



School Newsletter 11.09.2026

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and there is a real sense of excitement around school as we look ahead to what promises to be a brilliant year for our children.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions this week. I hope you found them informative and enjoyed hearing about the exciting opportunities planned for your child's year group. All year group presentations will be uploaded to the class pages on our school website shortly for those who were unable to attend or would like to revisit the information. A huge thank you must also go to FOSCS for attending and sharing their plans for the year ahead. Their continued support makes such a difference to our school community.

Our new school values of Respect, Resilience and Curiosity are now well and truly up and running and it has been great to see them already being demonstrated across the school. I have seen Respect shown through the kindness children have displayed towards one another as they settle into new classes and routines. I have seen Curiosity in classrooms, with children eager to learn, ask questions and engage with new topics. I have also seen tremendous Resilience, particularly from our Year 6 pupils who approached their Secondary Transfer Test with a real positive attitude. These values are central to who we are as a school and I would encourage all families to reinforce and model them at home. Talking about Respect, Resilience and Curiosity together helps children understand how these values can guide them both in school and beyond.

We have already welcomed our first visitor from the Buckinghamshire Schools Team since returning from the summer break. During her visit, she commented on how lovely the school is looking after the holidays, how calm and purposeful the classrooms are and how ready to learn the children appeared. I could not agree more. The atmosphere around school has been fantastic and it makes me even more excited for the year ahead.

One of our key school development priorities this year is Oracy. Under our value of Curiosity, we want children to ask more questions, engage in meaningful discussions with their peers, find answers for themselves, conduct their own research, take risks in their learning, make mistakes and reflect on them. These skills help children become confident learners and thinkers. Please do encourage this at home by asking open-ended questions, discussing topics together and celebrating effort and learning, even when things do not go perfectly the first time.

A few reminders as we move further into the term. Please ensure your child brings a coat to school each day and a pair of wellies if possible. Wellies can remain in school, which helps us make the most of outdoor learning and play opportunities throughout the year. Please also make sure all clothing is clearly named. We no longer have a lost property box! Any found items of clothing which are named will be directly returned to their owners. Unnamed clothing will be recycled!

Attendance continues to be a key priority. Every day in school matters and arriving on time ensures children start the day calmly and do not miss important learning. Good attendance supports academic achievement, friendships, confidence and overall wellbeing. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children attend regularly and punctually.

Finally, a reminder about the importance of reading. Quite simply: read, read, read! We ask that children read at home at least five times each week. Reading is the foundation of everything we do in school. It underpins writing, supports mathematical reasoning, develops vocabulary, helps children interpret maps, understand historical chronology and access learning across the entire curriculum. A few minutes of reading each day really does make a massive difference.

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

Mr Sperring

[Link to the school calendar](#)



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

What a fantastic first week back! Our preschoolers have jumped straight back into their learning with great enthusiasm and gusto.

This week, we have been learning all about our bodies. The children have enjoyed identifying different body parts and talking about what they do and why they are important. We've had lots of fun exploring this topic through play, conversations and our activities.

We've also been busy enjoying all the wonderful new resources and toys at preschool, with plenty of opportunities for exploring, discovering and learning through play. Most importantly, it has been lovely to see everyone back together, catching up with their friends and settling happily back into our preschool routines.

What a wonderful start to the term!

Reception

Huge welcome to all our Reception children and families. What a fantastic first week and a half we have had in Reception. I am incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into school life, you certainly wouldn't think it was only the first week of the year.

We have been spending most of our time exploring the classroom environment and getting to know each other, but have also been learning the classroom routines and the school expectations, as well as developing the children's independence skills. We even found the time to make our Christmas cards which as I'm sure you can imagine caused great excitement within the Reception class.

The children decided on their own Reception class rules, and have been working hard to adhere to these and have loved earning Dojo and House points when they do.

The children are already working towards developing their listening and attention skills. Which they demonstrated throughout the week during our daily phonics and literacy lessons. In phonics we have been learning the RWI signals and the pictures linked with each of the set 1 single letter sounds. In literacy we read our first vehicle text - The Something, and enjoyed learning the example text song and meeting the story friends who help us to learn about the structure of a story.

Next week we will start maths lessons and will continue with our topic - All About Me.

There was great excitement when the children attended an assembly with a live band from XYZ music. It was lovely to see so many of the children confidently joining in singing and clapping to the beat and one lucky child even got to play the drums with the band.

I hope the children aren't too tired after such a busy week, and managed to enjoy a restful weekend, so they are ready to go for another fun filled week in Reception.

Parents, please spend a little time this weekend making sure all your child's clothes and personal belonging are labelled.

Year 1

What an exciting first full week we have had in Year 1! This week we have worked on writing really good sentences in English – using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In Maths we have been sorting classroom objects, counting objects and representing them as numbers.

