



School Newsletter 02.10.2026

Headteacher's Update

Fab week here at Steeple!

We started the week with an allergy awareness assembly. The purpose was to make sure that we are all allergy-aware, not just those with allergies. The children responded brilliantly and showed a great understanding of how we can help keep everyone safe.

I feel like we have been talking about OPAL starting for a while, but this week gave us a real taste of what is to come! The children enjoyed bubbles, tyres, dinosaurs and lots more on the playground. There were smiles galore from both children and staff. It was so lovely to see children being children and playing together so positively. Next week, we will be enhancing our new woodchip area (thank you to Mrs Cato for organising this!) and introducing some digging opportunities in the very near future. Following that, we will be creating a stage area with music and dressing-up resources. Watch this space!

As we continue to develop our OPAL provision, please see a list of items that we would gratefully accept as donations later in the newsletter. However, if you think you have something that would enhance our children's play opportunities and it is not on the list, please do get in touch - we are always open to ideas! We are particularly interested in donations of tyres (of any size), wooden or plastic pallets (which we have plans for later in the year), sand, small rocks and pebbles in bulk so that we can create a stony exploration area, as well as plastic tubing, old sinks and other loose parts that can inspire imaginative play. If you're wondering whether we might be interested in something, the answer is probably yes!

As all items will be stored outdoors (with some kept in storage units), we ask that you avoid donating electronic items or cardboard-based materials. Thank you so much for your support. The generosity of our school community is helping us create exciting, creative and engaging play opportunities for all of our children.

Back to this week... We welcomed a new member of staff, Miss De la Porte, who will be on placement in Reception for two days a week over the next two years. She had a fantastic first day and the Reception class loved having a new member of the team join them.

This week, we have had a real focus on Oracy, encouraging children to share their opinions and ideas with both their peers and adults. We have also been explicitly teaching the children how to listen to others and either 'build on' what someone has said or 'challenge' an idea respectfully. If you hear your child talking about 'Instigators', 'Challenge' or 'Build' in relation to classroom talk, please be curious (a great link to our school values!) and ask them all about it. Thank you! A reminder that we have our Oracy Open Morning on Thursday 5th November.

On Thursday, we welcomed our Year 6 parents into school to talk through the SATs tests that children complete each May. We shared information about the assessments, how parents can support at home and ways we can work together to help children feel confident and prepared. The presentation will be available on the class page of the website shortly.

Finally, as we move into October, we introduced Black History Month to the children. During assembly, we listened to Sam Cooke's powerful song *A Change Is Gonna Come*. Throughout the month, your child will take part in Black History Month lessons as well as assemblies that celebrate and recognise the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black people throughout history and today.

Looking ahead to next week:

On Wednesday, we have an Open Morning for prospective parents and families. Then, on Friday, we have two new Headteachers for the day - Millie and Jake. They will be sending out a communication on Monday to explain some changes to school that day! During the day, they will be completing learning walks, meeting with pupils, presenting Headteacher Awards, leading assembly, writing the school newsletter and much more. Please do make them feel welcome if you see them on the gate in the morning!

Have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

[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 all about where we live. We explored Steeple Claydon by looking at photographs of different places around the village and talking about whether we had visited them before and what we thought of them. The children enjoyed creating their own maps and collages of the village, using their creativity and imagination to represent the places that are familiar to them. We also used junk modelling materials to design and build our own houses.

The children went for a walk around the School grounds to create maps of the area, they were astounded that Forest School existed outside of Preschool. They were busy making marks to show the areas of school and the playgrounds.

In NELI, we have been reading Toby and the Tricky Things, a story about an elephant who wants to try doing tricky things all by himself! This week, we have been developing our resilience and independence by having a go at challenging tasks without immediately asking for help. We practised ordering objects from big to small and explored pouring water, just like Toby when he tries to pour his own milk for his cereal!

In Music, we listened to a variety of songs that make us feel happy. We had a lovely, calm listening session with Three Little Birds by Bob Marley, before sharing some of our favourite songs that make us feel happy. The children particularly enjoyed dancing along to The

Macarena and, much to everyone's surprise, Beat It by Michael Jackson was voted the most popular song!

Next week, we will be learning all about people who help us, including nurses, doctors, police officers and firefighters. We will also be getting creative and designing our very own emergency vehicles, both big and small! If you have any boxes, cardboard tubes, bottles or other suitable junk modelling materials at home, we would be very grateful if you could send them in for us to use.

Thank you for your continued support!

Reception

The energy and excitement levels have increased dramatically this week in Reception, with the introduction of our People Who Help Us topic. The children have had great fun engaging in role play games; dressing up, taking on different roles and investigating the different equipment. We have had brave firefighters, caring doctors and courageous Police Officers. We learnt about those who help us, at home, at school and in our community. We also learnt what the emergency services are and how to contact them in a real emergency.

