

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



# School Newsletter 13.03.2026

## Headteacher's Message

Another fantastic week here at school - and what a wonderful way to finish it with our Fudge Morning today. It was brilliant to see so many male (and non male!) role models joining us. We spoke about the importance of role models, how children learn by watching the adults around them, the value of reading together, solving problems side by side to build resilience, and the real power of positivity. In classrooms it was truly lovely to see children and their adults working together. I know some fantastic craft creations are making their way home!

On Thursday, Year 3 enjoyed a superb trip to Bradwell Abbey, where they took part in a series of Ancient Egyptian workshops designed to immerse them in life in Ancient Egypt. I heard nothing but positivity from the adults who attended - commenting on how well behaved the children were and how much they enjoyed the day. Thank you, Year 3, for representing the school so well.

A special thank you also goes to FOSCS for organising the brilliant Golden Ticket Day, which raised a fantastic amount of money for the school. Throughout the week there have been lots of exciting rewards taking place - children eating lunch with their teachers, children sitting in the teacher's chair, and next Tuesday I'm very much looking forward to hosting a hot chocolate session with a group of pupils! Thank you again to FOSCS for their continued support. Please do continue to support them where you can - they are a vital source of income for the school and do an absolutely amazing job for our children.

Looking ahead to next week, Wednesday 18th March is our Class Photo Morning, so this is your gentle reminder to get those haircuts booked, uniforms washed and dried, and to practise those best cheesy smiles!

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, particularly with Mother's Day on Sunday. For many, it is a day of celebration and appreciation. For others, it can also be a time that brings mixed emotions, especially if you are remembering someone special. However you choose to spend the day - celebrating, remembering, or simply spending time with loved ones - I hope it is a meaningful one. I'm sure we all know a special mum, grandmother, or mother-figure who deserves to be celebrated.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Mr Sperring

## Year Group Updates

### Preschool

In Preschool this week, the children have been planting broad beans and peas and watering them daily. We have been talking about what plants need to grow and also been matching animals to their babies.

In NELL, the children have been learning about “The boy and the bear” a little story about a boy who wants a friend and a bear appears! This has inspired us to play hide and seek, hopscotch and talk about the differences between summer and winter.

We have also looked at Jan Van Kessel’s “insects with creeping thistle” artwork, which inspired us to make a collage of a beetle using lots of tissue paper, glue and hard work!! The children talked about how a beetle looked, what features it had that made it different to a butterfly and an ant.

The 2 year olds have been looking at the life cycle of a butterfly and been reading the very famous “the hungry caterpillar” by Eric Carle. They have been exploring through sensory rice, lots of singing and even acting it out with puppets.

### **Reception**

It has been another busy and exciting week in Reception, with lots of wonderful learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom. As the weather slowly begins to improve, we have been making the most of the start of spring by spending time in our new natural area. The children have loved exploring this space, looking for signs of spring such as new plants beginning to grow and noticing the changes happening in nature around them. Outdoor learning encourages curiosity, creativity and teamwork, and it has been lovely to see the children sharing their discoveries and using the environment in their play and learning.

This week in Maths, the children have been consolidating their understanding of the composition of numbers by exploring the different ways numbers can be made, focusing on the number 7. Composing and decomposing numbers helps children understand part–part–whole relationships, for example seeing that 7 can be made from 5 and 2. The children have been deepening their understanding of how a whole number can be made up of smaller parts, and partitioning a number and thinking about the missing part.

In Literacy, the children have been planning and writing their octopus opening for our story ‘Little Red’. Thinking about the characters, the setting, and what happened at the beginning of the story. I have been so impressed with the children’s fantastic drawings of Little Red and the Wolf, and their wonderful independent sentence writing.

Continuing with our topic – ‘Stories from the Past’, this week we have been looking at Ancient Greek Myths; learning the stories of Prometheus and Medusa. We have also started thinking about the Spring festivals of Easter and Mothering Sunday. The children have been busy preparing Mother’s Day cards and crafts, carefully creating something special to take home. In preparation for our Easter Church Service the children have been learning and

practising a selection of songs, helping them build confidence in singing together as a group. Through these songs, they are beginning to learn about the meaning of Easter and why it is an important celebration for many Christians.