In Science we learnt about our 5 senses and how it helps us learn about the world around us. In Geography we have looked at 'aerial view' and how it is important to a cartographer (someone who draws maps). We even looked at an aerial view photograph of Steeple Claydon and our school! In Art we learnt about primary colours and how the artist Mondrian used it - we all made our own 'Composition in Red, Yellow and Blue' – just like he did in 1930.

We have started phonics this week and are excited to bring reading books home! What a great week we've had!

Year 2

Welcome back! What a super start to the new year in Year 2. The children have settled in brilliantly and are showing fantastic engagement with their new learning.

We have started our Science, Geography and PSHE topics this week, as well as completing our 'secret' Christmas card designs — all will be revealed at a later date!

It was great to see so many of you at the 'Meet the Parent' event this week. If you have any questions going forward, please do not hesitate to ask.

I will post more information about our topics and learning as the weeks progress.

As always, thank you for your support in our school community,

Best wishes,

Mrs Bradford and the Year 2 team

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have settled in well and are doing a great job at learning their new routines. We have started our new learning in each subject. In English, the children have enjoyed being introduced to our vehicle text "The Iron Man." In maths we have begun to explore hundreds, in art we have begun to learn about lines, in geography we have started learning about spatial sense and in science we began our learning all about the human body. The highlight for the children this week was their first ever French lesson where the children enjoyed learning four different phonemes.

Year 4

Year 4 - Our First Full Week Back!

What a fantastic first full week we have had in Year 4! The children have settled into their new routines brilliantly and have shown such enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience as we have begun our learning journey together.

In Maths this week, we have been developing our understanding of place value. We have been counting forwards and backwards in 1,000's, partitioning 4-digit numbers and exploring the value of each digit within a number. We have also been using number lines to represent numbers up to 1,000 helping us to develop a strong sense of where numbers belong and how they relate to one another.

In English, we have begun exploring our new vehicle text, The whale, a beautiful wordless picture book. Without written words to guide us, we have been using the illustrations carefully to make predictions, ask questions and discuss what might be happening. We are looking forward to seeing where our imaginations and ideas take us as we delve further into the story!

Our Science learning has taken us inside the human body as we have started to explore its building blocks. We have been introduced to some exciting new vocabulary, including cells, tissue, organs and organism and have been discussing how these different parts are connected and work together.

We have also started getting ready for something very exciting next week... making apple crumbles. This week, we have been practising our practical skills, including peeling, coring and chopping. The children have been enthusiastic and sensible as they developed their skills, and we are very much looking forward to putting them into practice next week.

It has been a wonderful week, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled into the year 4 routine. They have made a fantastic start, and we are excited for all the learning, challenges and fun that lie ahead!

Well done, Year 4 - what a great week! ✨

Year 5

It has been a really fun and productive first full week with the class. After investigating some interesting items (including red sand and some volcanic rock), we started looking at a great non-fiction picture book called *Curiosity*, about the Mars rover. I think this will help produce some really effective vocabulary! In science, we've begun to learn about human growth stages - cue funny photos of babies and toddlers, as we considered what a really astonishing amount of growth and development they do in a very short space of time. I loved the pearls that the class drew in art (inspired by van Gogh's *A Still Life with Quinces*)... and the class loved the pears that they ate afterwards! And in music, we've begun working on that classic, *Living on a Prayer*... something that the neighbouring classes will no doubt get to know very well as we weekly belt it out. First full week down. And on with the year! I think it'll be a good'un.

Year 6

Year 6 have made a wonderful start to the new school year and have settled into their new routines really well. They have got straight into their learning, and it has been fantastic to see the children demonstrating such positive attitudes, enthusiasm and commitment. It has certainly been a busy but very successful start to the year!

In English, we have begun exploring our new text, *Paradise Sands*. The children have enjoyed getting to know the story and have produced some wonderfully effective descriptions and imaginative poems inspired by the Teller's palace. We have been impressed by the ambitious vocabulary and creativity they have used to bring their writing to life.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, working with numbers up to 10 million. The children have explored the value of each digit and have been developing their understanding of how to compare and order numbers according to their size.

In Geography, we have explored lines of latitude and longitude and learnt how these can be used to read and identify coordinates on a map. In Music, the children enjoyed recapping some of the key facts and skills they learnt last year when playing the ukulele, helping them to refresh their musical knowledge and get back into the rhythm of playing.

Many of our Year 6 children also took their 11+ test this week. This was a big moment for them, and we are incredibly proud of the mature and determined way they approached the experience. As a special treat afterwards, the children enjoyed some relaxing time with Ruby, our Reading Therapy Dog, as well as having fun decorating cakes. It was lovely to see them unwind, celebrate getting through the week and enjoy some well-deserved treats!

It was also wonderful to meet many of our new parents at our Meet the Teacher meeting after school on Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend; it was lovely to have the opportunity to introduce ourselves and share a little more about the year ahead.

What a busy and successful start to the new school year it has been! We are incredibly proud of how well Year 6 have settled and all that they have achieved already.

