

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 17.07.2026

Headteacher's Update

We have reached the final full week of the academic year and what a week it has been! It has been an absolute cracker and a fantastic way to round off another busy and successful year at Steeple Claydon.

Throughout the week, the school has been buzzing with excitement during our STEM Week. Children have taken part in a range of exciting activities, including building bug hotels, designing and testing egg-drop challenges and carrying out investigations and experiments in their classrooms. We were also delighted to welcome members of our community into school to share their careers and experiences in STEM-related industries. A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time to inspire our children. There has been a real buzz around the school all week and it has been wonderful to see so much curiosity!

On Monday, the whole school was treated to the Year 6 production of *Peter Pan*. The children watched in awe as our Year 6 pupils took to the stage. It was clear to see just how much hard work had gone into rehearsals. Year 6 then went on to perform twice more on Tuesday and Wednesday for parents and carers. During Tuesday evening's performance, I spoke about our vision of giving every child the chance to shine. It is fair to say that every single member of Year 6 was absolutely shining on that stage. They were incredible and should be immensely proud of themselves. Absolute legends!

Monday also saw our penultimate transition afternoon, with children spending time in their new classes ahead of September. It has already been lovely to see their confidence growing and excitement building as they prepare for the next stage of their journey at Steeple.

On Tuesday, we held our OPAL Action Plan meeting. Together, we discussed the improvements, resources and play opportunities we will be developing over the Summer. We are incredibly excited about the next steps on our OPAL journey and the opportunities this will create for children when they return in September. Watch this space!

Wednesday saw our Year 3 children visit Hazard Alley, where they learned how to keep themselves safe in a variety of real-life situations. They explored topics including water safety, road safety and how to contact the emergency services. It was a fantastic day and the children returned with lots of important knowledge to share.

On Thursday, Year 1 visited Waddesdon Manor to take part in a variety of outdoor learning workshops. The children had a brilliant time and, for some, it was their very first school trip - how exciting! We also hosted our second Toddler Stay and Play session. It was lovely to welcome some familiar faces back into school and we look forward to continuing these sessions in September, welcoming even more families from our community.

Thursday was also a very special day for our Preschool children as they celebrated their graduation. They sang beautifully, proudly received their certificates and absolutely beamed throughout the ceremony in the sunshine. Well done, Preschool - we are so proud of you all.

The celebrations continued into Thursday evening with the Year 6 Leavers' Party. What a fantastic evening it was! These are exactly the kinds of memories children should bottle up and treasure as they prepare to move on to secondary school. Every member of staff commented on what a lovely class they are - supportive of one another, encouraging, celebrating each other's successes and, of course, having a lot of fun along the way. Not long left now, Year 6!

Finally, today we held our Staff Leavers' Assembly, where we said goodbye to both Mrs Whittle and Ms Davies.

Mrs Whittle has been a fantastic member of the team and has taught across a range of classes from EYFS right through to Key Stage 2. Her flexibility, positivity and support have been greatly appreciated and she will be missed by both staff and children alike. We wish her every success in the future.

Today also marked the end of an incredible ten-year journey for Ms Davies. During her time at Steeple Claydon, she has positively impacted the lives of so many children and built wonderful relationships across our school community. Whilst we are always sad to say goodbye, we are also incredibly proud of her as she takes the next step in her career and begins her new role as an Assistant Headteacher. We know she will be brilliant. Mrs Whittle and Ms Davies - you are both legends!

Looking ahead to next week, we have a few final events before we break up for the summer holidays. On Monday, children are invited to bring a board game from home, which they will be welcome to play during the morning after their class teacher has deemed the classroom fit, tidy and ready for September! In the afternoon, all children will take part in their final transition session in their new classes, giving them one last opportunity to get to know their new teachers and learning environments ahead of the new academic year. Our Year 6 pupils will also have their Leavers' Assembly on Monday at 2:30pm, where they will share their memories and reflections with the school and their families. It is always a special occasion and a fitting way to celebrate their time at Steeple Claydon before they move on to secondary school.

On Tuesday, we break up for the summer holidays! As mentioned earlier, Preschool, EYFS and Key Stage 1 children will finish at **1:30pm**, whilst Key Stage 2 children will finish at **1:35pm**. Children should be collected from their usual collection points.

As we only have a day and a half left next week this will be my final newsletter of the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our entire school community for your support during my first two terms as Headteacher. Whether that

has been supporting your child at home, attending events, volunteering your time, responding to surveys or simply stopping for a chat on the school gate each morning, it is all hugely appreciated.

