



## THE STAR



"Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be."

#### Message from Mrs How:

As the weather changes (again) and we start to move through Autumn to Winter, this feels a good time to pass on some reminders about **school uniform**.

All children need a <u>waterproof coat in school every day</u>, even if the walk from the car to the school gate is short. We take children outside for playtimes and lunchbreaks to give them the chance for some fresh air, some physical activity and a break from the classroom. Unless it is absolutely pouring down we put on coats and head out. Hood or hats are useful, but please do not send umbrellas as these can be quite dangerous in a busy playground.

Waterproof, **black school shoes** are part of our uniform too. I have seen a number of children in coloured trainers or soft shoes which will soon lead to soggy feet and socks in the rain. Please take some time during half term to make sure your child has appropriate footwear.

Long hair should be tied back. As well as loose hair being a distraction in the classroom, we have had some cases of head lice recently. As head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact, keeping hair tied back reduces the risk of infection.

Whilst on the subject of uniform, we already have numerous piles of <u>lost property</u> around the school. We do check every item carefully and anything with a name is returned to its owner. When uniform is not named – or when it has the name of a previous (nonsibling) owner - we cannot return it. We know this causes stress at home when clothes go missing so please help us to help you by naming every item and checking after each wash that it is still clearly visible.

Please remember that next week we have our parent consultation evenings. If you haven't yet managed to sign up for an appointment please do so as soon as possible.

#### Regular articles

| Diary Dates2                      |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Noticeboard3                      |   |
| Starlings (Reception)6            |   |
| Robins (Year 1)8                  |   |
| Owls (Year 2)10                   | ) |
| Peacocks (Year 3)12               | 2 |
| Swifts (Year 4)14                 |   |
| Herons (Year 5)15                 | , |
| Puffins (Year 6)16                | 5 |
|                                   |   |
| Assemblies & Collective Worship 9 | 9 |
| Community News21                  | ļ |
|                                   |   |
| Special features                  |   |
| BBC 500 Words Competition4        |   |
| PTA News4                         |   |
| Prospective Parents Event5        |   |
| Woodwind lessons in school 18     | 3 |

#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

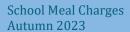
7 Hay Street Steeple Morden Royston Hertfordshire SG8 OPD

Phone: 01763 852474

E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."

**Walt Whitman** 



Daily: £2.40
Weekly: £12.00
1st half term £81.60
2nd half term £91.20
Whole term £172.80

Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail in advance of meals taken.

We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept either cash or



#### **October**

17th Parent Consultation Meetings (3.30pm - 6pm)

18th Year 4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum

19th Parent Consultation Meetings (3.30pm - 6pm)

23th-27th Half term

#### **November**

7th Prospective Reception parents event (2pm - 3pm)

16th Year 2 Trip to Woburn Safari Park

#### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Summer term ends

(pupils not in school)

**INSET Days** 

Autumn term begins Tuesday 5th September 2023

Autumn half term Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023

Autumn term ends Wednesday 20th December 2023

INSET Days Friday 1st September

(pupils not in school) Monday 4th September

Spring term begins Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring half term Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February 2024

Spring term ends Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer term begins Tuesday 16th April 2024
Early May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Summer half term Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024

Friday 19th July 2024

Monday 15th April

Monday 3rd June

Monday 22nd July

#### Absence Reporting

If your child is absent please advise us on 01763 852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email office@steeplemorden.cam bs.sch.uk

Please don't message via Parentmail as we don't use this aspect of the system and so this won't be seen.

### **Notice Board**

# Transfer to Secondary School—applications now open!

This is a reminder to parents/carers of all Year 6 pupils that you will need to apply for a place at Secondary school for your child. Applications are now open for September 2024 and will close on 31st October 2023. To apply for your child's place you will need to apply through the Local Authority to which you pay council tax (for most of you that will be Cambridgeshire County Council, in which case go to https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ residents/children-and-families/schoolslearning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondaryschool). Please note that Cambridgeshire County Council are not sending out letters as they have in previous years to remind you to apply.

