



School Newsletter 18.09.2026

Headteacher's Update

Another fabulous week here at Steeple HQ!

We began the week by introducing another of our school values. While Respect is one of our existing values, it remains just as important as ever. We discussed and shared ideas about how to create a respectful environment and reflected on the number of people we meet in a single day. If we show respect and kindness to each of those people, it spreads. Respect and kindness are contagious. By treating others the way we would like to be treated, we create the most amazing community. We read a story called *Do Unto Otters*, which I would highly recommend.

I spent most of Monday and Tuesday organising our clubs list. I'm thrilled to share that we received over 50 responses, with every child securing a place in a club. We do still have some spaces available in my KS2 Tag Rugby Club. If your child would like to take part in this non-competitive, purely fun club on Thursdays, please let me know. I'd love to have lots of you join us!

Our OPAL team met this week to evaluate how our outdoor provision is developing. We all agreed that it is moving in the right direction, but we need more resources! On Wednesday, we asked the children what they would like to play with outside and, on Thursday, we ordered some of their suggestions. As soon as everything arrives, we will have designated areas for role play, music and dancing, as well as some quieter zones. Please remember to leave a pair of named wellies in school for your child, as the wetter weather has definitely arrived. Please also see the specific 'OPAL' section on the newsletter too for donation ideas.

Our Toddler Group took place on Thursday morning, and it was wonderful to see some familiar faces returning alongside several new families. With Mrs Tapping, our Early Years Lead, leading these sessions, it provides a fantastic opportunity for a gentle introduction to life at Steeple. Please do spread the word to friends and family.

Finally, today we welcomed our new Early Years Adviser, who visited to observe the provision in Preschool and Reception. She was very positive about the work that has taken place over the summer to organise the learning environments, plan engaging play opportunities and activities and develop the communication and language interactions between adults and children.

Looking ahead to next week, clubs begin! All clubs finish at 4:15pm, with collection taking place from the KS1 playground to avoid interfering with S4A's drop-off and collection arrangements. Forest School is the only club that finishes at 4:30pm.

On Tuesday, FOSCS host their AGM from 6-7 at school and on Wednesday, FOSCS will be running their Sponsored LEGO Walk in the hall after school - one for the daredevils among you! Please return your sponsorship forms as soon as you are able.

On Friday, we will be holding our first Odd Socks Day to raise awareness of Down syndrome. This is traditionally celebrated on 21 March, which was chosen because people with Down syndrome have three copies of chromosome 21. This year, we have decided to spread our charity and awareness events across the school calendar to help manage the number of special days and reminders for families.

Have a great weekend and I'll see you all on Monday.

Mr Sperring

[Link to the school calendar](#)



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes! This week, the children have been learning about our bodies and identifying different body parts, as well as talking about and describing their own facial features. We have had lots of lovely conversations about what we look like, including how many eyes, noses, ears and mouths we have. Some of the children even took on their own little side challenge and have been trying to count their teeth!

We have been getting creative too! The children have been painting bodies onto photographs of their own heads, creating faces using playdough and making lots of different face and body-themed crafts.

We also looked at artwork by Emily Kam Ngwararay, an Aboriginal artist who sometimes painted using her fingers. The children were very inspired by her work and created their own paintings using their fingertips. Some even took it a step further, using their whole hands and arms to make marks and enjoy some wonderfully messy, creative fun!

The children have also loved spending time outside on the stage, performing their own version of 'Top of the Pops' and retelling their favourite stories while dressing up in their favourite costumes. It has been lovely to see their confidence and imaginations shine!

Next week, we will be learning all about families. If possible, please could you send in a photo of your child as a baby, so that we can talk about how we have changed and grown from when we were born until now. We would also love a family photo to share and discuss together too!

Thank you, and have a fabulous weekend everyone!

Reception

It has been another busy week in Reception, and the children have continued to settle in and adjust to their new school routines incredibly well. They have had lots of fun playing together, making new friends and exploring both the inside and outside areas. We've had rainbow painting, volcanic eruptions, construction sites - building houses and race tracks, dressing dollies in the home corner and so much more wonderful imaginative play.