Thank you, to those of you who attended our FUDGE morning, we hope you enjoyed getting crafty together and creating a special gift together.

### **Year 1**

In maths, Year One have begun their unit on measurement and had a super time in our garden measuring with cubes. They also had lots of fun finding out who was the tallest and who was the shortest. In history the children have learned all about King Henry III who was only 9 years old when he was crowned. They learned all about how he was too eager to spend money which upset the barons and led to the formation of parliament. The children produced some amazing storyboards to illustrate the story and really impressed me when retelling it. In Science the children have been learning all about logging and how this can cause animals to lose their homes, food and shelter and can cause flooding and erosion. In our outside area the children have had a fantastic time exploring sensory trays full of slime, water beads and mud all with lots of insects inside! What a busy week! Well done Year One!

### **Year 2**

The term is racing ahead and passing by so quickly!

In English and Maths this week, we have been assessing where the children are on their learning journey in Year 2. The children have been calm and confident and have done a fantastic job showing what they know during these sessions.

In History, we have continued our learning about the Tudors. This week we focused on one of the most famous kings, Henry VIII. We discussed how he became king and explored some of the reasons he is so well known, including the story of his six wives.

In Science, we have started an experiment to investigate which conditions help a seed grow best. We are testing three different conditions: water and sunlight, water but kept in the dark, and sunlight with no water. The children are carefully observing and recording any changes they notice.

In Art, we have continued to look at the work of Constable and Turner for inspiration, exploring different techniques to help us create our own beautiful landscape artwork.

The children were very excited this week to see if they had won a Golden Ticket in their chocolate bars sold by FOSCs. There were some fantastic prizes, and the children are looking forward to enjoying these over the next couple of weeks.

There is definitely a feeling that spring is in the air!

Have a fab weekend and a very Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful mums and carers.

### **Year 3**

This week, Year 3 have enjoyed investigating magnets in science, creating branching databases in computing and making their very own sphinx sculptures in art. The highlight of Year 3's week was our educational visit to the Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre (Bradwell Abbey) for an Ancient Egypt day! We started the day with creating a human timeline of some key historical events and time periods. The children then participated in the court of Queen Hatshepsut where some of the children became Pharaohs, Queens, slaves, builders, the Egyptian army and silk makers. We then experienced Tutankhamun's tomb which was very exciting! We ended the day with learning all about hieroglyphics and the children then had a go at writing their names. It was a super day which all of the children enjoyed and I even heard it being called "The best trip ever!"

### **Year 4**

This week in Year 4 we have had a busy and exciting time across our lessons.

In English, we began planning and writing our twisted tale narratives. The children explored how to take a well-known story and change an important part to create their own imaginative version. We focused on developing interesting character ideas, planning our stories carefully, and thinking about how to hook the reader from the very beginning.

In Maths, we started learning about equivalent fractions. The class worked hard to understand how different fractions can represent the same or equal value. We used a fraction wall and our rulers to explore practical activities, helping us to see how fractions can be simplified or expanded while still being equal. We looked for patterns in the numbers and using multiplication and division could work out the equivalent fractions of given fraction.

In Science, we explored how our vocal cords work. The children investigated how sound is produced in our throats and felt the vibrations in their necks while speaking. We noticed how the vibrations change when we make a loud sound compared to a quiet sound, helping us understand how our voices work.

In Art, we continued creating on our Pantheon models, carefully matching shapes and details to recreate the famous structure. The children showed great patience and creativity as they refined their designs as well as collaboration when working with a partner.

During PE, we enjoyed playing a variety of hula hoop games, which helped us practise coordination, teamwork and movement skills while having lots of fun.

It has been a fantastic week of learning in Year 4, and the children should be very proud of their effort and enthusiasm.