Parents who make applications before the closing date of 31st October will receive their offer for a secondary place for their child on 1st March 2024. Any late applications received after 31st October will be dealt with as 'late applications'. We encourage you to apply in good time to ensure the best chance of obtaining one of your 3 school preferences.

If you do not wish to apply online, then paper application forms are available on request if you call 0345 045 1370.

If you have any questions about the application or online processes please refer to the Cambridgeshire County Council website or contact the Admissions Team.

#### Playground

Parents are asked to ensure that their children, whether those who attend school or younger siblings, do not play in the gazebo or on the play structure at school pick up time. This is to ensure everyone's safety and prevent any damage to these valuable structures. Please ensure that once on the school premises, bikes and scooters are walked, not ridden.

#### School uniform

Please, please ensure that your child's belongings (uniform, bags, water bottle etc) are all labelled with your child's name. We have a number of jumpers and other items which have been misplaced by their owners which we can't return as they don't have the child's name inside, or have the name of a 'previous owner'.

#### **Home Time Arrangements**

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk by **12 noon** if your child's home time arrangement will be different from usual.

Please also remember that if your child is being collected with another child to let us know; we've had a number of occasions when the office has had to make last-minute phone calls at the end of the day for this reason.



We had a great first meeting as we began putting this year's firework event together. We have several volunteers leading different parts of the event and we will be looking for as much help as possible. If you have already been in touch to volunteer then we will be in contact soon. We are still looking for more volunteers and there are many ways you can help.

**Set Up:** This will begin from 9am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Tasks include putting up the safety fencing, tree lights, electricity, water and moving equipment from the school to the recreation ground.

**During the event:** Various people are leading different stalls. If you are interested in being a fire marshal please contact Mrs How.

**Clear Up:** From 10:30am on Sunday, this will include a litter pick and moving equipment back to the school.

If you can help with any of these then either please turn up or you can contact us at <a href="mailto:pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk">pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk</a> you can also catch one of us at a drop off or pick up.

## **BBC 500 Words Competition**

"Write a story you would love to read". BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. Open from 08:00 Tuesday 26 September - 20:00 Friday 10 November.

If your child would like to create their story and enter from home this year, more information on what's involved and how to enter is available here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words



# Steeple Morden Primary School

"Steeple Morden is a caring school. The values of 'be brave, be kind and be the best you can be' shine through. Adults care deeply about pupils." Ofsted 2022

# **Prospective Parents Event**



Tuesday, 7th November 2pm — 3pm

For parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2024





Join us to find out what we have to offer to your child.

Please email us if you would like to join our event for prospective parents so that we can provide you with all the necessary information.

#### **Steeple Morden Primary School**

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Nr. Royston, Herts, SG8 0PD Tel: 01763 852474

"Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be."

#### News from Starling Class (Reception)



Hello from Starling Class!

This week during Phonics lessons the children have revisited their previous graphemes and have learnt four new sounds **ck**, **e**, **u** and **r**. The children learnt a new bit of phonics terminology, **digraph** and hopefully if you ask them they will be able to explain that a digraph is "two letters together that make one sound". This week the children learnt three new Harder To Read and Spell words **to**, **go**, **into**.

| <u>Grapheme/</u><br><u>Phoneme</u> | <u>Picture</u>    | <u>Mnemonic</u>                        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| ck                                 | a camel and a kid | the camel stood by the kid             |
| е                                  | elephant          | around the head and down the trunk     |
| U                                  | umbrella          | under the umbrella and down to the tip |
| r                                  | runner            | down her body, up over the arm         |

This week in Maths the children have been using and applying their knowledge of numbers to 5 to support their thinking about comparing numbers of two equal and unequal groups and using the terminology **more** and **fewer**. The children were fantastic at using stem sentences to demonstrate their understanding such as "Ella has 4 conkers. Tom has 3 conkers. Ella has more conkers than Tom. Tom has fewer conkers than Ella".





