

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 27.03.2026

Headteacher's Message

We've made it! The Spring term is finished and the Easter holidays are here!

This week we have had our after-school Book Fair. It has been wonderful to see so many families exploring and purchasing books. Not only are you helping to develop a love of reading in your children, but with every purchase you are also raising money for the school, enabling us to buy even more new books. Thank you! Some of our Year 3 and 4 children visited Buckingham Primary to represent the school in basketball. They certainly did us proud and had a fantastic time along the way! Meanwhile, Year 2 enjoyed their trip to Sulgrave Manor on Wednesday, returning with big smiles and bags of lavender - the classroom has never smelt so lovely!

Of course, we finished the term with our Easter Service at the church yesterday. Whole-school events like this bring me the greatest joy. Seeing proud parents and carers alongside equally proud children performing in front of an audience is just magic!

As I reflect on the Spring term, we have certainly packed in a huge amount - some experiences new, and others deeply rooted in the school's traditions. From dinosaur visits to standing pitch-side at MK Dons; from Fudge Mornings to World Book Day; from Internet Safety Day to the wide range of sporting events after school - it's has been a truly memorable term.

I have absolutely loved my first term as Headteacher of Steeple Claydon. I couldn't have asked for a more supportive and welcoming community to join. Thank you for everything you do to support your children. As I've said many times, the partnership between school and home is vital in shaping behaviour, academic success, attitudes, and personal growth.

Looking ahead to the Summer Term - what an exciting one we have in store! We have Sports Day, a Talent Show, MAGEE Day, SATs and the Multiplication Check (woohoo!), year group trips including the Year 6 residential, discos, competitions, a golf day, MUFTI days, transition day, and even a half-day to finish the term - just to name a few!

A few key reminders for our first week back:

- Monday is an INSET day. Staff will be reviewing our vision and values (more on this later in the newsletter), alongside our behaviour policy. Any updates will be shared with parents. We will also begin our OPAL journey, focusing on transforming our outdoor spaces and play provision. I'm really excited to share more about this soon.

- Tuesday (the children's first day back) will begin with an Easter Hunt organised by FOSCS. Some children have already been busy painting rocks in preparation, and there will be prizes to win thanks to donations from today's MUFTI. What a fantastic way to start the term!
- Friday 17th April - Wear a Hat Day - We are raising awareness for Brain Tumour Research - a cause very close to the heart of Ellie-Mai in Year 4, who suggested the idea. More details can be found later in the newsletter.

Have a wonderful Easter break. Let's hope for some sunshine and try not to start every day with chocolate for breakfast!

We look forward to welcoming you back in April.

Year Group Updates

Preschool

This week in preschool, the children have been exploring the theme of human growth and development. They enjoyed looking at photographs from their time as babies and comparing them to how they look now, prompting thoughtful discussions about how humans change from birth through to old age. As part of this topic, we have been reading *Think Big!* by Kes Gray, which inspired conversations about future aspirations. The children enthusiastically shared ideas about the jobs they might like to do when they are older, including roles such as scientists, nurses, and chefs.

The children also had a wonderful time developing their practical life skills in the kitchen. They practised grating, chopping, and cutting as they prepared a delicious vegetable pasta salad. The highlight of the activity was, of course, tasting their creation during afternoon snack—so enjoyable that the room briefly fell silent!

Our two-year-olds have been equally engaged, focusing on recognising and recreating their facial features using a variety of materials. They have also been talking about what they would like to be when they grow up and comparing their heights with one another using a height chart, encouraging early mathematical and self-awareness skills.

With the arrival of warmer, brighter weather, all of the children have greatly enjoyed spending more time outdoors, making the most of the fresh air and open space. We have been making water slides, pirate bridges and digging up on the mud!

We hope everyone has a restful Easter break and will see you all back on the 13th April!

Reception

What a fun filled week we have had, full of Spring and Easter celebrations.

In Literacy this week we have been looking at instructions and learning how to trap the big bad wolf. We ended the week following a simple recipe to make some delicious Easter nests, which the children will be bringing home tonight to enjoy.

In maths we have been learning to sort objects according to different criteria. We have also enjoyed reading 'We're Going on an Egg Hunt', finding and counting the hidden eggs. We then ended the week going on our very own Easter egg hunt in the outside area and our classroom.

In topic, we focused our learning on Spring and Easter. We went on a Spring walk where we found many signs of spring around the school site. We learnt the Easter story and the true meaning of Easter for Christians. We also found out about different ways people around the world celebrate Easter. The children used their creative skills to make a bunny Easter card for their families, and a bunny hat which they wore in the church. I was immensely proud of all the children who took part in our Easter service on Thursday, they did a fantastic job performing their Hope poem and singing the Easter songs.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all in the Summer term for our last term together in Reception.

Year 1

Year One have had a fabulous week in English and I am so proud of each and every one of them for showing me just what amazing things they can do independently! The children have had a variety of images and have been working all by themselves to describe the pictures. In science the children have been learning all about recycling and are now experts in knowing what we can recycle and understand how important this is in a world where humans consume and waste so much. In art the children have been learning that narrative art tells a story and have explored a variety of paintings that illustrate the story of 'George and the Dragon'. The children then produced some brilliant illustrations of scenes from the story and some really ferocious dragons! Well done Year One for working so hard this term!