We have had a visit from Ruby the reading dog and enjoyed our first trip to the school library, where we all chose a book to take home, as well as participating in Buddy Reading with Year 4. During his session the children are buddied up with a child from year 4 who will read them a story. We also joined the rest of the school on the playground and field at lunchtime, which the children have all enjoyed, especially those children with siblings and friends in older year groups.

We started our maths lessons by introducing Numberblocks one, two and three. We then learnt to subitise up to three items and how to represent these numbers in different ways using our fingers.

In literacy we continued to learn the story of 'The Something', taking a more in-depth look at the what happens in the different parts of the story.

In our topic lessons we have been learning about how we change and grow and what we can do now that we couldn't do when we were babies. We have also been talking about our families and all drew a fantastic picture of families as well as detailed self portraits. It is clear we have many budding young artists in Reception.

Year 1

Another busy, but fun week in Year 1! In English, we have loved reading 'Here Comes Mr Postmouse' and using the characters as inspiration for our sentence writing. We have been learning about verbs and that we have to use -ing at the end of a word to show what someone is doing.

In Maths we have been looking at counting on and counting back – and how to find one more and one less! In Science we learnt about our sense of sight and we now know that our pupil gets bigger when it is dark to let more light in!

In Geography we continued our 'map' work and this week we had to draw a map of our journey to school – we learnt that symbols show us the location of places on a map.

In Computing we learnt about the parts of a computer and we started working on our skills to 'click and drag' using a trackpad on a laptop.

In Art we looked at Van Gogh's sunflowers and experimented with mixing primary colours to make our own sunflowers.

What a busy week! Well done Year 1!

Year 2

We have had a super busy week of learning in Year 2!

In English, we have started our new book, *The River*. The children began by predicting what they thought might happen and looking at the different features and stages of a story. They are now busy planning and writing their own stories, and it has been lovely to see their ideas developing.

In Maths, we have been working on partitioning numbers and have now moved on to flexibly partitioning numbers. The children have been using their knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables to help them with their learning.

In Geography, we have been learning about the layout of our school and thinking carefully about where different areas and features are located.

In Science, we have started learning about skeletons and have been learning the names of different bones in the body. The children have enjoyed finding out how our skeletons help to support and protect us.

Music certainly caused some lively debate this week! We listened to Paul Simon's *You Can Call Me Al*, which is definitely one of my favourites, although not everyone agreed with me!

Finally, please, please, please remember to label all of your child's clothing. I currently have 10 jumpers in my classroom that I cannot return to their owners!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely autumn weekend.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have continued to settle in well and are doing a great job at learning their new routines. In English, they have been sharing lots of amazing ideas and super similes to describe "The Iron Man" and the children are very excited to be writing their threat-based narratives. In maths, the children have been working hard on the place value of 3-digit numbers. In art, the children loved having a go at a continuous line drawing. In science, the children enjoyed learning about the different bones in the human body. The highlight for the children this week was our PE lesson where the children loved having a go at different team-building challenges!

Year 4

We've had a fantastic week in Year 4. The children are really starting to settle into their new routines and are adapting brilliantly to the increased expectations both in the curriculum and around school. They have shown a positive attitude to learning, worked hard in lessons and are demonstrating our school values every day. Mr Sperring even visited the class to congratulate the children on how well they are doing, which was a lovely moment for everyone.

The highlight of the week was definitely our apple crumble making. The children worked incredibly hard to peel and chop the apples, prepare the crumble mixture and carefully put everything together. They showed excellent teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm throughout the activity. Well done, Year 4 - keep up the fantastic work!

Year 5

It feels like we're properly into the term now, and we're now in the swing of things in Year 5. We've been enjoying learning about the Curiosity rover on Mars (or I have, at least!), and we've been gathering ideas together that will help us for writing our space exploration narrative next week. In maths, we're working with and partitioning numbers up to one million! It can be tricky interpreting those long, six-digit numbers, but the class has impressed me with their resilience in this area.

In other subjects, we've spent time looking at maps in geography; examining the symbols used, and identifying whether countries are in the East or West hemisphere (or both!). In PSHE, we've learnt that using traffic light food labels are a great guidance for helping us eat healthily. We sketched some Rococo designs in art, while listening to some Johannes Sebastian Bach. And speaking of music, we've now done the one thing that Bon Jovi never could to improve *Livin' on a Prayer*... we've added glockenspiels.

