

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 13.02.2026

Headteacher's Message

What a week to end the half term on at Steeple Claydon!

This week has truly captured what our school is all about. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we have been reflecting on the theme *This is my place*. This really resonated with me, as it sits firmly at the heart of my vision for our school. I want every child to walk through our doors feeling safe, settled and happy - knowing that Steeple Claydon is their place to belong, to grow and to **shine**.

On Tuesday, we marked Safer Internet Day, with our fantastic Year 6 pupils leading lessons across the school. They did an incredible job modelling responsibility and leadership, helping younger children understand how to stay safe online. We are very proud of them.

It was also a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school for Parents' Evenings this week. Teachers were able to share the brilliant progress your children are making - whether that's academically, socially and emotionally. Thank you for your continued engagement and support. It makes a big difference.

On Thursday, we held a MUFTI Day in support of **Bucks Mind**, a wonderful local charity that provides mental health support and wellbeing services across Buckinghamshire. They offer counselling, advice, group support and early intervention services for children, young people and adults experiencing mental health challenges. Their work truly changes lives. They are so grateful for our support that they are planning to visit us after half term to thank the children in person! If you would still like to donate, it's not too late. Please use the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/steeple-claydon-willen-hospice-4?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

We finished the week by... breaking the rules! Own footwear, bright socks, crazy hair and even sweets for lunch - shocking behaviour! 😊 We are still totalling the final amount raised, but I know every penny will help FOSCS continue to provide much-needed funds for our school. Thank you for embracing the fun and supporting the event.

Finally, from me... Thank you. The last six weeks have absolutely flown by and I have felt nothing but warmth and support from this community. At my 'Meet the Headteacher' evening, I shared that I truly believe I want every child to shine - it's exactly why I wanted to lead this school. For that to happen, parents and school must work in partnership, and I see that happening every single day. From reading at home to purchasing books from the

Amazon wishlist; from engaging with teachers on Seesaw to ensuring your child arrives on time each day - it all counts. I genuinely appreciate your effort and support.

Here's to another brilliant half term ahead, with World Book Day, FUDGE mornings, FOSCS Golden Tickets, school trips and so much more to look forward to.

Have a wonderful half term .

Mr Sperring

Year Group Updates

Preschool

A busy week to the end of a dinosaur-tastic half term! We have been rounding up our dinosaur topic by drawing and trying to write a dinosaur fact file. We have been very busy telling all our friends all the facts we know about the dinosaurs, using our fine motor skills to cut out pictures of our favourite dinosaurs.

In NELI this week, we looked at the story "How to look after your dinosaur" a great story all about looking after a pet dinosaur. We have had lots of discussions about our pets and how we would look after our dream pets if we had them!

We also celebrated Children's Mental Health week by doing some calming yoga, stretching and focusing on our breathing! We have been talking about things we like and dislike at circle time and talking about how we are feeling too.

On Tuesday we were lucky to have some Year 6 visitors to preschool. They came to talk to us about Safer Internet Day and trying to stay safe when we use the internet. We had lots of discussions about what robots can and can't do, and what a voice assistant can and can't do!

Reception

We have come to the end of another half term in Reception and I can't quite believe we are now half way through the year! It has been lovely to see how engaged the children have been in their learning this half term. They have thoroughly enjoyed our Space topic and loved reading about Juniper Jupiter the superhero and becoming superheroes themselves.

We have finished the term learning about Chinese New Year, which this year begins on Tuesday 17th February. In Literacy, we have been reading the story of the Chinese New Year race, and talking about how families celebrate this special festival. The children enjoyed learning about traditions such as dragon dances, special foods, decorations and how families come together to celebrate.

We have also been practising writing our names in Chinese! The children were very excited to see how their names look using Chinese characters and showed great concentration when forming the marks carefully.

Through our discussions, we learned that Chinese New Year is also known as Lunar New Year and that each year is represented by a different animal. The children loved finding out which animal year they were born in and that the new Chinese year will be the year of the horse.

We have also been getting crafty this week, creating collage Chinese lanterns, handprint dragon puppets, as well as learning how to weave. The children practised their fine motor skills by weaving paper in and out to create colourful patterns. They showed great patience and perseverance while learning this new skill.

In Maths, we have been learning about mass and capacity. The children have been exploring heavy and light objects and comparing them using balance scales. We have also been investigating capacity by filling and emptying different containers, using language such as full, empty, half full, more and less. The children have enjoyed these practical activities and have been developing their mathematical vocabulary.

To mark Internet Safety Day on Tuesday, a group of year 6 pupils visited us to deliver an Internet Safety talk. They taught us some simple internet safety rules and shared a story and a song to help us remember how to keep safe online. The children listened beautifully and enjoyed learning how to stay safe when online, they even finished the session with a fun colouring activity.

