

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 20.03.2026

Headteacher's Message

What a lovely, sunny week it has been here at Steeple Claydon! Seeing the children out on the grass has given us a real glimpse of the experiences they will enjoy all year round as we begin our OPAL journey in the summer. There is so much to look forward to, and we are excited to share more about this with you in the Summer Term.

This week, a number of children have been enjoying their FOSCS Golden Ticket prizes. From sitting in the teacher's chair, to having lunch with staff, to hot chocolate with the Head, these moments have been brilliant! We absolutely love these experiences - they are the memories that stay with children long after they leave us (even if we might secretly prefer they remembered all of their times tables!).

I have also had a number of people comment on how much they enjoyed FUDGE Morning last week. I am so pleased that you were able to join us and gain a snapshot of the wonderful learning taking place in school. I completely forgot to attach the PowerPoint to last week's newsletter. Please find it included this week. Apologies!

Don't worry Mums, Aunties, Grandmas and everybody else - MAGEE Day is coming on 19th June, so do save the date!

For the last few days, I have been attending the BASL Headteacher Conference in Stratford. I had the privilege of listening to a range of inspiring speakers, including Hywel Roberts, Tom Sherrington and Sir Jason Kenny. They spoke passionately about themes such as "botheredness" (being curious and fully engaged in learning), the challenges of a rapidly changing world, and the importance of resilience and independence.

These themes are incredibly important for school life. In an ever-changing world, children need more than just knowledge - they need the ability to think independently, adapt, and persevere when things feel difficult. Encouraging "botheredness" means helping children to stay curious, ask questions, and take ownership of their learning, rather than becoming passive learners.

At Steeple Claydon, we support this by creating opportunities for problem-solving, exploration, and challenge - whether through our curriculum, enrichment activities, or initiatives like OPAL. We also place great importance on developing resilience, helping children to understand that mistakes are part of learning and that effort is just as important as outcome.

Parents and carers play a vital role in this too. Encouraging children to try things for themselves, praising effort over results, and allowing them to experience small challenges

(and failures) helps to build confidence and independence. Working together, we can ensure our children are well-prepared not just for the next stage of education, but for life beyond school.

Looking ahead to our final week of the Spring Term: Year 2 will be visiting Sulgrave Manor on Wednesday, we have our Easter Service in the church on Thursday from 1:30–2:30pm (parents and carers are very welcome to attend), and on Friday, our final day, it will be a MUFTI Day in exchange for Easter chocolate or Easter sweets. Some examples are shared in the FOSCS section of the newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend, and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mr Sperring

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Year Group Updates

Preschool

This week in Preschool, we have been exploring the theme of growth and change. The children have been learning that not only do people grow and change, but plants do too! As part of our discussions, we talked about where our food comes from and how it is grown and harvested. The children were especially interested in learning about the different machines farmers use to harvest fruits and vegetables.

We were delighted to welcome a very special visitor, Mr Bunce, who kindly brought his tractor for us to see. The children loved getting an up-close look at how it is used in farming. Many children were fascinated with all the small gadgets and bits that connected the special machines to the tractor. A big thank you to Mr Bunce for such an exciting experience!

Throughout the week, the children have taken part in a variety of hands-on activities. They enjoyed sorting fruits and vegetables into groups, experimenting with vegetable printing using ink, and exploring a farm-themed tuff tray. In addition, they practised important life skills by buttering their own toast and preparing a delicious fruit salad.

Using knives safely and carefully, the children cut their own fruit and then discussed the different flavours they tasted, including kiwi, lime, orange, and apple. It has been a wonderful week full of learning, creativity, and new experiences!

Reception

It has been another sunny week, which has allowed Reception to really make the most of our outdoor learning. A firm favourite this week has been using the larger loose parts to

create walkways, obstacle courses and different structures, showing great creativity, coordination and collaboration. They have continued to show great enthusiasm for exploring in our mud kitchen and muddy area, unfortunately the mud has started coming into the classroom, in an effort to prevent this, we have made the decision that all children must change into welly boots when accessing the outside area, if you haven't already done so please send a pair of welly boots into school with your child, as they will need these every day.