The children (and the staff!) are certainly ready for a well-earned summer break. However, I am already looking forward to September and the exciting plans we have both inside and outside the school building. There is so much to look forward to.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend and, if I do not see you before then, have a fantastic summer holiday.

Mr Sperring

[Link to the school calendar](#)



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

Wow! What a year in Preschool-- We have learned all about us, journeys, dinosaurs, growing and changing, animals and their babies and heroes and adventurers! This week we learned all about mountain rescue and life guards, talked all about our trip and celebrated N2 leaving us with their graduation celebration! Thank you for your continued support this year, and have a wonderful summer holiday.

Our little friends, how time has flown, You've laughed and learned and gosh you've grown.
Our days were spent having fun and exploring, Each day was an adventure, never boring!
We've sung our songs, we've danced, played games. We'll forever cherish these special days.
Keep asking questions, trying new things, Keep being kind and embrace what life brings.

We'll miss you all, But don't feel blue, Our hearts hold the happiest memories of you. Keep
laughing, keep playing and enjoying each day. We'll be cheering you on every step of the
way!

Good luck N2, we hope you have a great time in Reception!

Reception

I can't quite believe we have now completed our last full week together in Reception. It has
been lovely to have a slightly quieter week, allowing us the time to enjoy playing and
learning together for one last time. And I have to say I have been so impressed with the
children's creativity and imagination this week, it is clear to see how far their play skills have
developed this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children for making my first year in
Reception at Steeple Claydon School such a memorable one. It has been a pleasure to teach
many of you for the last two years, and I am incredibly proud of everything you have all
achieved. It has been a pleasure to watch everyone grow in confidence, independence and
curiosity. From developing their phonics, writing and maths skills to building friendships,
showing kindness and tackling new challenges with enthusiasm, each child has made
fantastic progress in their own special way.

It has been a joy to be part of their journey, and I look forward to watching from afar as the
children move into Year 1 with Mrs Smuts, where I am confident they will all continue to
shine. The children enjoyed another transition session with Mrs Smuts this week and have
another one on Monday afternoon. I would like to thank all of our families for their
continued support throughout the year, and wish everyone an enjoyable summer together.

Year 1

What a busy and eventful week we have had in Year One! In maths, our young
mathematicians have been busy mastering the days of the week and learning how to tell the
time to the o'clock. History came alive this week as we held our very own general election;
the classroom was buzzing with excitement as the children cast secret ballots for the Pink,
Green, or Orange parties, each pitching their own brilliant ideas. In English, we wrapped up
our Last wolf stories, showcasing just how much these talented writers have grown - the
incredible progress in every single child over the last year is truly amazing, and I am so proud
of them all. Of course, the ultimate highlight of the week was our Garden Explorers trip to
Waddesdon Manor! The children were ecstatic just to ride on the coach, and the adventure
only got better as they hunted for bugs, studied insect life cycles, admired the birds in the

aviary, and built cosy bug hotels in the woodland. Well done, Year One—what a brilliant week!

Year 2

This year has flown by in Year 2, and this is our final newsletter of the year! This week, the children have been completing their final lessons in Science, where they have been learning about space travel and the International Space Station. In History, our final *Powerful Voice* was Sir David Attenborough, who certainly shows that a voice can be both quiet and powerful.

On Friday, the children will complete their environmental narrative, thinking about how we can keep wild areas clean without harming the natural ecology of those spaces.

On Monday next week, the children are invited to bring in a sensible game to enjoy with their friends. In the afternoon, we will also have our final transition session with their new class.

Please could your child bring in a plastic bag on Monday, as there will be lots of lovely bits and bobs for the children to bring home. Finally, we would like to thank you for all your support this year and wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and a very happy time with your families.

Year 3

I want to start this week's update by saying how amazing Year 3 have been this year and how proud I am of all of them. They have worked super hard, learnt lots of new things and we have made lots of brilliant memories together! This week, the children enjoyed finishing their biographies all about Usain Bolt and in maths their highlight was making 3-D shapes out of spaghetti and play-doh. In history, the children learnt about Alfred the Great. The main highlight for the children this week was our educational visit to Hazard Alley. All of the children showed great enthusiasm and learnt lots about how to stay safe. They made "999" calls, learnt how to safely cross the road, how to stay safe by a railway track, what to do if there is a fire and how to help someone who is drowning. They also learnt about choices and consequences, e-safety and how to stay safe on a building site. The children had a brilliant day and on Thursday they created very informative posters using all the new information that they had learnt.

Thank you for all of your support this year, I hope you all have a lovely summer and I wish all of Year 3 every success in Year 4 and beyond!

Year 4

Year 4 – What a Fantastic Year!

