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

School Newsletter 26.06.2026

Headteacher's Update

Happy Friday!

A huge thank you for bearing with us this week during what has been an extremely disruptive and exceptionally hot few days. The children have been fantastic throughout, coping so well with the challenging classroom temperatures. Massive thanks to our staff team, who made significant adjustments to classrooms, timetables and routines to ensure the children remained safe, comfortable and engaged in their learning.

Despite the early finishes, school closures and various adaptations we had to make, we still managed to pack a great deal into the week!

On Monday, we welcomed the new Vicar of St Michael's Church into school. He joined us for assembly and spoke about the Parable of the Lost Son, reminding us about the importance of forgiveness, kindness and welcoming others back with open arms.

Tuesday brought more visitors into school as Kajal delivered an engaging assembly on rail safety. She spoke to the children about the dos and don'ts around railway lines and shared information about what the finished HS2 line near our school will look like. Also on Tuesday, our new Reception starters attended their second transition session. It was wonderful to see growing confidence, new friendships forming and plenty of smiles throughout the morning. Legends!

Tuesday also saw the start of our optional lunchtime collections. Over 150 pupils were collected at lunchtime, while those remaining in school enjoyed a carousel of activities including computing, art, reading, chess and drumming - all with the assistance of several strategically placed fans!

On Tuesday evening, Mrs Tapping and I had the pleasure of meeting the parents and carers of our new Reception starters. I was incredibly impressed by the turnout, especially given the temperatures in and around school. It was lovely to meet so many of you and begin building those important relationships ahead of September.

Wednesday saw a continuation of our adapted arrangements, and I would like to thank families for their flexibility and understanding as we navigated the challenging conditions together.

Unfortunately, the extreme temperatures meant that we had to close the school on both Thursday and Friday. Thursday brought our first remote learning day for a number of years and, having spoken to the class teachers, they were extremely impressed by the level of participation and engagement with the activities provided. Thank you to all families for

supporting learning at home. While it is never a decision we take lightly, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff must always come first.

You will have seen that we postponed the Tombola Mufti Day due to the school closure. Children are therefore welcome to come to school in Mufti on Monday in exchange for a tombola prize.

Looking ahead to next week, we have another busy schedule. On Monday, each class has a Golf Session. On Tuesday, our new Reception children return for their third transition session. Wednesday morning is our Open Morning, so please do spread the word to friends and family. Thursday is Sports Day and then comes the big one - our Summer Fair on Saturday!

Thank you once again for your patience, flexibility and support throughout this unusual week. The support shown by our school community has been greatly appreciated.

Have a brilliant weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mr Sperring

Link to the school calendar



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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

This week in Preschool, the children have been learning about the remarkable achievements of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. Together, we explored their historic expedition to reach the summit of Mount Everest and discussed the challenges they faced on their journey. The children enjoyed talking about what they would pack for a mountain adventure and imagining just how cold it would be at the top of the world's highest mountain!

With the recent warm weather, the children have made the most of our outdoor learning environment. They worked collaboratively to create a campsite using a teepee and play tents and even began constructing their own pretend campfire. Outdoor water and ice play proved especially popular, helping everyone stay cool while encouraging exploration and teamwork. The children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with the flowing water, and some even organised a friendly water fight to beat the heat!

Looking ahead to next week, we will be focusing on the theme of bravery through learning about Malala Yousafzai and her inspiring journey to becoming an international advocate for education and equality. The children will also be baking "Friendship Treats" and opening our very own Kindness Café, where they will practise important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and showing kindness to others.

Our Sports Day will now take place on Thursday 2nd of July, starting at 9:30am. We look forward to welcoming families and hope to see you there for what promises to be a fun and exciting event!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another wonderful week of learning together!

Reception

What a hot week it has been! We have been doing our best to keep cool during the heatwave and have particularly enjoyed lots of water play in the shade in the outdoor area. The children have shown great resilience in adapting to the warm weather while continuing to work hard and have fun. On Tuesday afternoon those children who remained in school were lucky enough to participate in a music lesson, learning to play the drums with Melissa from Bucks Music. We also enjoyed a refreshing ice pop!

In maths, we have been recapping number patterns and exploring whether different amounts are equal. We have also been investigating doubles and revisiting our understanding of odd and even numbers. We have all enjoyed Mrs Tapping's favourite Doubles Rap - "Doubles, doubles, I can add doubles, it's no trouble for me to add doubles!"

