
Giving every child the chance to shine
Generosity
Determination
Confidence
Trust
Positivity
Compassion
Respect
PUPILS
PARENTS AND CARERS
STAFF
GOVERNORS
COMMUNITY

School Newsletter 03.07.2026

Headteacher's Update

What an exciting and sporty week we have had at Steeple Claydon!

We started the week with Golf Day on Monday. Every class had the opportunity to take part and it was wonderful to see so many children embracing a sport that was completely new to them. We discovered some hidden talents along the way, with some impressive long drives and remarkably accurate chips!

On Wednesday, we held our second Open Morning. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything that makes Steeple Claydon such a special place to learn. We were proud to share not only what we currently do, but also our exciting plans for the future.

Thursday saw our annual Sports Day, and what a fantastic day it was! Everywhere I looked, I saw children demonstrating incredible growth mindsets. They were absolute legends! Our EYFS children got the day underway with their carousel of activities. For some, this was their very first Sports Day, and they were brilliant. There were plenty of smiles, lots of enthusiasm and some wonderful moments of determination. In the afternoon, our Year 1 to Year 6 children took part in a variety of round robin events and running races. Once again, we saw excellent teamwork, children giving their very best effort and, importantly, learning how to manage disappointment when things did not quite go their way. These are valuable life skills, and I was incredibly proud of every child who took part. I will put the photos together and send out a separate sports day photo newsletter by the end of next week.

Today, Mrs Wheeldon and I spent the day interviewing candidates for our new HLTA position. We were delighted by both the number and quality of applications received. We look forward to introducing our newest member of staff very soon.

This week, children and families also found out who their class teachers and support staff will be for next year. Behind the scenes, handover meetings have been taking place over the last few weeks, and I know our staff are incredibly excited for Transition Day on Tuesday 7th July, when children will spend the day in their new classrooms.

A plea from me now - please come along and support our Summer Fete! There is so much to see and do and thanks to FOSCS keeping most games at just 50p a go, it promises to be a fun and affordable afternoon for everyone. We would love to see as many families there as possible.

Looking Ahead to Next Week:

Monday

- Bucks Mind will be visiting school to deliver a mental health awareness assembly.
- The AVPSAA small schools athletics festival is taking place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. We have a very promising cohort of athletes taking part and we are very proud of them representing our school!

Tuesday

- Transition Day for all children.

Wednesday

- Bikeability Level 1 and Learn 2 Ride is taking place on Wednesday the 8th having been postponed due to last week's heatwave.

Thursday

- Year 6 will be visiting The Royal Latin School for their Year 6 Games Day.
- Some of our Preschool and Reception children will be enjoying a trip to Hogshaw Farm.
- Our Toddler Stay and Play Group returns for children aged 0–5. We are looking forward to welcoming lots of new faces and introducing families to our two-year-old provision.

Friday

- The eagerly anticipated Steeple's Got Talent Final takes place! The semi-finals have been fiercely contested, and there are some fantastic acts ready to perform.
- End-of-year reports will be sent home with children (excluding Year 6 - please see separate email sent today).

As you can see, another incredibly busy week lies ahead!

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Summer Fete.

Mr Sperring

Headteacher Top Tip of the Week! ⚽

With England's next game kicking off at 1.00am (at the time of going to print), I thought I would offer a little piece of advice for any football-loving families!

If your child is 11 or under, my recommendation would be not to let them stay up to watch the match live. As exciting as it may be, they are likely to be absolutely exhausted the next day!

My own plan is to record the game, get an early night and set an alarm for around 4.30am. That way, I can watch the match 'as live' the following morning and still function the next day. Of course, any tiredness I do experience will no doubt be from the emotional rollercoaster that England supporters are bound to endure!

For clarity, there are no plans for the school to have a late opening or adapted timetable following the match. This is consistent with our approach to other late-night international fixtures, including those involving Scotland, Ivory Coast and Spain, reflecting the wonderfully diverse and multicultural community we are proud to be a part of.

Whatever your plans, enjoy the game and fingers crossed for a memorable England performance!

Link to the school calendar



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, grandparents, siblings, aunties, uncles, and family members who joined us for our Sports Day yesterday. It was wonderful to see so many of you there supporting the children. They had such a fantastic time, and we were incredibly proud of how well they all did!