A huge well done to the first group of children, who have now completed their Balance Bikability Sessions with Mrs Evans. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have enjoyed these sessions, and to watch their confidence grow and to see how determined they have been to master their new skills. Our next group will start after half term, and every child in Reception will have a turn before the summer holidays.

It was lovely to see so many parents this week at parents' evening this week, discussing how far the children have progressed since September, celebrating their achievements and talking about next steps in their learning.

I wish you all a restful half term.

Year 1

The highlight of the week for Year One has to be making their sock puppets in DT! The children were incredibly determined to ensure they followed their plan, selecting the correct colours and making sure they used their templates to cut the felt accurately. It was lovely to see the children so enthused by their learning and everyone tried their very best to complete their work to the highest standard. Good job Year One! In English the children have been completing their letters to Mrs Mattison, it has been super to see how much their writing has improved since the start of the Year and how independent they are becoming! In

Geography they have been exploring rural and urban landscapes and creating some fabulous drawings to describe them! Well done Year One! I hope you all have a super restful half term!

Year 2

Wow – what a busy week we’ve had in Year 2!

It was so lovely to see so many of you at parent meetings. Thank you for all the support you give at home – it really, really does make such a difference. Please keep up with:

- TTRockstars for times tables practice
- Daily reading
- Learning weekly spellings (and the spelling rule!)

In English this week, the children finished their instructional writing on How to Build a Bog Baby Home. They then used those skills to write instructions all about planting a bulb to brighten up a garden – they did a fantastic job. In Maths, we’ve been busy exploring doubling and halving, learning about arrays, and investigating odd and even numbers.

We’ve completed our Geography topic by learning about Cape Town in South Africa. The children enjoyed finding out where Cape Town is, finding out about its physical and human features and comparing it to our local area! We decided it was very different!

The highlight of the week was definitely DT! The children designed, sewed and decorated their own pencil cases – and they absolutely rose to the challenge. We were so proud of their resilience and creativity. A big thank you to our wonderful parent helpers for your support with this activity.

If you hadn't realised already - it's half term next week Have a brilliant holiday – enjoy a well-earned rest and have lots of fun! 😊

Best wishes,

Mrs Bradford and Year 2 team.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have had two jam-packed days of D.T. They really enjoyed finishing their keyrings using their sewing skills from this half-term. On Wednesday, they loved making their very own pasta bake! We started the by learning about how pasta is made. The children then learnt how to safely chop vegetables and then they enjoyed mixing them with chopped tomatoes, the pasta and adding in some mixed herbs. Not forgetting, adding some cheese on top! In maths, we have been exploring multiplying and dividing by 8 as well as the 8 times table. In English, the children have been enjoying writing the final part of their calmness guides.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy and brilliant ½ term packed full of learning and teamwork! ✨ This week has included, taking part in an important Internet Safety talk, followed by practical activities with our Year 6's. The older children did a fantastic job helping us think about how to stay safe online, and it was great to see this information being shared across the school.

In Science, we've been learning about the impact we have on our planet and how we can care for our environment, which led perfectly into a litter-picking session on the school field. Armed with gloves and bags, the children worked responsibly to help keep our school grounds clean and safe—great teamwork and super attitudes all round 🌱.

We were also lucky enough to join a live lesson with Steve Backshall all about the Polar regions. The children were fascinated to learn about extreme habitats, amazing animals, and the challenges faced by people and wildlife living in such cold environments. There were lots of thoughtful questions and excited discussions afterwards!

Finally, we're incredibly proud to have published our Monster Hunter Guides. The children worked hard on their writing, focusing on clear instructions, descriptive language, and creative design. The finished guides were imaginative, informative, and a real celebration of their effort and progress. We published these using the Chrome books before 'sending' them to Ragnar Skarssgard the Chief Historian of the Ancient Guild of Monster Hunters.

Well done, Year 4—you've been curious, kind, and hardworking as always!

Year 5

As today is the end of this half term, a lot of Year Five's work this week has been wrapping up and looking back over our learning over the last few weeks. We've finished our final bit of writing on *The Hound of the Baskervilles* - a text that the class will be sorry to say goodbye to! Building from our work multiplying fractions, we've moved onto finding fractions of amounts. The children will no doubt be sad to know that the next half-term won't be quite as fractions-focused! But our curriculum this half-term - animal life cycles in science; Africa and mountains (and volcanoes) in geography; *Living on a Prayer* in music - has been one that many of the children have really invested themselves in; and looking back and showing what they've learnt has been a worthwhile and gratifying experience. Even doing dance in PE (something many of the boys were quite dubious about) has become something they've been really proud of. And then, of course, we've got DT, where we've been making cams mechanisms. At the time of writing, most in the class are still just about to cross the finishing line with that, but their structures are sturdy, and their creativity is undiminished! I'm sure next half-term will be every bit as engaging, but this has certainly been a good'un!