We continued our 'word collecting' work this week with the following words below to build on our ambitious vocabulary.

| Word       | <u>Meaning</u>   |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Community  | All the people who live in a particular area or place    |  |
| Pioneering | Using ideas and methods that have never been used before |  |
| Vast       | A very large space                                       |  |
| Fleeting   | Moving quickly and lasting for a short time              |  |
| Curious    | When someone is eager to know or learn something         |  |

This week the children enjoyed using what they learnt about demonstrating the ability to listen to and follow instructions from their PSHE lesson during their COOL Time by following pictorial instructions, looking at cookery books in the Role play area to "make" different meals following a recipe and following instructions in the 'News Room' role play to identify the different types of weather in the United Kingdom.

The children enjoyed their first Art lesson this week where we looked at the work of mixed media collage artist Njideka Akunyili. We looked at a couple of pieces of her work, saw how large these pieces were in real life and then had a go at creating our own mixed media artwork using wax crayons, pencil crayon, tissue paper and paint. The children loved exploring how tissue paper can be scrunched into balls to create different textures and also laid flat for block colour. Some children even discovered the resisting properties of wax crayons with felt tip pens and watered down paint!

The children even had the excitement of their first fire drill! All children knew what to do, left the building safely, quickly and calmly, answered their name during the register and stood beautifully still and silent whilst waiting. Well done Starlings!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team



#### News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have had a super-busy week this week, thinking about some of the countries which make up the United Kingdom. We looked at England a little more on Monday, and 'travelled' north to Scotland, where we discovered that Ben Nevis is the highest peak and that Loch Lomond the biggest Loch. Some children liked looking at the flag and others were interested in the thistle being the national flower.

On Tuesday we learnt a little about Wales. I think we can safely say that the dragon on the flag was a big hit!

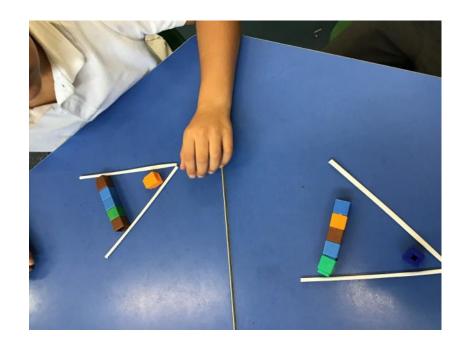
We have been continuing to look at further graphemes in Phonics for the following four sounds. Next week is an assessment week, so there will be no further graphemes after this week for a while.

| Old grapheme | New grapheme | Old grapheme | New grapheme |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| or/aw        | au (author)  | ee/ea        | ey key       |
|              |              |              | e-e these    |

The last of these sounds are no longer known as 'Magic e' words. They are called 'split vowel digraphs'.

(The digraph ee is split and a consonant is placed between them)





In Maths we have been using language such as enough, fewer, more and the same as to describe different amounts. It has been interesting to see how different children approach different challenges in relation to this. Some groups have been sharing objects and finding out if they have 'enough' or 'not enough'. Some children have been

a little more independent in their investigation using dice-rolling and deciding if dominoes have 'more', 'fewer' or 'the same' number of dots. All have been encouraged to actually use the words in their (verbal) sentences.

On Wednesday we also used the language 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to'. Related to this we have introduced the symbols < (less than), > (greater than) and = (equal to). We have emphasised the need to 'read' the number sentence the same way as we read sentences in books – from left to right in order to make sense of these new symbols.



The children have enjoyed producing some hedgehogs and collecting leaves for the display in the entrance hall.

We are really looking forward to meeting with you all again next week at Parents Evenings.

Have a lovely weekend,

#### Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team

#### Assemblies & Collective Worship

Our parable in Monday's assembly this week was The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18 v9-14). The story compared the behaviour of a Pharisee who stood in the middle of the temple making a public show of his praise and thanks to God for making him so much better than other people, to a tax collector working for the Romans who takes himself to a darkened edge of the temple and admits his faults to God, asking for forgiveness and mercy. The children were asked to think about which behaviours God would prefer to see and how this idea of humility and honesty relates to their lives today.