This week in Literacy we have finished planning and writing our story of Little Red. The children have absolutely loved this story and have been wonderfully enthusiastic and engaged in learning the story song. They have shown their true artistic talents drawing some wonderful pictures of the wolf and Little Red, demonstrating great care and detail in their pictures. I have also been really impressed with their fantastic sentence writing, it is wonderful to see so many children using their phonological knowledge to write simple words, and also remembering the simple sentence structure of a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces.

In maths we have been continuing to explore the composition of numbers to 10, focusing on making two equal parts. The children really impressed me at how quickly they learnt to recall doubles. They loved using their hands to show the doubles and quickly picked on the pattern of doubles, understanding that a double is composed of two equal parts together.

Continuing our topic of 'Stories from the Past', this week we have been learning some of Aesop's Fables, in particular the well-known stories of The Tortoise and the Hare and the Lion and the Mouse.

Next week we are moving away from our Stories from the Past topic so we can learn about Spring and Easter. We are very much looking forward to performing to you all at our Easter church service next Thursday afternoon, and don't forget to pay a visit to the school book fair, which is in the hall everyday after school next week

Year 1

Year One have had a really wonderful week taking advantage of the gorgeous weather and trying to get as much of our learning as possible outside. The children particularly enjoyed using the balance buckets and cubes to find the mass of a variety of objects they found in the environment and developing their fine motor skills tweezering plastic insects out of shaving foam, slime and orb beads. In history the children have continued their work on Kings, Queens and leaders and discovered how Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas, theatres, Inns and sport and expected people to spend their spare time reading the bible and praying. The children produced some fantastic illustrations to depict this. In English the children have completed their 'Wild Things' story and have really impressed me with the progress they are showing this term, working hard to be more independent writers!

Year 2

This term has flown by so quickly – it's hard to believe we only have one week left before the holidays!

We have a very busy and exciting week ahead. On Wednesday, we will be visiting Sulgrave Manor. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to step back in time and experience life in Tudor times. Children are welcome to dress up, which always makes the day even more special.

On Thursday, we will be holding our Easter service at the church. We are really looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible to celebrate Easter in our beautiful church.

What we've been learning this week:

- **Computing:** The children have been learning how to edit text. They have practised highlighting text and changing it to bold, italic and underlined, as well as saving their work.
- **Science:** We have been investigating what seeds need to grow. We explored three conditions: water and light, water but no light, and light but no water. Take a look at the photos and see if your child can explain which pot matches each condition!
- **Maths:** We have been learning about length, height and mass, including how to read scales accurately.
- **English:** We have been exploring the features of our new text, Grandad's Camper. It's a beautiful story that focuses on relationships and includes an LGBT theme, which has prompted some thoughtful discussions.

With Easter just around the corner and the weather beginning to warm up, it has been lovely to see the positive impact on the children's energy and enthusiasm.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been working hard on writing their Egyptian Mystery Narratives - I can't wait to read their final stories! In maths, the children have begun to learn all about length and perimeter. In our science lesson this week, the children loved exploring magnetic fields and in art the children really enjoyed making their own papyrus. The highlight of Year 3's week was doing some orienteering in our PE lesson, the children loved trying to find all the different symbols!

Year 4

This week our classroom has been full of creativity, teamwork and exciting learning across the curriculum! In English, we have been continuing our work on our twisted tales. The children showed great imagination as they carefully crafted 'the twist' in their stories, thinking about how to surprise and engage their readers. We then moved on to publishing our final pieces using the Chromebooks, and it has been wonderful to see such pride taken in presenting their finished work. In Maths, we have been building our confidence in adding and subtracting fractions. The class has worked hard to apply this to solve problems accurately. Our Art lessons have taken us back to Ancient Rome, where we learned about the Trajan Column and its detailed storytelling through sculpture. Inspired by this, we completed our own models of the Pantheon with our partners. The children demonstrated fantastic collaboration in their creations. In PE, we began with some energetic team games to warm up before enjoying a lively game of capture the flag. The children showed great teamwork, strategy and sportsmanship throughout. In Science, we explored how we hear sounds, learning about the different parts of the ear and their functions. The class did a great job labelling diagrams and understanding how sound travels to the brain. We have also been celebrating some special FOSCS Golden Ticket rewards this week! Some of us thoroughly enjoyed privileges such as using the teacher's chair, having hot chocolate with Mr Sperring, and enjoying lunch with Mrs Cato – a real treat for all involved. More to follow next week! Well done to everyone for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have *finally* been allowed to read the second half of our 'vehicle text', *The Promise*. It is, I think, a really beautiful story of the power of redemption, purpose and nature, and tells the tale of a girl - a young homeless thief - whose life is changed when she accidentally promises to plant some acorns she has taken. Her life, and that of the city she lives in, is transformed beyond recognition from the act of planting and growing. They've now started working on persuasive writing, to persuade the girl to plant the seeds. We've finished studying decimals and percentages just today, and I've been pleased to see how confident they've come on with that. And in art, they're now creating insect-themed cardboard reliefs, and they're already looking brilliant. Wow, just one week left, and still a lot to pack in!

