, we have been learning about the seven elements of design. Ask your child if they can remember any of them and explain how artists use them to create interesting and effective pieces of work!

Finally, a swimming update: everyone is working incredibly hard and showing great determination. We have seen children developing the confidence to take their feet off the bottom of the pool, jumping in at the deep end, practising treading water and refining their already strong swimming techniques. We are very proud of the progress and perseverance everyone is showing.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Year 5

It's been a good week, with more *King Kong*, ozone layers, and trying out some Chinese art (the paint comes in ink sticks, like crayons, which has to be ground down and have water added to it!). There's even been *Dancing in the Street!* But, without a doubt, the biggest highlight by far was our trip to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley!

When we arrived, we were whisked straight into a Mining Madness workshop, where we learnt about some of the dangers of Victorian coal mining. The dangers of methane gas (causing explosions) and carbon dioxide (snuffing out fires, canaries and miners alike) were brought to life in a splendidly fiery show, involving mini-explosions, fire tornadoes, and even the man's hand set alight.! [He was fine, because he was trained. Once again: kids, don't try this at home.] Of course, this wasn't just a fire show, but it did a great job of showing how dangerous coal mining is!

Then we visited a Victorian school, built in 1842, and had brief arithmetic and writing lessons. There, we learnt that letter formation in this time was based on hooks and hangers, and that young children would learn to write in sand, rather than on slate. Mrs Foley was told off (ummm!) but thankfully, we were all spared the dreaded cane.

Finally, after lunch, we were free to tour the "town": BCLM is an open air museum, and almost all the staff act in the role of someone from their featured period (which varies from late 1700s to the 1960s). As well as the coal mine and school, there are plenty of shops to visit, where we can chat to the shopkeeper, and learn about life in that period. The chemist talked to my group about medicine for children with coughs, and at the hardware store, we were introduced to regular, daily items from a hundred years ago that are unrecognisable to us! The blacksmith demonstrated the process of making nails, which were a much-needed item then, even more so than today. And there were canal boats, buses, and even a cinema showing short silent movies. Every member of staff there was so friendly, helpful and knowledgeable, and the children had a great time, and were even complimented on about their behaviour. It might have been a long journey, but what a great trip!

Year 6

Year 6 have had a great week! We have finished our work in English on The Nowhere Emporium. The children have written imaginative descriptions and reflective diary entries using a wide range of writing tools - An excellent job Year 6!

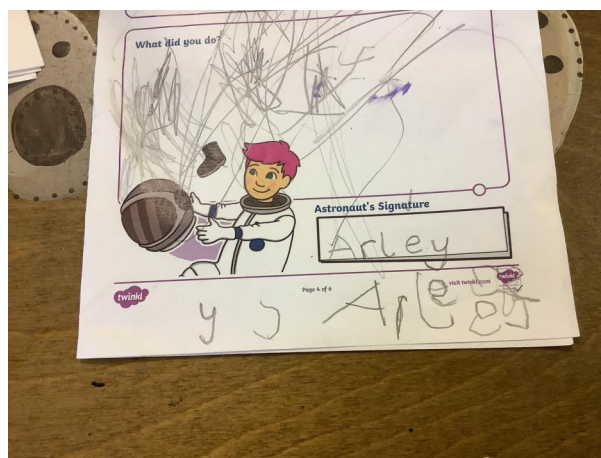
In Geography, we looked at the economy of the Americas and explored the key industries that produce goods and services including cattle grazing, oil, agriculture and timber. In History, we explored the rights of women and discovered how this had dramatically changed from the 1800's.

We had a brilliant day on Wednesday. Mrs Hobbs led a forest school session and the children had so much fun building shelters, climbing trees, lighting a fire and toasting marshmallows. In the afternoon, they made their own pizzas and enjoyed a film. It was a brilliant day.

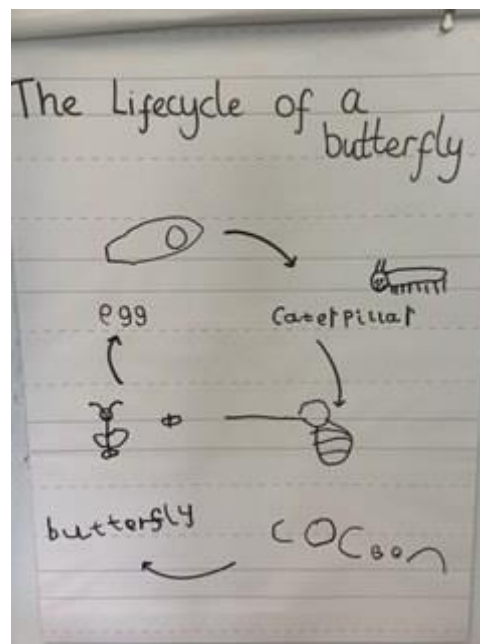
Today we are busy upcycling our T-shirts in D.T - photos to follow on the school website page and next week Year 6 are going on their residential at Youghbury - I hope you all have a fabulous time and have lots of fun.