#### News from Owl Class (Year 2)

We have had a busy week in Owl class this week revising and learning new bonds to and within 10 and 20, learning more complicated alternative spellings of the same phoneme in phonics and starting to learn the features of a letter in English.

In Maths this week we have started our new block of learning addition and subtraction. To get started we revised our number bonds to 10 and within 10 and then started looking at bonds to and within 20. Lots of practical resources were used and the children could build numerous representations of the bonds using tens frames, numicon and rekenreks. We developed this learning further by recording the known fact families from each bond represented.

In English this week we have been learning about the features of letters. We started by sharing the story 'Ask Dr K Fisher About Animals'. In this story different animals with different problems write a letter to the Doctor asking for help. We found and highlighted the known features and created a class letter, please see below. We will develop these skills further next week by writing our own.

76 Jungle road, Dirt Lane, Africa

11th October 2023

Dr K Fisher Any Problem solved, 1 Diving in the water Birdsville

Dear Dr K Fisher,

I am writing to ask for your help. I have a sharp, painful thorn in my paw. It is so painful every time I try to walk on it so I cry out loud. The other lions have had enough of me crying and have left me here at Dirt Lane all alone. I feel desperate and sad.

I really need your help to get this annoying thorn out of my paw please help.

Kind regards, Lonely Lion



In PE this week we were caught out by some light rain and we noticed that some children do not have appropriate clothing in their PE kit. Please also ensure if your child takes part in multi-sports club, kit is returned because we do PE on Wednesday. Kit should include shorts, t-shirt, jogging bottoms, sweatshirt, trainers and socks.

In PSHE this week we continued to learn about emotions and the class enjoyed role-playing scenarios to understand how our emotions and actions can have consequences we did not mean or realise would happen. We discussed the scenarios and came to the conclusion we should always try and be mindful of how our actions could cause others to feel.

In music this week we finished learning the song 'Hands, Feet and Heart', finalised our instrumental counterparts, rehearsed and performed to a small audience from another class. I am very proud of the Owls for their confidence and poise.

Please can I remind all parents when your child reads at home to record in the reading log. The aim is to read four times a week at home. We change books every Thursday.

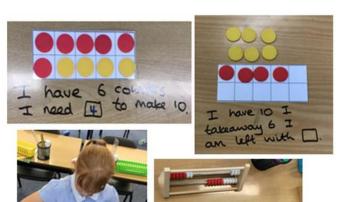
#### **Reminders:**

Water bottle in school daily.

#### Reading log and book in school daily.

Homework folders in Monday for spellings and Thursday for marking. As the weather is turning cooler please make sure your child has a water-proof at school every day.

If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



7+13=20 20-13=7

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team

#### News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English this week we completed our fox fact posters and peer assessed our success at using all the features we had identified as being important. We think that the fox sanctuaries may be interested in using them to help when they have visitors.

In maths, we have reminded ourselves of some addition methods and identified calculations that cross the tens or hundreds boundaries.

In other areas this week, we continued thinking about what makes a healthy balanced diet, by discovering different food groups and what our bodies need from each.

Following the science work about heathy eating, we decided to try to help the farmers in 'Fantastic Mr Fox' eat a healthier diet, by making vegetable soup.

Thank you for the vegetables you sent in. We washed and chopped them and found out about food hygiene as well as some basic cookery skills and techniques. As the soup was cooking we collected data about the vegetables used, then collated and displayed this in a variety of ways. Eventually, the soup was ready! Most of us thought it was delicious and worth all the work.

We made the most of a beautiful Autumn afternoon by going on a 'spot the signs of Autumn' walk.

As we walked, we looked out for deciduous trees dropping their colourful leaves, seeds, fruits and berries and animals preparing for winter. The sun was lower in the sky and we needed our coats on as it was a little chilly.

