

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 24.04.2026

Headteacher's Message

Another cracking week here at Steeple Claydon School! We began the week with a whole-school vision and values assembly, and it was fantastic to see how excited the children were about having a genuine voice in shaping these. They clearly relished the opportunity to contribute to something that will become part of Steeple Claydon's history.

Following this, each class spent time exploring their thoughts in more detail. There were some really insightful discussions. Many classes suggested simplifying our vision to something short and powerful such as "*Shine*", "*Shining*", or "*To Shine*." Across the school, *respect* stood out as the most popular value, alongside thoughtful suggestions around looking after one another, showing curiosity, and persevering when things are challenging. We were incredibly impressed with the deeper thinking.

This week is the final opportunity for parents to share their views on our vision and values - please see later in the newsletter for details on how to contribute.

On Tuesday, we welcomed visitors from Swan Pool to deliver a water safety assembly. Some of the things we learn in school are important - but water safety is truly life-saving. The children gained valuable knowledge in an engaging and memorable way, and they listened and contributed brilliantly.

Year 4 had a great start to their swimming lessons on Thursday - they thoroughly enjoyed the session and represented the school brilliantly. Also on Thursday, our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a hockey festival. They performed superbly, winning some matches, drawing others, and narrowly losing one. More importantly, the staff were incredibly proud of their teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the event.

We rounded off the week with a brilliant cake sale organised by our Young Carers team. They have worked so hard to plan and run the event, and we know they will be delighted with the funds raised. Thank you to everyone who contributed by baking or donating.

Looking ahead to next week, we have a mental health awareness assembly on Monday, delivered by Bucks Mind. On Thursday, a visitor from Read Write Inc. will be working with us on phonics, so children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 will see some new faces in their classrooms. Friday marks the halfway point of the first summer term - how quickly the year is flying by!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the sunshine!

Year Group Updates

Preschool

In Preschool this week, we have been talking about different pets we can have in our home and what the pets babies might look like. We have also been role playing as vets with many different toy animals and taking lots of temperatures, listening to heart beats and wrapping the poorly pets in blankets. The children have been enjoying using the natural area with the warmer weather we have had this week. We have been watering our peas and broad beans, been busy digging and even made a teepee together using lots of team work and listening skills.

Reception

It has been another sunny week in Reception, which has allowed us to fully embrace our new topic of Growing and Changing. In literacy we have started reading our new vehicle text 'The Extraordinary Gardener' by Sam Boughton. A story about Joe, an inner-city boy - with a vivid imagination who dreams of creating a world less ordinary, and transforms his urban landscape with plants. We started learning our example text – an instruction text, about how to grow a big beautiful tree, just like Joe from The Extraordinary Gardener.

In maths we have been focusing on the purpose of counting – to find out 'how many' objects there are and revisiting the concept of cardinality – the idea that the last number in the count tells us how many things there are altogether. They have been practising counting to 20, and developing their confidence in using different counting strategies, including strategies counting on from a different starting number and also strategies for counting larger numbers of objects that cannot be moved.

The children went on a wildlife walk around the school site to see what signs of changing and growing they could see. We read the story, Tree by Britta Teckentrup and discussed how the tree changed throughout the year. We learnt that alongside seasons, people and places grow and change over time too. We talked about how much Steeple Claydon has changed and grown in the last 10 years.

In Expressive Art and Design we studied the famous artists Vincent van Gough and created our own still life pictures of sunflowers using old pastels.

At forest school the children are going on a bear hunt! Last week they looked at swishy swashy grass and the flowers that grow. They planted and watered flower and grass seed and had a go at tataki zome, transferring plant pigments onto fabric by hammering fresh flowers and leaves. The children also enjoyed balancing on the slack line, the rope swings and hammock (thanks to Mrs Bonner for the kind donation!). This week they will be having fun with "uh oh, mud! Thick oozy mud!"

Year 1

It has been a whirlwind of discovery in Year 1 this week! In Geography, the children have been labelling the world's oceans on a map and discussed why these vast waters are so vital for our planet's health. Our budding scientists have been closely observing their bean plants and have been learning to identify and name the different parts of a plant creating some fabulous scientific drawings. During English, the classroom came alive with movement as we continued our work on *Where the Wild Things Are*, using powerful verbs to describe how the monsters stomp and swing through the forest. Finally, in Maths, we have been mastering our number patterns by counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s, building great speed and confidence with our skip counting!

Year 2

It has been a wonderful start to the term, and the children have settled in beautifully. They have shown great enthusiasm for their learning and are especially eager to get outside and enjoy the warm, sunny weather!

We have been very busy across all areas of the curriculum. In English, the children have been writing persuasive sentences inspired by our class book. They have come up with some fantastic reasons for not banning the dark!