This week in Preschool, the children have been learning about the inspiring hero Malala Yousafzai and what it means to be brave. We read *Malala's Magic Pencil* and talked about how Malala wanted to go to school when many children in her country were unable to. This led to some thoughtful discussions about how fortunate we are, the importance of education, and the different ways we can show kindness and bravery every day.

The children certainly demonstrated their own bravery at Sports Day by taking on new challenges and performing in front of their families. We were so impressed by their confidence, determination, and willingness to give everything a go!

The children also enjoyed baking some delicious 'Friendship Treats'. As we baked together, we talked about the qualities that make a good friend, such as kindness, sharing, helping others, and including everyone. We hope you enjoyed tasting their wonderful creations!

Next week promises to be another exciting one! We are looking forward to learning about our local heroes, our older Preschool children visiting Hogshaw Farm with Reception, and our younger Preschool children enjoying a day of exciting activities and fun with the Preschool team.

Reception

It has been a particularly sporty week this week, with opportunities to try some exciting new experiences. We started the week participating in a Golf Experience Day. The children had a fantastic time. They enthusiastically joined in with a range of exciting golf activities, developing their coordination, concentration, and teamwork skills. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they learned new skills, encouraged one another, and enjoyed trying something new.

There was great fun at Sports Day on Thursday morning, with all of the children showing fantastic enthusiasm and determination. They took part in a variety of races and athletic activities, cheering each other on and having great fun taking part with their family members, friends and teacher. I was so proud of their positive attitudes, resilience, and willingness to have a go. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by everyone.

In Maths, we have been revisiting some of our key learning from across the year. The children have recapped making 5 in different ways and explored doubles, developing their confidence with number facts. They have also enjoyed copying and creating repeating patterns while using positional language to describe the position of objects accurately.

In Literacy, the children have completed their wonderful stories based on *Noi and the Whale*. They carefully planned, wrote, and illustrated their own versions of the story, using their growing phonics knowledge and sentence-writing skills.

A huge thank you to all the children who shared the wonderful work they created during the heatwave home learning last week. I was so impressed with how hard you worked and all

the creative ways you completed your work. It looked like you had so much fun and were able to keep cool too, especially completing the whale themed water work.

We look forward to another exciting week with transition day and our school talent contest!

Year 1

What an incredibly busy and exciting week we have had in Year One! In English, we continued our brilliant work on The Last Wolf, where the children created fabulous descriptions using expanded noun phrases and even practiced using speech marks for dialogue. We also kicked off our new maths unit on money, learning to confidently recognise different coins and add up amounts using 2p and 5p coins. In history, we explored the important role of a Prime Minister and even looked at recent news surrounding 10 Downing Street. Meanwhile, our creative talents have been on full display as we loved our drumming session with Melissa, worked hard rehearsing our latest musical piece, and had lots of fun auditioning for Steeple's Got Talent. Finally, I am so incredibly proud of all the children for their fantastic effort during Sports Day—everyone took part, gave it their best, and had a really great time.

Year 2

Hi everyone,

The week has definitely warmed up,but thankfully not as hot as the previous week. Thank you for all your hard work in helping your child to complete their home learning during the heatwave. I really enjoyed looking at all the delicious ice creams the children designed and reading their Solar System facts about the planets, including how they orbit the Sun and rotate on their axes.

On Monday, we completed the reading SATs paper that we had postponed from last week. The children have been working so hard to complete their papers, and it was lovely to see our school values of resilience and perseverance shining through.

In art, we completed a cubist-style self-portrait based on the work of Picasso. The children produced some fantastic cubist images and were very proud of their work.

In PSHE, we have been talking about the difference between a secret and a surprise. The children drew how they would feel about a surprise being kept from them compared with a secret. We discussed how a surprise is something that is usually revealed and linked to happy feelings, whereas a secret might sometimes make us feel worried or uncomfortable.

Sports Day was also a great success. Thank you for coming into school and supporting us. The children were very excited to see the adults who had come to watch them, and we all had a wonderful time. A big thank you to Miss Danks for organising the event.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Year 3

Well, I think it's safe to say this week has been slightly cooler! In English, Year 3 have loved exploring our new vehicle text all about Usain Bolt. We watched his World Record moment and have learnt lots of fascinating facts. In maths, the children have been working hard on learning all about angles. In history, the children really enjoyed researching all about Anglo-Saxon religion and things that they did for fun. The highlight of our week was Sports Day where all of the children did an amazing job at each activity!

