

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 23.01.2026

Headteacher's Message

We've had a fab week here at Steeple Claydon! I've handed out multiple Headteacher Awards - some for excellent progress in phonics, some for using a wide range of vocabulary in writing, and some simply for being absolute legends in class. I love seeing so much hard work, effort and pride on display across the school. I've also seen sewing taking place in multiple classes this week. When an adult in school spots sewing on the planning, there's often an element of dread mixed with excitement... but I'm delighted to say I have seen nothing but fantastic growth mindsets in those classrooms. The children showed resilience, patience and determination throughout. Well done to all those who gave it a go!

Ruby the Reading Dog came to visit us again this week. Please take a look at the photos below. She was wearing her uniform and looked cuter than ever! The children have been reading with Ruby and discussing emotions with her, which has been a real joy to see.

Some exciting news to share: our new school website will be going live at the start of March – watch out for that! It will be more modern, more informative and much easier to navigate. I'm still on a mission to show the *WORLD* just how brilliant Steeple Claydon School is! I'll be posting on Facebook every day, and our Instagram page goes live on Monday too – we're getting there! Using social media should also help solve that familiar pick-up moment of "*What did you do in school today?*" followed by silence...

In assemblies and classrooms this week, we've been focusing on learning behaviours: collaborating with others, raising our hands, trying our best even when things feel tricky, and asking for (and accepting) help. The children generated these ideas themselves, and I've been popping into classes to spot them in action. Getting into classrooms is always a highlight of my week, and seeing Year 5 demonstrate such strong learning behaviours in their Maths lesson on Thursday was a real standout moment. Well done, Year 5.

And finally - don't forget that next week is DISCO week, so make sure you get in touch with your class rep to get your wristband! Have a brilliant weekend, and I'll see you all on Monday.

Mr Sperring



Year Group Updates

Preschool

This week has been roar-some in Preschool! We kicked things off by copying, working together and even learning how to skip as part of our NELI story called 'copycat' this week. Our creative side came thundering out with fruit and vegetable printing, inspired by pumpkins and the bold dots of Yayoi Kusama. The results were rawr-mazing! We also turned into junior palaeontologists, labelling and exploring the different parts of a Tyrannosaurus rex and a Stegosaurus. There was lots of discussion as we compared their features and talked about what made each dinosaur unique. To finish the week with a big dino bang, we

designed and made our own dinosaur puppets before putting on a dino-rifficpuppet show. The storytelling and teamwork were truly pre-his-toric levels of impressive!

Reception

It's been another action packed week in Reception, I really can't believe how quickly the weeks are zooming by.

This week in our Space topic we have been learning about the planets in our solar system. I was very impressed with how knowledgeable some children already were, we clearly have some budding young astrologers and astronauts in the class. We learnt that earth is known as the Goldilocks planet, Uranus spins on its side, there are 4 rocky planets, 4 gas giants and 5 dwarf planets! The children continued to develop their own spaceship role play in the classroom, adding a fantastic space background created in a Jackson Pollock style!

In maths we focused on learning different ways to make 5. The children enjoyed using the song '5 Little Speckled Frogs' to help us to partition the number 5, by having some frogs on the log and others in the pool. The children also learnt how to use the 5 frames and magnetic counters to find different ways to make 5.

In Literacy we have now finished planning and writing each part of the story Juniper Jupiter. The children have all amazed me at the progress they continue to make with their writing, learning what it means to be a good writer, using the wise old owls sentence checker.

Please remember to send your child's school reading book and reading record into school EVERYDAY, as books are changed throughout the week and children have opportunities to read with adults on different days of the week.

Year 1

Year One have had a really brilliant time in Science this week learning all about how to present data on a graph and learning the names of a variety of cloud types. The children were amazed at the different types of clouds and were super keen to spot them outside. In English the children have begun writing their Hermelin story, using some super adjectives to describe the little mouse's feelings and even using suffix words! In maths the children have continued to work with numbers to 20 and have been practicing building numbers using ten frames and counters. In Re we have been learning about the story of creation and thinking of lots of wonderful ways to care for our planet. In DT we are going to be making sock puppets! Please send your child in with any odd adults socks you may have! Thank you!

Year 2

What a super week we've had in Year 2! The children have been working hard and showing enthusiasm and participation in their learning. In English, we have been planning and writing our own versions of The Bog Baby. The children have been using their imaginations brilliantly,

thinking carefully about settings, characters and descriptive language. We're very proud of their creative ideas and growing confidence as writers.

In Maths, we are completing our work on money and will soon be moving on to multiplication and division. It is really important that children continue to practise their times tables at home, as this will help them greatly with their learning and confidence in this area.

The excitement was high in Science on Thursday as I got out the equipment for the children to investigate and make their own electric circuits. They were so engaged and curious that it was hard to stop the lesson! It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, teamwork and scientific thinking.