Year 6

Year 6 has had an amazing end to the term. Last Friday was Number day and we used our maths skills to estimate a range of measurements including the time taken to boil a kettle, the weight of objects, the length of a string and the area of a giant chocolate wrapper. Well done to Elisha and Evie - our Estimation Superstars!

We have really enjoyed English this week, developing our suspense writing. We have used short sentences, effective punctuation and interesting vocabulary to create engaging stories.

Tuesday was Internet Safety day and Year 6 created their own lessons to teach around the school, helping all pupils to learn the importance of staying safe online - they were amazing!

On Wednesday, Year 6 showed the value of responsibility by supporting Year 3 with their cooking lesson. They helped the children to chop vegetables, stay safe when using sharp utensils and create a delicious pasta recipe. Thank you Year 6.

We also had a fun end to our Science unit of light. This week, we were learning about refraction and carried out a number of experiments to learn about how light bends or changes direction when it travels through different materials. It was lots of fun! Have a well deserved break Year 6!

Reception Photos







Year 1 sock puppet photos









Year 2 Bulb Planting



Year 3 Photos



Year 6 Photos







Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - George G - For a huge improvement in his written work. He is forming letters independently!

Year 1 - Ayla - For consistently trying her absolute best in everything she does.

Year 2 - Chloe - For trying so hard in her instruction writing this week.

Year 3 - Henry T - For demonstrating exemplary perseverance when sewing his keyring.

Year 4 - Eliza - For continuing to be an 'all round superstar.'

Year 5 - Dulinsa - For constantly challenging herself and giving her best efforts in English.

Year 6 - Thea - For her brilliant Maths work. She has put 100% into her lessons, shown great progress in decimals and percentages and confidently shared her learning with the class.

Value Awards

Reception - Jake Preskett - Trust - We can always trust Jake to make the right choices. He is a responsible member of the class and a role model to his peers.

Year 1 - Nora - Compassion - Nora is always a very kind and compassionate friend who always supports and encourages others.

Year 2 - Chloe - Determination - He has been trying so hard this week with his multiplication facts.

Year 3 - Jayjay W - Confidence - He has approached sewing his keyring very confidently and his confidence allowed Jayjay to demonstrate super serl-belief.

Year 4 - Determination - Ellie-Mai - She has worked really hard and has been very determined in Maths this week. In particular she has really grasped the concept of finding perimeters of shapes.

Year 5 - Milan - Positivity - He has shown a great learning attitude in Maths and was one of the first to crack the answers in countdown!

Year 6 - Louis P - Positivity - Louis is a positive, hardworking character in class, always with a smile on his face. He consistently demonstrates positive behaviours around school and is a great role model.

Lunchtime Awards

Year 5 - Jasper - For being super helpful and demonstrating perfect manners

House Point Awards

Bronze (Reaching 30 house points)

Year 3 - Jacob, Aiden

Year 4 - Evie B

Year 5 - Daniel

Silver (Reaching 60 house points)

Year 1 - Frankie, Alice, Nora, Grace

Year 3 - Jake S, Milly, Izzy

Year 4 - Ava, Noah, Sulaimon

Year 5 - Isaac, Sophie

Year 6 - Maisy PG, Hugo, Elisha

Gold (Reaching 90 house points)

Year 4 - Oscar, Stella, Eliza, Elsie, Verity

Year 5 - Duncan, Lukesh, Liam

Year 6 - Florence, Jemima, Rose

Platinum (Reaching 120 house points)

Year 3 - Iris

Year 5 - Nicole

We are hiring!

We are pleased to share an opportunity to join TeamSteeple as a school cleaner. We are looking for a committed and reliable individual to work alongside Mr Roberts, our Site Manager, and Sarah, our already established cleaner, to help keep our school clean, safe and welcoming for everyone.

The role is for 15 hours per week (3 hours per day). We are flexible with how these hours are worked. For example, this could be:

7.00–8.30am and 3.30–5.00pm or All 3 hours completed after school

This is a vital role within our school community and a wonderful opportunity to become part of a brilliant, supportive team. We are ideally looking for someone to start on Monday 16th March, although we would be happy to wait until the Summer Term for the right person.

If this sounds like something you (or someone you know) would be interested in, please contact the school office to register your interest.

End of Term Changes and INSET Days 2026 - 2027

Please see below the email sent to parents regarding the change to the collection times and INSET days.

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you of a change to the end of day arrangements on the final day of each full term. This change will commence from **Tuesday 21st July**.

