

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



# School Newsletter 16.01.2026

## Headteacher's Message

Another brilliant and busy week here at Steeple Claydon! I've had the pleasure of visiting classes several times over the past few days as I continue to get to know our curriculum. I can safely say that with the dedicated adults here and the thoughtfully designed curriculum, your children are in very good hands.

This week, we welcomed Kate and Wendy from the church, who joined us in assembly to share a parable about generosity and gratitude. The children listened beautifully and reflected on the messages shared.

A real highlight was seeing some of our KS2 children head off to Birmingham for the Young Voices concert. The photos are fantastic, and after speaking to the children, it's clear they had a wonderful time - a proper experience full of joy, music, and memories to last a lifetime. A huge thank you to the staff and parents who gave up their Tuesday to make the trip possible. Have a look at the photos underneath.

We rounded off the week with a visit from Ruby, our much-loved reading dog. The children absolutely adore spending time with her.

In our assemblies this week, we've been exploring behaviour and expectations in school - why we ask children to be kind, respectful, to try their best, and to keep themselves safe. Their ideas ranged from "so we can keep and make new friends" to "so we don't lose our jobs when we're adults." We agreed with both! Please do keep these conversations going at home, even if they appear as part of your child's bedtime - distraction strategy! That might just be when you have their full attention.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday.

## Year Group Updates

### Preschool

We have had a 'roarsome' week! We have been acting like dinosaurs, making up dinosaur movements and exploring all the different dinosaurs that existed a long time ago! We have been talking about the past, present and future and know that dinosaurs existed in the past, we are here in the present and we can sometimes know what will happen in the future but not always! We have been looking at an artist called Minoru Onoda who makes pattern art, we discussed that it looks like fingerprints and that they were travelling across the page in different colours, and could make our own version using paint and our fingers! We then used the dinosaurs, dipped them in paint and then made them travel across the page. We have

also been doing some dino-mite maths, sorting dinosaurs into colours, measuring dinosaurs by cubes, and making patterns with the dinosaurs too! Please see a selection of our weekly pictures below. Next week, we look forward to looking at the parts of different dinosaurs and making dinosaur puppets!

## **Reception**

It has been another busy week in Reception, filled with astronauts and superheroes. This week we focused on learning about famous astronauts, in particular Mae Jemison and Tim Peake. The children were very interested to find out about how astronauts live and work on the International Space Station.

In literacy we have started to plan and write the Octopus Opening and Build Up Bear parts of our text 'Joop and Nut', based on the story 'Juniper Jupiter'. It has been great to see the children using the sounds they have learnt in their phonics lessons to write simple words and sentences.

Please continue to listen to your child read at home as often as you can, and record this in their reading record, but don't forget to send these books into school in your child's book bag everyday so they have them for their phonics lessons too.

In maths we have been focusing on counting, ordinality and cardinality. The children have been using unifix cubes to build towers in order from 1 to 5, creating a stairs pattern, helping them to recognise that each number is one more. However, the most popular maths activity by far this week was ordering the Numberblock character pictures from 1 to 5.

A small group of children attended their first balance bike session with Mrs Evans this week. During this session they focused on how to mount and dismount the bike safely, how to put on a helmet correctly and how to confidently manoeuvre the bike around the hall. These sessions will continue every Wednesday throughout this term.

## **Year 1**

This week Year one have been learning all about Scotland in Geography and have completed some super geographers reports about the country. The children loved looking at the very varied landscape Scotland has and learning all about Loch Ness and the story of Nessy. In maths Year One have been looking at two digit numbers, identifying how many tens and ones they have and counting forwards and backwards to twenty. In Science the children have been exploring tools to measure the weather such as rain gauges and thermometers and have had lots of fun setting up a rain gauge in their outside area ready to observe the rain fall over the next week or so. It has been fabulous to see some very keen scientists making predictions about how much rain we will get! Good job Year One!

## **Year 2**

I am really pleased with the great, focused learning taking place in Year 2. In English, the children have been describing Bog Baby using expanded noun phrases and adverbs, which has really helped to develop their descriptive writing skills. In Maths, they have been learning to recognise coins and notes and understand their value, building confidence with everyday money skills. In Science, the class has been learning about the dangers of electricity, which is such an important topic for keeping children safe. Geography lessons about the geographical features of Scotland have been very engaging and have helped the children broaden their understanding of the UK. It has been lovely to see how enthusiastic and motivated the children have been across all curriculum subjects this week.

### **Year 3**

This week, Year 3 have been working super hard at analysing our example text inspired by our vehicle text **The Rhythm of the Rain**. In Maths, we have been continuing with time, where all of the children have showed great determination! The Class were particularly engaged in our D.T. lesson when they had the opportunity to design their own keyrings.

### **Year 4**

Well, that's week 2 done! And what a week it has been.

Well done to everyone in Year 4 that attended the great Young Voices concert on Tuesday– it was amazing!

What have we been up to in class this week? We have been mastering magnificent multiplication in maths, in English we have brought our vehicle text to life, using role play to act out the main events of the narrative. In science we have been exploring the fascinating world of habitats and food chains, where the children have researched ecosystems and discussed consumers and producers, recognising the differences between them and in DT we have started to plan and design our own cushions. Next week we will be beginning to make these cushions (using sewing) and would like to ask for any 'extra hands' on a Wednesday afternoon – please see my seesaw post.