Have a brilliant weekend!

Preschool Photos



Reception Photos

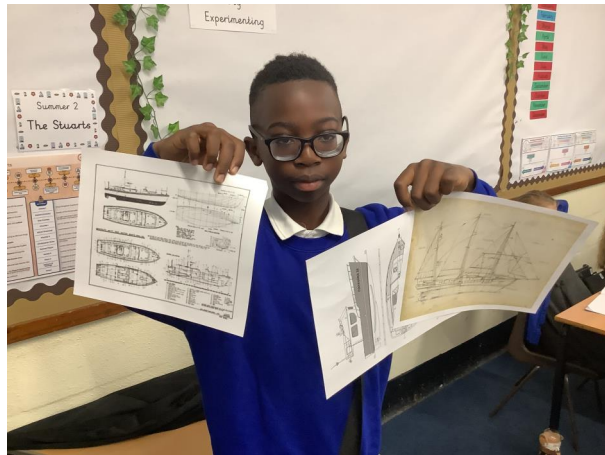
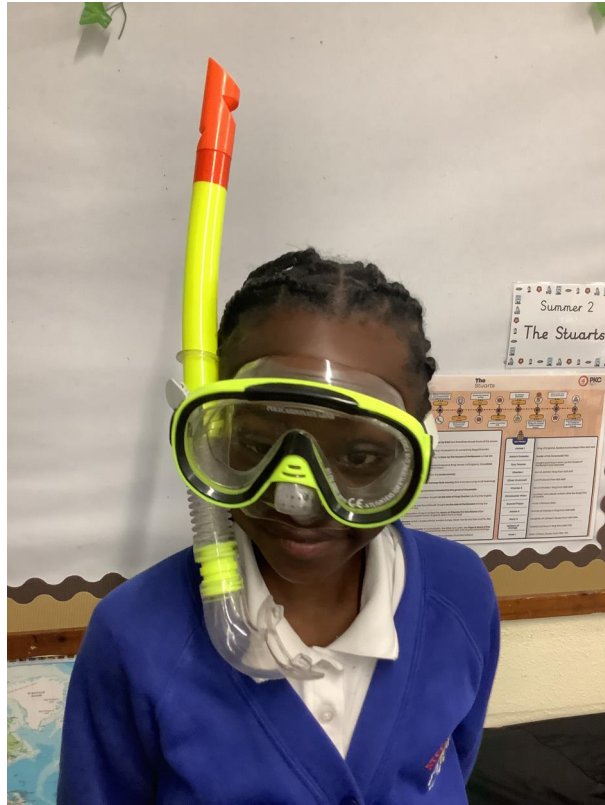


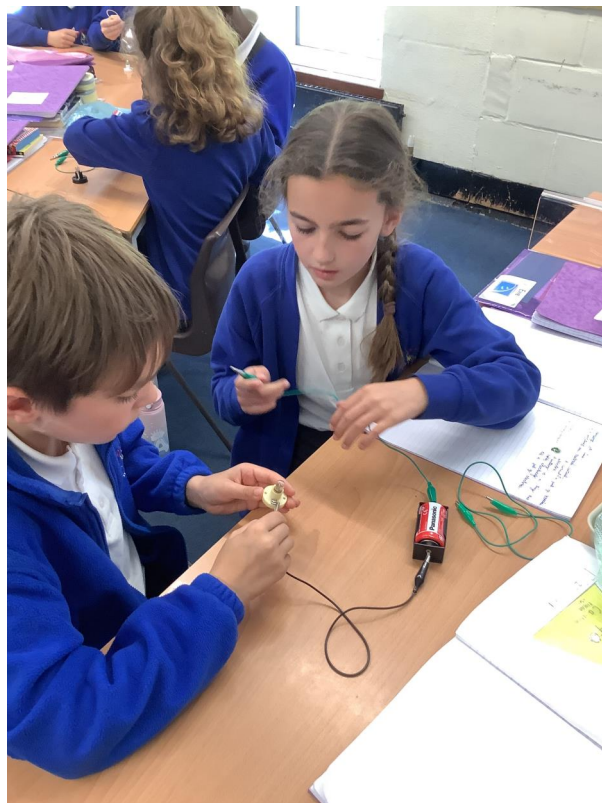




Year 4 Photos for the newsletter







Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Ryan - for his fantastic imaginative play creating a home for his pet shark.

Year 1 - Joseph - for being an absolute joy to teach this week. His positive manners, attitude and eagerness to learn have been wonderful to see.