Year 4

Please check Seesaw.

Year 5

It has been a really fun week, and a large part of that has been thanks to sport (if you know me, you'll understand what a surprise that is!). On Monday, we had a fantastic time with the golf coach (I was only sorry I didn't get a go!). The class all had a really good go at it, and the coach came around, giving pointers and correcting technique. The whole class did themselves proud, but I was especially proud of Lexi, who was complimented on her consistently strong performance, and Liam, who got two holes-in-one!

Similarly, on Tuesday, we had a full rounders game for PE. We've been practising rounders all this half-term, but it's been the first time the whole lesson was a game. I was so impressed by how well most of the children worked together as fielders. Many of the kids hit some great shots with the bat, but some of them were caught out. However, again, two people really impressed me by how many rounders they scored - Jamie and Daniel scored 3 rounders each (and, being on the same team, 100% won it for their teammates)!

Wednesday didn't have a sporting activity, but did have a game of chaos tag when I was on break duty. It took very little time for it to turn into Year 5s v Mr Foster. It was great fun, but they completely annihilated me!

And yesterday, of course, was the sports day. We had some great races, some really good activities. Well done, all, and a massive thanks to Miss Danks for organising it all, and making it the big success it was!

Elsewhere, we've finished writing our King Kong stories - and I read the final few pages of the King Kong book to the class... they now know its iconic ending of Kong up the Empire State Building, surrounded by planes. We've also completed statistics (a real shame, in my opinion!). My classroom highlights were teaching about thunder and lightning, and about how children had to work all manner of horrible jobs during the Industrial Revolution. The happy ending to that history lesson, of course, is that now, children get to go to school!

Year 6

What a brilliant and busy week Year 6 have had!

The stage is finally up, and the children have been working incredibly hard during their rehearsals. They have been practising their lines, learning their songs, and putting everything together. It is all coming together brilliantly and is looking like so much fun—we can't wait for everyone to see the finished performance!

We also had a fantastic time in PE this week. The children took part in a special golf session, where they practised their swing technique and learned how to aim accurately for a target. Everyone showed great focus and determination. A special well done to **Michael** and **Tallulah**, who both managed to score a hole in one!

Later in the week, we enjoyed an afternoon of rounders. It was wonderful to see the children working so well together, supporting one another in their teams, and demonstrating some excellent batting, fielding, and teamwork skills.

This week also marked the children's last ever Sports Day at Steeple Claydon. They took part in a range of activities with enthusiasm, determination and great sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see everyone giving their best, showing fantastic skills and, most importantly, having lots of fun taking part in the races.

Next week promises to be another exciting one! The Year 6 children will be taking part in a Year 6 Games Festival alongside pupils from several other schools, as well as visiting their new secondary schools for their transition days. We can't wait to hear all about their experiences and wish them the very best as they take these exciting next steps.

Preschool Pictures











Reception Photos











Year 6 Photos











Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Paige - for working incredibly hard to write and illustrate the story of Noi and the whale.

Year 1 - Frankie - for fabulous independent writing about the Last Wolf. He has made soooo much progress!

Year 2 - Coby - for being a super star mathematician in your SATs last week!

Year 3 - Jasper - for sharing his brilliant history knowledge and being an all-round super historian.

Year 4 - Stella - for working really hard despite the hot weather and produced some brilliant remote learning!

Year 5 - Chloe - for showing determination and kindness, even during assessment week.

Year 6 - Athen - for the positive, have-a-go attitude he always puts into his work. He also demonstrated brilliant PE skills last week!

Value Awards

Reception - George Mc - Confidence - for being so confident when transitioning into his new classroom ready for September.

Year 1 - Joseph - He has made really good choices to keep himself safe this week and approached all of his learning with enthusiasm and energy.

Year 2 - Harmony - Trust - She can always be trusted to be a sensible, kind friend to her peers.

Year 3 - Dylan - Trust - He can always be trusted to do the right thing, help around the classroom and to give every task 100%.