For example:

- You wouldn't be able to see the beautiful moon and stars.
- You might feel too tired at school because you haven't had any sleep!...and many more thoughtful ideas.

In Maths, we have been exploring fractions, including whole, half, and thirds of both objects and numbers. The children are developing a strong understanding and are enjoying the practical activities.

In Science, we have been learning about inventions and how they came about. We discussed the invention of Velcro and explored the inventor's breakthrough ideas in both design and how it was shared with the wider world.

Our Art lessons have been particularly special. Inspired by nature-based artwork, the children worked collaboratively to create their own symmetrical pieces using natural materials. It was fantastic to see such strong teamwork, with children sharing ideas, listening carefully, and supporting one another.

Please continue to support your child at home by encouraging regular reading and practising times tables.

Year 3

This week the children have enjoyed analysing our vehicle text and writing their own character descriptions. In maths, the children have been learning all about mass and

capacity. In Science, the children have been enjoying learning all about different features of a plant and their requirements for life. The highlight of Year 3's week was our athletics and cricket PE lessons.

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have had a fantastic time exploring our creativity and building our confidence across the curriculum.

In English, the children have been busy writing detailed character descriptions inspired by a mysterious figure — a mossy, moonlit man who lives in an underground world. The pupils used rich vocabulary and imaginative ideas to bring their characters to life, describing his earthy appearance, hidden home, and secretive personality. We were especially impressed with their use of fronted adverbial and similes to create vivid images for the reader.

In maths, we have been focusing on dividing 1- and 2-digit numbers by 10. The children have worked hard to understand how digits move on the place value chart when dividing, and we have linking this to decimal numbers. As an added challenge, some pupils explored dividing by 100, developing a deeper understanding of place value and how numbers become smaller. Great resilience and determination were shown, particularly when tackling tricky decimal problems.

We also enjoyed a visit to the rec to carry out some 'important' research. The children explored different types of play equipment, thinking carefully about their design, purpose, and safety features. This will support our upcoming project where children will design and create their own miniature playgrounds. It was also great fun!

In science, we set up an evaporation experiment. The children made predictions and will be observing changes carefully over the coming week, collecting and recording their results to help them understand this process in more detail.

In history, we have begun our new topic on Japan. The children are already showing great curiosity and enthusiasm as we start to explore its culture, geography, and historical significance.

Finally, during our swimming sessions this week, the children demonstrated fantastic behaviour and a positive attitude throughout. They showed great confidence in the water and worked hard to 'show off' their techniques. It was especially lovely to see even the less confident fully joining in and enjoying the experience — a great achievement for everyone involved!

Well done to all of Year 4 for their continued enthusiasm and effort this week!

Year 5

Year Five has gotten deeper into *The Lost Book of Adventure*, and all the escapades that that entails. In English, we've been getting ready to write our own adventure narratives inspired

by the explorer's life-or-death brush with a poisonous snake. Today we acted ideas in groups, and due to the range of wilderness terrains available - desert, glacial, rainforest river, underground caving, forest, savannah, etc - there's a wealth of ideas of dangerous adventures that I'm excited to read about next week!

In music, studying *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, the class are getting more confident on their rap, and we've managed to provide harmonies for the instrumental ending using both recorders *and* glockenspiels! That's half the class on each instrument, of course, not the class playing both at the- although one boy did want to do that!

Our tote bags are underway in the early stages in DT, with the braided handles made, and the applique or embroidered designs planned. Having already made cushions last year, I'm looking forward to seeing their creativity and skill unleashed this time around.

And in Geography, we're studying local issues, which will lead up to us doing a study (or survey) of a local issue. The ones that the class currently seem most interested in are litter & graffiti and the expansion of the village. These would lead to two very different studies, but both relevant.

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been very busy in Maths learning about coordinates, translation and symmetry, identifying key facts and solving a range of problems using our new skills. We have also continued to work on our arithmetic skills .

In English, we have been developing our Reading Comprehension skills, answering a wide range of questions using the text 'Percy Jackson' and developing our understanding of non-chronological reports.

Through Geography, we have explored the many different biomes across North and South America such as tundra, grasslands, rainforests and deserts, identifying key features and climates as well as their location on the map.

In Science, we looked at how offspring have similarities to their parents but are not identical. We identified some of the similarities and differences between us and our own parents and created pictures of animal families using our knowledge.

In Art, we looked at some of the key features of Victorian architecture and created beautiful line drawings of famous buildings including The House of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

As it was such lovely weather this week, we enjoyed the sunshine by going and creating pictures of nature around the school - it was so nice to relax after such a busy week!

Have a great weekend!