In Computing, our focus is on algorithms and programming. The children have been enjoying giving clear instructions to program the floor bots and are developing excellent problem-solving skills. Music lessons have been full of fun as the children learn a lively "Grandma Rap". The children have been working on rhythm, timing and performance. As an added extra we will soon be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, giving the children an opportunity to observe, count and learn about birds in our local environment.

Home Learning

- Reading: Please continue to read with your child at least 3 times a week and record this in their reading record.
- Maths: Regular practise of times tables (especially 2s, 5s and 10s) will really support our upcoming work on multiplication and division.
- Spellings: Please help your child practise their weekly spellings and encourage them to spot these words in their reading and writing.
- Talk & Explore: Encourage your child to talk about what they have been learning in school, especially our work in Science and English.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, Year 2 Team

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been working super hard at planning and writing their setting narrative inspired by our vehicle text "The Rhythm of the Rain." In maths, the children have worked hard on learning all about durations and units of time. They particularly enjoyed our D.T. lesson where they did some sewing. They practised a backstitch and running stitch - all of the children showed super resilience!

Year 4

This week has started with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum! In English, we have begun writing our own myth narratives, exploring mythical characters, magical settings and

unexpected problems that need solving. In maths, we are starting a new unit on length and perimeter, where pupils will be measuring accurately, converting between units and calculating the perimeter of different shapes using practical equipment and problem-solving skills. In DT this week we have been getting 'hands-on' as we begin to sew our cushions. The children are learning basic stitching techniques and practising careful, safe use of equipment in preparation for assembling their final designs. In science, we are discussing ecosystems, learning about how plants and animals depend on each other and their environments. Pupils are continuing to develop their understanding of food chains, habitats and the balance within nature including how we as humans can affect them. It has been another great week, and we are looking forward to seeing the children's creativity and confidence continue to grow!

Year 5

The highlight of the week for Year 5 must be the tense and gripping Hound of the Baskervilles stories we've been writing. The children have been incredibly creative, melding their gruesome imaginations with their growing understanding of the needs of Year 5 writing to make their stories more effective and entertaining. Genuinely reading the class' stories and helping them make them even better is one of my favourite roles as a teacher - and this is absolutely one of my favourite texts to work with.

We've also been getting more technical in our music lessons; thinking carefully about how to improvise on glockenspiels using the notes G, A & B to build on *Livin' on a Prayer*. We also compared the life cycles of bumblebees and cuckoos in science - it was fascinating but disturbing to see baby cuckoos through other chicks out of their nest!

In DT, we're going to be making cams mechanisms, which are going to be built around a cardboard frame. If any of you have spare cardboard boxes or packaging (as in an Amazon parcel), and would be willing to donate them to us, it would be gratefully appreciated!

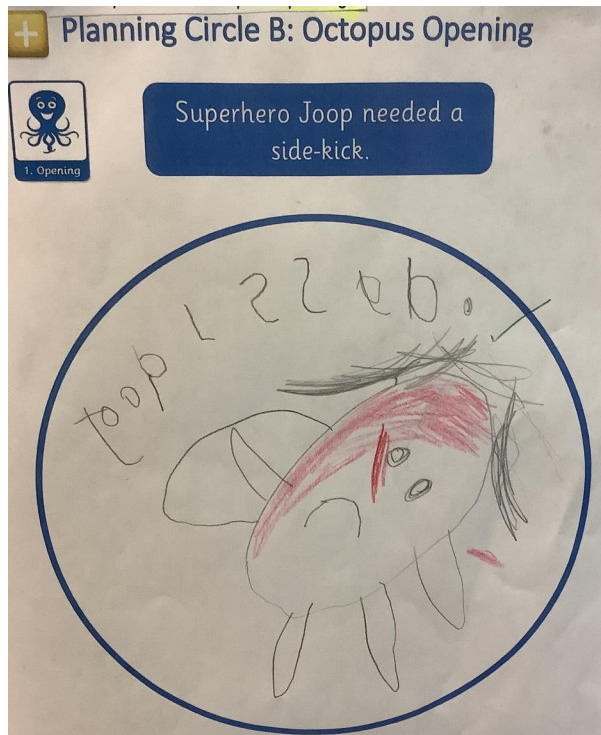
Year 6

It has been a very busy week in Year 6. We have continued to develop our narrative writing using our class text 'A Story Like the Wind' and have begun to learn about percentages in Maths. In Geography, we have considered the impact of waste in the UK and created some excellent posters suggesting different ways waste could be reduced across the school. A group of Year 6 have also visited Year 1 this week, sharing their knowledge and working with them to create posters about ways in which we can look after the Earth. We have also begun to create our new value display for the hall. This term, we are focusing on determination!

