

Giving every child the chance to shine

Generosity

Determination

Confidence

Trust

Positivity

Compassion

Respect

PUPILS

PARENTS AND CARERS

STAFF

GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY



School Newsletter 17.04.2026

Headteacher's Message

Welcome back, everybody. The Summer Term is here, with so much fun packed in!

Staff began the week with an INSET day on Monday. We reviewed the school's vision and 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 matters most to our school community. We would greatly appreciate your views as part of this process, so please follow the link to share your feedback:

<https://forms.gle/yQh8Hbgs4szW2GQs9>

We also revisited our positive behaviour policy. Staff have agreed on a few changes and refinements, which will be shared with you in the very near future. Finally, we spent the afternoon taking part in OPAL training, which was fantastic. Staff were able to see what our playground provision could look like within 18–24 months, including den building, climbing, digging, and many more engaging resources for the children to enjoy. As this journey progresses, we will continue to keep you involved.

We welcomed the children back on Tuesday, and it was wonderful to see them again, full of Easter stories to share. We also had the FOSCS Easter hunt for each class, with every child taking home a prize - what a way to start the term!

We finished the week with a truly inspiring day of wearing hats in support of brain tumour research. Ellie-Mai led a brilliant assembly on Tuesday, helping us all understand the importance of the cause. Seeing so many hats - some wild, some fashionable, some homemade and some purchased - really reinforced her message that small acts of support can make a big impact. Thank you to everyone who donated. If you haven't yet contributed, please do so here if you're able to: https://www.justgiving.com/page/steeple-claydon-school-and-preschool-5?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Seeing a child so passionate about making a difference is incredibly inspiring. Well done, Ellie-Mai, on such a successful day - a true legend!

Have a brilliant weekend, and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Mr Sperring



Year Group Updates

Preschool

We have had a brilliant first week back to the Summer term. We have been looking at our new topic "Animals and their babies." Just this week we have been learning about the life cycle of a bird, and looking at different eggs birds lay. We have also been matching some baby animals to their adults such as a cat and kitten, puppy and dog!

The children also took part in a belated Easter Egg hunt in the natural area, lots of excitement around outdoors as we found small eggs and hid them for our friends to find.

Next week, we look forward to looking at more different animals and their babies!

Reception

We have had a wonderful first week back in Reception. The children have enjoyed the warmer weather and have been very keen to spend time in our outside area. We have had two trips to the natural area and enjoyed our first Forest School session on Friday afternoon. We have been delighted to welcome Mrs Durrant to the Reception team this term, the children have enjoyed getting to know her and giving her a warm welcome.

In literacy we have finished planning and writing our instructions on how to trap a wolf. The children then used their instructions to make their very own wolf trap, thankfully we haven't trapped any wolves yet, only Reception children and teachers.

In maths we have been exploring measure, focusing on length and height. We used stem sentences to compare the length and height of different objects. The children had great fun building towers outside, and I challenged them to make a tower which was taller, shorter and the same height as mine.

In our topic lesson we learnt the Ashanti folktale of Anansi Spider and learnt where West Africa is and located the country Ghana where the Ashanti tribe originated. We have also

started our new topic - Changing and Growing; planting carrots, parsnips, sage and cauliflower. We look forward to seeing them grow and planting more produce next week.

This half term Mrs Whittle will be teaching POE every Monday afternoon and we will attend Forest School every Friday afternoon. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed in PE kit on a Monday and the clothing described in the Forest School letter on a Friday. Many thanks.

Year 1

We have had a brilliant week of discovery and creativity in Year 1! In Science, we kicked off our brand-new topic on plants by becoming mini-scientists; we set up an exciting experiment to investigate exactly what seeds need to germinate and grow strong. Our classroom turned into a land of imagination during English, where the children designed their very own "Wild Things" and practiced using descriptive sentences to bring their creatures. In Maths, we have been exploring the concepts of capacity and volume through hands-on activities. Finally, our Geography lessons took us on a trip around the globe as we learned the names of the seven continents and practiced our mapping skills by labelling them all.

