



aaSchool Newsletter 10.07.2026

Headteacher's Update

What a scorching week it has been at Steeple Claydon! Despite the heat, we have packed so much into the week, with trips, performances, transition activities and plenty of memorable moments along the way.

On Monday, we welcomed Bucks Mind into school to thank us for the money raised during the Spring Term and to share their top tips linked to the Five Ways to Wellbeing. I also had the pleasure of taking some of our KS2 athletes to a competition at Stoke Mandeville. They were immense in the heat and represented the school brilliantly. Although only first and second place were announced on the day, we have since found out that we finished in third place overall! A fantastic achievement that we are all incredibly proud of.

Tuesday was our Transition Day, with children spending time in their new classrooms and meeting the adults who will be working with them next year. The school was filled with positivity, excitement and a few understandable nerves. The children gave an excellent impression of themselves and embraced the day brilliantly. Well done, everyone.

On Wednesday, a group of children completed their Bikeability training on the KS1 playground. Some children arrived at school unable to ride a bike and left confidently cycling. It was incredible to see such resilience and growth mindset in action.

Thursday saw some of our Preschool and Reception children head off to Hogshaw Farm. They fed the goats, stroked a cockroach, explored the farm animals and even enjoyed the soft play and bouncy castle area. It was a fantastic day and there were certainly some tired children by the end of it!

Today, we held Steeple's Got Talent, and what a wonderful event it was. We celebrated all children who auditioned within their classrooms and recognised those who made it through to the final. The hall was alive with dancers, singers, magicians and performers of all kinds. It was one of those occasions that simply made everyone feel proud to be part of the Steeple Claydon community.

Today, all children from Preschool N2(starting reception in September) to Y5 will receive their end-of-year school report. While the report shares your child's academic progress and achievements, it also celebrates the many personal qualities that make them the wonderful individuals they are. I encourage you to spend some time discussing the report with your child and celebrating all they have achieved this year, both in and out of the classroom. Y6 reports will be sent out next Friday, the 17th of July.

Looking ahead, next week is our final full week of the academic year. Can you believe it? It is also STEM Week, with every class taking part in a range of exciting activities and hearing from inspirational visitors linked to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

On Monday, the whole school will be treated to the dress rehearsal of the Year 6 production. We will also be holding an additional transition afternoon for all children.

On Tuesday, we have another OPAL meeting with our advisor, giving us the opportunity to share the progress and developments we have made. In the afternoon, Year 6 will perform their production to their first official audience. They are more than ready!

On Wednesday, Year 3 will visit Hazard Alley, while Year 6 will take to the stage once again for their final evening performance.

Thursday is another busy day, with Year 1 visiting Waddesdon Manor, our second Toddler Taster Session taking place, Preschool celebrating their Graduation, and Year 6 enjoying their Leavers' Party.

Have a brilliant weekend, enjoy the sunshine safely, and let's hope for an England win on Saturday!

Mr Sperring

Sports Day Photos

Apologies for the delay with this. As you can imagine, we've had a very busy week, and I haven't yet had the opportunity to edit and distribute the Sports Day photos.

Thank you for your patience and I'm sorry for the delay in getting these to you. I will aim to have them finished and shared with you by next week.

[Link to the school calendar](#)



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

Wow what an incredibly exciting, busy and hot week it has been for all the Preschool children!

We started off the week talking about our local heroes and who is a hero to us! Lots of suggestions of parents, grandparents, pets and police being our heroes. We talked about our community in Steeple Claydon and said that we don't know everyone in our community, but we all work together to make Steeple Claydon a nice place to live.

On Tuesday, our bigger children went off to their transition morning in Reception, they had a fantastic time, while the younger children had lots of fun playing with cars, police stations and having a refreshing snack!

On Wednesday, we had lots of water play to keep cool, and did some great fine motor work!