Following consultation with the Governing Board, Steeple Claydon School and Preschool will finish early on the last day of every term (**as stated earlier - from Tuesday 21st July**). The revised collection times will be:

1.30pm for EYFS and Key Stage 1

1.35pm for Key Stage 2

Please note that as the Easter break (Friday 27th March) is now less than two months away, this date will remain a usual collection time of **3.15pm for EYFS/KS1 and 3.30pm for KS2**, and afterschool club will run as normal.

We believe this change will be beneficial for our children and staff. The end of term is always an exceptionally busy time, and finishing slightly earlier allows children to end the term in a calm, positive way after a busy term of hard work. It also provides valuable time for staff to prepare classrooms, shared areas and resources for the new term ahead, ensuring a smooth and successful start for everyone.

In addition, after consultation with S4A, afterschool club will **not** be available on the final day of each full term once this change comes into effect.

Please note that this change does not apply to half term holidays. For example, on Friday 13th February and Friday 22nd May, when we break up for half term, school will finish at the usual times and afterschool club will run as normal.

INSET Dates for 2026–2027

You may have also seen in last week's newsletter that the Governing Board has also agreed on the INSET days for the next academic year. These will be:

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September

Monday 4th January

Monday 12th April

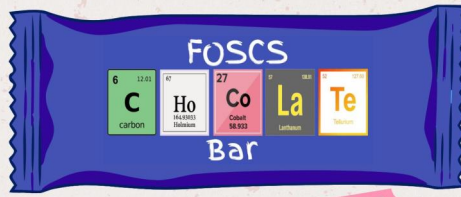
Wednesday 21st July

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.

[FOSCS - Update](#)

Please see below for our next two FOSCS events.



FRIDAY
6TH
MARCH

£1 PER BAR
PRIZE IN EACH BAR

PRE-ORDER BY
FORM, TO BE
RETURNED BY
27TH FEBRUARY
CASH OR BACS



CONTACT FOSCS AT
[FOSCSFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:foscsfundraising@gmail.com)

PRIZE BINGO NIGHT

Sunday 22nd March 2026
Doors open 2pm Eyes Down 2.30pm

Will be held at
Steeple Claydon School

Prizes through out
Hot & Cold drinks and
cake available.
Raffle

Come join us for an afternoon of fun to support
Friends of Steeple Claydon School in Bingo.
£2 entry and £2 per book.

Prepayment for entry available,
Booking available
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!

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.

Attendance

Yesterday, you will have received an attendance report detailing your child's attendance so far this academic year. If you have any questions or queries regarding your child's attendance report, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We are always happy to help.

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 94.3%. This is a huge improvement from last week!

Well done to Year 1 who had our highest attendance this week of 98.1%. 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.

Taking Photos in Star Assemblies

Just a reminder that taking photos during the Star Assemblies is strictly prohibited. We have a number of children whose parents or carers have not given consent for their photos to be taken or shared on social on media. Thank you for your understanding.

Half Term venues where children eat free or for £1

**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1)
FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2026**
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

<p>ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm</p> <p>ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend</p> <p>ASK ITALIAN Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays</p> <p>BELLA ITALIA Children eat free Sunday - Thursday</p> <p>BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult</p> <p>BILLS Kids eat free Monday 17th - Friday 28th Feb</p> <p>BREWDOG Kids eat free this Feb Half Term</p> <p>BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 under 16s get free breakfast daily with 1 adult!</p> <p>COCONUT TREE Kids eat FREE from 10th to the 16th of Feb 2026.</p> <p>CAFE ROUGE Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week</p> <p>DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch</p> <p>FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids eat FREE during all school holidays</p> <p>FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal</p> <p>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day</p> <p>IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p> <p>LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App</p> <p>MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend</p>	<p>MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend</p> <p>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day</p> <p>PREMIER INN 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p>PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult</p> <p>PREZZO Kids eat for £1 from 6th Jan to 11th February 2026.</p> <p>PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal</p> <p>PIZZA HUT Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm</p> <p>SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays</p> <p>SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1. Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm</p> <p>TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult</p> <p>TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)</p> <p>THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend</p> <p>TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p>TURTLE BAY Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend</p> <p>WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p>YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays</p> <p>ZIZZI Kids eat free all day Feb 16th - 20th 2026</p>
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Good news!

George G in Reception tried something new this week, which was go karting. At first he was a little nervous but once he put on his helmet and got in the go kart, he felt excited and brave. He focused on going fast and taking the racing line as instructed. George surprised himself with how well he did and by the end of the race he earned himself a shiny medal. Trying go karting showed George that stepping out of his comfort zone could lead to great achievements.





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!