Preschool Pictures



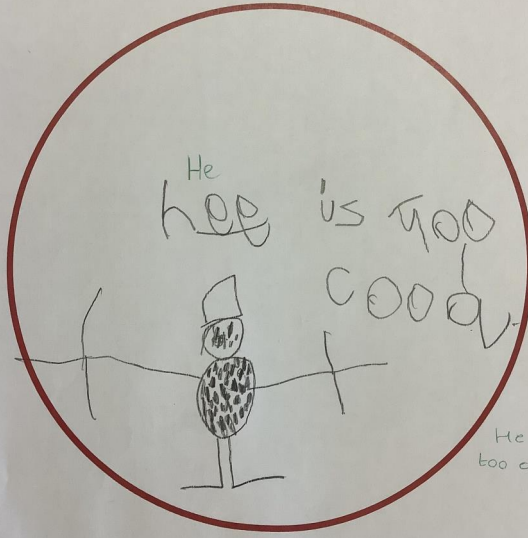
Reception Photos



+ Planning Circle B: Problem Penguin

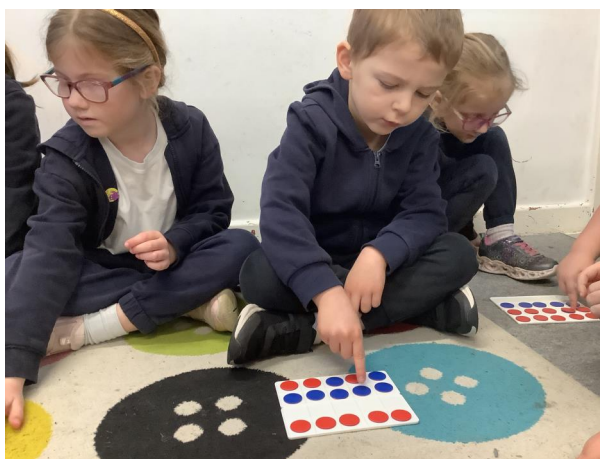


Nobody was quite right.





Year 1 Maths



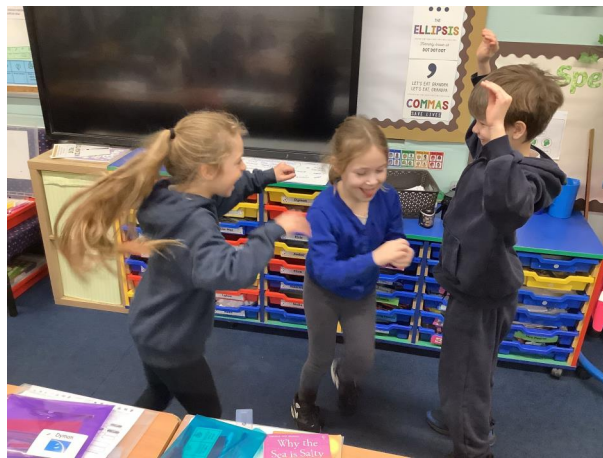


Year 2 Photos





Year 4 Photos





Year 6 Photos





Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Arlo - Superb first few weeks of term. He is showing maturity and independence.

Year 1 - Jake - Being a Maths superstar. One more, one less, how many tens... you name it - he can do it!

Year 2 - Harry - Trying really hard with his narrative writing.

Year 3 - Cooper - Showing amazing perseverance when sewing this week

Year 4 - Dyman - Continuing to demonstrate lovely handwriting.

Year 5 - Ava - For writing a gripping and atmospheric 'hound of the baskervilles' extract.

Year 6 - Dylan - Working with outstanding effort in all lessons this week and confidently sharing understanding with the class.

Value Awards

Reception

Arsalan - confidence - He is now demonstrating a real confident, can-do attitude in phonics, especially when writing.

Year 1

Ayla - Trust - You can always trust Ayla to do the right thing. She looks after others, respects everyone and everything in the classroom and tries her best.

Year 2

Omika - Determination - Shown great determination to write a 'finding narrative text' this week.

Year 3

Jack F - Trust - Miss Danks can always trust and rely on Jack to show brilliant listening skills and to share his fantastic ideas in class.

Year 4

Noah Y-W - Determination - He was given his best effort when sewing this week. He took his time and carefully completed the stitches with little help and support.

Year 5

Jamie - Positivity - For his excellent attitude to work in his book, especially in Maths.

Year 6

William Che - Determination - Has shown determination, working with great effort in Maths, Geography and English.

Lunchtime Awards

Year 4 - Ava - Fantastic behaviour (as always!) and using her manners

Year 3 - Milly - Being a really good role model to the rest of the school

House Point Awards

Bronze (Reaching 30 house points)

Year 6

Ravi

Baxter

Silver (Reaching 60 house points)

Year 4

Sienna

Amber

Year 6

Chloe

Florence

Mia

William Che

Evie

Gold (Reaching 90 house points)

Year 3

Iris

Year 6

Dylan

William Ch

FOSCS - Join the team!