Preschool pictures



Reception Photos







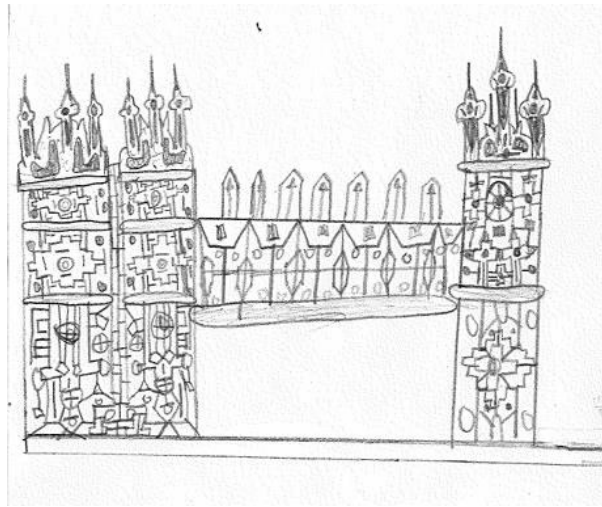
Year 2 Photos

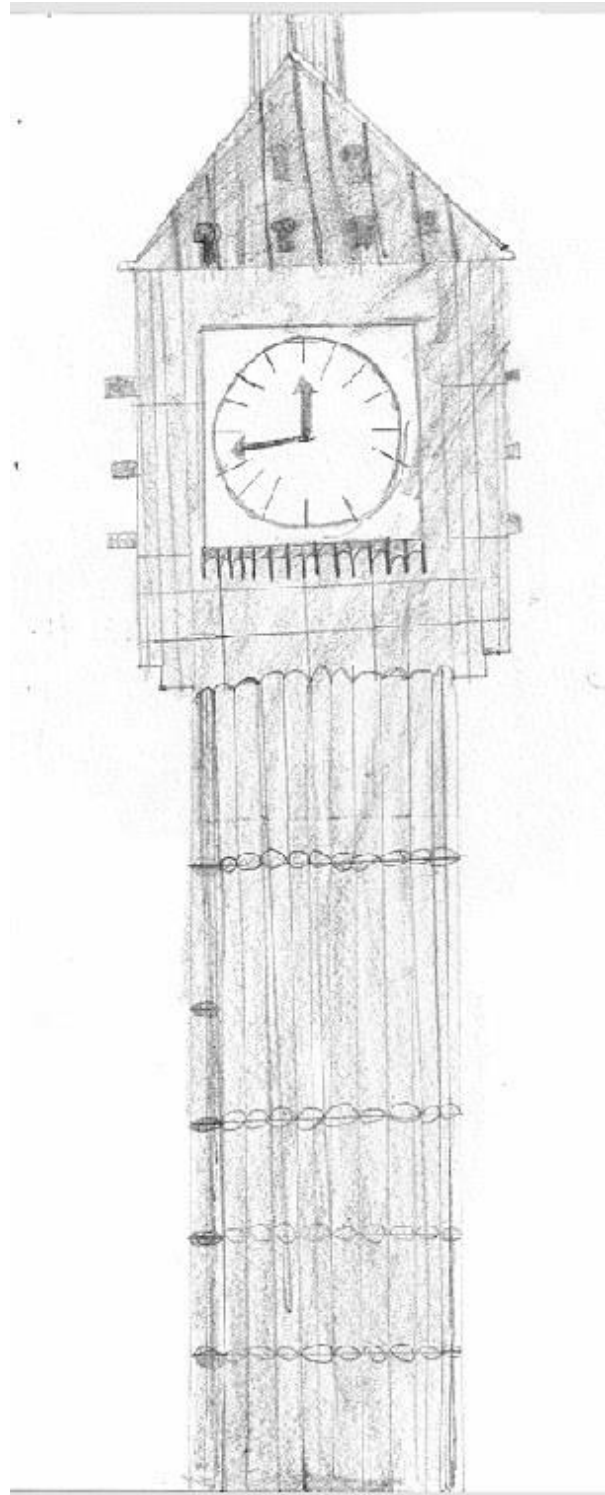






Year 6 Photos









Celebration Assembly Winners

Value Awards

Reception -George G - Compassion - for showing kindness and understanding towards his classmates, especially those who sometimes need a little extra help.

Year 1 - Aubrey - Positivity - for being a little ray of sunshine in phonics this week, working hard, helping others and doing lots of tidying up!

Year 2 - Rupert L - Confidence - for demonstrating great confidence with giving new activities, concepts and skills a go!

Year 3 - Archie - Confidence - for approaching each Maths task with an impressive confidence this week.

Year 4 - Elsie - Determination - for working really hard in Maths this week. She has been very determined during her independent work and has been attempting our class challenges with great success.