I hope you all have a really wonderful holiday.

Year 2

This week has flown by, and we have now completed another busy and exciting term—just one more to go, with still lots of learning ahead!

We have had a wonderfully full week. Our trip to Sulgrave Manor was an amazing adventure for everyone. The children thoroughly enjoyed the interactive activities, including dressing up, learning Tudor-style dancing, exploring the house, making lavender bags, and playing traditional Tudor games. They especially loved trying out some of the domestic chores in the kitchen! Both the children and adults had a fantastic time.

Back at school, some of the children have been cashing in their golden tickets, enjoying arts and crafts, Lego, and extra playtime with their friends—such a lovely reward to celebrate their ticket wins!

It was also wonderful to see so many families at the church on Thursday afternoon. The children had the opportunity to take part in celebrating the Easter story, focusing on the theme of hope. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and support this special occasion.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter holiday. Have a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for our final term.

Year 3

We have come to the end of what has been a jam-packed half-term in Year 3! From our visit to Bradwell Abbey to having music lessons with the Bucks Music Service - Year 3 have had lots of fantastic opportunities. This week, Year 3 have been working hard on length in maths and finishing off their Egyptian Mystery Narratives in English. In Science, the children loved exploring magnetic fields and in history the children enjoyed learning all about Howard Carter.

I hope that you all have a lovely Easter break!

Year 4

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding Spring term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on all that Year 4 have achieved this week.

In English, the children have been exploring poetry with a focus on the theme of hope. They have worked thoughtfully to write, edit and improve their poems, showing great creativity and care in their word choices. We were very proud to share a selection of these during the Easter service at the church on Thursday - we hoped you enjoyed hearing them. Apologies we could not share them all.

In Maths, we have successfully completed our unit on fractions. The children have shown growing confidence in their understanding, and we will be moving on to decimals after the holidays.

Our spelling work this week has focused on consolidating the spelling rules we have been learning this half term. The children have worked hard to embed these patterns. We will now be taking a short break from spelling practice over the Easter holidays - lucky you!

We have also been completing our end of unit assessments across several subjects, including Art (Ancient Roman monuments), Science (Sound), and History (Ancient Rome). It has been wonderful to see how much knowledge and enthusiasm the children have developed in these subjects.

Alongside our classroom learning, the children have really enjoyed spending time Buddy Reading with the Reception class, showing kindness, patience and excellent role modelling and in PE, we have had great fun taking part in outdoor adventure games, developing teamwork and problem-solving skills, playing games like Capture the flag, Stuck in the mud and other outdoor team challenges. We look forward to swimming after Easter!

Thank you for your continued support this term. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the Summer term.

Year 5

What a full week it's been, getting everything finished and ready for Easter! Year Five have written persuasive letters inspired by *The Promise* - it was a bit of a tricky tone to make, as they had to 1) tell the reader off, but then 2) give them hope and a purpose for the future.

In maths, we had a single week of learning about volume. Given that this was predominantly done using connecting cubes, I'm sure it gave the Minecraft and Roblox fans a great deal of joy! Certainly, it made a change from fractions, which have taken up approximately 10/11 of the term. But the class have again really shone in their creative endeavours, finishing and painting their cardboard insect reliefs today.

And of course, in their music. Their final performance of Adele's *Make You Feel My Love* - complete with recorder playing - actually sounded rather lovely/ And anyone who was at the church service yesterday will know how much they rocked! (Duncan kicked off the song by shouting, "Are you ready to rock?!", which is a question I feel I'm not asked anywhere near often enough.) And we finished the term by playing some board games at the end of the afternoon, which was fun, friendly, and just a lovely way to end it. Have a great Easter break, everyone!

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been very busy in all our lessons. In English, we watched a film clip called 'The Piano'. The children explored how the music and memories on the film show us the feelings and experiences of the character. Using this, we wrote an amplification, a character description and looked at up-leveiling sentences using a range of writing tools. Super work Year 6!

In Maths, we started learning about angles. The class recapped the names of angles, learnt how to accurately measure and draw with a protractor and have begun calculating facts using some key angles. In Science this week, we explored the topic of invertebrates, learning a variety of groups that the creatures are classified into. We looked at the key features of each group and compared our own two different invertebrate animals. During PE, we practised and performed our WW2 dance to Mr Sperring and then enjoyed playing a game of Shuffle ball, scoring goals for our team without sitting or standing. In History, we

concluded our topic of WW2 by exploring the role of those on the home front. We learnt how many women took on roles in munitions factories and farms as well as those who could not fight in the war, taking on the role of ARP warden and home guards. Baxter even bought in some WW2 artefacts and shared his knowledge with the other children.

It has been a super term of learning in Year 6 – A great effort!