### **Year 5**

Year Five's *Hound of the Baskervilles* excitement has continued this week, as we prepare to write our own cliffhanger narratives. This is a challenge, but an enjoyable one, as cliffhangers can be slightly hard to get right: they don't just stop, but leave us hanging at the most dramatic point! However, the highpoint of my week has undoubtedly been the new music lessons our class are trialling. On the one hand, we're studying *Living on a Prayer*, and on the other, we're using glockenspiels every week, and getting that regular music practice. What's not to love? Elsewhere, the children have been growing in confidence with their

work in fractions, which has been great to see. Fractions is an area of maths that seems tricky, but is something we use loads as adults, so it's essential to learn. In geography, we've learnt about the physical geography of the Alps and Himalayas, and have even learnt about Otzi... the ice mummy!

## Year 6

In Year 6 this week, we have been exploring our new text, 'A Story Like the Wind', a book about a group of refugees who have escaped a war-torn country. We have been using the events to help develop our narrative writing, using a range of tools to make our sentences interesting.

We have also been learning about Impressionism in Art. We have studied paintings by Monet and Renoir and have tried to create a painting in the style of Monet using short, broken brushstrokes.

On Thursday afternoon, the Year 6 children enjoyed paired reading with the Year 3 pupils. We will be doing this once a fortnight.

## Preschool Pictures









## Year 2 Forest School Pictures





## Year 4 and Reception Buddy Reading





## Year 5 Glockenspiels



## KS2 at Young Voices





## Celebration Assembly Winners

### Star Awards

Reception - Coral for being a great role model in the classroom, being so positive all the time!

Year 1 - Ayla for trying her best in every lesson this week. A Steeple Star!

Year 2 - Rupert L for making great choices in the classroom this week.

Year 3 - Izzy - Doing an amazing job at programming in our computing lesson.

Year 4 - Elsie for recognising her mistakes in Maths and learning from them.

Year 5 - Hugo for bringing bags of good ideas, energy and friendliness to the classroom.

Year 6 - Jemima - Showing exemplary learning behaviours, putting 100% into your work and demonstrating a responsible attitude at all time.

### **Value Awards**

Reception - Ryan - Compassion - Being such a good friend this week, encouraging others to join in with his play.

Year 1 - Archer - Confidence - Archer has demonstrated confidence in Maths identifying tens and ones in some numbers beyond 20.

Year 2 - Cleo - Determination - Using amazing vocabulary when describing the Bog Baby.

Year 3 - Jasper DK - Respect - Has been a brilliant role model in the classroom this week.

Year 4 - Verity AND Lenny - Positivity - In Maths they have been trying so hard with their times tables. They are making amazing progress. Keep it up!

Year 5 - Skyla - Positivity - Engaging with the lessons in class with a 'can-do' attitude.

Year 6 - Florence - Generosity - Showing kindness to all with her selfless attitude and beautiful manners.

### **Lunchtime Awards**

Year 2 - Eva - Always being polite and well mannered.

Year 6 - Joe - Super helpfulness and stepping up when needed.

## House Point Awards

### **Bronze (Reaching 30 house points)**

#### **Year 3**

Sebby

Jake

Olivia

### **Silver (Reaching 60 house points)**

#### **Year 3**

Cooper

Sebby

**Year 6**

Jayson B

**Gold (Reaching 90 house points)**

**Year 3**

Dylan

**Year 6**

Joe

## FUDGE Morning - Friday 13th March.

As you may have already seen yesterday, we are excited to announce our first FUDGE Morning at Steeple Claydon School, taking place on Friday 13th March, 8.30–10.00am.

We are inviting Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads and everybody else to join us in school. Everybody else means everyone is welcome – including mums, sisters and nans. The morning is designed to promote positive male role models while celebrating that all families are different and special.

What will happen on the morning:

8.30–8.45am: Tea and coffee in the school hall with your child(ren). Squash and water will be provided for children.

8.45am: Children will go to class and be registered as usual.

8.45–9.00am: Short talk from Mr Sperring, Headteacher.

9.00–10.00am: Adults will be invited into classrooms to complete a short activity with their child(ren).

We are hoping for a huge turnout to help strengthen our home–school community.

More information will follow nearer the time, but for now please save the date. We look forward to welcoming you into school.

## Good news!

Holly from reception carried out a litter pick on the way to school today. She enjoyed pointing out the litter for me to pick up & she carried the bag of rubbish. What a legend! Have a look at all that rubbish she has collected.

*We love celebrating the wonderful achievements of our children - both in and out of school. In this section of the newsletter, 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@steepclaydon.bucks.sch.uk**. We look forward to celebrating and sharing lots of good news together!*



### MK Dons Flag Bearers

Last Friday, a group of our children had the incredible honour of being flag bearers on the pitch for the MK Dons vs Oxford match - a special game dedicated to George Baldock, a

former Steeple Claydon pupil. Despite the freezing temperatures, the children were full of smiles and spirit. They didn't get to see an MK Dons win, but they did witness their very first live penalty shoot-out, which was a huge highlight! A massive thank you to the MK Dons Community Trust for inviting us and giving our pupils such a memorable experience. Moments like these will stay with them for years.



## 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 94.9%.

Well done to Year 3, who collectively achieved 98.8% present marks this week.

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

## Social Media

Please follow us on Facebook! We aim to post at least three times a week, focusing mainly on events happening in school and the children's work. You can find us here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SteepleClaydonSchoolandPreschool>

We aim to have Instagram up and running for next week too. More on that to come!

## Safeguarding

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](mailto: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.