

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 27.02.2026

Headteacher's Message

Week one of Spring 2 is done! With such a short half term ahead of us, there is certainly a lot to pack in.

The highlight this week was, by far, our visit from Giant Journeys and their incredible variety of dinosaurs and fossils. The children were absolutely captivated seeing the dinosaurs come alive right in front of their eyes - although I'm not entirely sure Mrs Rowe and Mr Foster were quite as thrilled about stroking the baby T-Rex! Each class also took part in a fossil exploration workshop, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A huge thank you to the team at Giants Journeys - I cannot recommend them highly enough. Please look at the video from the day on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

We were also given access to our new website this week. It is currently being built behind the scenes, with the aim of providing a more detailed, engaging and easy-to-navigate site for our whole community. We're working towards a launch in March, and I look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

This week brought our first proper sprinkling of sunshine too, with highs of 15 degrees - and what a difference that made to the mood and atmosphere around school! We genuinely had children sunbathing on the playground, stopping to sniff the daffodils and smiling all day long. Let's hope the sunshine makes a return soon.

Safeguarding has been a key focus across the school this week. We have been working with the children on how to keep themselves safe both in and outside of school. They were given two simple but powerful pieces of advice:

- **Think before you act** (which isn't easy to do!)
- **Tell a trusted adult if you are unsure or worried about something**

This is something we will continue to revisit regularly, as safeguarding remains our absolute priority.

On Wednesday, our Early Years team (Preschool and Reception) welcomed a visit from our Bucks Early Years Advisor. The feedback was resoundingly positive. She commented on the well-thought-through learning environments, engaging staff members, the newly developed outdoor area, and - most importantly - how every child was clearly shining. It is wonderful to see how much our youngest learners are thriving. Lucky children indeed!

Finally, I wanted to share an update on Mrs Abu-Rish, who has been absent this term due to ill health. I am delighted to inform you that she is now back home after what has been a very

challenging Christmas and New Year. She is on the road to recovery, although it will be a lengthy one. While we do not expect to see her back in school in the near future, we remain in regular contact and she greatly appreciates the well wishes that have been passed on from the Steeple Claydon community.

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

Year Group Updates

Preschool

A super busy week back into Spring 2! We have been enjoying playing and being outside this week, playing in the new dens, filling the vegetable patch with compost as a team and filling pots with compost ready to plant with seeds for our growing and changing topic! We have been talking about the seasons and weather and how it changes with the seasons (although we could have all different types of weather in just one day in Steeple Claydon!)

We have also been learning about Lunar New Year, using chopsticks and tweezers to transfer objects from one place to another with lots of ease and difficulty. We learned how to say happy new year in Chinese “kung hei fat Choi,” made paper lanterns and learned about animals that live in Asia.

In our Neli, we have been reading “when a dragon goes to school” and talking about how well a dragon would settle into school on their first day and talking about our first day back this week!

In Maths, we have been working on our matching and pattern skills. Matching patterned buttons together, coloured shoes and patterns of cubes.

On Thursday we had an amazing treat- dinosaur dig day! We were very brave and got to meet a baby T Rex called ‘Trixie’ and a large T Rex called ‘Reggie’, this reminded us of our learning we did last half term all about dinosaurs. We also got to dig for real life fossils with brushes in sand, we found lots of small and large fossils which provoked lots of conversations about what kind of dinosaurs the children found.

Next week we look forward to world book day on Thursday, mystery readers, our fabulous communication week and lots more!

Reception

Wow what a first week back it has been in Reception. The highlight clearly being our amazing Dinosaur assembly and dig yesterday - meeting both a baby and a full grown T-Rex before snack time - how could we ever top that! After the excitement of assembly the children had great fun becoming paleontologists digging for fossils in sand. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited to discover the different fossils and

find out what they were and who they belonged to, obviously the dinosaur poo (replica) was a firm favourite!!!!

Staying in the past, but not as far back as the Jurassic period, the children have dived straight into our new topic - Stories from the Past, where they have enjoyed reading a range of Fairy Tales and Traditional Tales, and making their own Cinderella books, and getting lost in a world of knights, dragons and castles in our small world area. In Literacy we are reading 'Little Red' a twist on the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood. The children have had great fun engaging in role play, dressing up as Little Red Riding Hood and the big bad wolf and visiting our very own Grandma's cottage. This story has already provided lots of opportunities for independent mark making and writing. I look forward to seeing lots more wonderful writing.

In maths we have been learning to find one more and one less and looking at different ways to make numbers 6 to 8 using 5 and adding 1, 2, or 3 more. As always the children have loved using the Numberblocks to help support their maths counting and number knowledge.

