



School Newsletter 25.09.2026

Headteacher's Update

Cracking week here at Steeple Claydon!

It has been so good to see our clubs up and running. The children have been delighted to attend book club, cooking club, crafting club and many more. The atmosphere is so different from the classroom and we often see children really come out of their shell in these sessions. If you would like to book your child into an after-school club, please contact the school office. We still have a few spaces available in crafting, tag rugby and a couple of other clubs.

On Tuesday, FOSCS held their Annual General Meeting. It was a real pleasure to sit in that meeting and hear about all the hard work that went into fundraising last year. They raised an incredible amount of money, especially considering we are a smaller school. Every penny goes directly back into the school to enhance our curriculum and personal development offer. Absolute legends!

Speaking of FOSCS, on Wednesday we welcomed a brand-new event to the school hall: the LEGO Sponsored Walk! The children (and some adults!) absolutely loved it. Plenty of fun was had with lots of determination on display. Knowing they were raising money for the school made it all worthwhile. I think this event may well become a regular feature - it was a good one!

Today, we all wore odd socks to raise awareness of Down syndrome. Throughout the week, children learned why World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on 21st March (21/3), representing the triplication of the 21st chromosome. We discussed the importance of difference, uniqueness and respect and the children thoroughly enjoyed the activities. We

are hoping to hold another Odd Socks Day closer to 21st March, which will include a fundraising element as well as raising awareness, so watch this space.

Looking forwards to next week: On Monday, the children will take part in a live virtual assembly on the theme: How Can We Make Our School Allergy-Aware? This is a really important topic and will help ensure that everyone at Steeple Claydon understands how to be allergy-aware - not just those who have allergies themselves.

Throughout the week, we will also be placing a real focus on Oracy, with a range of activities and lessons designed to get children talking, listening and communicating effectively. Mrs Smuts, our Oracy Lead, will be hosting an Open Morning and Parent Workshop on Thursday 5th November - save the date! During the session, Mrs Smuts will explain what Oracy is and why we believe it is such an important part of children's learning and development. We will then open classrooms from 9:30am–10:30am, allowing parents and carers to visit classes from EYFS right through to Year 6 to see Oracy in action and observe the progression across the school. We encourage you to visit all classrooms, not just your child's.

On Thursday, Mrs Blofeld Marsh will be hosting a Year 6 SATs Information Event for parents and carers at 2:45pm. This will be a valuable opportunity to learn about key dates, understand what the tests look like and find out how best to support your child throughout the year. Year 6 families - we hope to see you there!

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

Mr Sperring

Headteacher

[Link to the school calendar](#)



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

Another fantastic week in Preschool! This week, we have been busy talking about our families and exploring how much we have grown and changed since we were babies. The children were delighted to see photographs of themselves as babies and enjoyed discussing all the things that have changed as they have grown. They were particularly proud to tell us all about their families, enthusiastically pointing out and naming the people who are special to them.

We have also enjoyed creating a big family tree of preschool, and drawing pictures of our own families. It has been lovely to see the children sharing their experiences and talking so confidently about the people they love.

Outdoors, we have been busy rescuing animals from blocks of ice and sorting them into groups of mummy, daddy and baby. The children have also been developing their practical skills by carefully chopping vegetables using child-safe knives. They then used the vegetables, along with rice, to create lots of imaginative and interesting potions!

Next week, we will be exploring where we live, learning about some of the special landmarks around Steeple Claydon, and having fun creating our very own maps. We can't wait to see where our imaginations take us!

Reception

I can't quite believe it's Friday already. The weeks really are flying by, it certainly is true times flies when you are having fun, and this is definitely the case in Reception.

The children have enjoyed the continued dry and warm weather this week, spending lots of time outside. They have shown a particular interest in building walkways and obstacle courses, using the large outside construction and loose parts, showing great imagination and collaborative work. They have also been building vehicles as well as houses, both their own, as well as a new house and hotel for a family of mice whose house had apparently burnt down. This linked in well with our topic work this week, where we have been learning about where we live. We went on a virtual walk of Steeple Claydon using google maps and the children were extremely excited to see so many familiar sites. We found the village of Steeple Claydon on a map of England and learnt that England is a country, which we located on both a globe and a world map.

We showed both our observational and imaginative skills, making puppets of ourselves. The children thought carefully about their different body parts and their facial features, and tried hard to make accurate representations of themselves. We discussed how we are all different and unique and how we are all special for different reasons. I was very proud of how confidently the children spoke out and listened to one another, when sharing what makes them special.

In maths we have been focusing on learning how to accurately count. We have been singing number rhymes and counting objects, sounds and larger items which cannot be moved. The children particularly enjoyed counting beats of a drum and helping our dragon counting puppet who kept counting incorrectly. They were very empathetic to his difficulties and explained and demonstrated the different strategies we had learnt to help him to count accurately.