In English we have now finished our first vehicle text - The Something and have planned our example text - Dan and the Ball. The children have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the story friends and the wise owl who has been teaching us what makes a good writer. I have been so impressed with the children's pictures and attempts at writing to plan the different parts of the story. In phonics we have continued to play lots of fun Fred games, as well as introducing 5 new single letter sounds. The children have also been working hard practicing to write their names.

In maths the children have explored how numbers can be composed of 1s and, and have begun to investigate the composition of 3 and 4, using the very popular NumberBlocks to help us. The children enjoyed collecting groups of 3 and 4 objects from around the classroom. We finished our week with our music lesson, performing the name song we have been learning, to each other in small groups, learning how to perform to others and how to be good listeners and show respect when watching others performances, in preparation for the upcoming Harvest Festival.

Year 1

A great week in Year 1 with lots of hands-on learning! In Science we used our senses to explore - tasting different flavours of crisps and smelling some interesting smells! What an enjoyable lesson it was! In English we are continuing to use 'Old Bear' to plan and write character descriptions, thinking carefully about physical appearance as well as the emotions of characters. This also linked well with our lessons in PSHE - thinking about changing emotions and 'big or small' feelings. In RE we have been looking at the Creation story from different religious perspectives and this week's lesson was all about the Hindu version. In

Maths we are still learning about numbers to 10, using mathematical language and number lines to compare and find missing numbers. We have also started looking at part-part-whole models. In Art this week, we have recreated David Hockney's 'A Bigger Splash' - using different materials such as wax crayons and paint.

Year 2

What a great week of learning we have had in Year 2!

In English, we have started the second part of our river journey narrative. The children have been writing a letter to Tom, discussing the dangers he may face on his boat journey. They have been thinking carefully about the advice they could give him to help him stay safe.

In Maths, we have been learning about the value of numbers, including comparing numbers using greater than and less than. We have also had a big focus on our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. It is so important that the children become confident with these tables, so please practise them regularly at home. Don't forget to log in to Times Tables Rock Stars to help with this too!

In Art, we have been painting tints and shades and looking at the work of Paul Klee for inspiration. In Music, we have been singing along to Hugh Masekela and thinking about how we can be thankful for our harvest time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Enjoy your weekend!

Year 2 Team

Year 3

Year 3 have had another great week! In maths, the children continued to develop their place knowledge further by learning how to compare and order numbers and count in 50's. We are now moving onto addition and subtraction. In science, the children learnt all about the nutrition that we need and the food groups. In geography, the children compared the physical geography features of London and San Francisco. The highlight of the children's week, was when they used different objects such as cups, magnets, pipe cleaners and multilink cubes to design their own trap for the Iron Man before drawing a diagram and writing some explanation sentences. The children loved this lesson and showcased their imagination and creativity with their designs!

Year 4

What a busy and exciting week we have had in Year 4! The children have continued to work incredibly hard and have shown great enthusiasm across all of our learning.

This week in English, we have been exploring the features of a newspaper report. We have looked at how newspaper reports are structured and the different features that make them

effective. We have also been researching underwater creatures in preparation for writing our own newspaper reports over the next few weeks. The children have been enjoying finding out some fascinating facts and are building up a great bank of information to use in their writing. We have now finished our place value unit of work in maths. This week, we focused on rounding 3- and 4-digit numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. The children have been fantastic at this and have developed a really good understanding of how and why we round numbers. Next week, we will revisit addition and subtraction before moving on to learning some new mathematical skills in this area.

In Science, we have started exploring the digestive system, beginning with the very first part of the journey – the mouth! We discussed what happens when we eat and thought about how our teeth and tongue help us to break down and move food around our mouths. The children enjoyed thinking carefully about the different stages involved in eating and digestion. Our Art learning this week focused on tone and shade. We used just one colour of watercolour paint and experimented with adding different amounts of water to create a range of lighter and darker shades. This was great fun, and the children have once again been developing their artistic skills and experimenting with different techniques.

In PSHE, we have been learning about how exercise can help both our minds and our bodies. We took part in some extra PE activities to get our hearts racing and discussed how different activities and situations can either 'give' or 'take' energy from our bodies. It was lovely to see the children getting involved and thinking about the importance of being active.

Lunchtime has been a little different this week as we have begun the OPAL roll-out, introducing new zones, resources and play-based activities at lunchtime. The children have been excited to explore the new opportunities available to them and have been enjoying having more choice in how they spend their lunchtime. We are looking forward to seeing how these new areas and resources develop over the coming weeks.

Well done, Year 4, for another fantastic week of learning. We are so proud of the enthusiasm, effort and curiosity you continue to show. Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to another busy week next week!

