

Our Achievements

We hope you enjoy reading about some of our recent achievements



Despite initial setbacks, the work on our new school roof was completed ahead of the planned schedule. We are now able to appreciate the dusting of snow on our new roof, in the knowledge it is leak free and more energy efficient.

Our 'Outdoor Classroom' has been a welcome addition to our 'Outdoor Learning Area.'

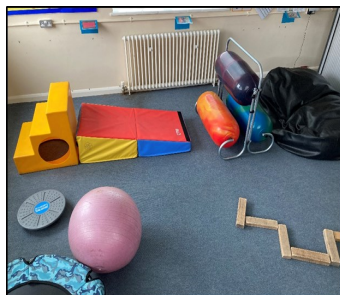
The children, and staff, found this 'Outdoor Learning Area' particularly useful during the unprecedented circumstances we found ourselves navigating during the Pandemic.



Stepgates Sensory Circuit is a short and fun sensory motor skills programme that helps to set children up for a school day. It enables children to reach the level of alertness needed to concentrate during learning.

The circuit also encourages the development of the child's sensory processing skills.

Children participate in a 10-15 minute session of activities designed to improve brain processing efficiently, and they generally find that the circuit is a fun way to start the day.



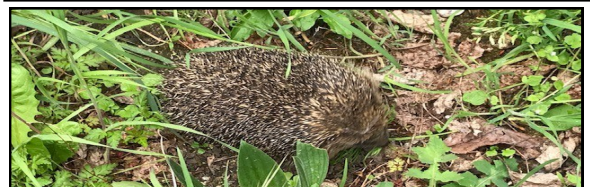
We are delighted with our new school minibus, which is currently being used to take our children to Forest Schools, horse riding and trips further afield.



We are delighted at the variety of wildlife taking refuge in our Nature Garden.

The bee and bug hotels are full of life, we have birds and bats and this little hedgehog has even appeared on the footpath.

An exciting area for the children to explore while learning about nature and our environment.



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Following consultations with Surrey County Council, we held the 'Grand opening' of Stepgates Sports Field (formerly Tulk Field) in June 2017. Councillor Mark Nuti, ex-Chair of Governors Geoffrey Hackett and Arthur Davenport joined us to cut the ribbon and officially open our new sports facility.

Our Sports Field continues to be appreciated by all the children at Stepgates, who enjoy the freedom of being able to run around.



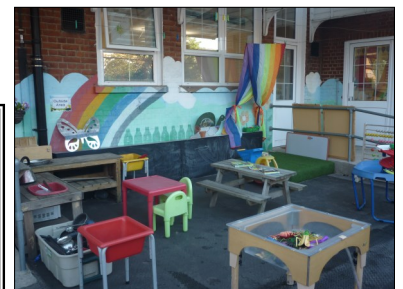
Our Forest School continues to be very successful and enjoyed by all children at Stepgates Community School.

The Forest School initiative in the UK has developed from the Scandinavian model of outdoor play and learning. Children visit an outdoor setting and become familiar with their outdoor space, they develop the safe routines of Forest School, and explore the exciting possibilities open to them at their own pace.



With a little improvisation and clever use of space, we have been able to move our nursery into the main school building.

As you can see, this is a fantastic area for our nursery children, who continue to thrive in their new environment.



Our Achievements

Fundraising continued during Autumn Term 2020. We are extremely grateful to Barrett Homes who donated the sum of £1,308 towards two sinkable platforms, which will enable our KS1 children to join in the fun of swimming lessons. Their generous offer enabled the immediate purchase of the platforms.

CHANGING ROOMS AND SHOWERS

We also made two successful bids and are delighted that The Peter Harrison Foundation and Chertsey Combined Charities have approved our funding applications for this project.

Our thanks must, once again, go to Lucy Taylor, former governor and parent at Stepgates, who represented us at the virtual meeting of Chertsey Combined Charities to further our cause.

Amazingly, they agreed to give us the sum of £30,000 towards this project.

The Peter Harrison Foundation approved the sum of £26,000 towards the cost of this project and so we are delighted to announce we finally have enough money in the pot to start the work. With the difficulties all charities, including us, have faced in terms of our fundraising activities being unable to take place due to the pandemic, these are very welcome, if somewhat amazing, results.

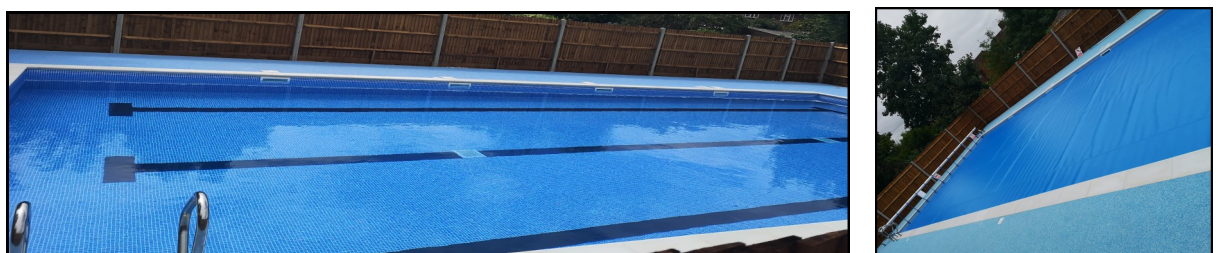
We are extremely grateful to both The Peter Harrison Foundation and Chertsey Combined Charities for their generous support of the pool project; they have been instrumental in both the installation of the swimming pool and now the changing rooms.