Year 2 - Timmy - for his super behaviour in the classroom and being such a good role model.

Year 3 - Iris - for approaching every lesson with great enthusiasm. A true Steeple Star.

Year 4 - Ellie-Mai - for not giving up when learning to convert 12 hour to 24 hour times in Maths.

Year 5 - Nicole - for being full of great questions at the Black Country Museum.

Year 6 - Louis - for working with maximum effort in every subject, always putting in 100% and being a super role model across the school.

Value Awards

Reception - Connor - Compassion - for showing care and kindness towards his peers this week.

Year 1 - Lexi - Confidence - She was really confident during the phonics screening this week and demonstrated how much progress she has made.

Year 2 - Skylah - Determination - She passed her phonics screening with flying colours and worked so hard to do this.

Year 3 - Sebby M - Confidence - for his reading of a passage from their whole class text out loud during their guided reading lesson.

Year 4 - Verity - Positivity - for working so hard in everything she undertakes. Her attitude is great. She has shown such confidence that she can do it, and never gives up!

Year 5 - Lukesh - Confidence - for helping with the beat, rhythm and backing for 'Dancing in the Street' in Music.

Year 6 - Jemima - Generosity - She is consistently generous, always helping her peers, supporting others and showing kindness and manners to everyone.

Lunchtime Awards

Year 2 - Jacob - for his super behaviour

Year 6 - Flo - for caring for others at lunchtime.

House Point Winners

Silver Award

Year 2 - Aurora

Gold Award

Year 2 - Harmony, Harper, Chloe

Year 6 - Athen

Platinum Award

Year 1 - Holly, Nora, Noah E, Evie, Grace

Year 3 - Milly

Year 5 - Joseph

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 @ Hemet Hempsted

£20 voucher for Wayne the Handyman

Prego Buckingham gift voucher

Enfes Buckingham gift voucher

£20 voucher for Mey Buckingham

Dipelee 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.



MAGEE Morning

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming MAGEE Morning on Friday 19th June!

MAGEE stands for Mothers, Aunties, Grandmas and Everybody Else, and we hope as many family members as possible will be able to join us for this special event.

The morning will begin in the school hall from 8:15am, where croissants and juice will be available for all our visitors. Children should arrive with their accompanying adult and enjoy this time together before the school day begins. At 8:45am, children will head to their classrooms for registration, whilst adults remain in the hall for a short presentation from the Headteacher between 8:45am and 9:00am. Following the presentation, adults will be taken

to their child's classroom for an exciting morning of making, creating, crafting and learning together.

Our recent FUDGE Morning was a tremendous success, with a fantastic turnout from families. It created a wonderful buzz around the school that lasted throughout the day (and beyond!), and we would love to recreate that special atmosphere on Friday 19th June.

To help us with planning and catering, please add your name to the registration form below if you would like to attend:

<https://forms.gle/VanTxXWKw19fQm1q6>

We very much hope to see you there for what promises to be another memorable morning.

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.

Exciting Upcoming Events



XYZ will be hosting their annual concert on Saturday 20th June 2026, featuring some of their students from Steeple Claydon School!

There will be 5 concerts spread throughout the day, along with musical performances between student concerts, and an evening of live music following the completion of concert 5!

Tickets are available to purchase through their website– and are valid all day. [XYZ Music Academy Summer Concert](#)

Students that are performing will not need to purchase a ticket for the day.

Good news!

Dyman won the Manager's Player Award at his football club's end-of-season presentation ceremony.



Although he joined the team towards the end of the season, the coaches said he quickly made a strong impression, describing him as an extremely solid player and saying that “nothing gets past him.” They also highlighted his positive attitude, his ability to listen carefully to instructions, and how well he puts coaching advice into practice.

The coaches said it had been a pleasure coaching him and recognised his determination and strong performances throughout the season. Well done Dyman!



Louis won the under 11 cup competition with his football team on Sunday at the Buckingham tournament,

Communication from Bucks

See see the proposal and Statutory Notice Press Release to open a Cognition and Learning Unit at The Buckingham School.

<iframe

src="https://1drv.ms/b/c/6c1e4fb8cd3e9d1b/IQRWkqow4OmiT6C2iJ_wq84IAfzFjrfMAyiKQkYxrPuCQaQ" width="98" height="120" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"></iframe>

<iframe

src="https://1drv.ms/b/c/6c1e4fb8cd3e9d1b/IQSDmzJAYSBKRZHGLO8UL2iLab1ndTHzouyi6o2ZQUpdBaE" width="98" height="120" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"></iframe>

<iframe src="https://1drv.ms/b/c/6c1e4fb8cd3e9d1b/IQRRfEIDa1f1R4z5RQf8lvGZAQPNjy-mITqTyFykaAMHR8o" width="98" height="120" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"></iframe>