



## Message from Mrs How and Mrs Daniels:

Welcome back to our first Star entry of 2024!

It has been a very busy first full week back and the children have demonstrated renewed energy and enthusiasm for their learning. The Spring term is the shortest in the school calendar but it is packed with new learning, special events and experiences for the children to look forward to including a Year 5 residential visit to Grafham Water, a Year 6 residential to the Peak District and a Rocksteady concert. Please jot down some of the key dates in your new diaries that you will find on the next page. Please note that the next opportunity to talk to class teachers at Parent Consultations is in the last week before the half term break. Coats, hats, scarves and gloves were needed this week due to the icy temperatures in the playground. Well done to the children who braved the weather this week to take part in an early morning run in Running Club and a netball match in the snow on Monday after school. We counted a few flakes! If all wintry wear could be labelled with names that would be helpful to reduce our collection of odd gloves.

We spoke to the children in class and in assemblies this week about how to be responsible for themselves by looking after their belongings but how to look after the wider community in school by taking care of the school environment. Planet Protectors have a great understanding of this collective responsibility and they met this week to agree their priorities for the term. More news to follow on this.

Please can we also take this opportunity to remind you of some of the expectations in school regarding school uniform and equipment.

Uniform – school shoes please (not trainers), a coat every day (hat and gloves in this icy weather if possible). No jewellery (only stud earrings) and hair which is below shoulder length to be tied back.

PE Kits – these need to include the following:- shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms, sweatshirt (no hoodies please), spare socks, trainers in a named PE bag. Many thanks for your support with providing the correct clothes and kit for our current temperatures.

Homework Tasks - Class teachers will be sending home reading books, phonics flash cards and setting tasks on Spelling Frame and Mathletics for older classes to support learning in the classroom. Next week you will also receive a parentmail with our new termly selection of 'optional homeworks' which will give children the opportunity to explore some of their new learning in inventive ways. Over the course of next week you will also see that class pages on our website will be updated with our Spring term learning and arrangements. Have a lovely weekend.

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### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

*" The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."*

**Melody Beattie**

### School Meal Charges Autumn 2023

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

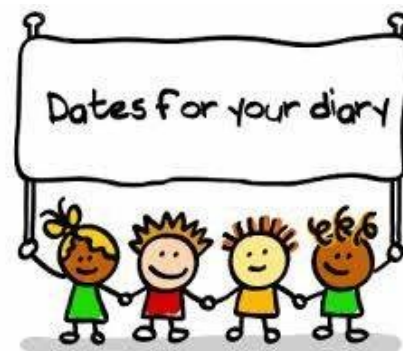
Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail **in advance of meals taken.**

**We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept cash or cheques.**

### 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.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.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.**



### February

5th-9th	Childrens Mental Health Awareness Week
8th	Grafham Meeting for year 5 parents 2.30pm
9th	Dress To Express Day
13th	Parent Consultations 3.30pm - 6.00pm
15th	Parent Consultations 3.30pm - 7.00pm
19th-23rd	Half Term

### March

6th-8th	Year 5 to Grafham Water
11th-15th	Year 6 to Derbyshire
18th-22nd	Perfect Parking Week
19th	Year 5/6 Netball Tournament at Bassingbourn Primary School
28th	End of spring term

### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn term begins	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Autumn half term	Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
Autumn term ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023
<i>INSET Days</i> (pupils not in school)	<i>Friday 1st September</i> <i>Monday 4th September</i>
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
Summer term ends	Friday 19th July 2024
<i>INSET Days</i> (pupils not in school)	<i>Monday 15th April</i> <i>Monday 3rd June</i> <i>Monday 22nd July</i>

# Notice Board

## 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'.

## 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.

## Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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 a last-minute phone call at the end of the day.

# Notice Board

## Illness in School

If your child is absent from school, you must notify school by 9.30am of the reason for absence. If we haven't heard from you, we are obliged to investigate your child's absence.

Condition	Absent for
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash and all the lesions have crusted over
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
Measles	4 days from onset of rash and once# recovered
Scarlet Fever	Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment completed
*Sickness and/or diarrhoea	Until 48 hours after last episode of sickness/diarrhoea
Conjunctivitis	None
**Headlice	None
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling
Tonsillitis	None

Please see (left) a basic summary showing recommended times for children to be away from school when suffering from childhood diseases. A comprehensive list is available at [https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)

\* For sickness and/or diarrhea it is essential to keep your child away from school **until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea/vomiting**. These sorts of bugs can be transmitted very easily, particularly in school settings. We do encourage lots of hand-washing in school and would ask you to follow this at home, as well. Please remember if your child is unwell they will be much more comfortable at home with a parent or carer who can look after them much more closely than we can in school.

\*\*For advice on dealing with headlice please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Happy New Year from Starling Class!

The children have all come back to school after their Christmas holidays well rested and eager to learn! We are so proud of how they have adapted to the changes and additions to our Spring timetable, taking it all in their stride.