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, we would like to say a huge well done to all of our amazing Year 4 children. It has been a year full of exciting learning,

creativity, resilience and achievement, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have accomplished. They have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and should all feel very proud of how much they have grown.

Throughout the year, we have explored a wide range of fascinating topics across the curriculum.

Autumn Term English began with *Whale*, where the children wrote descriptive setting narratives and engaging newspaper reports. In maths, they developed their understanding of place value before moving on to addition and subtraction. Science lessons focused on the human body, while geography introduced spatial sense and map skills. In art, we explored light, and in DT the children enjoyed making delicious apple crumble.

In Autumn 2, our English learning was inspired by *Leaf*, leading to thoughtful outsider narratives and informative non-fiction writing about polar bears. Maths focused on multiplication and measures, while science explored the classification of plants and animals. history took us back to Ancient Greece, and our art topic looked beyond our world into the wonders of space.

During Spring 1, we travelled into the world of myths with *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, writing exciting myth narratives and information texts. In maths, we continued developing our multiplication and division skills alongside learning about length and perimeter. Science focused on ecology, geography explored Eastern Europe, and the children showed fantastic perseverance while designing and sewing their own cushions in DT.

Spring 2 saw us enjoy the magical story *The Lost Happy Endings*, inspiring twisted narratives and persuasive letters. In maths, we learned about fractions, decimals and area. Science lessons investigated sound, while history introduced us to the fascinating rise and fall of the Roman Empire. In art, we studied the monuments of Ancient Rome before designing and building our own impressive Pantheons.

Our Summer Term began with the beautiful wordless book *Flotsam*, inspiring rich descriptive setting narratives. In maths, we developed our understanding of decimals before learning about money and time. Science lessons explored states of matter and the water cycle, while geography took us on a journey across Asia, with a particular focus on Japan. After visiting the Rec to carry out research, the children used their design skills to create imaginative miniature playgrounds in DT.

In our final half term, we finished the year with invention narratives and biographies about the famous inventor Jacques Cousteau. Maths lessons focused on shape and statistics, while in science we learned about electricity and were fortunate to welcome visitors from Gawcott Solar Farm, who taught us about renewable energy and sustainable power. In history, we explored the Stuart period, including the Gunpowder Plot, the Great Fire of London and the changing monarchy. Our art learning focused on design and the importance of the seven

elements of art, encouraging the children to think carefully about how artists including Munch and Matisse create successful pieces..

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach this wonderful class. Thank you to all of our families for your continued support throughout the year—it has made such a difference. We wish all of our Year 4 children the very best as they move into Year 5. We know they will continue to work hard, be kind and achieve great things.

Have a safe, relaxing and well-deserved summer holiday. We look forward to hearing about all of your adventures in September! Thank you, stay safe and enjoy the holidays – you really do deserve it.

Mrs Cato and Mrs Pearse

Year 5

As well as finishing off our final English and maths work, we've had quite a few different one-offs, making it a bit of an odd week! We had an extended PSHE lesson looking at puberty and related topics, and the class handled a potentially embarrassing topic really maturely. It was a great opportunity for them to ask questions important to them, and I think all of the class found it really useful. However, it's STEM week at our school, and we've been lucky enough to welcome a couple of visitors to our class involved with Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths. Just today, we had Dulinsa's mum come and join us to talk about her work as a software engineer. She demonstrated coding, and was able to relate it to video games and phones, which really helped the children to grasp the scope and importance of such jobs. Thank you so much, Mrs Athapattu!

Another highlight was when we were visited by a friend of Miss Davies, who has spent 25 years as an engineer for F1 teams - mostly Red Bull, but also Aston Martin. It was evident from the children's interest and questions that we have a *lot* of F1 fans in the class, and it led on from safety design for racing cars to safety design for an egg drop! Each group had one egg, 20 straws and exactly 1m of masking tape, and had to design a way to keep the egg safe when dropping it from 2m (and, if it survived, 3m!). There were a lot of great designs - and even though only a few groups managed the 2m drop, let alone 3m, no one ended up with egg on their faces. (Badum ting! Here all night, folks, here all night).

But I just want to take this opportunity to say how much I've enjoyed teaching this class. They're an energetic bunch with wide ranging interests, but they're a really fun, interesting, curious group of kids. We've had a lot of laughs this year. I hope they have a great summer before they start Year 6 with a wonderful team of adults. And I hope that you have a good summer, too!

Year 6

Year 6 have had the most amazing week! They were absolutely amazing in their performance of Peter Pan, showcasing fantastic singing and taking on their roles with

confidence and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of all their hard work and the way they brought the performance to life. A special thank you to Becky Pontefract for the wonderful face paints. They really made the characters come to life.