On Thursday, our bigger children went to Hogshaw Farm with Reception. We met Farmer Phil and learned all about animals and us, and were asked "Are you animals?" to which children learned that they are animals and not plants! We met a cockroach called "Colin" and got to touch him, he felt just like a fingernail, then we were very brave and fed some goats, and went to say hello to all the animals at the farm! We saw lots of goats, chickens, and alpacas before going to see some different birds that are not the usual pigeon we see in

our natural area at Preschool! We spent the afternoon playing in the soft play and bouncy castles to relax after our long walk around the farm! The younger children back at Preschool decorated biscuits, had a water fight with Mrs Parsley and Miss Fleur to which I'm told the children won! We all ended the afternoon cooling down and having an ice lolly to finish the day!

Reception

It's been another scorcher of a week, and what a week it has been!

Monday saw our Talent Show Semi finals, with some very strong competition, we really struggled to narrow it down to the two finalists!

On Tuesday the children spent the day in year 1 getting to know their new teacher - Mrs Smuts. They had a fabulous day and I was very proud of how well everyone coped with the change. Mrs Smuts is looking forward to seeing all the children again on Monday afternoon.

On Wednesday we had our last buddy reading session with year 4, something the children have thoroughly enjoyed and which has been hugely beneficial, both in developing confidence in reading and also in building relationships with older children. The children also returned their library books for one last time. Library books will be issued again in September. If you still have a library book at home, please return it to school by the end of next week.

On Thursday we enjoyed a rather hot trip to Hogshaw Farm. A first school trip for all the children, and what can I say not only did we have an incredible time, but they coped so well in such high temperatures and their behaviour was impeccable! We started the day meeting the farm animals in the barn, everyone had the opportunity to feed the goats and then we even got to meet and stroke Colin the Cockroach - as it was too hot for the guinea pigs!!! We delved into the world of creepy crawlies in the bug house and took a slow walk around the goat and chicken enclosures. Despite many of the animals hiding in the shade we did manage to see some piglets playing in muddy puddles, alpacas, reindeers and a lynx. Unfortunately the outside play areas were too hot to use, so we stayed inside and enjoyed soft play, a bouncy castle and sand play instead! A wonderful time was had by all!!!!

Friday was the final of Steeples got Talent - a huge well done to Ronnie and Coral who both performed with such enthusiasm and confidence!

I am looking forward to our final full week together.

Year 1

We have had a wonderful and productive week in Year 1! In our English lessons, the children have begun writing their The Last Wolf stories. It is absolutely fantastic to see how independent they are becoming with their writing and creativity.

In maths, we have been learning all about money! The children have been recognizing different coins and notes, and practicing how to add amounts together by putting their counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s to great use.

Finally, we have been doing our very best to keep as cool as possible in this warm weather. The children have had a brilliant time in our garden area, staying refreshed and having fun playing with water in our mud kitchen!

Year 2

Another hot week in school, but the children have been doing brilliantly in the warm weather.

The children were very excited to visit their new classroom and meet the lovely Miss Danks. They had a wonderful time and couldn't wait to tell me all about it on Wednesday morning. A new entrance to school and new lunchtime timings — a quick play before lunch, then lunch, then more play!

In History, we have been learning about our next "Powerful Voice": Greta Thunberg, a young environmental activist who cares deeply about looking after our world and raising people's awareness of global warming.

In Science, we have been finding out about the night sky and the constellations that can be seen on a clear night, and learning about the origins of their names.

In English, we have been reading *Tidy* by Emily Gravett, a beautiful story about a badger who is obsessed with tidying up the forest.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our learning in addition, using partitioning and a number line to count on.

On Thursday we had a lovely, cool opportunity to do team building and outdoor learning in our Forest School area, including reading and den building.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Summer Fair last week. We all had a great time — even in the stocks!

Have a super weekend!

Year 3

Despite the temperature rising again, Year 3 have continued to work super hard. In English, the children have enjoyed analysing our Example Text. In maths, the children have loved learning about 3-d shapes. In art, the children have enjoyed creating their own Gaudi inspired designs. Next week may be our final full week together but there is still lots to look forward too including our trip to Hazard Alley! Keep cool, safe and hydrated over the next few days.

Year 4

What a wonderful week we've had in Year 4!