Year 2

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. It has been wonderful to see the children return happy, refreshed, and ready to learn.

On Tuesday, the children particularly enjoyed searching for the painted stones hidden around the school, which they exchanged for an Easter sweet treat—such a fun way to start the term!

This week in English, we have begun exploring our new class text, *The King Who Banned the Dark* by Emily Haworth-Booth. The story is about a king who is afraid of the dark and decides to ban it! The children have had some fantastic discussions about whether this would be possible and what the consequences might be.

In Maths, we have started learning about fractions. So far, we have been focusing on equal and unequal parts, recognising half of a shape, finding half of an amount, and linking this to division.

In Geography, we have begun our new topic on Northern Europe. The children are learning about countries such as Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, and Norway. We will be exploring both the physical and human features of these countries, as well as comparing their climates to our own.

Another highlight of the week was our drumming session with Melissa. The children have started to create rhythms and songs using both drums and their voices—there was lots of energy and enthusiasm!

So much achieved in just four days!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Bradford and the Year 2 Team

Year 3

Year 3 have made a great start to the Summer Term! The children have enjoyed exploring our new vehicle text “Wisp.” In maths, the children have been learning all about perimeter. In Geography, the children loved using atlases to find the counties of the South West of England. The highlight of Year 3’s week was going over different throwing techniques in our first cricket PE lesson.

Year 4

Welcome back, Year 4!

It has been a fantastic first week back after the Easter break, and it has been wonderful to see everyone return refreshed, motivated, and ready for a fun-filled term ahead. We have certainly made a busy and exciting start over the past four days!

In English, we have begun exploring our new vehicle text, *Our Tower*. The children have enjoyed immersing themselves in the setting and thinking carefully about the atmosphere of the story. We have written some simple list poems, focusing on describing the dull, abandoned buildings in the city. There have been lots of wonderfully imaginative ideas and great use of descriptive language.

In Maths, we have launched into our new topic of decimals. The class has been working hard to understand how to convert fractions into decimals, beginning with tenths and then moving on to hundredths. The children have shown great determination and are building confidence with this important skill.

Our Science lessons have also been full of excitement as we started exploring states of matter. We investigated how solids can change into liquids using ice cubes. Unfortunately, the rain interrupted our experiment before we could observe the full evaporation process, so we had to abandon it—but we are looking forward to continuing our investigations soon!

In Music, we listened to and appreciated our new focus song, *Lean on Me*. The children enjoyed discussing the mood, lyrics, and instruments, and it was lovely to see their enthusiasm during this session.

As well as all of this, we have been busy with many other activities across the curriculum. It has truly been a packed and productive start to the term, and we are excited for all the learning still to come!

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 5

What a great start to the term it's been! The kids have come back with an energy and enthusiasm that has made lessons with them really fun. This half-term promises lots that is already grabbing the children's interest. In English, we're studying *The Lost Book of Adventure* - part adventure-memoir, part instruction manual - written by 'the Unknown Adventurer' whose notes and sketches were recovered from the Amazon rainforest. There's great stuff in there about wild camping, rafting, and fire-lighting... it's Forest School in a book! And also, the time when they avoided being killed by the deadly bushmaster snake by dropping back down the cliff they had just climbed. Or the time they were dragged off by hyenas and nearly eaten. Or... well.. you get the idea.

Maths is all about angles at the moment, and the class used protractors for the first time today (cue talking in a stereotypical farmer voice to help them remember it's called a protractor). It's a tricky new skill, but these shapes lessons have gone really well.