Year 6 also enjoyed a fantastic evening at the Year 6 leavers' party, celebrating all their achievements and hard work after such a busy year. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate the memories they have made. Thank you so much to all the parents who helped in setting it all up - it was an amazing evening!

Now, Year 6 are getting ready for their leavers' assembly next week, as well as enjoying some end-of-term fun. What a wonderful way to finish their time at primary school!

Reception Photos







Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Zak - for being an absolute Steeple Star all year. showing such confidence and enthusiasm in everything he does.

Year 1 - Holly - for her incredible improvement in her independent writing.

Year 1 -Roman - for his super work in maths, remembering the days of the week perfectly.

Year 1 -Nora - for working incredibly hard in English on her wolf story.

Year 1 -Ivy - her her super work in History designing her election rosette.

Year 2 - Harry - for trying so hard with his narrative writing, using some fabulous vocabulary.

Year 3 -Dylan - for always being enthusiastic to learn and being an excellent role model.

Year 4 -Evie - for working so hard in Maths this week when interpreting data - a brand new concept!

Year 5 - Joseph - for his great sportsmanship in PE, encouraging players in the other team.

Year 6 - Elisha - for the amazing progress and hard work in her maths lessons as well as her really helpful and kind attitude.

Value Awards

Reception - Ezra - Compassion - for showing care and tenderness towards his friends during our transition sessions to year 1.

Reception - Hadley - ALL - She has consistently demonstrated all of the school values this year. A Steeple Star!

Reception - Athena - ALL - She has consistently demonstrated all of the school values this year. A Steeple Star!

Reception - Lyla - ALL - She has consistently demonstrated all of the school values this year. A Steeple Star!

Year 1 - Jake - Positivity - he had a brilliant day engaging with everything, behaving beautifully and following instructions on our school trip.

Year 2 - Caleb - Confidence - he is having a go at so many things in the classroom!

Year 3 - Ummayyah - Confidence - for her growing confidence and willingness to share her ideas.

Year 3 - Ummayyah - Trust - she can always be trusted to do the right thing, try her absolute trust and to sensibly carry out jobs around the classroom.

Year 4 - Jacob - Positivity - he has been very positive during transition time, preparing to move up into Year 5.

Year 5 - Isaac - Curiosity / Trust (Although Curiosity is a new value so not allowed yet!) - for asking great scientific questions in PSHE

Year 6 - Danny - Determination - he has worked so hard, making super progress in all areas of the curriculum as well as being a great role model.

House Point Winners

Gold Award (90 House Points)

Year 2 - Caleb, Rupert, Coby, Frances, Gianni, Maya-Bonnie

Year 5 - Daniel

Year 6, Elisha, Cian

Platinum Award (120 House Points)

Year 3 - Archie, Teddy

Year 4 - Sienna

Year 5 - Milan, Sophie

Year 6 - Mia, Jayson, Ivy, Maisy, Emily, George, Hugo

Headteacher House Point Award (200 House Points!)

Year 6 - Danny, Louis, Dylan, William Ch

Become a School Governor

Have you ever considered becoming a School Governor? Being a governor is a rewarding opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future of our school. Governors work alongside school leaders to provide support, challenge and strategic direction, helping to ensure that every child receives the very best education possible. The role offers a unique insight into school life, allowing you to develop a deeper understanding of how schools operate while making a genuine difference to the experiences and outcomes of our pupils. If you are passionate about education, keen to contribute to your local community and would like to have a positive impact on the future of our school, we would love to hear from you. If this sounds appealing, please email the school office or catch Mr Sperring on the gate.

Thank you.

Preschool Wraparound

Unfortunately, with only two families signed up for the provision, we have made the difficult decision not to launch Preschool Wraparound Care in September.

I understand this will be disappointing news, particularly for the families who had registered their interest and were planning to use the service. However, as a school, we cannot afford to run the provision at such a significant financial loss. Based on our projections, we would need approximately 10 children attending each day for the service to be financially viable.

This decision does not mean that Preschool Wraparound Care will not happen in the future. We remain committed to providing this service for our community and recognise the importance of flexible childcare for many families. In September, we will revisit demand and seek expressions of interest for a potential January start, when we will also have a number of new children joining the Preschool.

I am sorry to be sharing disappointing news. However, running the provision with such low numbers would place the school under significant financial pressure and could ultimately impact our ability to employ the staff needed to meet the needs of all children across the school.

