

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 6.02.2026

Headteacher's Message

Our penultimate week has drawn to a close here at Steeple Claydon. This week we have been thinking about how we are all different - in the way we look, act and behave. However, when we put on our Steeple Claydon uniform, we are one team. We help each other and we support each other, whether that is when someone is upset or when a friend needs a hand in class. We shared the message that, although we are all unique, we must all still follow the school's expectations. If we truly want everybody to SHINE, we all need to follow instructions in class, try our best, and respect both school property and each other's belongings.

There is lots going on next week! I have put everything into an easy-to-follow list below:

Monday 9th February – Friday 13th February

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week – lots going on in classes. The theme this year is *'This is My Place'*.

Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day – our legendary Year 6s are taking over the computing curriculum for the day and teaching each class for an hour.

Tuesday 10th February

Parents Evening, 3.30 – 7.30pm.

Tuesday 10th February

Change of date for the Buckingham SEND morning. This will now take place between 5.00pm and 7.00pm, and all information can be found later in the newsletter.

Thursday 12th February

MUFTI Day in support of BUCKS Mind. An optional donation of £2 can be made using the link provided.

Thursday 12th February

Parents Evening, 3.30 - 5pm.

Friday 13th February

FOSCS Break the Rules Day – please see the poster in the FOSCS section of the newsletter for details.

Friday 13th February

Half Term!

Finally, as the Winter Olympics begin today, we are reminded of the incredible determination and work ethic shown by Team GB and athletes from around the world. Their success has not happened by chance - it is the result of years of practice, resilience and a true Growth Mindset. Here at Steeple Claydon, we encourage the same attitudes in our children every day. Whether it is mastering a new skill in Maths, improving handwriting, or experimenting in Science, progress only comes when we put in the effort and keep trying, even when things feel tricky. Just like Olympic teams, we achieve more when we support and encourage one another. Over the next two and a half weeks, enjoy watching the Games with your children, exploring new sports together and talking about the journey the athletes have taken to reach the top. Their example is a powerful reminder that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

Year Group Updates

Preschool

In Preschool this week, we have been learning all about pterosaurs. What is a pterosaur you may ask, Preschoolers can tell you that we have found out that the word 'ptero' comes from the Greek language from a long time ago and it means wings. We know 'saur' means lizard, so when we put these together, it means 'wing lizard'. We have been comparing and sorting different pterosaurs to birds, and discussing the similarities and differences. We have also made our own pterosaur gliders, using intricate cutting and folding skills to create these, the children were all so proud of their creations!

We have also been rescuing dinosaurs from jelly, gloop, stomping dinosaurs to make footprints into playdough, creating collages of birds and pterosaurs and having lots of fun!

"You shall go to the ball!" Said the Fairy Godmother, we have had lots of story retelling with our book of the week in NELI, Cinderella! The children were not best pleased in re enacting Cinderella cleaning, but have very much enjoyed dressing up and making their own invitations to the ball!

Reception

We've had another busy and exciting week in Reception and the children have been working incredibly hard.

We have continued our exciting Space theme, this week exploring deeper into space and focusing our learning on the planet Mars. The children enjoyed learning about the "Red Planet" and discovering how Mars rovers help scientists explore its surface. They became

little engineers as they designed and made their very own rovers, using lots of creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills. The finished results were fantastic!

In English, the children planned letters to Joop, explaining why they would make a brilliant replacement sidekick while Nut the dog is poorly. They thought carefully about their special qualities, skills and kindness, and practiced sharing their ideas in full sentences.

In Maths, we have been comparing amounts using the language more than, fewer than and equal. The children used practical resources and games to support their understanding and did a great job explaining their thinking.

Please don't forget that Parents' Evening appointments will be taking place next Tuesday and Thursday after school. I'm looking forward to seeing you all then and sharing your child's progress, and I am sure you will be as proud of them as I am.

Year 1

Year One have had a super week in English writing their letters to Mrs Mattison to tell her they have found her handbag. The children came up with lots of fabulous adjectives to describe the missing bag and have been trying really hard to use exclamation marks in their writing. In Geography they have been learning about Northern Ireland, looking at features of the landscape and finding out all about how Giant's causeway was made by a volcanic eruption. In maths we have used our knowledge of bonds of ten to solve problems within twenty and have begun to look at the effect of adding ten! Super tricky stuff!

Year 2

We have had a great week of learning again in Year 2!

In Maths, we have moved on to multiplication and equal grouping. Please continue to practise times tables at home to help build confidence and fluency.

In English, the children are writing instructions on how to look after a big baby. They have been thinking carefully about clear steps and bossy verbs as commands. Please don't forget to practise spellings over the weekend, and ask your child which spelling rules they have been learning this week.

In Geography, we have been focusing on England, exploring its features and deciding whether different locations are rural or urban.

In Science, the children have been testing materials to see whether they are conductors or insulators. It was another great exploration of electrical circuits, with lots of curiosity and excellent teamwork. Well done class.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next week Tuesday and Thursday for parents evenings.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been working hard on writing their calmness guides based on our vehicle text "The Worry Tiger." In maths, we have been exploring multiplying and dividing by 3 and 4 as well as learning the 3- and 4-times tables. Please do encourage your child to use Times Tables Rock Stars at home to support them with learning their times tables.