Preschool Photos







Reception Photos









Year 1 Photos









Year 2 Photos









Tuesday 24th March 2026
L.I: To write a character description

Deep in distant thought, the elderly man allowed himself to be drawn into the elegance of the gentle music - squinting his tear-glazed eyes to concentrate. His blue veins and aging bones tightly wrapped around the yellowing, tarnished keys of the a faded mahogany piano; wrinkles etched into his sunken brow. As graceful music echoed around the sombre room, his thin, aged fingers danced across the ivory-hued keys, happy memories from the past clicking through his mind. He sat patiently with his shoulders hunched, his frail, wrinkled hands poised over the top of the keys - leaning over to stare intently at the worn piano.

Celebration Assembly Winners

Star Awards

Reception - George M - For developing such positive communication skills

Year 1 - Lexi - for incredible independent writing about 'The Wild Things'

Year 2 - Rupert L - Good behaviour choices this week and super listening on our trip.

Year 3 - Toby - for amazing joining in, in his PE lesson this week.

Year 4 - Sienna - Writing and sharing her hope poem beautifully at the church.

Year 5 - Oliver - for making great progress this term in Maths and English

Year 6 - Finley - For having an excellent week with a positive can-do attitude.

Value Awards

Reception - Elijah - Confidence - for showing such confidence when singing and performing our poem at the Easter service.

Year 1 - Ivy - Compassion - She has been a really kind and empathetic friend, looking after others this week.

Year 2 - Lilli - Positivity - Very hard to choose one value for Lilly. She demonstrates them all EVERYDAY! Good luck in your new school. We will miss you!

Year 3 - Alfie - Generosity - This week, he has been continuously offering to help around the classroom without being asked. He has also been very kind to his peers.

Year 4 - Lorcen - Trust - He has demonstrated a huge amount of trust in the classroom. He has taken on the role of 'Chromebook monitor' very seriously!

Year 5 - Sebby - Positivity - For his improved attitude in class and for the wonderful enthusiasm he brings to all kinds of things!

Year 6 - Baxter - Confidence - He confidently shared his knowledge of WW2 with the class and explained all about historical resources he brought in to show us.

House Point Winners

Silver Awards (60 house points)

Year 1 - Ivy, Axel

Year 3 - Toby

Year 5 - Theo

Gold Award (90 house points)

Year 3 - Archie, Ummayyah, Jake D, Alfie, Teddy

Year 4 - Sienna

Year 5 - Joseph

FOSCS - Update

Message from Mr Sperring:

As I mentioned in our Easter Service, now that I have been at the school for a term, it is clear to see that FOSCS a real backbone of Steeple Claydon School. It is not just the fundraising, which is invaluable to our school, but all the extra work that goes on behind the scenes as

well. From driving all over the county to collect bits and pieces, to helping set up events, to the constant communication (through Facebook, emails, the newsletter, and the noticeboard with key dates), there is so much that happens - some of which I am probably yet to discover!

All of this support is completely voluntary. Your children benefit from so many wonderful opportunities in school, and FOSCS makes a huge contribution to this, without any payment. Members of the team also have their own jobs and families, so being part of FOSCS is no small commitment. I am incredibly grateful for everything they do, and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their continued support.

There is a great deal involved in being part of the FOSCS team, and they are a small group - fewer than 10 members, including some teaching staff - so they would really value your help. If you can spare an hour from time to time, support events in school, or would like to take on a more involved role within FOSCS, we would love to welcome you to the team!

Email: foscsfundraising@gmail.com to offer your support if you're able to.

Just a reminder that the money we are currently raising is for OPAL (Outdoor play and learning). Over the Summer term and beyond, the school will be adding to their outdoor provision to improve the quality of learning and breaktimes outside.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.



Vision and Values

At Steeple Claydon School, we are currently reviewing our school values to ensure they reflect the needs of our community, our setting, our children, and the ever-changing world we live in.

We believe our values should underpin everything we do and truly represent what is most important to our school community. We would greatly appreciate your views as part of this process.

Our current values are:

- Generosity
- Trust
- Determination
- Positivity
- Respect
- Confidence
- Compassion

We'd be grateful if you could spend five minutes completing this form:
<https://forms.gle/sfdwywrfgwKW5B3D9>

Thank you. Your voice is really important to us.

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!



Wear a Hat Day - Friday 17th April

On Friday 17th April, we will be hosting a 'Wear a Hat Day' in support of Brain Tumour Research. Children should come to school in their usual uniform, but are invited to wear a hat to help raise awareness and funds for this important charity.

Hats can be homemade or simply a favourite cap - anything goes!

To help everyone understand why this cause is so important, Elle Mai from Year 4 and Mr Sperring will be leading a special assembly on Tuesday. This is a charity that is very close to Elle Mai's heart, and we are proud to support her in raising awareness across the school.

To take part, we are suggesting a donation of £2. Donations can be made via the following link:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/steeple-claydon-school-and-preschool-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

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 92.1%. Well done to Year 4 who had our highest attendance this week of 97.5%. 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!

Athena has only been attending her gymnastics classes for a couple of months. However, she is showing that Steeple Claydon determination that we see in school every day. She has already passed level 2 and 3. What a legend. Congratulations Athena!

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