Year 6

What a great week we have had in Year 6! The children have continued to show enthusiasm, curiosity and determination across all areas of their learning, and it has been wonderful to see them building on their knowledge and developing their skills.

In English, we have continued our journey through Paradise Sands, delving deeper into the story and its characters. This week, we have tackled a range of reading comprehension questions, using evidence from the text to support our ideas. We have also been exploring the characters' inner voices, thinking carefully about what they might be feeling, thinking and wondering at different points in the story. This has helped us to develop a much deeper understanding of the characters and their experiences.

In Maths, we have been sharpening our understanding of rounding both whole numbers and decimals. We have put our knowledge to the test by applying it to a variety of problem-solving challenges.

Our Geography learning has taken us to the fascinating Arctic and Antarctic Circles this week where we discovered more about the areas within these regions and explored the science behind polar night – a remarkable phenomenon where the Sun remains below the horizon for more than 24 consecutive hours. We investigated how the position of the Earth causes this unusual experience and considered what life might be like in these extreme environments.

In Science, we have been exploring the amazing transport system inside our bodies. We learnt about the vessels that carry blood around the body and how this vital system delivers the oxygen our cells need.

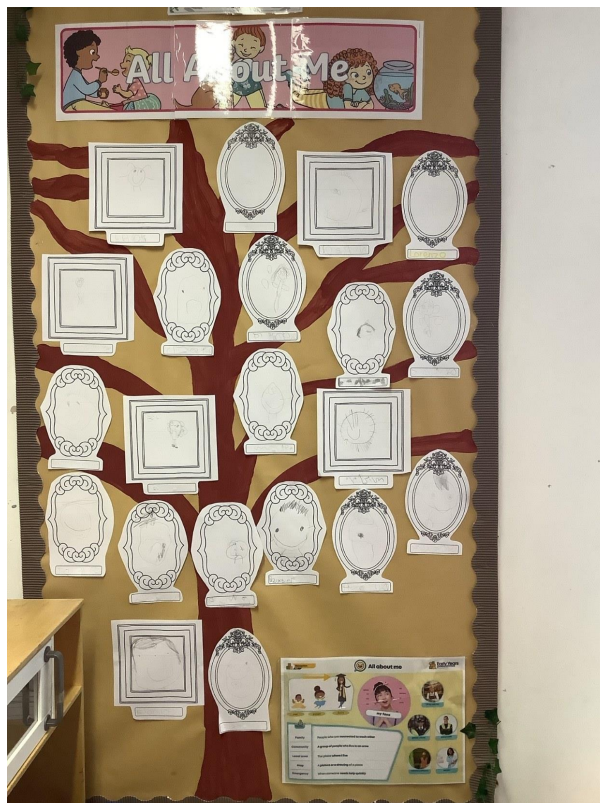
Our Art lessons have continued to focus on the incredible work of Leonardo da Vinci. We have been inspired by his detailed anatomical drawings and have created our own observational drawings of our hands. We have paid close attention to shape, proportion, structure and detail, just as Leonardo did in his studies.

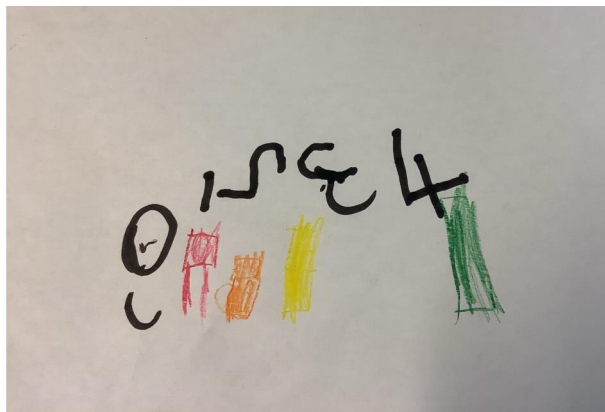
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Preschool Photos



Reception Photos







Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Shay - for settling into reception so well and for showing such kindness and empathy towards her friends.