We have also enjoyed the warmer and slightly sunnier weather, allowing us to make the most of our amazing new Natural Area, which we visited on both Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. WHAT A WEEK IT HAS BEEN!

Next week we move away from our usual topic as we are joining in with the Bucks Early Years Communication week, please look out for information being sent home on Seesaw explaining how families can join in with this at home. Don't forget World Book Day on Thursday, where children can come to school dressed as a word. I look forward to seeing all your creative costumes.

Year 1

Year One have settled really quickly into school life and it has been fabulous to see their enthusiasm for our new English text "The Wild Things". The children have been making predictions about what they think will happen in the story and exploring lots of new vocabulary. In science Year One have begun their new unit 'Taking Care of the Earth' and have been exploring some of the many ways that humans pollute the land and water. In history the children have been learning about King Charles and some of the important items used during a coronation. The children had a brilliant time during our 'Dino Day' digging for fossils in sandpits, I was so impressed with how sensible all of the children were and it was just fabulous to see them so enthused!

Year 2

What an exciting week we've had in Year 2!

The children were thrilled to celebrate Dino Day and absolutely loved meeting Trixie the baby dinosaur and Reggie, her older brother. There was so much excitement throughout the

day! The children produced a fantastic piece of writing to describe the event – we were so impressed with their creativity, vocabulary and enthusiasm.

In English, we have started a wonderful new book, Flower Block by Lanisha Butterfield. The children have been busy exploring the characters and learning about the structure of the story. We are looking forward to seeing their ideas develop as we continue reading.

In Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing by 10 and 5. Please continue to practise times tables at home – regular practice really helps build confidence and fluency.

Yesterday, we launched our new topics:

- History: The Tudors
- Science: Plants

The children are already asking lots of fantastic questions and are excited to learn more!

A reminder to please sign up to be a Mystery Reader next week – the children absolutely love these special surprise stories. We are also looking forward to seeing you at our Reading Breakfast.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have enjoyed being immersed in their new vehicle text "Egyptology." They particularly enjoyed writing a setting description about the pyramids and desert of Ancient Egypt. In maths, the children have been continuing to learn about multiplication. In history, the children enjoyed our first lesson on Ancient Egypt where they learnt about the importance of the River Nile. In our science lesson this week, the children learnt about what a force is and loved using the forces of push and pull to make a toy car move. In music this week, the children had a Glockenspiel lesson led by the Bucks Music Trust and the children showed a great sense of rhythm. The highlight of Year 3's week was the very cool dinosaur assembly and fossil dig. The children loved the fossil dig and did an amazing job at working together to find out what each fossil was.

Year 4

Welcome back to a brand-new half term in Year 4! The children have returned full of enthusiasm and ready for lots of exciting learning across the curriculum.

In English, we are immersing ourselves in our new vehicle text, The Lost Happy Endings by Carol Ann Duffy and Jane Ray. The children are exploring rich vocabulary, developing their descriptive writing skills, and thinking carefully about character emotions and story structure. We are looking forward to seeing their creativity shine as they respond to this imaginative story.

In Maths, our focus this half term is fractions. Pupils will be learning to recognise, compare and order fractions, as well as finding equivalent fractions and understanding how fractions relate to whole numbers. Before moving on to learning about decimals.

Our Science topic is Sound. The children have been busy experimenting with vibrations by using a drum and rice to observe how sound waves move. They have also investigated to explore how sound travels, measuring distance and decibels using a decibel meter on the iPad, developing their scientific enquiry skills along the way. They all worked collaboratively with a small group of peers and discussed their scientific findings.

In Art, we are linking our learning in history and Roman architecture to create a model of the Pantheon in Rome. Pupils will explore shape, structure and design while learning about this famous ancient building.

It promises to be a busy and exciting half term, and we are proud of the children's positive attitude towards their learning. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 5

Year 5 have started their new topics this week. In English, we've begun looking at the picture book *The Promise* - a book which thus far is dealing with teenage homelessness and theft (hard-hitting stuff!), but which has the hint of better times to come. Maths has been really positive, with the class getting confident finding equivalent fractions and decimals. And several of our lessons this week have had something of an African theme: In history, we're looking at the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which has already captured the children's interest. More happily, we're also studying African-inspired art, which will lead to an art project I think the children will love! And in other news, I was eaten by a dinosaur.