In Literacy, we have continued planning and writing our example text '*Noi and the Whale*'. The children have planned and written the "build-up bear" part of their stories, using their growing knowledge of story structure to develop their ideas and bring their writing to life.

In our topic work, we learned about the Magna Carta and why it is such an important historical document. Inspired by this, the children thought carefully about fairness and respect before creating their own promises.

We hope you enjoy completing your remote learning activities linked to *Noi and the Whale* and Kings and Queens, and that you have managed to keep cool during these very hot temperatures. We look forward to a hopefully cooler week next week and our long anticipated EYFS Sports Day on Thursday morning.

Year 1

What a scorching week it has been! I am incredibly proud of how our resilient Year 1s have handled the boiling hot weather. We have been working hard to keep as cool as possible, spending lots of fun-filled time in the shade. Some of our children even got to become "ice archaeologists," having a blast digging out toys that had been frozen inside giant blocks of ice!

To top it all off, everyone cooled down with some delicious ice lollies, which were incredibly well-deserved. Despite the heat, the whole class has been working so hard to complete their end-of-year assessments, giving their absolute best effort.

Looking ahead, I am so excited to see all the fabulous home learning they have been working on!

Year 2

Hi everyone,

I hope you have all managed to keep cool in this very hot weather. It has certainly been a rather unusual week.

We were able to complete some of the KS1 tests this week, but because of the high temperatures we were experiencing we were not able to finish them all. We will complete the remaining ones early next week.

The children have been incredibly sensible and have done a great job of listening carefully to the adults about staying in the shade, wearing hats and putting on sun cream when needed.

On Monday, the children loved watching the butterflies we have been caring for being released. There were lots of smiles and cheers as they fluttered out of their enclosure.

The children who were in school on Tuesday afternoon also enjoyed a lovely treat - a special drumming lesson with Melissa from Bucks Music Centre. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all joined together for a fantastic musical experience, followed by ice lollies, which made for a very happy afternoon.

Thank you so much for sharing your Home Learning on Seesaw. It has been such a pleasure to see what the children have been doing at home.

Take care in the heat, have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Year 3

I think it's safe to say that this week has been a strange week for all of us with the high temperatures we have been experiencing! Nonetheless, Year 3 have done some great learning this week! They loved learning about Anglo-Saxon villages in our History lesson on Monday. They also, really enjoyed making bar charts earlier this week. They started with multilink cubes and progressed to drawing the bars. The children also enjoyed making different shapes out of masking tape and identifying the right angles. The highlight of our week, was when we played parachute games in the shade and when the children did some quiet reading on picnic blankets in a nice and cool shaded area to keep themselves as cool as possible! Please stay cool, safe and hydrated over the next few days.

Year 4

This has certainly been a very short and unusual week in Year 4!

We only spent Monday together with everyone in school, enjoying a normal day of learning before many of us took on the home learning challenge due to the adverse heat. This was followed by two days of remote learning through Seesaw.

A huge well done to everyone who embraced the activities at home. It has been wonderful to see children experimenting with melting, researching countries that are hotter than the UK, creating beautiful paintings using warm colours, writing imaginative stories in English, making rainbows with water, enjoying some quiet reading time and practising their times tables on TTRS. Thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and effort despite the unusual circumstances. Dojo's and House points will be coming your way when we return to school for your effort.

Hopefully the weekend will be a little cooler, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, ready to make the most of the final 17 days of Year 4 before the summer holidays!

Year 5

Despite the rather odd week, with much less time in school, Year Five have really impressed me with their hard work. We've done assessments, which is never easy, and even less so in this heat, but the class acted admirably. We just had to have lots of cool, calm in-class games in between tests! Fittingly, in our one normal afternoon, we had science, the class learnt about warm and cold weather fronts - a warm weather front being something we've all had a lot of experience with, recently! Outside of normal school, I've seen people cooking pancakes (yum!), and playing Qwirkle (like Scrabble, but with symbols), which they've added up the score for. Many in the class have written some King Kong inspired narratives at home, featuring tense conversations and monster battles! Our maths work is statistics, and it seems

there's a whole lot of statistics in the weather recently, isn't there? So I've received some brilliant line graphs showing the temperature. Well done, guys! Here's for a slightly cooler week next week!

