

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



# School Newsletter 06.03.2026

## Headteacher's Message

It has been a lovely week here at Steeple Claydon, with a real buzz of excitement across the school.

This week we have been celebrating Book Week, and the children have fully embraced it. Across the school we have enjoyed online author visits, book swaps, illustrating favourite characters, famous character hunts on the playground and much more. It has been fabulous to see so many children enjoying and celebrating reading together.

Reading is one of the most powerful things we can support children with, both in school and at home. Whether it is reading with your child, reading to your child, listening to them read, or simply giving them the time and space to read independently, every moment spent with a book helps to build vocabulary, imagination and confidence. Most importantly, it helps children develop a lifelong love of stories and learning.

The highlight of the week was definitely our Reading Breakfast, with almost 100 people attending. It genuinely put everyone in good spirits for the rest of the day. Seeing families sharing books together - especially with everyone dressed in their wonderful costumes - was simply fantastic and a real reminder of how special reading can be when it is shared.

Today we also had fantastic support for the FOSCS Dream team. Over 200 children bought a chocolate bar, and this afternoon they will find out what prizes they have won! Before Easter, some children will be sitting in the teacher's chair for the day, some will be enjoying hot chocolate with me, and some will be taking part in a crafts session in school. One thing is for certain - everyone will be a winner!

The events continue to come thick and fast in this short half term. A quick heads up that next Thursday our Year 3 pupils will be heading to Bradwell Abbey, where they are looking forward to jumping back into their History learning. Then on Friday we have our FUDGE morning - more information about that can be found further down the newsletter. Similar to our Reading Breakfast, we are hoping for a great turnout, particularly as there will be an opportunity to head into your child's class after we gather together in the hall.

Finally, fingers crossed we get a bit of sunshine over the weekend!

See you next week.

Mr Sperring

## Year Group Updates

### **Preschool**

WOW! What an incredibly busy week in Preschool! The children have been busy participating in Bucks Communication week, NELI, phonics and learning more about our growing and changing topic!

In Bucks communication week, the children have been taking part in "jellyfish jiggle" by Caryl Hart. We have been singing tiny turtle, waves in the ocean (to the tune of wheels on the bus) and using lots of different items for music and movement this week. The children also helped some sea creatures escape the ice on Wednesday and have been looking at the sea creatures which has sparked lots of discussion. The children also made jellyfish in a bottle sound shakers, which were a very successful hit, we tore up paper, added sand and spaghetti to bottles to make the sounds of the ocean crashing on the sand. We have also joined the stream of "My Friend, Billy Whiskers" by David Litchfield and "Are you sleepy monster?" By Guillerherme Karsten!

In NELI, Little Red Riding Hood, a classic tale was the theme of this week! We had tea parties at Grandma's house, played lots of chasing games and her lots of "what big eyes you have.." roleplay in Preschool this week!

Fee Fi Fo Fum... With our growing and changing topic, we had a read of Jack and the beanstalk and learned about what a plant needs to grow Next week, we will be planting beans just like Jack in our vegetable patch!

A big thank you to all of our mystery readers who came along! The children absolutely loved listening to your favourite stories.

Next week, we look forward to planting our own broad beans, lots of science investigations to mark British Science week. DON'T FORGET: Next Friday is FUDGE morning to make something for someone special!

### **Reception**

It's been another incredibly busy week in Reception, celebrating both World Book Day and Communication week.

Communication and language has been at the forefront of our learning this week. We have participated in a number of activities linked to World Book Day, including - a book swap, a story character hunt, guess the story -story boxes, mystery readers, buddy reading teacher swap, dressing up as a 'word' for actual World Book Day, and a wonderful reading breakfast on Thursday morning.

For communication week we have attended not one but two live author events and a live poetry basket event. The children have loved the superhero theme, and enjoyed reading

Super wolf by Helen Dockerty, learning a superhero rhyme, completing our very own Superhero training, thinking about our special super power and of course ending the week with a superhero graduation.

In our topic lessons this week, we have been learning the story of George and the Dragon, reading a number of different versions of the story and thinking about how legends and stories from the past can change over time. The children made their own George and the Dragon story books and really enjoyed playing with the dragon and knight puppets and dressing up. The children especially enjoyed a version written by Chris Wormell, where George is a mouse instead of a knight.

In maths we have continued to practise our counting and looking at the patterns when counting beyond 20. We have been focusing on comparison; ordering numbers to 8; describing how to place numbers 1 to 8 in order; reasoning about which numbers are more than others and noticing when numbers have increased and decreased.