Year 6

Year 6 has had a busy week back after half term. In English we have started reading *Rose Blanche*, a story about a young girl who helped children in a concentration camp in World War 2. We also started our World War 2 History topic which the children really enjoyed. This week we learnt about how war spread as Hitler conquered more countries and the role of the Allies as they fought back. Many of the children already have a great knowledge, sharing lots of interesting facts. We are also doing a dance unit in PE based on WW2. There are some photos of a group of boys who created great holds this week based on actions from the battlefield and on Thursday we had a fantastic time watching the dinosaur assembly and participating in a Fossil Dig workshop. What a great start to the term!

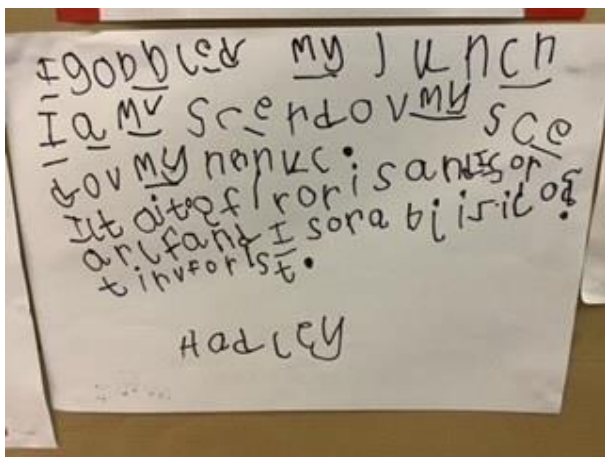
Preschool photos







Reception Pictures









Year 6 Pictures





Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Skyla - for working incredibly hard at home and at school to improve her phonics.

Year 1 - Joseph - for an incredible pointillism butterfly in art!

Year 2 - Maya -Bonnie - for having such a super ideas about growing in Science.

Year 3 - JJ - for super scientific questioning and thinking

Year 4 - Poya - for writing a character poem about 'Jub' the main character in their vehicle text. It was absolutely incredible!

Year 5 - Liam - for being a great friend and role model to others, with exemplary behaviour.

Year 6 - Emily - for showing a mature attitude to learning, working to your best effort and producing great work

Value Awards

Reception -Paige - Determination - Paige always shows such determination to do her best in everything she does!

Year 1 - Roman - Determination - He showed real focus and determination when creating his pointillism butterfly in art.

Year 2 - Timmy - Determination - he always shows great determination in his learning!

Year 3 - Jake - Respect - Jake has been showing amazing respectful listening this week.

Year 4 - Teddy P - Respect - Teddy showed great respect towards his peers in Science this week. He worked well in a small group, listening to the opinions and thoughts of others before helping to make some key decisions.

Year 5 - Dulinsa - Confidence - For her expert use of rhyming vocabulary and rhythmic timing

Year 6 - Tallulah - Determination - She consistently works with the determination to do her very best in every subject and is an exemplary role model to her peers.

House Point Awards

Bronze (Reaching 30 house points)

Year 1 - Peter, Ayla, Joseph

Year 3 - Zayaan, Toby,

Silver (Reaching 60 house points)

Year 1 - Evie

Year 3 - Alfie, Ummayyah, Clarissa, Sebby

Year 4 - Teddy

Year 5 - Milan

Year 6 - George, Baxter, Michael

Gold (Reaching 90 house points)

Year 3 - Jasper DK, Cooper, Jayjay, Henry W

Platinum (Reaching 120 house points)

Year 6 - Dylan, William, Joe

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 and for an application form. (CVs cannot be accepted)

FOSCS - Update

Our bingo event is fast approaching! Please see the poster below for full details. We kindly ask that you pre-book for this event so that we can cater accurately and ensure we have sufficient numbers for it to go ahead.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting *Break the Rules Day*. Together, we raised £308.90. This funding will be invaluable as the school continues to develop its outdoor facilities and storage, particularly as we begin our OPAL journey to enhance outdoor learning and play opportunities for all children.

In other news, we are now looking for a new Year 5 representative, as the lead has stepped down from the role. If you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you.

As we begin planning for the Summer Fete, we are seeking sponsorship from parents, carers, or local businesses. If you or your company are able to offer sponsorship - whether through a financial contribution, raffle prizes, or services - please let FOSCS know or contact the school office. As FOSCS is a registered charity, businesses may be able to claim tax relief on qualifying donations under the Gift Aid scheme (where applicable) or treat sponsorship as a business expense, depending on their individual circumstances. However, we recommend seeking independent financial advice for specific guidance. The Summer Fete is FOSCS' largest annual expense, and any support would be hugely appreciated. Sponsors will have their logo displayed on banners and signage around the village as a thank you for their support. Thank you in advance.