Year 5 - Liam - Trust - for showing himself to be a trustworthy friend, time and time again.

Year 6 - Maisy - Compassion - for always showing kindness and compassion and going out of her way to help those in need.

Star Awards

Reception - Jake - for his fantastic mathematical understanding of odd and even numbers.

Year 1 - Grace - for a fabulous illustration of a 'Wild Thing' and superb descriptive writing.

Year 2 - Skylah - for being such a smiley 'Steeple Star' over the last fortnight. Keep on smiling!

Year 3 - Hunter - for sharing amazing ideas and vocabulary in our English lessons.

Year 4 - Sulaimon - for returning to school with a great attitude to learning.

Year 5 - Jasper - for his great contributions in class over the last fortnight.

Year 6 - Baxter - for showing a consistent conscientious and hard working attitude in class, showing a great effort in all lessons.

Lunchtime Awards

Year 1 - Axel - For being polite, patient and mature in the lunch hall

Year 3 - Olivia - for following the rules beautifully in the hall and setting the example for others.

House Point Winners

Silver Awards (60 house points)

Reception - Skyla, Elijah

Year 1 - Roman, Ayla, Peter

Gold Award (90 house points)

Year 1 - Alice, Grace

Year 3 - Jake S

Platinum Award (120 house points)

FOSCS - Update

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.

Please also see below the posters for our upcoming events.

FRIENDS OF STEEPLE CLAYDON SCHOOL

Thursday 14TH May

DISCO

£3.50 PER CHILD
RECEPTION, YRS 1 & 2 - 5-6PM
YRS 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 6.15 - 7.15PM

HOT DOG, DRINKS AND TREAT INCLUDED (VEGETARIAN, VEGAN AND GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE)

FRIENDS OF STEEPLE CLAYDON SCHOOL

Presents
STEEPLE CLAYDON SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

SUMMER FAIR

WE ARE LOOKING FOR
 EVENT SPONSORSHIP,
 STALL HOLDERS, RAFFLE
 PRIZE DONATIONS &
 VOLUNTEERS

SATURDAY
4th July

For further details please contact
foscfundraising@gmail.com

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

Our Young Carers meet monthly at school led by April Beckett, one of our wonderful Governors. They have a great time doing lots of fun activities. Please do let us know if you think your child is a Young Carer and would like to attend our school monthly sessions. The group have just recently prepared and carried out a bake sale on Friday 24th April. It was fab!

If your child is a Young Carer and would like to benefit from doing more activities please get in touch with YC2 Young Carers in Buckingham via the link below.

<https://www.ccnorthbucks.org.uk/services/yc2-young-carers/>

Free Car Seatbelt Check

We're pleased to share an important opportunity for families to help keep children safe in the car. Buckinghamshire Council, in partnership with Travel Safe Bucks and Child Seat Safety Ltd, is hosting a free Child Car Seat Check Event:

 **Tuesday 2 June 2026**

 **10:00am – 3:00pm**

 **Smyths, Broadfields Retail Park, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU**

Parents and carers are invited to drop in for free, expert advice and an independent safety check of their child's car seat. Ensuring your child's seat is fitted correctly can make a significant difference in keeping them safe on the road.

No booking is required - just pop along on the day.

With the warmer months approaching and more families travelling, it's the perfect time to make sure everyone is safe and ready for the journey ahead.



Child Car Seat Check Event

**Tuesday
2 June 2026
10am - 3pm**

**Smyths,
Broadfields
Retail Park,
Bicester Road,
Aylesbury HP19 8BU**

*Pop along for FREE advice
and an independent check!*

 Buckinghamshire
Council

 Travel
SAFE
Bucks

 **Child Seat Safety Ltd**

The poster features a central image of a smiling toddler in a car seat. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of bold and italicized fonts. The color palette includes pink, blue, and white.

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.



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 93.7%. Well done to Year 4 who had our highest attendance this week of 98.9%. That's two weeks are the top of the charts! 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.

Office update

A number of our children bring mobile phones to school and hand them to their class teacher on arrival. Please ensure that all phones are put away before entering the school gates and are not taken out again until children have left the school site. We have reminded the children of this expectation in school, and we would appreciate your support in reinforcing this message at home over the weekend.

We have also noticed that some well-meaning members of our community are opening the office door for other parents or visitors. While we appreciate the kindness behind this, please do not do this. For safeguarding reasons, only a member of the school team should open the doors to visitors. This helps us ensure that all children remain safe at all times.

Thank you for your continued support.

Good news!

We love celebrating the wonderful achievements of our children - both in and out 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**. We look forward to celebrating and sharing lots of good news together! ✨

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!