By far, our biggest achievement is the completion of our long awaited swimming pool!

After many years of fundraising, we are very proud of our brand new swimming pool for our children and the local community to enjoy for many years to come.

Sadly, we were unable to hold an 'Official Opening' due to the pandemic, but we are delighted nonetheless.



Our Achievements



Our new changing rooms, showers and toilets for the swimming pool are now fully plumbed in and being used by our children.

We are very grateful for the support and generosity of The Peter Harrison Foundation and Chertsey Combined Charities; without their help this project would still be a work in progress.

We were finally able to organise an official ceremony to celebrate the opening of our school swimming pool and changing rooms.

The Mayoress, Cllr Gill and her Deputy, Cllr Harnden joined us, along with many of the wonderful people, past and present, who have helped us to achieve our goal after many, many years of fundraising.

With the pool looking sparkling in the sunshine and a welcome tea on offer courtesy of 'Megan's Cakes' and the local Southern Co-op, along with the beautiful vintage crockery very kindly loaned to us free of charge from 'All About The Taste' in Chertsey, a lovely time was had by all.

It was particularly pleasing to welcome back staff, governors and FOSS members who have been instrumental in keeping this project alive over the past 10 years since our old pool was condemned and demolished.



Artsmark Silver Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

We are delighted to have achieved the Silver Artsmark Award presented by the Arts Council England, for delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education, and for providing excellent ways in demonstrating this.

We believe every child should have the opportunity to create, compose, and perform, as well as to visit, experience, participate in and review extraordinary work. Our Artsmark journey and achievement has helped us, at Stepgates, to unlock the potential of our pupils helping us to develop character and talent of each individual.



We are very pleased to announce that following the hard work of our Eco-Schools Council we achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag.



We are excited to offer a short-term intervention for pupils with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties which make it harder for them to learn in a mainstream classroom.

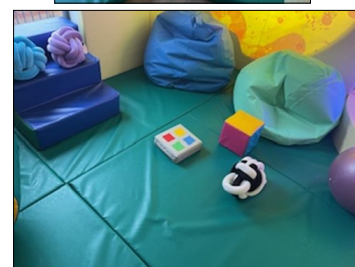
'The Den' nurture group is a school-based intervention run by two members of staff. The aim is to replace missing early experiences by developing positive pupil relationships with both teachers and peers in a supportive environment. Effective nurture group practice follows the six principles of nurture. Our assessment tool the Boxall Profile determines which pupils would require to be in the nurture group based on their social, emotional and mental health needs.



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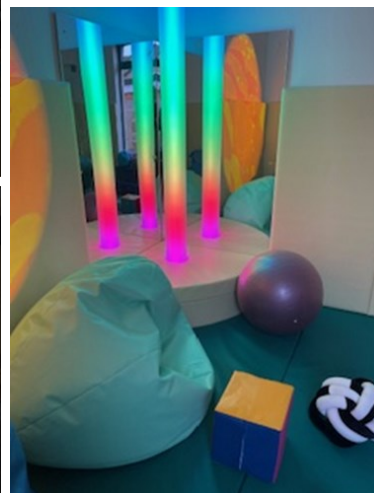
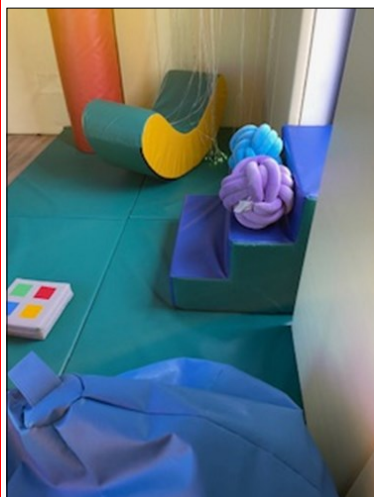
Our biggest achievement in 2023-2024

Stepgates Community School
Learning and Growing Together



Following the proposal by Surrey County Council, in conjunction with the Governing Body of Stepgates Community School, to expand our Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) designated SEN Unit by eight places, from 21 places to 29 places in total, I am delighted to announce that, apart from one or two final touches, the building work has been completed.

All pupils placed by Surrey County Council in the SEN Unit will have a diagnosis of SLCN and will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) specifying the specialist provision within the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.



Our Achievements

We are extremely grateful to the many people who have contributed towards these achievements:

- ◆ The wonderful staff at Stepgates for their dedication and commitment
- ◆ Our very supportive Governors who work tirelessly behind the scenes
- ◆ FOSS (Friends of Stepgates Community School), who work so hard organising the many events and activities
- ◆ Our fantastic parents, past and present, for their unwavering support
- ◆ The many volunteers, including ...
Royal Bank of Scotland; F5 Networks Limited; VM Ware; Compass
- ◆ Our local community, including ...
Co-Op, Chertsey; Seymours Estate Agents;
Sainsbury's; Aldi; The Otter Nursery
- ◆ And, of course, our amazing children!