An enjoyable time was had by all.





As each season changes, we plan to do the same walk to see what differences we can spot.

Can I please remind you that children should only have water in their water bottles for the classroom, we have had a couple of spillages, of sticky fruity waters. Thank you

#### **Dates**

Parent consultation evenings Tuesday 17th October and Thursday 19th October

#### Weekly home activities

Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in the reading diary. Books and diary must be in school daily please.

Mathletics and Spelling Frame are up and ready with set work for the children, logins for both are in reading diaries

Tackling tables practice.

#### **Reminders**

Please name all clothing Send books and diaries into school each day. Street paper *Last chance* , *we will be using this next week*.

#### From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team







#### News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our science lessons, children have had the opportunity to plan their own investigations. By creating 'noise makers' and using decibel meters, they measured how sound reduces over distance. It was a hands-on experience that allowed them to develop a deeper understanding of sound and measurement.

Our maths lessons have focused on working with numbers, rounding them to the nearest ten, hundred, and thousand. In the upcoming



week, we will be working with 4-digit numbers. We will focus on adding and subtracting multiples of 1,000, emphasising mental calculations. Written calculation skills will be the focus later in the year.

In our language lessons we have been learning how to count up to ten, incorporating the different tones and we have also been writing the associated characters in our Chinese writing books, which have specially marked pages to aid our character formation. Earlier in the week we had a chance to apply this knowledge when creating games of hopscotch.

In history lessons, on the Anglo Saxons, we have been exploring what was found at the Sutton Hoo dig and how these discoveries have reshaped historians' views of this time.

We have an exciting art-based adventure coming up next week! We will be heading to the Fitzwilliam Museum on Wednesday and we will depart and return within the school day.

## Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team





#### News from Heron Class (Year 5)

We have had another busy week in Year 5, here are a few details about some of the things we have been learning about over the last few days.

In our spelling lesson this week we concentrated on spelling words with the short vowel sound /i/ spelt -y, eg, symbol, symptom, typical.



We have also started work on another genre, persuasive writing, and have been looking at examples of both good and bad persuasive writing to help us structure our own work as effectively as possible over the next few weeks. We learnt about how modal verbs are a feature of this genre of writing so they would be good to spot in reading books (may, might, could, would, should, can, will, ought etc)

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting whole numbers with more than four digits using formal written methods. This has helped us to understand the importance of place value, particularly when we need to 'exchange' a ten into ones or a thousand into hundreds.

In Science, we have been learning about the life cycle of amphibians and have taken time to compare this life cycle to those that we have already studied. We have also begun to look at the work of David Attenborough and will be linking this with our Computing and English lessons over the next few weeks.

We transported ourselves back in time in History, imagining that we were a working child in Victorian Britain. We got properly into character and are well on the way to producing some true to life accounts of a day in the life of a child working in a coal mine, a factor or as a chimney sweep's assistant!

We are learning netball skills quickly and enjoyed some very competitive matches this week. We are getting to grips with some of the strategy involved and our throwing and catching accuracy and our dodging and marking are coming along well.

We look forward to meeting with you all next week on our Parent Consultations. Please sign up for an appointment if you haven't already.



Reminders:- Please can children bring their reading folder to school every day along with a water bottle. PE kits should remain in school all week but we will send these home for washing at the end of next week. Please can you ensure that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your child's name to avoid lost property. Thank you for your help with this.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.

#### News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

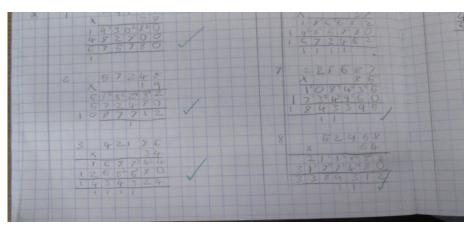
This week, in Maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division methods, both for mentally working calculations out and for written methods. In particular we studied long multiplication – ask your child how to solve calculations. Look at the examples shown here to help you. We will continue to examine strategies for using multiplication to solve varying problems, ranging from worded problems through to factors. Next week we will continue with working out division methods, including short and long division.

