



## THE STAR



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

#### Message from Mrs How:

It has been another busy week here at Steeple with lots of coming and going. Year 4 children spent a day at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, some children from years 5 and 6 attended a netball competition, and various visitors have been in either to work with individual children or to talk to teachers about how we continue to try new ways of enhancing the children's learning. I think we are all ready for a well-earned rest. As always, a lot has been crammed into this half term, but we know that the next one will be even more action-packed. Teachers are already having conversations about plans for Christmas and the diary is filling up fast.

When we return after the half term break we will be doing so without Mrs Cath Watters, our Office and Premises Manager who is a well-known face (or voice) to many parents. We are very sad to see her go and she leaves us with many fond memories, but I am sure you all join with us in wishing her well in her new venture in a school nearer to home.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to attend our parents evening meetings this week. The focus at this point in the year is always on how your child has settled into their new class, the work in place to keep them moving forwards and suggestions of how you can support them at home. I hope you found the conversations useful and will be able to share the key points with your children – it never hurts them to know that home and school do share information and work together.

Wishing you all a peaceful and pleasant half term break. We look forward to seeing your children back in school on **Monday 30**<sup>th</sup> **October**.

#### Regular articles

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#### 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

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."

Buddha



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**

23th-27th Half term

#### **November**

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

16th Year 2 Trip to Woburn Safari Park

#### 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.

#### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

**INSET Days** 

(pupils not in school)

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 31s

Summer half term Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024 Summer term ends Friday 19th July 2024

Friday 19th July 2024 Monday 15th April Monday 3rd June Monday 22nd July

## **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 one new sounds **ss**. This week the children learnt one new Harder To Read and Spell word **pull**.

Grapheme/ Phoneme	<u>Picture</u>	<u>Mnemonic</u>
SS	two snakes	sunbathing snakes

This week in Maths the children built upon their knowledge of more and fewer from last week and were looking at comparing groups of non-identical objects. The children were able to use their reasoning skills to explain their answers using their knowledge of numbers to 5.

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

<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Destruction	Causing so much damage to something that it cannot be fixed
Exasperated	Frustrated or angry because of something that has happened
Chaos	A state of complete disorder and confusion
Insolent	Rude and not showing respect
Mischievous	Behaving in a bad way, but not meaning to cause serious harm

This week the children learnt about Barack Obama in History building on our knowledge of significant people in history linked to Black History month, they visited Brazil in Geography where the artist Vik Muniz was born and filled in their passports accordingly. In our Art lesson we built upon our knowledge of collage work from last week and looked at the piece 'Obama' (pictures from a magazine) by Vik Muniz and created our own collage inspired by Muniz using pictures from magazines and catalogues.



We have had an exceptionally busy first half term at school. The children have all settled into school with amazing grace and composure and we are so proud of all of them. We thoroughly enjoyed being able to speak to you this week to share how well your children have been getting on and we hope you found looking through their learning journeys insightful.

Next half term we will be completing our Phase 2 phonics learning and moving into the realm of phase 3 ... expect lots of digraphs and the introduction of trigraphs! Next half term also brings the joy of Nativity preparation, the children will begin learning the songs and don't be alarmed to find yourselves humming/ singing the songs when you're on your own in the car on your way to work! We will pass on any relevant Nativity information as necessary next half term.

Thank you for all of your support at home with regards to homework. The children are really showing the benefit of that continued repeated practice during their lesson learning.

Please take this week to enjoy your time together as a family and rest and recuperate ready for a fun filled and jam packed next half term!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team

#### Assemblies & Collective Wor ship

Monday's assembly focussed on another parable, this time from Luke 12 v16-21, often known as the parable of the rich fool. The farmer in this example was successful, yielding better and better crops each year. As a result, he needed to build bigger and bigger barns for storage and soon found himself in the position where he wanted for nothing; yet he was still considered by God to be a fool. The children were quick to spot that this was because he had been hoarding his crops and wealth rather than sharing them with those around him. This ties in well with the current theme in our Prayer and Reflection space where we are asking children what they can be thankful for and how they can share their gifts.

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

We can't believe we have come to the end of the first half term of the year! It was great to meet you all individually this week and chat through how children have settled and are getting on.

The children have genuinely done so well this week, despite being ready for their half term break, writing their own Fact File about England. We have used this piece of writing to talk to them about what they need to work on next. Many children are still finding forming letters correctly quite tricky, so we have sent home some guidance about this, this week. Please do spend some time looking at how your child actually writes letters, then encourage them to practise forming them correctly as necessary. We will be learning to join letters later on in the year and incorrectly formed letters at this stage makes that process twice as hard!

We have had a 'review' week in Phonics this week in order to be prepared for the next phase of teaching. Please keep practising the sounds your child has in their book bag. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping your child to learn to read. Please note, we have collected reading books in for the holiday, but do continue looking at other books!



Our PE lesson this week was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our learning and performed to Reception Class. There were brilliant balances, terrific examples of travelling and excellent egg, log and dish rolls (as well as some great rocking movements) as the children worked through the sequence they had created over the last few weeks, using tuck, straight, strong and heavy shapes!