Next week we are looking forward to seeing you for our FUDGE event on Friday morning.

### **Year 1**

Year One have had a really busy and brilliant week getting to grips with their new topics this term. In History they have learned all about King John I and the rules he agreed to by signing the Magna Carta. In Science the children have explored natural and manufactured resources and learned that many natural resources will eventually run out. In PE Year One have been working on their catching skills and have really impressed me with how great their hand eye coordination is! The children had the most fabulous time on World Book Day and all looked brilliant in their costumes! The children read one of my favourite stories 'Claude in the City' and then did a fabulous draw-along workshop with the writer and illustrator of the story 'Alex T Smith', producing some amazing dogs!

### **Year 2**

What a lovely World Book Week we have had in Year 2! 

It has been a week full of books, stories and lots of excitement. The children have taken part in a range of book-themed activities and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for reading.

We had mystery book boxes filled with clues, where the children had to guess which story the items were from. There was also a book character quiz, with lots of favourite characters hidden around the school for the children to spot and identify. The children also enjoyed sharing book recommendations with each other and talking about the stories they love.

And of course, Thursday, the children were so excited to dress up as a word! The words the children chose and the outfits they came in wearing were fantastic! There were so many creative ideas and the children were very proud to explain their words. Thank you so much

for your support in helping them create their costumes and for helping to make the day so special.

Reading really is such a joy, and it has been a real pleasure to see the children enjoying books so much this week and talking so enthusiastically about their favourite stories.

In English this week, the children have been exploring some of the vocabulary from our class story. We have also just started planning and writing a four-part diary entry, thinking carefully about how to organise our ideas and include interesting words.

In maths, we have started learning about weight and measurement. The children were introduced to the idea of mass using balance scales and had lots of fun comparing different objects. We have also been practising measuring in centimetres using a ruler, making sure we line it up carefully at zero.

In art, we are looking at the beautiful landscape paintings of John Constable and J.M.W. Turner. The children have been exploring some of the techniques used in their work and will be using these ideas to create their own seascape paintings.

In science, we have been comparing a seed and a bulb, discussing how they are similar and how they are different. The children had some great ideas and observations during our discussion.

We have also noticed the weather starting to warm up a little, and the daffodils outside our window have begun to open, which has been lovely to see. It certainly feels like spring is on its way! 🌸

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

### **Year 3**

This week, Year 3 have continued to enjoy exploring our vehicle text "Egyptology" and they worked very hard on their first-person character descriptions. In maths, the children have been continuing to learn about multiplication and division. In our science lesson this week, the children enjoyed investigating friction by testing a toy car on different surfaces. In art, the children showcased their art skills with some very impressive sketches of Ancient Egyptian sculptures, architecture and paintings. The highlight of Year 3's week was World Book Day. They loved every activity but they particularly enjoyed participating in a World Book Day themed football quiz and designed their very own personalised bookmarks.

### **Year 4**

What a week in Year 4

It has been an absolute whirlwind of creativity and teamwork this week. From the rustle of book pages to the twang of vibrating rulers, We have been buzzing with energy.

World Book day - We truly celebrated the magic of reading this week! The classroom was filled with characters and interesting 'WOW' words as we spent time identifying book characters, swapping our pre-loved books for a 'new to you' book and we welcomed our grownups to enjoy a reader's breakfast.

In our maths lessons, we have dived deeper into the world of fractions. The children have been working hard to understanding the relationship between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have been practicing how to convert between the two and introduced integers to the children – what is an integer? Please ask your children if you are unsure.

We have been "making some noise" in science while exploring pitch and tone. To help us visualise how sound changes, we used rulers to conduct an experiment by changing the length of the ruler overhanging the desk and flicking it, we discovered how the speed of vibration affects the pitch we hear. Ask your child what happens to the sound when the ruler is shorter!

In PE we headed outside to begin our Outdoor Adventure Games. This unit is all about more than just physical skill; it's about teamwork and communication. We've been focusing on waiting patiently for our turns and giving positive encouragement to our team mates as well as getting active.

## Year 5

Well, this week has just flown by, hasn't it? We're just about ready to get started on our writing on *The Promise* in English. And the class has really been excelling at working with decimals. They were sensitive and thoughtful when we explored the 'Middle Passage' in the Transatlantic Slave Trade...