### **Year 5**

What a strange week it's been! We've had end of term assessments dominate the week, and so we haven't had much in the way of normal lessons. We had a reading paper, three maths

ones, plus grammar and spellings, but the class has coped with it all admirably, and with their typical trademark good humour.

The most exciting point of the week must have been earlier today, when, as part of our FUDGE morning, we made honey muffins. Thanks to all the grown-ups who attended and helped as part of that! It was a very busy morning, but one that was a lot of fun, and I think everyone present enjoyed themselves.

In the world of *actual* lessons, we learnt that it's air resistance rather than gravity that makes a bowling ball fall faster than a feather, and then demonstrated this by dropping sheets of paper and scrunched up balls of paper from the mezzanine in the library. The class have also put their recorder skills from last year to good use, as we've been singing and playing Adele's *Make You Feel My Love*.

## **Year 6**

Another busy week in Year 6!

In English, we have been exploring an example of a bravery award speech which uses formal language and high level vocabulary. We have practised writing formal speech sentences based on the character of Rose Blanche and have now begun to research information on Anne Frank who our own speech writing will be about.

This week in Maths, we have started learning about the topic of Area and Perimeter. We are able to calculate the area of different rectangles and solve a range of problems based on real life situations.

The role of Bletchley Park has been our topic in History this week when we explored the vital role it played deciphering messages in WW2 helping to protect our country.

In DT, we learnt about the impact of 'fast fashion' in today's society and ways in which we can help reduce this. We began practising different sewing techniques ready for upcycling our t-shirts in the last week of term - I can't wait to see what they look like.

## Reception Photos

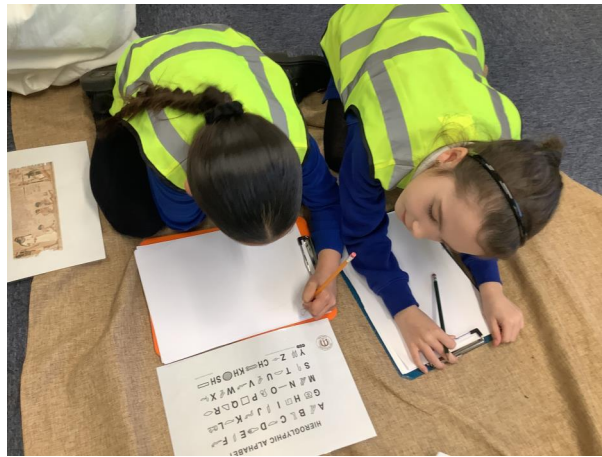








# Year 3 Photos





## Celebration Assembly Winners

### Star Awards

Reception - Zakary - for working incredibly hard to improve his reading and writing.

Year 1 - Aubrey - for incredible effort applying her phonics knowledge to her writing this week.

Year 2 - Tilly - for being such a star in your reading and maths this week. Great determination!

Year 3 - Edward - for working super hard on making and painting his sphinx sculpture.

Year 4 - Amber - for working hard in PE, taking a leadership role and 'taking charge' of her learning.

Year 5 - Nicole - for a week of hard work, helpfulness and humour.

Year 6 - Rose - for showing excellent learning behaviours, always trying her best and putting 100% every lesson.

### **Value Awards**

Reception - Ryan - Determination - For showing such determination to learn to write his name. Well done Ryan!

Year 1 - Holly - Positivity - Despite having a difficult week last week, Holly has come back to school full of positivity and enthusiasm showing what a wonderfully resilient and happy child she is!

Year 2 - Louie - Compassion - He has shown great kindness to a friend in the class this week when they have been upset. It was so lovely to see.

Year 3 - Aiden - Confidence - On our school trip, Aiden confidently and sensibly asked and answered questions about Ancient Egypt.

Year 4 - Jacob - Respect - He has shown great respect towards his peers this week. He has worked hard to listen and worked collaboratively throughout everything he has completed - particularly in PE and art!

Year 5 - Chloe - Respect - She has been kind, caring and respectful this week. Thank you.