Year 5

It's largely been a writing week for Year 5 in English. They've finished and edited their narrative writing about the Curiosity rover arriving on Mars, and it's been really enjoyable reading through their work. They've done a great job taking some of my ideas, or shared class ideas, and building on them, making them their own. Once we had finished, the children got in groups, and read their stories to each other, which was a lovely, powerful experience.

But the reading fun didn't stop there, as yesterday was National Poetry Day! I read some poetry, and showed them the great Michael Rosen reading his classics, *Chocolate Cake* and

No Breathing in Class!, before the children got the opportunity to look through some poetry collections and reading them to each other - something they loved. We then had a hand a creating a class poem about the Curiosity rover.

Another exciting thing that's happened is that the children have planned an abstract painting that they'll be doing over the next couple of weeks in art. There's a great mix of styles, and I love the creative freedom that they experienced when planning their artwork.

Here's to another great week!

Year 6

It has been another very busy and exciting week in Year 6!

In English, the children have continued exploring the dangers and warnings surrounding Teller's Hollow. They have demonstrated their creativity by writing poetry, designing a warning poster and creating a diary entry, all inspired by the experiences within the story.

In Maths, we have been learning about multiples, factors and prime numbers, developing the children's understanding of number properties and how numbers relate to one another.

In Geography, the children have explored the challenges of map projection and considered how representing our world on a flat map can create difficulties. They have also begun exploring digital maps, using them to locate and discover key information about different places around the world.

In Science, we have begun investigating the impact of exercise on the body. The children have started to think about how and why our bodies change when we exercise and what happens inside our bodies as we become more active.

It has been great to see lots of hard work and enthusiasm across all of their learning.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend!

Reception Photos





Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Eloisa - for being a wonderful role model. She always works hard, is a good friend, plays well with her peers and has a great attitude to learning.

Year 1 - Jake - for being an excellent role model to his friends.

Year 2 - Bethany - for a great week of listening and learning!

Year 3 - Gianna - for being a Maths superstar this week.

Year 4 - Cooper - for trying really hard in Maths , rounding numbers to the nearest 10,100 and 1000.

Year 5 - Evie - for returning to school with such a positive attitude.

Year 6 - Everly - for the wonderful confidence she shows in all of her learning. She always makes the effort to share her knowledge with the class.

Value Awards

Reception - Matilda - Resilience - for starting to come into school really happy. She is growing in confidence everyday and is starting to share her wonderful ideas.

Year 1 - Connor - Respect - for trying really hard to follow instructions.

Year 2 - Frankie - Curiosity - for thinking of such great questions this week during our discussion.

Year 3 - Timmy - Respect - for always being respectful towards everyone. He is always ready to learn.

Year 4 - Seb G - Curiosity - for always being curious in class. He has been asking lots of meaningful questions and responding well to the ideas and opinions of others.

Year 5 - Jacob - Curiosity - for his excellent ideas, questions and imagination within his cavemen, wolverine and giant squid piece of writing!

Year 6 - Ava - Respect - for always showing respect in the classroom, demonstrating excellent learning behaviours and is always respectful to others showing kindness at all times.

House Points

Bronze Award (30 house points)

Year 3 - Ollie

Walk to School Month



FOSCS - Update

FOSCS Community Cookery Book

The Friends of Steeple Claydon School (FOSCS) are creating a community cookery book and need your help!

We are inviting children from Preschool to Year 6 to submit their favourite recipe for a chance to be included in our recipe book. Whether it's a tasty snack, family dinner or delicious dessert, we would love to see what our budding chefs enjoy making.

Children can also enter a competition to design the front cover of the book.

Please send your recipe, along with a photo of the finished dish (and optionally a photo of yourself holding it), to foscsfundraising@gmail.com.

Closing date for all recipe and cover design entries: Friday 9th October. We can't wait to see your fantastic recipes and creative designs! 🍰📱👤🔍👤🔍

See below the posters for our upcoming events and don't forget that you can also support FOSCS through the School Lottery. It is a weekly lottery where you can buy a ticket for a chance to win prizes, while a percentage of every ticket goes directly back to support our school. It is an easy way to support FOSCS throughout the year.





AUTUMN

FOSCS EVENTS

October

Friday 23rd: hot chocolate & biscuits

November

Thursday 12th: Disco

December

4-11th: Raffle Donations for
class coloured Hampers

Thursday 17th: Christmas Bazaar

January

Friday 15th: Break the Rules

February

Thursday 4th: UV Disco

Lego Blocks (Date TBC)

March

Sunday 21st: Prize Bingo

Friday 25th: Smarties Tube Challenge

April

Friday 23rd: Donuts

May

Thursday 27th: Disco

Virtual Hot Air Balloon Race (date TBC)

June

Friday 18th: FOSCS Bars

Friday 25th: Multi Day

July

Saturday 10th: Summer Fete

PLEASE NOTE DATES CAN CHANGE!