But right now, what I really want to be writing about is World Book Day. After some great warm up events this week - extra stories, book swaps, a book character quiz - we were all nicely geared up for the main event! There were some great costumes and words on display: a double act of suited wonders for "entrepreneur" and "affluent"; a super "heroic"; a ninja displaying "stealth"; an "injured" footballer, and so many more! There was even a "Shenanigan"... the hero of *next* term's class book! In the morning, after the breakfast 'n' book in the hall, we proudly showed out words and outfits, before making some bookmarks. Later on, we watched a live interview with the bestselling author of *Skulduggery Pleasant*, Derek Landy! Then we filled out a book questionnaire, to help give the kids book recommendations based on their tastes. This was topped off with a visit from the wonderfully talented children's author... Mrs Charlesworth!

Later in the afternoon, things got, um, lively, as I initiated the book hero showdown tournament! Pitting some of the greatest heroes of children's books against each other, who could forget the high drama of The Gruffalo being beaten by Bilbo Baggins; or Greg Heffley losing to Storm the Lightning Fairy? The intensity of the quarter-final between the evenly-

matched Harry Potter and Percy Jackson will surely be remembered for years to come. But the absolute shock of it all was undoubtedly Mr Toad taking on Katniss Everdeen, Lyra Silvertongue and Bilbo Baggins, before finally beating Harry Potter in the final! Who knew that rascally Toad had it in him? After that, the children went on to design their own book character top trumps. What a wonderfully story-centred week it has been!

## **Year 6**

This week, we have been very busy in Year 6.

In English, we have been writing a diary based on the events of Rose Blanche, continuing to develop our sentence structures and include thoughts and feelings in our writing.

Measurement has been the topic in Maths this week where we have been learning about length, mass, capacity and time using our knowledge to convert units and solve problems.

In Science, we have learnt about the difference between animal and plant cells and how plants are able to create their own food using light.

This week in History, we have learnt about the Battle of Britain and the Blitz as well as the role of the RAF in World War 2.

Also, we had a great day yesterday on World Book Day. The children looked amazing and we had lots of fun participating in a footy/booky quiz and a scavenger hunt as well as creating our own books and designing book tokens for the National Book Token competition. See some of our great designs below.

Preschool photos

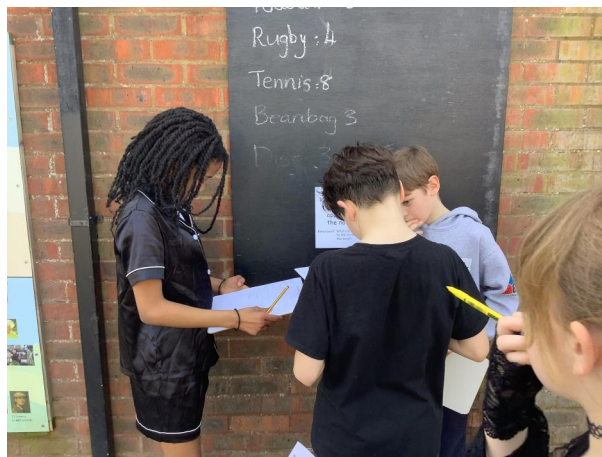








## Year 6 Photos







## Celebration Assembly Winners

### Star Awards

Reception - Holly - For being such an amazing role model. She has a fantastic work ethic.

Year 1 - Peter - For having a successful start to the week showing improved behaviour choices.

Year 2 - Harmony - For being an amazing writer this week.

Year 3 - Jacob - For trying really hard with every English and Maths task this week.

Year 4 - Lykan - He has tried really hard in Maths, converting mixed number and improper fractions.

Year 5 - Isaac - He has been full of facts and extremely helpful this week.

Year 6 - Evie - She has consistently worked with her best effort and demonstrated excellent learning behaviours in every lesson.

### Value Awards

Reception - Ronnie - Confidence - His confidence is increasing every day. It is great to see him sharing his ideas with others and trying new things.

Year 1 - Theo - Respect - He has been a really fabulous helper during tidying up times this week!

Year 2 - Coby - Determination - He has been trying very hard in all English lessons this week.

Year 3 - Olivia - Determination - She has shown amazing determination in her Maths lesson this week.

Year 4 - Evie - Confidence - She has shown great confidence in her learning. She has tried hard to tackle unfamiliar Maths operations and developing her vocabulary when writing in English.