Year 1 - Holly - for always being ready to learn and working very hard.

Year 2 - Ayla - for her amazing descriptive writing this week. Her river story is progressing so well.

Year 3 - Aurora - for settling in so well to the new routines and writing super similes!

Year 4 - Toby - for demonstrating great creativity and art techniques

Year 5 - Ava - for the resilience and hard work she puts into all lessons

Year 6 - Isaac M - for showing enthusiasm and curiosity in his learning and sharing his brilliant knowledge with the class.

Value Awards

Reception - Baxter - Curiosity - for showing curiosity and always being eager to learn, explore and ask questions. He loves finding out new things, discovering how the world works and sharing his ideas with others.

Year 1 - Lyla - Respect - she is always respectful of her friends, adults and classroom. She will often make sure the classroom is after lessons.

Year 2 - Roman - Resilience - he has tried so hard in his writing and maths activities, keeping going even if he has found it a bit tricky.

Year 3 - Chloe - Resilience - she showed brilliant resilience when we partitioned three digit numbers earlier this week!

Year 4 - Ummayyah - Resilience - she has shown great resilience this week, working hard to complete the tasks given to her in every lesson, some of which were very challenging!

Year 5 - Austin - Respect - for being helpful and respectful in all lessons

Year 6 - Dulinsa - Resilience - she has shown great resilience, putting 100% into her learning and great questions.

Office Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

Today your child will bring home a Christmas card design which they created in school; if you wish to purchase cards or gifts decorated in your child's design, follow the instructions on the reverse of the proof to order these.

Orders placed before 2nd October will all be shipped together with no additional postage cost and will arrive well before Christmas. You can place orders after that date, but they won't be included in the initial shipment and so there will be a postage charge.

Our school will receive 30% of the cost of all orders placed, so it is another wonderful fundraising opportunity for us!

Many thanks for your continued support.

FOSCS - Update

Our FOSCS AGM will take place on Tuesday 22nd September at 7pm at school. Everyone is very welcome to come along, hear about what FOSCS does, find out about the plans for the year ahead and, if you would like to, get involved!

We are always looking for volunteers to join the FOSCS team. Volunteering does not mean you need to attend every event – even helping at just one event during the year makes a huge difference. Small hands make light work!

Our first event of the year is a brand-new one - a Sponsored LEGO Walk, taking place after school on Wednesday 23rd September from 3:30pm–4:30pm.

Pay just £2 to take part, then walk across a path of LEGO bricks! Children and adults can both take part, so why not have a go together? Sponsorship forms will be sent home, and children can collect sponsorship from friends and family if they wish.

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.

To keep up to date with upcoming events, please check the noticeboard outside the main school entrance, follow our Facebook page, join the WhatsApp group and keep an eye on these newsletter updates.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please volunteer if you can - we'd love to have you on the team!





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.

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 97.7% 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 this week!

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

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.

PANTO!

Reminder

We are delighted that children in years R to 6 will be attending the pantomime at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre on Wednesday 16th December, as part of our commitment to providing exciting enrichment opportunities for all children. Please ensure you make your contribution of £16 per child via ParentPay.

As the performance takes place during the school day and will run into lunchtime, all children will need to bring a packed lunch on the day. Any Fresh Start meals ordered for that day will be converted to a packed lunch, and will be collected before we leave for the theatre.

We are so excited for this! What a wonderful way to round off the Autumn Term.

Mayor of Buckingham Christmas Card Competition

All of the children designed Christmas cards in school this week...but if that wasn't enough Christmas creativity, why not make another one?

Buckingham Town Council is inviting children to design The Mayor of Buckingham's Christmas Card on the theme 'My Best Christmas.' Two winners will be chosen to help switch on Buckingham's Christmas lights on 26th November and will receive printed copies of their winning design.

The closing date is 9th November.

I believe we even had a Steeple winner last year, so why not give it a go? Good luck!



Good news!

At pony club camp this summer, Eva won the trophy for 'best mini camper 2026' with her pony Ted. This is a trophy that is awarded to the rider who demonstrates great riding skill for their age range, alongside team spirit and overall care for their pony. Just look at that smile! What a legend!



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! ✨