Year 6 - Chloe - Compassion - She always demonstrates a responsible, thoughtful attitude and consistently shares her compassionate nature with others.

### **Lunchtime Awards**

Year 1 - Alice - Following the lunchtime rules perfectly everyday.

Year 3 - Cooper - Following the rules and being polite and friendly.

### **House Point Awards**

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

Year 1 - Maisy, Theo

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

Year 1 - Bethany, Holly, Jo-Jo, Noah A, Aubrey

Year 2 - Omika, Chloe, Jacob

Year 3 - Olivia, Teddy, Jake D

Year 4 - Ellie-Mai, Sapphire

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

Year 3 - Hunter

Year 4 - Iris, Amber

Year 5 - Harry, Oliver, Jamie

## Letter from School Nurse team to Parents

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## 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 currently have approx. 30 - but we need MORE!

Massive thanks to everyone who support our Golden Ticket event. Together, we raised just over £200. Thank you!

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.



**THANK YOU**  
YOU HELPED RAISE  
**£200.60**  
With FOSCS Chocolate Bars

Coming up...  
22nd March - Prize Bingo Night  
27th March - Donate Easter eggs (up to £2 value) for mufti day.

FRIENDS OF  
ST. MARY'S  
SCHOOL





*Friday 27th March*

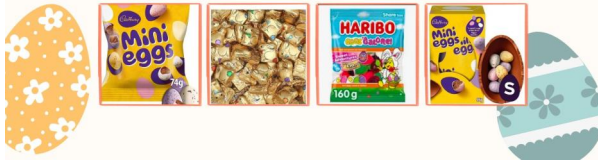
**MUFTI DAY**

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.



## Preschool Wrap around Provision

Dear parents / Carers,

Steeple Claydon Preschool is exploring the possibility of offering wraparound childcare for preschool children from September 2026.

This provision would be in addition to the preschool day to better support working families and provide greater flexibility.

We are gathering feedback from current families and local residents to understand potential demand and what hours would be most helpful.

The survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Your responses will help us decide whether this provision would be viable. Please click on the link below to submit your interest: <https://forms.gle/hQasdebk6g2oH3Gd6>

Please note Tax-Free Childcare can be used to pay for this provision. However, the 15 or 30 hours of government-funded childcare falls outside the scope of the wraparound service and only applies to our core preschool hours of 8:45am–3:15pm.



**STEEPLE CLAYDON  
PRESCHOOL**

**IS LOOKING TO IMPLEMENT**

**WRAP AROUND  
CHILDCARE**

**FROM SEPTEMBER 2026!**



## Big Walk and Wheel 2026

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. 

Please see below the attached letter.

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## Upcoming PE Festivals

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

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

We have two storage units available for families bringing bikes and buggies to school.

Where possible, please use the bike shed near the KS2 entrance to store bikes. For parents who leave buggies at school during the day, please use the buggy shed near KS1.

If the bike shed is full, particularly for KS1 children, you are very welcome to store bikes in the buggy shed instead.

We would also kindly ask that the KS1 entrance is kept clear during drop-off and pick-up times. At busy times, parents standing directly in front of the entrance can make it difficult for children, buggies and other families to pass through safely.

Thank you very much for your support in helping keep this area safe and accessible for everyone.

## Book Fair

We are excited to be hosting our School Book Fair in the last week of this half term, from Monday (23rd March) to Thursday (26th March) in the school hall. The fair will be open after school from 3:25pm each day.

Children are welcome to use their World Book Day tokens at the fair, so do remember to bring them along.

Every purchase made helps the school - the more books that are bought, the more money the school receives to spend on new books for our classrooms and library. While we know that some books may be available cheaper online, events like this help us raise funds to continue improving the reading resources available to all our children.

We hope to see lots of families there and thank you, as always, for your support in promoting a love of reading. 📖

## 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 93.2%. Well done to Year 3 who had our highest attendance this week of 99.3%. 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

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 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!