Year 5 - Joseph B - Positivity - He has been an enthusiastic fount of knowledge. especially for Maths and Science. Mr Foster was always very impressed with your chess skills too!

Year 6 - Trust - Joe - He can be trusted 100% to be responsible, take on leadership roles, be a kind role model and put his best into his learning.

## House Point Awards

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

Reception - Ronnie

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

Reception - Zak, Ryan, Holly, Hadley, Coral

Year 3 - Edward

Year 5 - Skyla, Sebby

Year 6 - Jacob, Ravi, Cian, Athen

### **Gold (Reaching 90 house points)**

Year 3 - Jack F

Year 5 - Everly, Dulinsa, Abi

Year 6 - Mia, Thea, William Ch, Evie, Chloe

## 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! 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 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.

Please also see the posters of the next two events.

Thank you for your continued support.



*Friday 27th March*

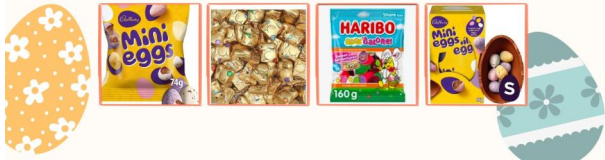
**MUFTI DAY**

IN EXCHANGE FOR  
Donations of

*Easter  
Egg or Sweet*

For the Easter eggs hunt after Half Term.

Examples:



*Tuesday 14th April*

*Easter  
Egg Hunt*

From the donation of  
**MUFTI DAY**  
Easter eggs.



## 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.

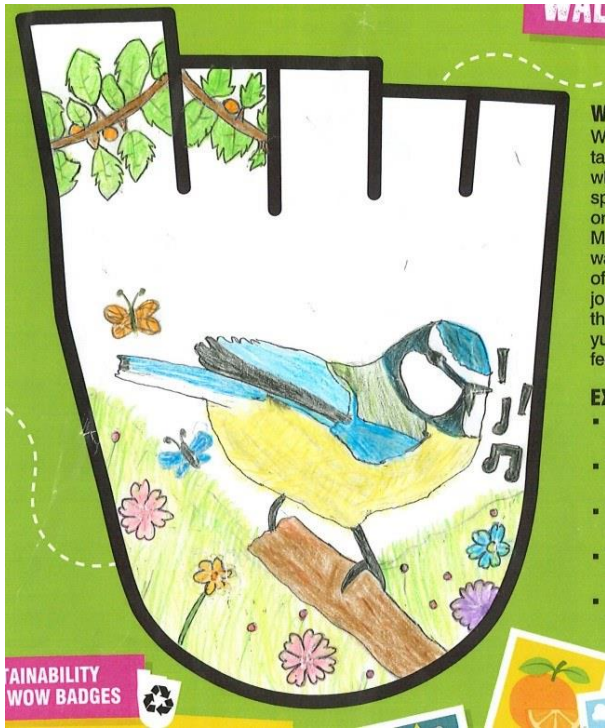
## Big Walk and Wheel 2026 and Walk to School Badge Competition Results

We are excited to be taking part in The Big Walk and Wheel from 16th–27th March! This is a national event that encourages children and families to travel to school in active ways such as walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling. Each day, classes record how many pupils arrived at school using an active form of travel, helping us build healthy habits together.

The aim of the event is to promote healthier lifestyles, reduce traffic around the school and support our environment by lowering emissions. Active travel is a fantastic way for children to start their day feeling energised and ready to learn. We encourage as many families as possible to get involved - even parking a little further away from school and walking the last part of the journey can make a difference!

Let's see how many active journeys we can achieve together. 

We are also delighted to announce the school winners of the Walk to School Badge Competition. Well done to Louis, Rose and Tallulah. Take a look at their badges below. They will now be entered into the national competition for a chance to win some great prizes! Thank you to everyone who entered. It was a tough choice!



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## 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 93.9%. Well done to Year 3 who had our highest attendance this week of 97.8%. 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](mailto:safeguarding@steepleclaydon.bucks.sch.uk) or you can contact the [Bucks Safeguarding Team](#) who will be able to assist. If you feel a child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

## Good news!

We are incredibly proud of Thea, who sang in a live competition for *West End Calling* on Sunday 1st March. The family are still waiting to hear the results, but you can see from these screenshots that she's clearly smashed it! It takes real courage to perform in front of an audience, and we are so proud of the confidence, talent and dedication she has shown. Well done, Thea - we will all be keeping our fingers crossed for you!





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](mailto: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!