In literacy we have continued planning our example text; 'Dan and the Ball', focusing on our Build Up Bear and Problem Penguin parts of the story. We also introduced the Wise Owl who tells us how to be a good writer. I have been very impressed at how well the children have been able to retell the story and their fantastic pictorial representation of the different parts of the story. Some children have even started writing their names and the initial sounds of letters in words. Keep up the fantastic work Reception!

Year 1

In Year 1 this week we read 'Old Bear' and wrote sentences to describe the feelings of the characters. We used the beautiful illustrations from the story to help us write a 'list poem' about all the things in the attic. In Maths we continued comparing numbers and groups of objects and also started using number lines to identify numbers, count on and back.

In Geography we are continuing our work on maps and used directional language to describe the location of objects in the classroom. We enjoyed the listening activities in Science to help us learn about how sound travels. In Art we experimented with making tints and shades - adding white and black to make colours lighter and darker.

A very busy, but fun week!

Year 2

Hi everyone. Week 3 already! This half term is going so quickly. We have had another busy week of learning in Year 2.

In English, the children have completed their circular narrative text and have now received a letter from our character, Tom, asking them for advice about his dangerous river journey. The children will be thinking carefully about what advice they can give him and using their writing skills to respond.

In Maths, we have been working on number lines. The children have been placing numbers on a number line and estimating where numbers might go when the start point, end point and some interval numbers are given. This was quite tricky, so we have spent a couple of days reinforcing the concept and practising together.

In Geography, the children have been looking at a map of Steeple Claydon and discussing the difference between physical and human features. They have been thinking about which features have been created by nature and which have been created by people.

In Art, we have been learning about tints and shades and having a go at mixing our own colours. A tint is made by adding white to a colour, while a shade is made by adding black. The children have enjoyed experimenting with different amounts to see how many variations they can create.

Please come and claim some jumpers I don't know what to do with them all! Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend! Mrs Bradford , Year 2 Team

Year 3

Year 3 have had a super week! In English, the children have really enjoyed writing their threat narratives based on "The Iron Man" and the children have all become simile experts which they have started to include in their work. In maths, the children have continued to work hard learning about place value. In science, the children learnt all about the nervous system and in art the children have continued to learn about using lines as an artistic tool. In geography, the children really enjoyed learning about grid references. The highlight for the children this week was our PE lesson where the children loved communicating in small teams to complete a hula-hoop hut challenge!

Year 4

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 4! We have been busy learning, creating, investigating and, as always, having lots of fun along the way. Here are some of the highlights from our week...

English - Young Voyagers! This week, we have been writing our own setting narrative inspired by our vehicle text - The Whale, about our young voyagers battling through a storm in search of the elusive whale! The children produced some fantastic pieces of writing, using lots of vivid adjectives and powerful emotion to bring their stories to life. We also worked hard on building tension, making sure our readers were kept on the edge of their seats as the storm grew more dangerous. We were incredibly impressed with the imagination and creativity shown in these stories - well done, Year 4!

In Maths, we have continued to work with numbers up to 10,000. We have been busy plotting numbers on number lines and developing our ability to estimate where numbers should be placed. We have also begun our learning about Roman numerals. The children have enjoyed discovering how this ancient number system works and have been putting their new knowledge into practice.

Our Science learning has been particularly interesting this week as we explored the different types of teeth in our mouths and discovered the important jobs they each have in the chewing process. We also set up an exciting experiment to investigate the damage sugary drinks can do to our teeth. The children made predictions about what they think will happen, and we will check our results next week to see whether our predictions were correct!

In Art, we have continued our 'Design' unit of work and have created some beautiful still life artwork inspired by vegetables. We experimented with using a colour wash for the background before layering watercolour paints to build up the detail in the middle and foreground. The children have worked carefully on their colour choices, form and details, producing some wonderful pieces of artwork, remembering to really look carefully and draw what they can see, and not what they think they can see.

We have also enjoyed developing our Geography skills through a grid reference lesson. The children have been practising locating places using grid references and developing their understanding of how maps can help us find specific locations.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about keeping ourselves healthy and discussing the different choices we can make to support our physical and emotional wellbeing. We design healthy lunchboxes making sure we included elements from each of the 5 food groups. And Much More! Alongside all of this, we have enjoyed lots of other learning and activities throughout the week. It has been wonderful to see the children working so hard, sharing their ideas and showing such enthusiasm for their learning.

Well done, Year 4! You have had another brilliant week, and we are incredibly proud of you. Keep up the fantastic work!