Finally, we wanted to share some photos of our fabulous library. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful space where children can explore, imagine and escape into a world of books. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, our shelves are now filled with new, diverse and engaging books that the children genuinely love reading.

FRIENDS OF
STEEPLE CLAYDON
SCHOOL



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
foscfundraising@gmail.com



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Book Week Correspondence

We are very excited about our up and coming book week at Steeple Claydon School and Preschool to continue to encourage all of our children to read for pleasure. We have lots of brilliant events, competitions and activities planned for the children including treasure hunts, online Author visits, story times and book recommendations.

We would love your support with a few of the activities. If you are able to come into school as a 'Mystery Reader' (shh don't even tell your child you are coming!) and share one of your favourite stories with your child's class at the end of the day please let their class teacher know.

On Tuesday 3rd March we are holding a book swap event in school, so if your child can please bring an age appropriate book that they are happy to part with to swap for another book on this day. Please can these be in good condition, thanks.

On Thursday 5th March, World Book Day, we are hosting our annual 'Reading breakfast' so please come and share stories with your child whilst enjoying a tasty breakfast! This event will run from 8.15am – 8.35am in the school hall, we can't wait to see you there.

Also, on World Book Day we would love for the children (and staff!) to dress up, but this year we really want to encourage the children's knowledge of vocabulary that is found in books so want them to dress up as a word from a story! The more ambitious the word the better! There are some pictures below for inspiration.

Finally, we would like to challenge the children to some 'Extreme reading' where they send me a photo of an unusual place they have read in! This could be anywhere! From under the bed to the top of a mountain! Please send these photos to your class teacher or to the office email so we can create a display in the library!



FUDGE Morning - Friday 13th March

Our first FUDGE Morning at Steeple Claydon is fast approaching and is 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. We look forward to welcoming you into school.

Upcoming PE Festivals

March is looking like a very sporty month, with some exciting PE festivals to look forward to.

14th March - our annual Cross Country event at Ascott House. Mr P has been training a huge group of children from years 3 upwards on the field on Friday lunchtimes. Children can just come along to training (with a change of trainers) if they are interested in taking part, and make sure you let the office know if you'd like to sign your child up for a race on the day.

19th March - year 5 and 6 netball at the Royal Latin School. Sign up for this and other PE festivals for your year group [here](#)

24th March - year 3 and 4 basketball at Buckingham Primary School Sign up for this and other PE festivals for your year group [here](#)

Year 1 and 2 have some more festivals in the summer term - let us know if you want to be considered for selection [here](#)

Office News

Representing the school beyond the school gates is just as important as representing it within them. When wearing school uniform, even when you are offsite, please act as you would in school and continue to follow our behaviour expectations.

This includes:

- Do not climb on sheds or property in the local area.
- Keep to the footpaths.
- Use kind words in the park - no bad language.
- Put your litter in the bin - do not leave it on the ground.

Our aim is not only to make the school a safe and brilliant place, but to help ensure the whole community feels the same, with the school at its heart. As you would in school, please think before you act.

A further important reminder: we are a **nut-free school**. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies. There should be no nuts in snacks or lunch boxes. There are no exceptions, I'm afraid. Thank you for your support in keeping all of our children safe.

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!

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 95.7%. Brilliant to see the school's overall attendance within the 'good attendance' bracket. Keep it up!

Well done to Year 3 who had our highest attendance this week of 99.4%. 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

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we would like to remind families about the importance of online safety, particularly when children are using mobile phones, messaging apps, chat groups and online games. Many of these platforms have age restrictions for a reason, and we strongly encourage parents to check the minimum age requirements before allowing access. Children can easily be exposed to inappropriate material, unkind messages or conversations that are not suitable for their age, even within seemingly harmless games or group chats.

We ask parents to actively monitor their child's online use. This might be through parental control apps, privacy settings and screen time limits, or simply by regularly and physically checking devices and having open conversations about what your child is accessing. Devices kept in shared family spaces rather than bedrooms can also help reduce risk.

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.

Social Media and Mental Health Webinar for parents and carers

Mr Foster, our mental health lead would like to signpost the community to a fantastic Social Media and Mental Health Parent Webinar coming up next week 03/03/2026 at 1pm.

The webinar will be discussing how we can help protect our own, and our young people's, mental health in the online world. We will look at social media and its impact on our wellbeing as well as tips and advice creating healthy habits around usage of online devices and social media. It links perfectly to our work around safeguarding children online too!

Parents can register to attend via this

link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/89796b14-fbb9-4864-a88d-a8030ab08489@ced1639b-ebc2-4536-94b9-61d16cb5c697>

Good news!

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!