Year 4 - Dyman - Respect - He has been very respectful this week. He has listened and followed instructions carefully. What a great role model.

Year 5 - Jamie - Confidence - He was brilliant during his rounders sessions this week scoring 3 rounders!

Year 6 - Finley - Positivity - He shows a wonderful, positive attitude consistently every day, always coming into school ready to do his best and show kindness to his friends.

House Point Winners

Silver Award

Year 3 - Zayaan

Gold Award

Year 2 - Skylah, Deacon, Eva, Cleo

Year 4 - Sapphire

Year 5 - Theo,

Platinum Award

Year 1 - Joseph, Noah A

Year 5 - Seb, Isaac

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.

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.

Toddler Stay and Play - Taster Sessions in July



Games, Puzzles, Cards and Colouring Donations

We are looking to build up our collection of wet play resources, brain-break activities and enrichment opportunities for the children across the school.

We would be incredibly grateful for donations of board games, puzzles, Top Trumps, UNO, playing cards, colouring books, colouring supplies and any other age-appropriate activities that children would enjoy during indoor playtimes and enrichment sessions.

This could be a great opportunity to have a clear-out at home. If your children have games they no longer play with, puzzles they have outgrown, or card games gathering dust in a cupboard, we would love to give them a new home at school. The only thing we ask is that donations are clean, complete and in good condition. Equally, if you happen to spot any bargains in charity shops, car boot sales or community swap groups, please think of us!

These resources make a real difference to our children, helping them to collaborate and have fun together. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

FOSCS - Update



If you do nothing else at the Summer Fete, make sure you buy a raffle ticket! Just look at these prizes! I have seen some fantastic raffle prizes over the years, but I can honestly say I have never seen anything quite as good as this. A huge thank you to the FOSCS team for sourcing such an incredible selection of prizes. You really have outdone yourselves this year. Absolute legends!

Raffle prizes Steeple Claydon School Fete Saturday 4th July to be drawn at 2.45pm

1st prize; Found Festival weekend ticket for 2A & 3C

2nd prize; Alpaca Evolution farm tour 2A & 3C

3rd prize; Family ticket to Bucks County Show

Woburn Safari park ticket 2A & 2C

Buckingham Railway Centre ticket for 2A & 4C

Family visit to Hogshaw Farm 2A & 2C

1 hour photo session with Laura Louise photography and 3 digital images

1 hour pet or family photoshoot with Helen Carter

£100 gift voucher for P&L boutique

Day pass for 2 people to David Lloyd club Bicester

Day pass for 2 people to David Lloyd club Bicester

£50 Buckingham Garden Centre voucher

Afternoon tea for 2 at Horwood House

£25 snowdome voucher @ Hemel Hempsted

£20 voucher for Wayne the Handyman

Prego Buckingham gift voucher

Enfes Buckingham gift voucher

£20 voucher for Mey Buckingham

Dipalee voucher, Buckingham

Cupcake bouquet from simply sweet cupcake boutique

Molly's Community Café voucher, tea & cake for 2

Meadow Row Tea Rooms, cream tea for 2

Tea and cake for 2 @ phoenix tearooms

Headteacher for the day

Lucky Star Chinese £10 voucher, Steeple Claydon

Lucky Star Chinese £10 voucher, Steeple Claydon

A massive thankyou to everyone who has donated a prize towards our raffle.

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

<iframe src="https://1drv.ms/b/c/6c1e4fb8cd3e9d1b/IQTI7-F5i_wZTp1TR5Jm7Gm2AWCBTTAFBEKw6xzCJTbBTw4" width="98" height="120" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"></iframe>

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 94.1%. Well done to Year 3, who achieved the highest class attendance this week with 96.3%.

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!

Henry in Year 3 won Spectators player of the year for his team at Great Horwood Football Club. He plays as the team's goalkeeper. He was so proud of himself as were his parents!



Both Verity and Harmony had good news this weekend. Verity was awarded with the coaches 'Never Gives Up' award at her gymnastics showcase. Her coaches commented that she always tries to understand all her skills and practices over and over again until she gets the right. Harmony received her two year stagecoach award which shows a great commitment to go every week. At the weekend she performed in her summer showcase, singing 'Let it go' and dancing to a song from Bugsy Malone.





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! 🌟