I hope you all have a lovely and well-deserved weekend!

Preschool Photos





Reception Photos







Year 6 Photos









Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Cody - for a fantastic first week in his new classroom, making new friends and even playing the drums!

Year 1 - Hadley - for working incredibly hard in all subjects this week.

Year 2 - Isaac - for settling into his new school so well and being a real 'Steeple Star!'

Year 3 - Deacon - for always being ready to learn, trying his best and showing great resilience.

Year 4 - Jasper - for demonstrating the year 4 expectations - brilliant listening and following of instructions.

Year 5 - Lenny - for raising his hand with great answers and ideas - which has been so useful!

Year 6 - Liam - for showing a superb attitude to his learning, putting in 100% and being a great role model.

Value Awards

Reception - George B - Resilience - he has come back to school and settled into his new reception class, getting to know the adults and making new friends.

Year 1 - Jesse - Resilience - He has tried incredibly hard in Phonics and English this week. He has persevered with his writing, even when he found it tricky.

Year 2 - Ayla - Respect - Showing respect to the adults and her classmates through offering to help and tidy always!

Year 3 - Harper - Respect - She has shown brilliant respect behaviours and listening in all lessons.

Year 4 - Toby - Resilience - He has shown great listening, following the instructions beautifully and adjusting to year 4 expectations.

Year 5 - Noah - Curiosity - For almost overflowing with questions and ideas this week!

Year 6 - Lexi - Respect - She has been exemplary in the classroom and consistently showing kindness to others

FOSCS - Update

Thank you to everyone who attended Meet the Teacher and heard about the fantastic amount of money raised last year, as well as the exciting plans we have for the year ahead.

We have already committed over £2,000 towards trips and experiences for 2026–2027, helping to ensure that every class enjoys at least one trip or special event each term. We have also earmarked a significant amount of funding to support our OPAL transformation, with new storage sheds arriving shortly, ready to be filled with plenty of resources for children to play, create and explore with at lunchtimes.

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!

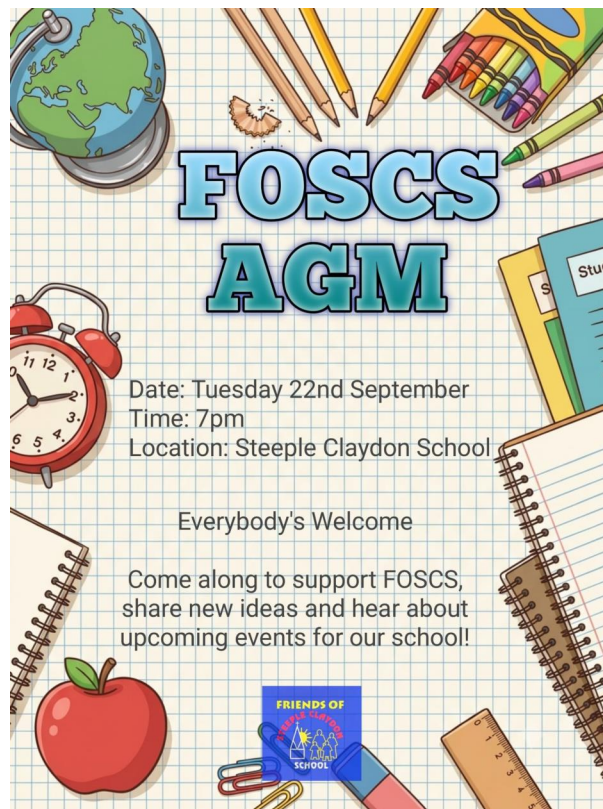
Our first event of the year is a brand-new one - a Sponsored LEGO Walk, taking place after school on Wednesday 23rd September from 3:30pm–4:30pm.

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!





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 95.5% so far this year. 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 5, who have a 100% record so far this year! Keep it up.

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 the whole school 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 instead of ordering a school meal. Children entitled to Free School Meals can order a school packed lunch, which 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!



Judo

Looking for a New Hobby?

If your child is interested in trying something new, Bucks Judo is currently welcoming new members of all ages.

Based in Akeley, Buckingham, Bucks Judo runs weekly sessions every Wednesday evening for:

- 4–7 year olds
- 8–15 year olds
- Adults (16+ years)

Judo is a fantastic way to build confidence, develop fitness, learn self-discipline and make new friends in a fun and supportive environment.

If you would like to find out more, please see the attached flyer from Bucks Judo.

BUCKS JUDO



Beginners & Experienced Players Welcome
First Session is FREE!



Wednesday Evenings

Kanos	6:15pm - 7pm	4yrs - 7yrs
Juniors	7pm - 8pm	8yrs - 15yrs
Adults	8pm - 9pm	16yrs +

Venue
The Sports Dome
Tile House Mansion
Akeley
Buckingham
MK18 5AN



www.bucksjudo.com | bucksjudo@gmail.com

Good news!

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! ✨