In Maths, we have finished our unit on shape by exploring lines of symmetry and identifying symmetrical shapes and patterns. The children enjoyed investigating which shapes could be folded into matching halves and showed great confidence in drawing their own lines of symmetry.

In English, we have continued preparing for next week's Big Write by writing information paragraphs about the famous inventor Jacques Cousteau. The children have worked hard to organise their ideas, include interesting facts and use ambitious vocabulary, and we can't wait to see their finished information texts next week.

Our Art lesson was a real highlight this week! We recreated *The Scream* by Edvard Munch using chalk pastels, carefully blending colours to capture the dramatic sky and expressive style of the original painting. The children showed fantastic concentration and creativity, and their finished artwork looks amazing.

In Computing, we have begun creating our own Google Slides presentations to celebrate our Year 4 journey. The children have enjoyed learning how to add text, images and different design features as they reflect on all of the wonderful memories and achievements from this year.

Well done, Year 4, for another fantastic week of learning! We are incredibly proud of everyone's hard work and enthusiasm, particularly in this heat, and are looking forward to an exciting final few weeks together.

Year 5

It's been another hot week here, but thankfully we had an England win to give the start of the week a bit of energy! The class read their King Kong stories to each other, and it's always lovely to see this important part of the writing process. It's also easy to see who the most dramatic entertainers, as they get so into story reading! Given the ending of King Kong (spoilers!), we then moved onto thinking about whether large, intelligent animals like gorillas or dolphins should ever be put into zoos (or in "dolphinariums", to use a word I've recently learnt!). It's a thought-provoking topic, and the children have already been researching gorillas to support their balanced arguments.

In maths, we're doing a little bit more work on calculating with decimals - which, by linking it to calculating with integers (whole numbers), the class is absolutely acing. We've finished up meteorology in science by writing a weather report (I believe every single piece features the word "hot"); and in history, we've looked at the impact of coal, steam and iron by studying some 19th Century paintings.

Of course, the big highlight to the week was transition day - in which, for obvious reasons, I had a very different day to my current Year 5s. But based on the spaghetti-based tower-building, and the enthusiasm with which the children talked about their day, I'd say they had a great time, and that bodes very well indeed for next year.

Year 6

This week has been an exciting and busy one for Year 6! The children thoroughly enjoyed their transition days at their new secondary schools, meeting new teachers, exploring their new surroundings, and beginning to make new friendships. It was wonderful to hear all about their experiences and see their growing confidence as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

Back at school, we have been working hard on the final rehearsals for our Year 6 production. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork as they perfect their lines, songs, and stage directions. Alongside rehearsals, they have been busy making props for the stage, using their creativity to help bring the performance to life.

We also made time for plenty of fun, enjoying games and PE sessions together. These activities provided a great opportunity to relax, work collaboratively, and celebrate all the wonderful memories we are creating during our final weeks in primary school.

Have a great weekend

[Preschool Photos](#)







Reception Photos









Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Ronnie - for demonstrating such a positive attitude and showing so much confidence during the transition day.

Year 2 - Harper - for being such a kind and generous friend, helping others in the talent show.

Year 3 - Cooper - for consistently demonstrating resilience and positivity.

Year 4 - Iris - for using her creative flare in Art to recreate 'The Scream' using pastels.

Year 5 - Liam - for being a friendly, helpful and dependable class member.

Year 6 - Joe - for his amazingly consistent and brilliant attitude to learning. This week he has making props for the production, eloquently talking to the new year 6 children and he has worked hard on his performance of Captain Hook!

Value Awards

Reception - Arlo - Confidence - for showing great confidence during his transition visit to year 1.

Year 1 - Maisy, Nora, Evie and Ayla - Confidence - for showing great confidence during the audition process of the Talent Show.

Year 2 - Maya-Bonnie - Generosity - she is always so generous with her friends - sharing and playing.

Year 3 - Teddy - Positivity - he has been making some really positive choices and has approached each lesson positively.

Year 4 - Sapphire - Respect - for being a great role model in the lunch hall helping others to keep to the school values by showing them how everyone should behave at lunchtime.