SPRING

STEEPLE CLAYDON SCHOOL

OPAL Donations



As we continue to develop our outdoor learning environment, we would be incredibly grateful for any donations. We are excited to be introducing music outdoors soon, dressing-up resources are on their way and we are also looking to create a dedicated small-world play area.

Before we ask for more support, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has already donated games for our wet play provision. They have been greatly appreciated! And a big thank you for the donations of tyres and cable drums - they will be put to use very soon!

To help further develop our outdoor spaces, we would welcome donations of:

- Small-world figures
- Dolls
- Animals
- Dinosaurs
- Building blocks
- Cars and other vehicles

- Chalk

If you think we could make use of it, please bring it in. We'd be delighted to give unwanted items a new lease of life and help clear out garages, lofts and overflowing toy boxes at the same time!

For the role-play area we are creating, we are also looking for:

- Prams and buggies
- Suitcases of any size
- Signs or signage
- Old kitchen utensils and equipment
- Old keyboards
- Hairdryers
- Trowels and spades
- Brooms
- Buckets

Again, if you think it could be used in a role-play scenario, we'd love to have it. Thank you for your continued support.

People who help us

Reception are exploring the topic ***People Who Help Us*** this term, and we would love your support!

We often think of doctors, nurses, police officers and firefighters when we hear this phrase, but the truth is that almost every job helps people in some way. Whether you work in construction, retail, farming, hospitality, transport, finance, technology, childcare, administration or any other profession, we would love to hear from you.

If you are willing to give 5–10 minutes of your time to talk to the children about your job, how it helps others and what a typical day looks like, it would make a huge difference to their learning. Any props, equipment or examples from your workplace always go down a storm with the children!

If you would be happy to help (please!), please email the school office or catch Mrs Tapping or Mr Sperring on the gate.

Thank you in advance - we know our Reception children would be absolutely delighted to meet you!

Bags of Taste

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Open Mornings



The poster is for Steeple Claydon School & Preschool. At the top is the school's logo, a blue circle with a sun and trees. Below it, the text reads 'EXPLORE THE FUTURE AT STEEPLE CLAYDON SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL'. A central blue box with gold stars contains the text: '★ Applying for a primary school place for September 2027? ★', 'Interested in a Preschool with a large indoor and outdoor provision?', 'Want to come and see the exciting changes happening at Steeple Claydon?', and '★ THEN COME AND SEE US! ★'. Below this, 'OUR OPENING MORNINGS' are listed in three blue boxes: 'Wednesday, 7th October', 'Thursday, 19th November', and 'Friday, 8th January'. A clock icon indicates the time '9:00 - 10:30 am'. A green box titled 'WHAT TO EXPECT' lists: '✓ Short presentation from our new Head teacher, Mr. Sperring.', '✓ A learning walk of the school, to see our incredible outdoor space.', '✓ Explore the environments within the classroom.', and '✓ Opportunity to talk to some of our Steeple Claydon pupils.' At the bottom, 'OUR VISION' is 'Giving every child the chance to shine' and 'OUR VALUES' are 'Respect | Resilience | Curiosity'.

**EXPLORE THE FUTURE AT
STEEPLE CLAYDON SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL**

★ Applying for a primary school place for September 2027? ★
Interested in a Preschool with a large indoor and outdoor provision?
Want to come and see the exciting changes happening at Steeple Claydon?
★ **THEN COME AND SEE US!** ★

OUR OPENING MORNINGS

Wednesday, 7th October Thursday, 19th November Friday, 8th January

9:00 - 10:30 am

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ Short presentation from our new Head teacher, Mr. Sperring.
- ✓ A learning walk of the school, to see our incredible outdoor space.
- ✓ Explore the environments within the classroom.
- ✓ Opportunity to talk to some of our Steeple Claydon pupils.

OUR VISION Giving every child the chance to shine **OUR VALUES** Respect | Resilience | Curiosity

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.

Our whole school attendance is 94.4% this week. This is our first week below 95% for the year. Let's get back up to above 95% next week! Well done to Year 5, who's attendance was 98.2%!

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.

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!

Edward, Year 4, was awarded the players player of the year 2026 at his cricket club's awards evening.

He was the captain of their first ever league championship winning team, an under-8 side in the Buckinghamshire under-9 league.

He's also played regularly for other age groups including the under-13s where he's taken 3 wickets in 3 games.

Well done, Edward!



We love celebrating the wonderful achievements of our children - both in and out of school. We would like to share photos and mentions of pupils' successes outside of school, such as winning a trophy or competition, writing a poem they are proud of, creating arts and crafts at home, raising money for charity, passing a musical grade, or achieving success in any other exam or activity.

If your child has something they would like to share, please send pictures and a short description of their achievement to office@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk. We look forward to celebrating and sharing lots of good news together! 🌟