Year 6

It has been assessment week this week in Year 6 and the children have been working hard completing their mock SATs tests. They showed a really responsible attitude - Well done!

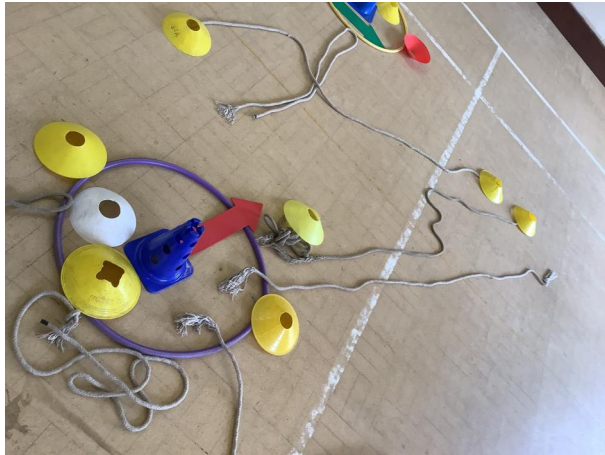
We have also been practising our sewing and designing our t-shirts ready for upcycling next week in DT as well as exploring the techniques of embroidery and applique.

In music, we sang and played the glockenspiels to 'You've got a friend' Next week we are going to try to play the whole melody.

Dance was spectacular when we completed our WW2 dance using both whole class and group elements as well as the use of a dance canon. Mrs Wheeldon came to watch and thought it was superb!

Preschool Pictures







Year 4 Photos





Year 6 Photos





Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - Athena - for consistently following all the school values and being such a great role model to her peers.

Year 1 - Maisy - for a fabulous week immersing herself in the year 1 outdoor area!

Year 2 - Leo - for writing some super sentences in English.

Year 3 - Jake S - for approaching each task this week with great positivity and self belief.

Year 4 - Sapphire - for working really independently in English when writing her Twisted Tale!

Year 5 - Sykla - for the brilliant progress she's made in her work and super involvement in class.

Year 6 - Tallulah - for outstanding learning behaviours, ensuring she does her very best in all lessons. She showed a diligent attitude in the year recent tests, using the inverse to check answers.

Value Awards

Reception - Lyla - Positivity

Year 1 - Noah A - Determination

Year 2 - Eva - Trust

Year 3 - JJ M - Compassion

Year 4 - Iris - Respect

Year 5 - Karla - Generosity

Year 6 - Hugo - Determination

FOSCS - Update

As this is now going out on Monday, we have had to chance to update you on the Bingo event hosted in the hall on Sunday. It was such fun! We managed to raise over £500 and still gave out some great prizes. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Please note that we will be at the church on Thursday selling Teas and Coffees so bring your change!

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

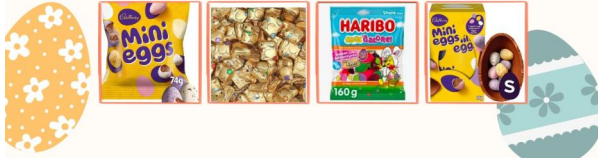
MUFTI DAY

IN EXCHANGE FOR
Donations of

*Easter
Egg or Sweet*

For the Easter eggs hunt after Half Term.