Year 5 - Milan - Positivity - for being the friendliest guy on the planet!

Year 6 - Ravi - Confidence - Ravi has shown great confidence in his role of the crocodile in the Year 6 Production

House Point Winners

Platinum Award

Year 1 - Ffion, Frankie

Year 3 - Hunter, Alife, Ummayyah, Jake D

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

Dear Preschool Parents and Carers

We are excited to announce that, from the 7th of September 2026, we will be offering wraparound care for preschool-aged children if we have enough numbers to do so.

We are taking bookings for the first half of the Autumn term in the first instance and depending on demand, will open bookings for the second half of term in September. Please use this form to do so: <https://forms.gle/89N6huE3VYdM5a5c9>

Once your child's place is confirmed, the payment item will be visible in your child's ParentPay account.

If you need any further information, please contact Mrs Bowerman, School Business Manager, via the school office.

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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Toddler Stay and Play - Taster Sessions in July

TODDLER STAY & PLAY

A fun and friendly stay and play group for children aged 0-5 and their grown-ups!

EVERY THURSDAY
Starting on Thursday 10th September
TERM TIME ONLY

TASTER SESSIONS
Thursday 9th July
Thursday 16th July

AGES 0-5
For children aged 0-5

TIME
10am - 11am

COST
£2 per session

WHO
Toddlers aged 0-5 and their grown-ups

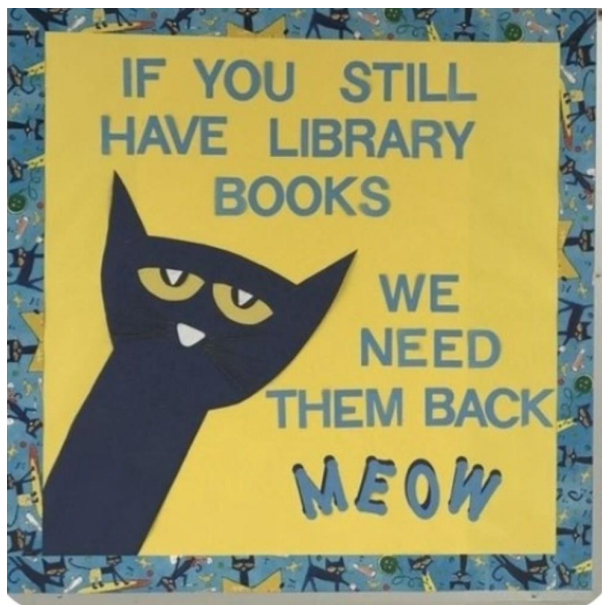
WHAT
Play, explore, make friends and have fun!

VENUE
Steeple Claydon School and Preschool
MK18 2PA

We can't wait to welcome you! ♥

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 94.4%. Well done to Reception, who achieved the highest class attendance this week with 98.4%.

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!

On Saturday, Tallulah, George and William attended a special ceremony at PACCAR Scout Camp to receive their Chief Scout's Silver Award, the highest award a Cub Scout can achieve.

The presentation was attended by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Howe, making it a memorable occasion.

They represented 1st Steeple Claydon Scouts with great pride and were supported by their families and Scout leaders.

The Chief Scout's Silver Award recognises a Cub's dedication, teamwork, leadership and personal development. To achieve it, Cubs must complete all seven Challenge Awards and earn at least six Activity or Staged Activity Badges, demonstrating a wide range of skills and commitment.

Achieving the Chief Scout's Silver Award is a testament to months—often years—of dedication, perseverance and a willingness to challenge themselves across a wide variety of activities. It is one of the most prestigious awards within the Cub Scout section and marks an important step in their Scouting journey. They will proudly wear the Silver Award on their uniform as they work towards their next milestone: the Chief Scout's Gold Award in Scouts.

After the presentation, they enjoyed some well-earned time on the inflatables to celebrate their fantastic achievement.

Congratulations to Tallulah, George and William—we are incredibly proud of them and wish them every success in the next stage of their Scouting journey.







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! 🌟