In geography, the children loved using atlases to find the River Thames and the Danube River. They particularly enjoyed learning how to change their "Sprite's" costume on scratch.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy and creative week across the curriculum. In English, we have been using drama to help embed our own *Monster Hunter Guide* ideas. The children have really enjoyed stepping into roles of the beasts and the hunters, using their imagination to develop these characters, the settings and exciting descriptions for their writing.

In Maths, we have been finding missing lengths in order to calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. The children have been working hard to explain their reasoning and apply their knowledge confidently.

Our music skills came together this week as we practised playing some familiar songs, including '*The Eye of the Tiger*'. The children showed great focus and teamwork while keeping the rhythm going. I hope you have all seen the school's social media – a little more practise is needed, but the children loved recording and listening to their playing.

In DT, we are very proud to say we have finished our cushions. Please take a look at our display in the cloak room when you visit school for your parents' evening consultations – the final products look fantastic and show real care and perseverance.

Finally, in RE, we have been thinking about the importance of religious pilgrimages and why they matter to people of faith. The children shared thoughtful ideas and asked some excellent questions.

Well done, Year 4, for another brilliant week of learning!

Year 5

Year 5 have been building their cams mechanisms this week, and they're nearly ready now. The DT project is really engaging with their creativity, which is great to see. In English, they've started writing their formal reports based on *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and they've been pulling lots of formal, old-fashioned phrases out of the bag for it! I think the children have appreciated maths this week, in which they've learnt that it's easier to multiply fractions than to add them! And in science, we dissected flowers to identify its parts, which led to some good discussions - and a pleasant-smelling classroom!

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have been writing newspaper reports about refugees being rescued using our class text 'A Story Like the Wind'. The children were excited to start the topic of algebra this week in Maths - a new skill for many and have been investigating how mirrors can be used to change the direction of light in Science. We even made periscopes to allow us to see up and over things. In Art this week, the children learnt about the artist Paul Gauguin, who unlike the other artists we have studied this term, used bold, contrasting colours to express emotion through his paintings. We looked at his painting 'Blue Trees' and created pieces of work inspired by this.

Preschool Photos

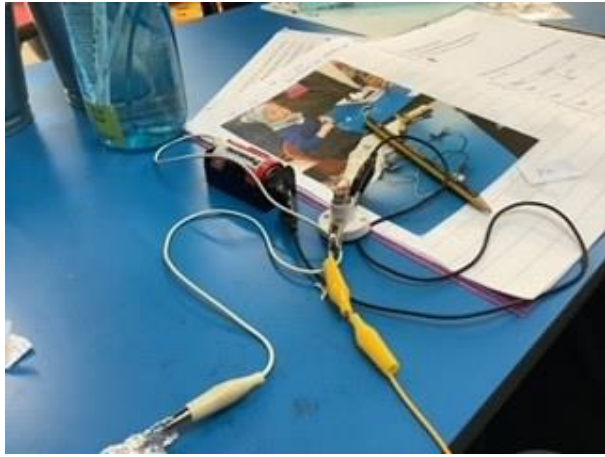






Year 2 Photos

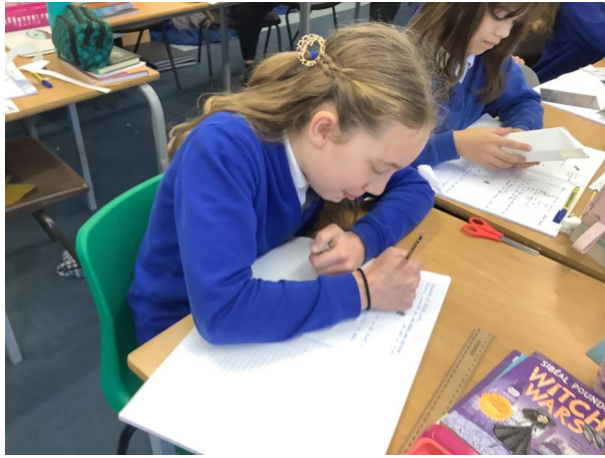
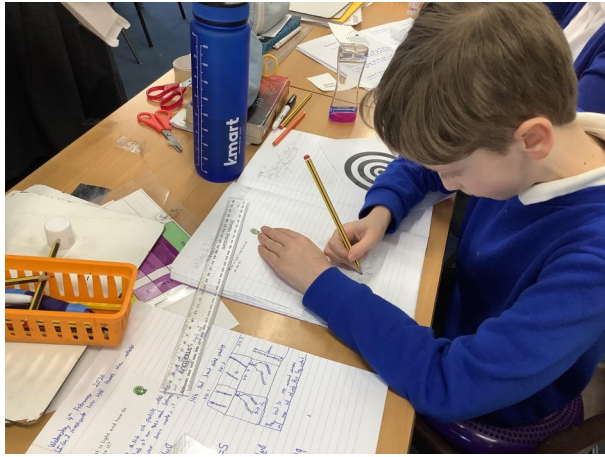




Year 6 Photos







Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Lyla - For always demonstrating fantastic imagination and creativity in both role play and art.