Year 5

Year 5 has begun writing about the Curiosity rover's journey to Mars. I've love the enthusiasm the children have put into this, but also the imagination, vocabulary and creativity. We've had "robot bodies shivering uncontrollably with excitement", and other similarly fun examples of personification. In our class, we love that little robot explorer! Even those who are perhaps less confident writers have been really stretching their skills and have come up with some superb turns of phrase, such as, "the endless darkness of space", and "the inky darkness of the void"! And it's hard to argue there's much darker than that.

In maths this week we've been focusing on rounding, and it's a real delight to see the hesitancy and uncertainty become replaced with fluency and confidence. Next week, we'll be moving on to adding and subtraction.

There's so much I could say about the other lessons this week: a study of Modernist chairs in art led to the class learning about the famous golden toilet artwork stolen from Blenheim Palace. In science, we learnt that the world's oldest person lived until 122, and that £1 million has been offered to the next person who can outlive her (challenge accepted!). In geography, we started linking locations with their coordinates (take that, Google Maps!). And we learnt that next week, the class can be even more tuneful when playing *Livin' on a Prayer* on recorders!

Everyday, I read the class a poem I've chosen for them. And in a week with a few bumps and scrapes, yesterday's poem seems quite fitting:

Dinner Lady by the ominously-named David Harmer.

Today at school, I cut my knee.

The dinner lady looked after me.

She washed away the blood and dirt,

then put a plaster where it hurt.

I think its brevity might be part of the reason they liked it! But while we now call them lunchtime supervisors, thanks to all those who make playtime possible for the kids at school.

Year 6

It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 6! In English, the children have completed their first piece of extended narrative writing, based on the girl's dilemma in *Paradise Sands*. They have worked hard to develop their ideas, build atmosphere and make thoughtful choices about how their characters respond to the challenges they face.

In Maths, we have been exploring negative numbers and solving a range of problems involving numbers below zero. The children have been developing their confidence and applying their understanding to increasingly challenging problems.

In Science, the children have been learning all about the digestive system and discovering exactly what happens to our food when we eat it. We explored the different stages of digestion through a very memorable—and rather messy!—practical investigation. It certainly helped the children understand just how incredible the human body is!

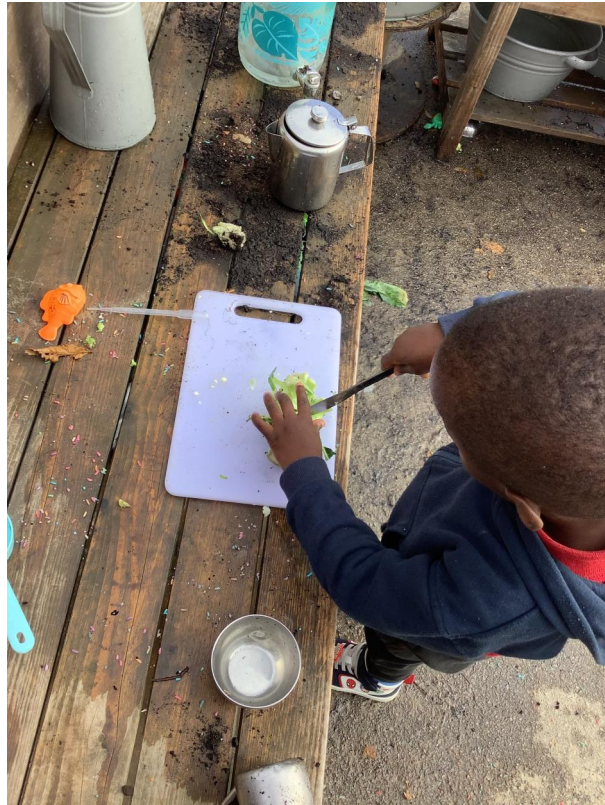
In PE, the children have been putting their problem-solving and teamwork skills to the test. They had great fun attempting to untangle themselves from some very complicated human knots before developing their skills through Tag Rugby. There was plenty of communication, collaboration and laughter along the way!

In Art, we have continued to explore the work of Leonardo da Vinci. The children have been developing their observational drawing skills by creating accurate sketches and carefully using shading techniques to draw ears, paying close attention to shape, proportion, tone and detail.

What a fantastic week of learning! Have a brilliant weekend!

Preschool Photos





Reception Photos









Year 6 Photos





Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Aeryn - for fantastic contributions to whole class learning. She shares her ideas with confidence and enthusiasm.

Year 1 - Arlo - for settling so well into Year 1 and trying hard with ALL tasks.

Year 2 - Leo - for having such a great attitude to his learning this week!

Year 3 - Ollie - for sharing brilliant ideas and super similes in every English lesson this week!

Year 4 - Archie - for brilliant listening and concentration in class.

Year 5 - Verity - for being a hardworking and respectful role model.

Year 6 - Nicole - for showing a mature, diligent attitude in all her work. She puts 100% into everything!