Our brilliant FOSCS (Friends of Steeple Claydon School) team do an amazing job raising vital funds so our children can enjoy the very best experiences at school. However, right now, the team is low in numbers. They really need your help. Volunteering with FOSCS is a wonderful way to get involved in school life. You can give as much or as little time as you're able – every little helps, and many hands make light work!

How can you get involved?- Speak to your class rep- Email office@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk- Email foscsfundraising@gmail.com- Have a quick chat with a member of staff on the school gates. If you've ever thought "I'd love to help, but I'm not sure how" – this is your chance. Please support FOSCS so they can continue to support our children. Let's rally together and show a bit of [#TeamSteeple](#) spirit!

FOSCS are delighted to share the news that we have been selected as one of Tesco's chosen charities. The charity with the highest number of votes across our region could receive £1500! Please remember to pick up a token when next in store and drop it in the box by the exit



Amazon Wishlist Update

This week, we began sorting all the donated books we've received from our incredibly generous parents. It honestly felt like Christmas all over again here at Steeple Claydon! We're planning to add a little note inside the cover of each donated book, so if you've managed to donate one, you'll always be a part of #TeamSteeple. I've also added a few more titles from the BookTrust's Great Books Guide 2025–2026, focusing on books around the £5 - £7 mark as these have proved really popular. As always, if you're able to, we'd be hugely grateful for any donations to help update and modernise our school library. You can find the list here: [Steeple Claydon School Amazon Wishlist](#) Thank you for your continued support!



Fudge Morning - Friday 13th March

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.

WOW Badge Design Competition 2026

We are excited to be taking part in the WOW Badge Design Competition 2026, run by Living Streets, the UK charity that promotes everyday walking.

This year's theme is "Walk the Senses". Pupils are encouraged to design a badge showing what they see, hear, smell, taste or feel on their journey to school. This could include things such as wildlife, weather, sounds, favourite smells, or anything else that helps bring their walk to life. Designs should be bold, colourful and simple, as badges are small (around 3cm).

What is WOW?

WOW (Walk Once a Week) is Living Streets' walk to school challenge. Children who walk, wheel, scoot or cycle to school at least once a week for a month earn a WOW badge. The scheme helps reduce congestion outside school and supports children's physical and mental wellbeing.

Pupils should complete their badge design using the official template. This was sent out via email yesterday.

All entries must be handed in to Mrs Brewer by Friday 13th February.

Please ensure each design has the pupil's name and age clearly written on it.

The school will then select 3 designs to submit to the national competition, who will each receive a small prize.

National Prizes

- Winning designs will be made into official WOW badges worn by children across the UK
- Up to £500 of free WOW resources for winning schools
- WOW trophies for winners and highly commended entries
- Downloadable certificates for pupils

We look forward to seeing the children's creativity and celebrating their journeys to school!

SEND Parent Forum at Buckingham School

Have you ever wondered how ADHD and Autism interact to create unique challenges for your child? Do you ever feel like you're searching for expert advice but don't know where to turn?

We are thrilled to announce an amazing opportunity for our parent community. On Thursday, 12th February, The Buckingham School will be hosting a special SEND Parent Forum focused on the coexistence of ADHD and Autism.

Why you should attend:

- Guest speaker Lauren Castle, a Local Authority Specialist Teacher, who will share professional strategies and insights.
- High-quality specialist events like this are far and few between - don't miss out on this expert-led session
- Meet and share experiences with other parents in a supportive environment.
- A dedicated space to have your specific questions answered by a professional.

The Important Details:

- When: 12 February 2026. 5pm - 6.30pm
- Where: The Buckingham School
- Cost: This event is FREE to attend.
- Childcare: Please note that this is a no-children event to allow for focused discussion.

To secure your seat, please scan the QR code on the flyer or contact the SEN department at senadmin@buckinghamschool.org.



Office Update

We would like to remind all families to take extra care on school site following a near miss in the car park this morning. Please ensure children remain on the pavements at all times, and for our younger pupils, we strongly recommend holding their hand when walking into school. Your support in keeping everyone safe is greatly appreciated.

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 94.8%.

Well done to Reception, who collectively achieved our first 100% attendance of 2026. Well done!!

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



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 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!

Jasper from Year 5 did his best impression of David Beckham (Is this still a relevant reference?!) and scored a free kick, a last-minute equaliser in a thrilling 5-5 draw on Saturday. What a legend! Take a look at the snaps underneath... Pure elation. Love it!





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@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk**. We look forward to celebrating and sharing lots of good news together!