Year 1 - Lexi - For incredible effort in phonics and English this week.

Year 2 - Gianni - For trying so hard in all learning this week.

Year 3 - Iris - For being a true Steeple star and an excellent role model to others.

Year 4 - Stella - For writing a great information paragraph in English. It was packed full of information and her handwriting was beautiful.

Year 5 - Chloe - For being a great role model in all subjects, demonstrating great support and friendliness.

Year 6 - Hugo - For working with great effort especially in English, working hard to improve the quality of his sentences.

Value Awards

Reception - George Mac - Determination - Showing great determination in communicating his needs and wants with adults.

Year 1 - Frankie - Confidence - Has been an absolute superstar in phonics, showing a can-do attitude to set three sounds!

Year 2 - Eva - Determination - Demonstrated a 'have a go' determined week in her learning across all subject areas.

Year 3 - Milly - Confidence - Approached the 3 and 4 times table with an impressive confidence.

Year 4 - Lorcan - Determination - Great determination when sewing his cushion in DT over the last few weeks. He carefully thought about what stitches to use and make a lovely cushion.

Year 5 - Hugo - Determination - Really pushing himself with his fraction work.

Year 6 - Mia - Determination - Consistent determination making a real effort to do her best in all her learning.

House Point Awards

Bronze (Reaching 30 house points)

Year 5 - Theo

Silver (Reaching 60 house points)

Year 4 - Stella

Year 5 - Abi, Hugo, Everly, Alex, Joseph,

Year 6 - Emily, Ivy

Gold (Reaching 90 house points)

Year 3 - JJ M, Seb G

Year 5 - Chloe, Nicole, Jasper, Lexi, Harvey, Karla

Platinum (Reaching 120 house points)

Year 3 - Dylan

Year 6 - Tallulah

INSET Days 2026 - 2027

The Governing Board has agreed the following INSET days for the next academic year. These will be:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Monday 12th April 2027
- Wednesday 21st July 2027

Full term dates for the 2026–2027 academic year will be shared on our new school website when it goes live in March.

As ever, if you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

FOSCS - Update

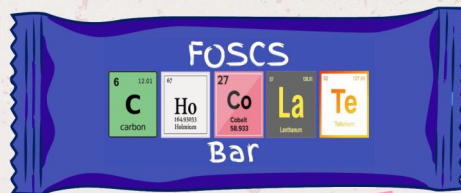
Please see below for our next three FOSCS events.

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

SCHOOL RULES

- #1 Replace your school jumper/top with a non-uniform item
- #2 Wear trainers or boots (allowing for PE)
- #3 Wear nail varnish and/or a temporary tattoo
- #4 Wear bright socks or tights
- #5 Wear a hat in class or style your hair unconventionally
- #6 Bring in a small bag of sweets for lunch/snack
- #7 Wear a label/name badge with a different name for the day (must be non-offensive and pronounceable)
- #8 Have squash or juice in your bottles instead of water

50P PER RULE. CASH ONLY



CONTACT FOSCS AT
FOSCSFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM



Amazon Wishlist Update

As previously shared, 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!

WOW Badge Design Competition 2026 - **LAST CHANCE!!**

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. **If you need a template, please find Mrs Brewer or the JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers). 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!

Appropriate clothing for weather

As we move through February and March, the weather can be very unpredictable. This week alone we've experienced freezing temperatures, torrential rain, bright sunshine and everything in between! Please make sure your child comes to school prepared for all types of weather. Warm, waterproof coats are essential. Thanks for your support.

SEND Parent Forum at Buckingham School - **CHANGE OF DATE to TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY**

Please note the SEND Parent Forum focusing on ADHD and Autism now takes place on Tuesday 10 February, 17.00-19:00. The booking link has been updated to reflect the new date.

Buckingham School have kindly invited us to a SEND Parent Forum in their school Library on Thursday 12 February, 17.00-19:00. This session will focus on how ADHD and Autism coexist and the challenges this presents in a young person. The session will be co-delivered by Philippa Lockhart, SENDCO, and Lauren Castle, the Local Authority specialist teacher. Lauren will be sharing knowledge and insight on identifying the conflict caused by the co-existing condition as well as strategies and ways to manage this in supporting young people. The session is open to all parents/carers. If you wish to attend this event, please book your ticket via this link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tbs-events/t-mjodkjin>

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Office Update

Just a reminder that parents should not use the staff car park before or after school. We appreciate that parking in the village can be challenging, so please allow a little extra time when dropping off and collecting your children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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 91.8%.

Well done to Year R, who after lots of absence through chicken pox, had our highest attendance this week of 96.7%. Legends.

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

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!

Jayjay from Year 3 went to his first ever grading at Ippon Ken karate club this week. He has not been to one before as he was too nervous, so he did amazingly well to stand up in front of everyone! Even better, he did so well that he has skipped a kyu (belt colour) and earned his red belt, straight from white with an orange ribbon. He only started in May and has worked so hard! Well done Jayjay!





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 or if easier, simply message us on social media. We look forward to celebrating and sharing lots of good news together!