In other subject areas, we're looking at space in science (and we had a lesson attempting to explain the Big Bang!). This has excited and intrigued so many children, that the whole lesson would have been Q&As if I'd let it. In DT, we're going to be making tote bags, and check out what a good job they did plaiting the handles! And in music, how could we do an old song that gets them more excited than *Livin' on a Prayer*? By studying *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* (a sentence I'm still stunned by my good fortune to write)! It's been great fun rapping in a music lesson, and the kids did really well. I've challenged them to go to their grown-ups, and go "Now this is the story all about how..." to see how the adult responds. It's already produced some good results with parents enthusiastically singing the song! Let's see how many Y5 parents know it!

[Although, I must say, I woke up with the song going round my head this morning, and I suspect it's there to stay for the foreseeable future.]

Year 6

Welcome back everyone to Term 5!

This week in Year 6 we have had a very busy week in Maths continuing our work on angles. We have learnt about angles in triangles and quadrilaterals as well as adjacent and opposite angles. We have also learnt about 2D nets and how they look when they become 3D shapes.

In English we have been practising diary writing using our text of 'Percy Jackson'. We have also continued to develop our comprehension skills answering questions about the text.

North America is our topic in Geography this term and we have been learning about all the countries included in this continent.

In Science, we have started learning about Evolution. In our lesson, we created reports about different types of fossils and how they hold information about life from the past.

We especially enjoyed our Easter Hunt on Tuesday – thank you to everyone who brought chocolate in. It was great fun!

Preschool Photos







Reception Photos





Year 2 Photos









Year 4 Photos







Celebration Assembly Winners

Value Awards

Reception - Ryan - Positivity - for showing such enthusiasm and positivity in every aspect of school life!

Year 1 - Ayla - Respect - for consistently showing kindness, listening carefully to others, and treating everyone in our school community with fairness and consideration.

Year 2 - Caleb - Determination - for showing such determination in his chosen activities during the day.

Year 3 - Sebby - Confidence - for confidently coming to the front of the class in music to lead a copying rhythm game.

Year 4 - Iris - Determination - for showing huge determination in Maths this week. She has been tackling new concepts, attempting unfamiliar questions and has made mistakes. But she has taken these mistakes and learned from them with a smile!

Year 5 - Harry - Determination - for being super speedy (and accurate) with his Maths throughout the week.

Year 6 - Jayson - Generosity - Jayson has shown a consistently generous nature repeatedly offering to help, even in his own time and showing kindness and generosity to those in his class.

Lunchtime Awards

Jayson - Year 6 - for showing mature and polite behaviour at lunchtime.

House Point Winners

Silver Awards (60 house points)

Year 4 - Lauren, Austin

Gold Award (90 house points)

Year 5 - Hugo

Year 6 - Maisy, Scarlett, Geroge, Jayson

Platinum Award (120 house points)

Year 4 - Elsie, Verity, Poya, Dyman

Year 6 - Danny

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 are currently preparing for a bake sale which everyone is invited to after school on Friday 24th April.

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/>

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

We would also appreciate any donations of cakes for the sale and these can be dropped off at school on the morning of Friday 24th April.

The
young
Carers

BAKE SALE!



When?: Friday 24th April!

Where??: Outside!

Time??: After school!



Come get some
delicious treats!



Young Carers
Bake Sale !!!



Friday 24th April

After School outside the office



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 92%. Well done to Reception and Year 4 who had our highest attendance this week of 100%. Two who classes with perfect attendance. 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