Examples:



Tuesday 14th April

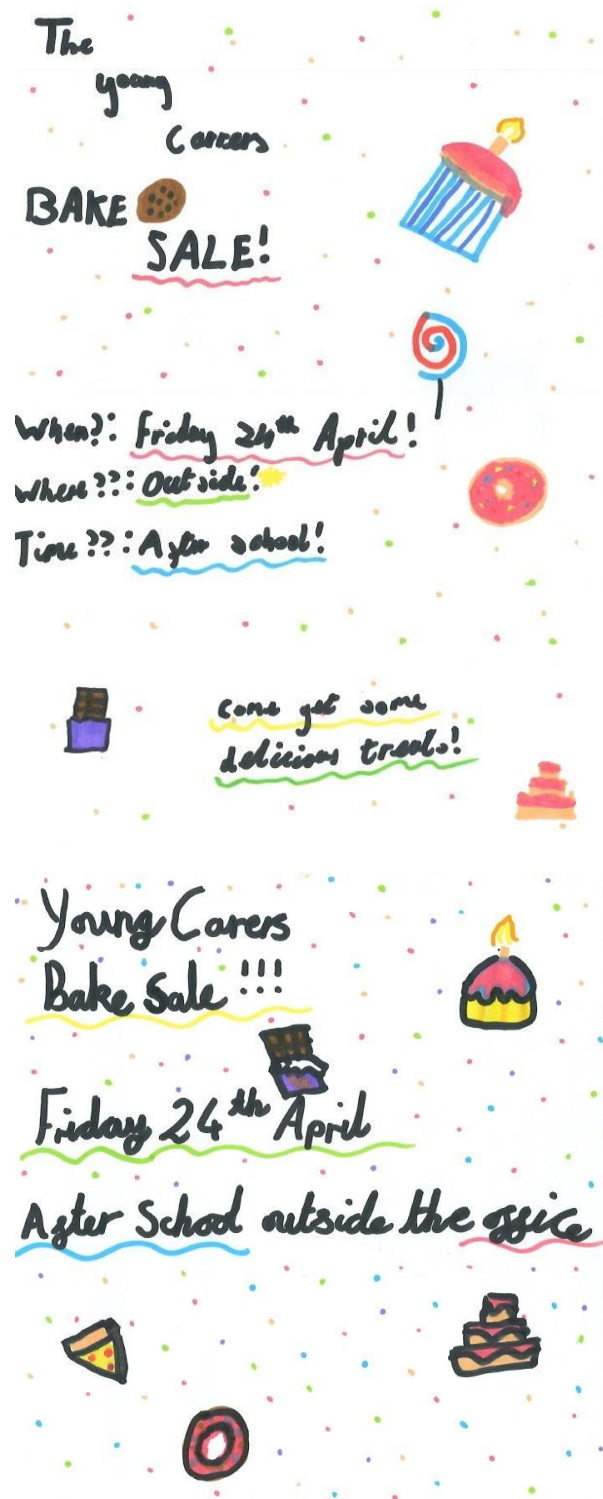
*Easter
Egg Hunt*

From the donation of
MUFTI DAY
Easter eggs.



Young Carers Bake Sale - Friday 24th April

On Friday 24th April we are holding a Young Carers Bake Sale after school outside the school office. Save the date!



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!



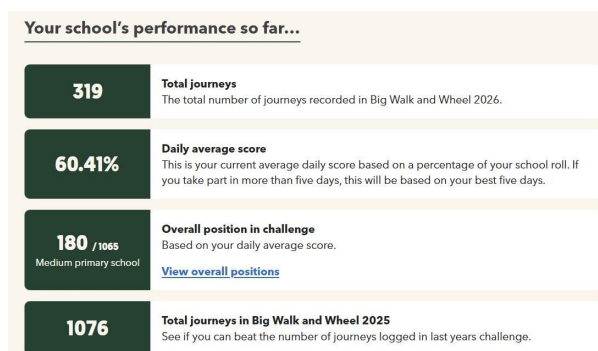
Big Walk and Wheel 2026

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 for last week's update. Keep walking and cycling, Team!



PE Festivals and S4A Lunchtime clubs

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

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](#)

With some great weather forecast for the rest of this term and into the summer term, S4A have confirmed that they will run the following lunchtime clubs

- Thursdays - KS1 and KS2 football
- Fridays - KS1 football and KS2 Cross Country
- Thursdays and Fridays - Team practice for any upcoming PE festivals

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 94.4%. Well done to Year 3 who had our highest attendance this week of 97.3%. 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 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!

Last week, Teddy was awarded 'player of the match' at his football club. Just look at that smile! Go Teddy!



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!