In English, the class worked hard at drafting, writing and editing their newspaper report based on a heroic

pigeon called Cher Ami from over a hundred years ago. Next, we will start on our new topic based on balanced arguments. The class will write a 'cold text', as they did for their newspaper reports, before looking at the features you would expect to find in a balanced argument text.

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Thursday please. Could I also make a big plea for everybody to keep learning their times

tables as a good knowledge of them is essential to their understanding of solving mathematical problems. As I have stated earlier we are currently studying written multiplication





methods before we go onto examine division, factors of numbers, fraction and algebra. A good recall of times tables is absolutely crucial to these areas of Maths.

Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team



## Sign up now to in-school woodwind lessons!

#### The benefits of learning an instrument as a child are huge!

Our visiting music teacher from Hertfordshire Music has spaces to teach clarinet or flute during the school day. You would need to hire/own an instrument, but we do have a couple in school that we could lend. If you and your child are interested you need to sign up here:

https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/. If you would like to borrow a school instrument please speak to us first.





- Individual lessons £14.70
- Shared lessons £11.03
- Small group lessons £7.25

Children who are currently learning some of the woodwind instruments, saxophone, flute and clarinet, played in assembly this week. As well as these instruments the oboe, fife and recorder are also available.

Learning an instrument at a young age forms a productive hobby that you can return to throughout your lifetime. It also cures boredom, develops discipline, serves as relaxing downtime, forms physical benefits, aids academic learning, improves listening, trains memory, boosts social skills, forms confidence. More information about hiring and FAQ can be found by scanning this QR code here, you can also speak with Mrs Bowmer, our music leader:



# **PARISH PANTRY**

#### **Local Food Bank**



We will be opening a village foodbank in St Peter & St Paul Church from Monday 18th July

There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.

This is open and available to all that need it, whether you don't want to waste petrol to go and buy a bag of sugar, you need a full meal to feed your self, your children, or you have no transport to get to the shops.

If you are in a position to donate items required are:

Tinned Meat, Pies, Veg, Potatoes & Fruit

Cereals

**UHT Milk** 

Sugar

Flour

Pasta

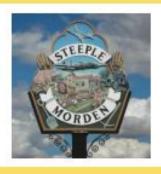
Pasta sauces

Mug shots

Pot noodles

Individual wrapped cakes

Location: St Peter & St Paul Church Steeple Morden SG8 0NJ



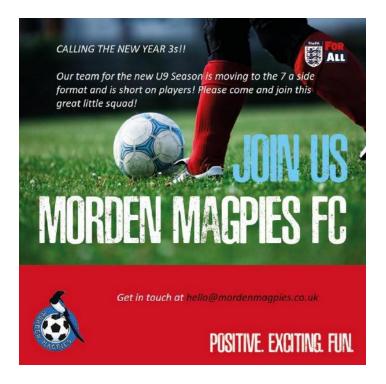
For more info: Sam Carroll 07494 588663 sdcarroll849@gmail.com

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED









# **Community News**

#### Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

**Smarties Preschool** 

Litlington Preschool

**Bonfitness Pilates** 

Helen O-Grady Drama Classes

Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes

MF Tennis Coaching

Modern Foreign Languages Tuition

Biggleswade Swimming Club

Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section

Theatretrain Royston

**Mindfulness Relaxation Sessions** 

Royston Stagecoach

Summer Netball & Athletics Camps

**NCT Nearly New Sale** 

Castle Coaching Football and Rugby training sessions

First aid course—for adults, juniors and teens

Bow Books—National Bookshop Day and Bookmark competition

To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/community

"If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards."

**Bear Bryant** 

#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street Steeple Morden Royston Hertfordshire SG8 OPD

Phone: 01763 852474

E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