In Art this week we completed our work on 'portraits'. Having looked at the work of Paul Klee, the children painted watercolour wash backgrounds last week and this week added a 'figure in action'.

We all hope you have a super half term break and manage some time to rest, ready for the next half term which will involve lots more learning as well as a performance to prepare for...

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



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

A full on week to end a jam packed half term. The children have written two letters, worked out addition and subtractions using three techniques and had four varying phonic and reading assessments to complete. It has been pleasure getting to know your child this half term and I look forward to seeing them after a well-earned rest.

In Maths this week we have continued to learn about addition and subtraction, learning how to be efficient and use known facts. If I know 7 + 3 = 10 then I know 7 + 13 = 20. We also looked at partitioning numbers further to solve calculations that cross a 10. For example 7 + 5 = ?

The bond from 7 to 10 is 3.

5 can be partitioned into 3 + 2.

The new calculation is 10 + 2 = 12. So, 7 + 5 = 12.

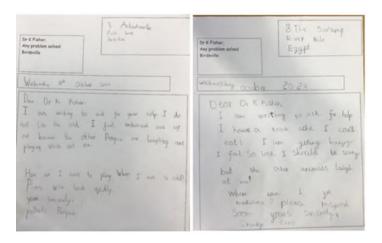
We extended this further by adding three 1-digit numbers and finding known relationship among them. For example 4 + 3 + 6 = ?

4 and 6 are bonds to 10.

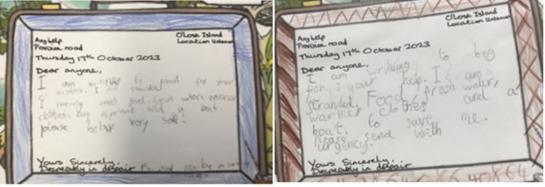
10 + 3 = 13. So, 4 + 3 + 6 = 13.

In English this week we finished our letter writing unit. Please see some of the fabulous

work below. In science this week we used these skills to write a letter in a bottle asking for survival items when stuck on a desert island.







In PSHE this week we deepened our understanding of how our emotions and actions can affect others. We learnt and practised various calming methods for when our emotions are uncomfortable. Mindful colouring was a favourite among the class with colour yoga. Sitting peacefully take a ball of colour on a journey focusing on the smells and sounds you may experience on the way.

In PE this week the class chose their favourite team building game learnt this half term; blind mice obstacles. The children had remembered the strategies discussed to win. A fantastic competition ensued!

In Art this half term the children have been developing their understanding of line, shape, size, form and colour. This week they finalised African sunset scenes with animal silhouettes. Please see below some of the brilliant art created.







#### **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 waterproof coat school every day.

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

Have a lovely and restful half term.

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team

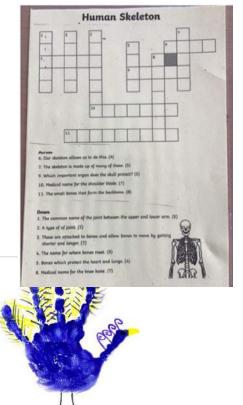
#### News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Well, we have made it through the first half term relatively unscathed; with a lot of smiles and enjoyment along the way.

This week, we started our next unit of science work all about the human skeleton and skeletal system. Many facts were introduced through the sharing of power points and videos, and understanding of these facts was tested in a variety of games, puzzles and cross words. These could only be solved or played by knowing and understanding skeletal facts. We also found out how muscles work in pairs to bring about movements, as one muscle contracts the other relaxes. These activities provided the focus of the afternoon lessons throughout the week.

In Maths we returned to our addition and subtraction work. We demonstrated our application of place value knowledge to help solve a variety of real life addition problems. Applying our place value understanding we sorted calculations in to those that would create a new 10,







In other areas this week, we have looked at the collage work of Megan Coyle and Kurt Schwitters, comparing their approaches and using their work to influence our own when creating fox based collages.

Shortly after half term we will be looking at the Mayan ancient civilization, this will be introduced in the form of our next dress up day. Please do not feel you need to spend a lot of money on the costumes, it is surprising what you can do with a pillowcase and empty cereal box! I will confirm the date after half term.

I have deliberately not set Mathletics or spelling frame homework to give people time to catch up or focus on reading and tackling tables.

#### Weekly home activities

Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in reading diaries. 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 diary into school each day.

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





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

This week Swift Class ventured to Cambridge to visit the world-renowned Fitzwilliam Museum. A museum teacher helped us to explore people and portraits, which tied in with our work on figures this term. We also went on a maths walk to apply maths learnt in the classroom in real life as children can find this a challenge. One example was to work out how many people could be carried by the boats if we knew a big boat carried 12 people. Some children counted 40 boats and they knew 4x12 = 48 and that 48x10 = 480. Thank you to the parents who gave up their time to help accompany the children on this visit. Our work in Maths has focused on addition and subtraction, blending mental and written calculations. We have been stressing the need to take care to line up the digits correctly to avoid assigning the incorrect value to digits. Your child should know which multiplication table they are studying. If you have an apple or android device you can download '1-Minute Maths' by White Rose. As the title suggests, it takes just a minute to use and this helps with the 'little and often approach' to embed recall of multiplication tables. The app allows you to focus on just one table and importantly you can review your result to see which ones you do not yet know and still need to practise.