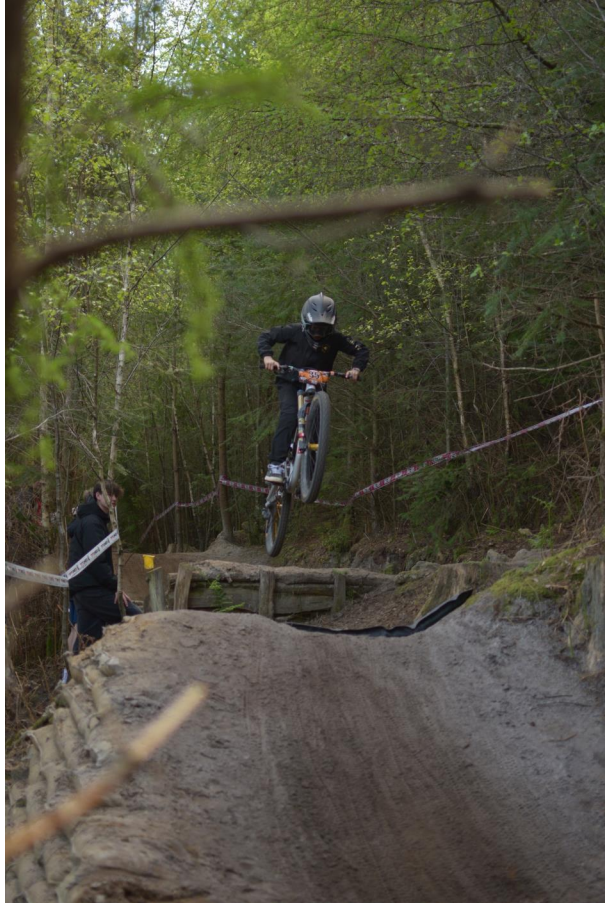
A number of our children bring mobile phones to school and hand them to their class teacher on arrival. Please ensure that all phones are put away before entering the school gates and are not taken out again until children have left the school site. We have reminded the children of this expectation in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

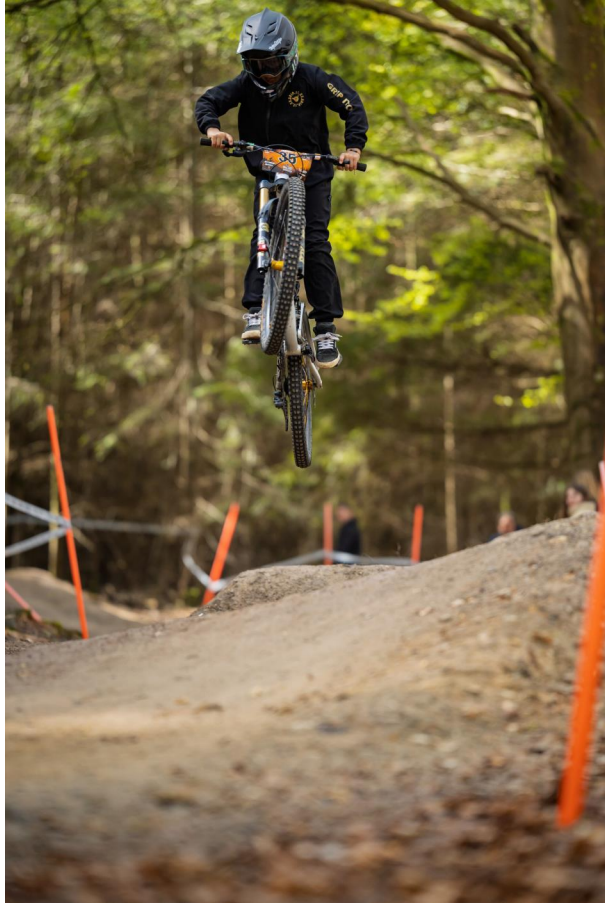
We have also noticed that some well-meaning members of our community are opening the office door for other parents or visitors. While we appreciate the kindness behind this, please do not do this. For safeguarding reasons, only a member of the school team should open the doors to visitors. This helps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

Thank you for your continued support.

Good news!

Lyken is showing incredible dedication and passion for his mountain biking, now training twice a week and competing weekly as he works towards his ambitious goal of representing Great Britain at the UCI Downhill (DH) World Championships in 2034 in the Junior Men's category. His commitment and determination at such a young age are truly inspiring, and we are so excited to follow his journey (and just a little bit jealous!). Just look at those impressive cycling skills - what a fantastic achievement already!







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!