Year 6

Despite the very hot weather this week, Year 6 have continued to work hard and stay focused on their learning. In Science, we have been learning about how flowering plants reproduce and exploring the different stages involved in the process.

In Art, we explored the work of Picasso, whose innovative ideas helped to inspire the development of abstract art. We also looked at a range of artists and learnt about how the artwork they produce can reflect and communicate aspects of identity.

This week, we also began practising our end-of-year play in the hall. The children are making a great start, and we would be grateful if you could continue to help them learn their lines confidently at home.

If costumes can be brought into school in a named carrier bag by next Thursday, we hope to hold a dress rehearsal on Friday. The following week is particularly busy, with transition days, the Year 6 PE Festival and the school talent show taking place.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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.

Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards and Value Awards

Postponed to next week due to heat disruption

House Point Winners

Silver Award, Gold Award and Platinum Award

Postponed to next week due to heat disruption

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

Please note that the Tombola Mufti is now on Monday due to the school closure today. See the poster below for what to bring.

Hopefully you've seen the FOSCS signage around the village this week advertising the Summer Fair. We cannot wait and hope to see you there!





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.

Sports Day - Thursday 2nd July

Sports Day for all children will now take place on Thursday 2nd July and the timings will be as follows:

Pre-School & Reception: 9:30 approximately - 10:30am. Years 1- 6: 1:30-3:00pm

Parents are welcome to come and cheer their child(ren)'s races - Please come in through the office door after 9:20am and/or 1:10pm respectively. Reception parents/carers are asked to wear comfortable shoes as participation will be required!

Parents will be asked to go home in between the two events.

On the day, all children should be in PE kit with the house coloured t-shirt (more on this further down) with weather appropriate extras - hats and sun cream or extra layers. Children can wear items additional items in their house colours too. We suggest that children in Catherine House do NOT wear yellow t-shirts but stick with white; through experience we have found that yellow t-shirts attract summer insects. Please check with your child's teacher if you are not sure which house they are in.

House names/ t-shirt colours:

Chaloner - Blue

Verney - Green

Nightingale - Red

Catherine - White

Every child MUST bring a water bottle. Lunch for children will be as normal.

At 3:00pm, children will return to their classrooms and will meet parents in the usual end of day locations.

NB Photography and video is strictly prohibited during Sports Day. Staff will take photos of every event and we will send a link to a special edition Sway Sports Day newsletter before the end of term.

FOSCS will be selling cold drinks during Sports Day, and ice lollies after school.

We are hiring!

Steeple Claydon School is seeking an enthusiastic, dedicated and highly motivated Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to join our supportive and ambitious team. This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in children's learning, working across the school to support teaching and learning, deliver interventions and provide high-quality classroom cover when required. As we embark on an exciting new chapter under new leadership, we are looking for someone who shares our commitment to giving every child the chance to shine. To apply, please complete the application form available here: https://jobs.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/job_detail/342086/ and return it to bursar@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk by 30th June 2026. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office on 01296 738132. Interviews will take place on Friday 3rd July 2026.

Tell your friends!



Talent Show

We are delighted to announce that Steeple's Got Talent will take place on Friday 10th July! This is open to every child in the school and is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to showcase their talents, interests and passions. We would love to see as many children as possible taking part and representing their year groups.

We encourage ALL talents! Whether your child enjoys: Singing, dancing, acting, playing a musical instrument, magic, poetry, comedy, gymnastics, sports skills or any other talent that can be safely performed in the school hall... we would love to see them take to the stage!

In the fortnight leading up to the final, each class will hold a semi-final, where children who wish to participate will perform in front of their classmates. Class teachers will let parents know when these will take place, giving children plenty of time to prepare and practise. Following the semi-finals, two children from each year group will be selected by the adults in school to progress to the grand final. The selection will be made by staff rather than the children.

This event is all about celebrating the incredible talents within our school community. Whether children are performing for the first time or are seasoned entertainers, we want every participant to feel proud of themselves and have the opportunity to shine in front of the whole school.

So, dust off those dance moves, tune those instruments, perfect those magic tricks and start rehearsing! We can't wait to see the amazing talents of Steeple Claydon School!



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.

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!

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! 🌟