Value Awards

Reception - Panagiotis - Respect - for consistently demonstrating the value of respect. He looks after the classroom resources and always tidies up. He also encourages others to do the same. Thank you!

Year 1 - Ezra - Resilience - for trying really hard with his writing, especially in Phonics. He is not afraid to 'have a go' thinking carefully about the sounds in words.

Year 2 - Maisy - Resilience - She has tried so hard this week, completing all her learning jobs and then extra!

Year 3 - Maya - Bonnie - Curiosity - for asking lots of questions in Science about how the nervous system works.

Year 4 - Teddy - Curiosity - for his science this week. Year 4 learned about teeth and how important it is to keep them clean. They set up an experiment involving eggs and he is desperate to find out if his prediction is correct!

Year 5 - Oscar - Respect - for going out his way to help tidy up after lunch and taking back both trolleys.

Year 6 - Theo - Respect - for always showing great respect especially in his role of equipment monitor.

Year 6 - Jasper - Respect - for always showing great respect especially in his role of equipment monitor.

Office Update

A reminder that parents and carers have until 2nd October to place orders for Christmas cards and other personalised gifts featuring their child's artwork.

Orders placed before this date will benefit from free delivery to school. If you have misplaced your order form or login details, please contact the school office, who will be happy to provide a replacement.

Thank you for your support.

FOSCS - Update

Events this Week

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the FOSCS AGM on Tuesday evening. It was fantastic to reflect on another successful year, celebrate the money raised for our school and share plans and fundraising goals for the year ahead. We were also delighted to welcome some new members to the team.

What a brilliant afternoon we had at the LEGO Walk on Wednesday! It was great to see so many children taking on the challenge, with some very creative tactics being used to make themselves as light as possible before stepping onto the LEGO! There were plenty of smiles, laughs and moments of bravery throughout the event. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this fun fundraiser.









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.





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.

Bags of Taste

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Open Mornings



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
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 **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 96.4% this week. This is fantastic! This is exactly where we want it to remain. Thank you for your efforts in ensuring your children are in school regularly. Big shout out to Year 3, who have a 100% record for the second week in a row. Legends!

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.



Swan Pool and Leisure Centre - BIG Open Weekend

Swan Pool & Leisure Centre is excited to invite local families to its Big Open Weekend on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October.

Throughout the weekend, there will be a range of free taster sessions and activities for children, young people and adults to enjoy. It's a fantastic opportunity to try something new, get active and discover everything the centre has to offer.

With activities suitable for a variety of ages and abilities, there is something for everyone. Whether you're interested in fitness, swimming or simply finding out more about your local leisure centre, Swan Pool & Leisure Centre would love to welcome you. For more information, please see the attached poster and contact Swan Pool & Leisure Centre directly.

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Safeguarding

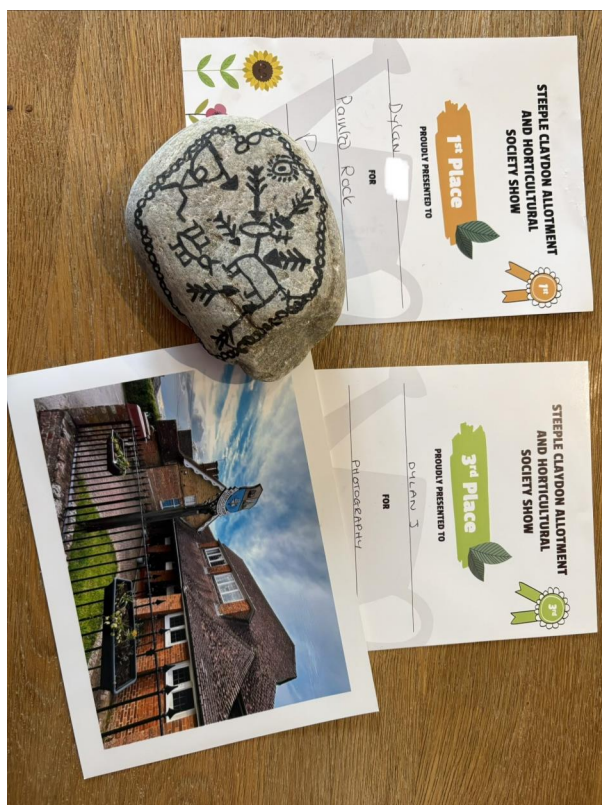
Mobile Phones: We have a strict no-mobile-phone policy once children walk through the school gates. Please ensure phones are switched off before entering school and handed to the class teacher on arrival, who will keep them safe and return them at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

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!

With Cubs, Dylan, from Year 4, made 2 entries for the village horticultural show. He won 1st prize for his rock painting and 3rd prize for his photo of the village hall. He's very proud of this!



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! 🌟