We have been looking at how to use the internet safely, how to report anything that may make us feel uncomfortable and to think critically about the information we see online and understand why some people will create stories or alter photographs and put them online to pretend something is true when it isn't. Some ways the children can judge the reliability/trustworthiness of information they have found online include:

- Checking different websites Check at least three different websites; does the information match across those sites?
- Check in a book Books can still be used to check information on many topics. As books go through rigorous publishing processes they may be deemed as more reliable than information online that can be published and shared in seconds.
- Talk to someone Ask a trusted adult to look at the information you found, or see if a best friend found the same sorts of facts for the same homework task.

Information for parents on internet safety can be found here:

https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/\_files/ugd/ b84bb4\_1e6f4fa94ef4462e8e78a511e41ad619.pdf

Thank you all for coming to parents evening; it was good to meet everyone and discuss how your child has settled into Swift Class. I hope you have an enjoyable break.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

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

Time to give ourselves a massive pat on the back as we have made it to the end of our first half term in Year Five! We have seen lots of hard work and sense a developing resilience within the year group that can only bode well for the rest of the year. Thank you to all parents and carers for their support and to the children for all their efforts, we have enjoyed getting to know you over the last seven weeks. Thank you also to all the parents who were able to find the time to come into school and meet with us this week for our Autumn Term Parent Consultation meetings, it was a pleasure to meet you all. There has been no slowing down in the learning this week. For our R.E. work on Friday we were lucky enough to have a visit from Fiona Davis, our Lay Minister, and she shared her thoughts on the scientific and Christian stories of creation.

In PSHE we have been making 'Bounce-Back' bags. These are small bags full of positive and encouraging statements about each of your children, written by their classmates. The idea is that when someone is having a difficult day they can read through these statements and that will hopefully help them to 'bounce-back' to feeling good about themselves more quickly.

Some children in the class took part in the netball league matches at Bassingbourn Primary School this week. They did so well and demonstrated great sportsmanship. We will write a more detailed match report when we have the official results and points scores but a fun time was had by all. We played in 5-a-side matches and rotated around each of the five positions so we all had the opportunity to play every position on court. (GK, GD, C, GA & GS)

The JTAs (Junior Travel Ambassadors) had their first meeting with Marie and have been working very hard already this week on some posters and notes for their first project of the term so watch this space! We have some teams of children who are shortly going to begin to help out in the library and also a 'Ground Force' team who are going to be involved in keeping our grounds neat and tidy.

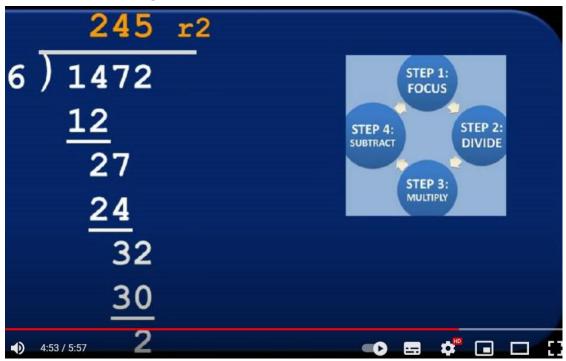
Have a lovely half term and we will see all the children back in school on Monday  $30^{th}$  October.



Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.

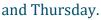
#### News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing to look at division. The children have been working on short and long division. Please look at the attached example of long division and ask your child to explain how to work through the stages of the question. Again, I must emphasise how important it is for your child to learn their times tables. As well as examining these formal methods, we have developed our reasoning skills when studying word problems involving division. For example, division is also about multiplication, addition, subtraction, place value, fractions etc.



In English, we have started our new topic based on balanced arguments. The students have already written the 'cold text' and have begun looking at the features you would expect to find in a balanced argument text.

Thank you to all the parents that attended the parental consultations this week on Tuesday



Another thank you – this time to all the playleaders who have completed their first term of organising games and activities for the children during lunchtimes. They have made a successful start and there are lots of happy younger children.

Homework will be set over the half term break and should be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Please keep reading and learning those times tables too.

Have a restful week off.

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

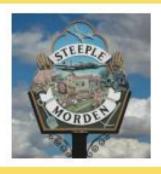
Pasta sauces

Mug shots

Pot noodles

Individual wrapped cakes

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



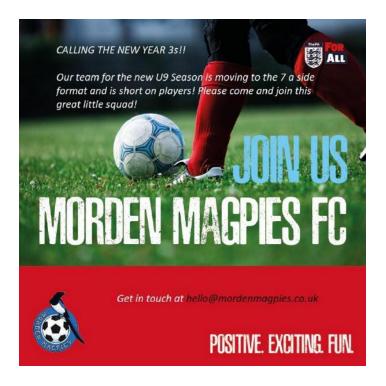
For more info: Sam Carroll 07494 588663 sdcarroll849@gmail.com

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

" Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans."

John Lennon

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