If you have any questions, please do catch me on the gate or contact the school office. I would be more than happy to discuss our longer-term plans and vision for wraparound provision at Steeple Claydon. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Free Fun Cooking Courses

We have been asked to share details of a fantastic free cooking course available to local families this summer.

The course is designed to help families prepare delicious, healthy meals on a budget whilst learning practical tips to save money, reduce food waste and rely less on takeaways. Participants receive all the ingredients delivered to their door, along with step-by-step recipes and support from a personal mentor via phone or WhatsApp. The course can be completed at your own pace over approximately two weeks.

This opportunity is not means tested, so any family who would like to take part is welcome to register.

To find out more or sign up:

 01296 708239

 office@communitycafe.vnworks.net

All you need is a kitchen and a phone! The programme is fully funded by The Verney Foundation.

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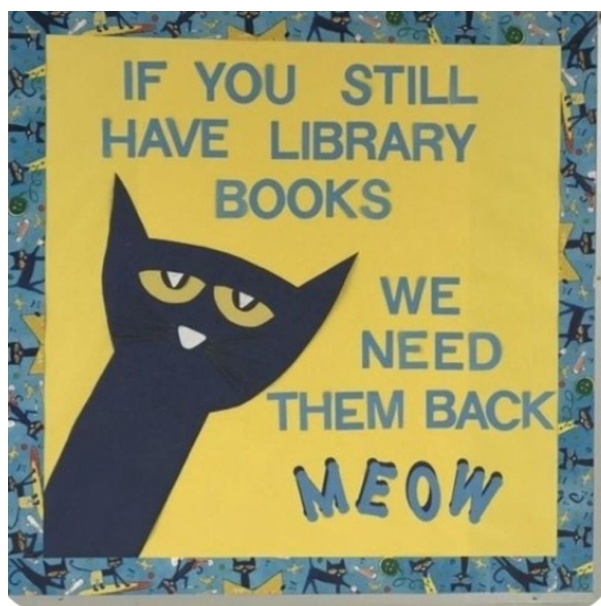
XYZ Music Academy

We are pleased to share information about our peripatetic music lessons for the upcoming academic year. Please see the attached letter for full details of the musical opportunities available and how to register your interest.

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Library and Accelerated Reader Books

Please note that the school library is now closed for the remainder of the academic year to allow us time to complete our end-of-year stock check and organise resources for September. We would be grateful if all library books and Accelerated Reader books could be returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.



FOSCS - Update

What a fantastic Summer Fair we had on Saturday! It was wonderful to see so many families and members of our community there, and thanks to your incredible support, we raised over **£3,000**.

The staff particularly enjoyed the sponge throwing stall! A special mention goes to Jasper in Year 5, who purchased an impressive 36 sponges to throw at Mr Foster - I think it's safe to say he got his money's worth!

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered and supported the event. The money raised will help support the school with thier ongoing drive to improve outdoor play opportunities for children at breaktimes and lunchtimes as part of their OPAL journey.

Found Festival at Claydon House - 28th to 30th of August

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Local Resident Discounts

We want to make the festival as accessible as possible for local families. Residents living in MK18, HP18, HP17 and OX9 are eligible for our **Residents Discounted Tickets**.

Tickets can be booked here: [Residents Discounted Tickets](#)

Volunteer at the Festival

A festival is only as good as its community, and we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers (aged 18+) to help us bring the magic to life. From stewarding, scanning and stage managing to helping in the family zones, it's a brilliant way to get involved. Volunteers get free entry to the festival, free camping and a free vehicle pass!

[Apply to be a Festival Volunteer](#)

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.

This week's whole-school attendance was 93.8%. Well done to Reception, who achieved the highest class attendance this week with 96.1%.

If your child is well enough, please send them to school.

In the event of your child being ill and unable to attend school or preschool, please ensure you phone or email the office before 8.45am on each day of illness to report the absence.



Safeguarding

In school, we consistently reinforce a clear message: if a child sees or hears anything online that worries them, makes them feel uncomfortable or unsure, they must tell a trusted adult straight away. Please continue to echo this message at home. Working together, we can help ensure our children enjoy the benefits of technology safely and responsibly.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Harry Sperring (Headteacher). The Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Theresa Wheeldon (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Georgina Tapping (EYFS lead). The Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Jenny Shaw. The Designated Person for Looked After Children (LAC) and Pupil Premium is Mrs Theresa Wheeldon. If you are concerned about the safety of a child, you can email the DSLs on safeguarding@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk or you can contact the [Bucks Safeguarding Team](#) who will be able to assist. If you feel a child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

Good news!

Harry from Year 3 achieved the Bronze Beavers award last week. 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! 🌟