In Phonics the children had a review of their Phase 3 learning this week whilst also learning the new digraph **oo**.

<u>Grapheme/ Phoneme</u>	<u>Mnemonic</u>
oo	the book nook

The children have been showing amazing resilience and persistence this week with their handwriting sessions. They have been working on their long ladder letter family this week and they will continue with this next week. When we talk about the letters during the handwriting sessions, we use the letter names e.g. t= tee. An information sheet has been sent home for you all so you can see how we teach the children how to form these letters so you can support at home with this too.

This week in Maths the children built on their prior knowledge of numbers to 5 and extended this to counting up to 8! The children met Numberblocks 6, 7 and 8, used a new resource a TEN FRAME which was very exciting!

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>
Attempt	To make an effort to achieve or complete something
Nimble	Quick and light in movement or action
Nervous	Being worried and afraid about what might happen
Summit	The highest point of a hill or mountain

The children have enjoyed thinking about being a hero and what that means this week. The children have come to realise that not all heroes wear capes and can fly and that they themselves can be an 'Everyday hero' by being helpful to others. The children thought about the story of 'The snail and the whale' by Julia Donaldson and the numerous heroes that can be found within that story and why they felt they were heroes. We had a wonderful discussion about who helps them and how they can help others!





Next week the children will build on their learning from this week about heroes such as Police Officers, Doctors and Firefighters and will begin to think about superheroes! In Maths they will continue to build on their knowledge of numbers to 10 and in Phonics they will learn even more graphemes and Harder To Read and Spell words!

I would just like to say a little goodbye to you all and thank you. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to settle all of your children into school life and start them on their learning journey. The children are an absolute credit to you all and I know the team and myself are grateful for all of your continued support at home. I cannot wait to see and hear how they flourish over the rest of the year. Mr Meridew and myself were absolutely blown away by your generosity and whilst never expected, it has been gratefully received so again a huge thank you.

Enjoy the rest of the school year Starling Darlings!

**Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team**



## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

What a lovely start to the new term we have had – thank you for all your support in getting bits and pieces ready for the next few weeks – sending toys in this week and gathering photos for Monday for us.

In Phonics, some of the children have been re-capping the following sounds:

ar	car, far, star	oo	spoon, moon
ur	turn, surf	or	for, storm

Please make sure you find these sounds in your child's wallet and help them to create some words, or make up some words together for them to sound out and blend together. If you think your child is already confident with these sounds, please look at some of the harder to read and spell words in their words wallet and ensure they can read them all by sight.

Some children have looked at some new sounds:

ay (rather than ai)	treat, real	ou (rather than ow)	proud, mouth
ie (rather than igh)	pie, tie	ea (rather than ee)	treat, seal

The children who have learned these sounds have had them added to their sounds wallet – or they are in their reading book – please add to the sounds wallet you had last term. Do make some real and nonsense words, using all the sounds you have so far, to enable your child to practise decoding and blending using the new sounds. Weekly reading books should reflect the weeks learning, but sometimes only have a couple of words with target sounds in them.

Thank you for your continued assistance with helping your child learn to read – they (and we) really appreciate your help.



We have introduced the concept of 'History' to the children, which was fun, and have discussed some different ways we might be able to find out about how toys have changed through the years. Now, although we will attempt to build a 'time machine', please do be prepared to talk about how we might not actually get anywhere in it!

Last week in Art, the children were making collages using primary colours, inspired by the work of Piet Mondrian and his abstract compositions.

In PE we have begun to use the large equipment in the hall and we will build up to using the wall bars and climbing ropes over the next few weeks. The children were all very enthusiastic, careful and controlled using body shapes, rolls and travelling using the benches this week.

Once again, we are also very grateful for the lovely, generous gifts you sent in for us for Christmas – thank you!

We all hope you have a lovely weekend – stay warm.

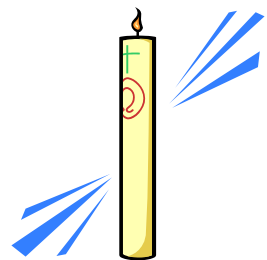
**Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews  
and the Year One Team**



## Assemblies & Collective Worship

In Monday's assembly we talked about the arrival of the Wise Men at the birth of Jesus and the celebration of this event (Epiphany) on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Although traditional Nativity scenes and stories place them in the stable with the shepherds and the Holy Family, evidence suggests that they arrived some time later.

We thought about how the first visitors being poor shepherds and rich 'kings' reflected the key message that the teachings of the Bible are for all, no matter what our background or status is. We also thought about how they brought gifts for the baby Jesus and how we could use our gifts such as kindness, tolerance and bravery to help others.





## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Happy New Year and welcome back to a cold start this spring term. It has been a busy week; meeting Mrs Polito on Monday, seeing the world from an aerial view in geography, experimenting with Andy Warhol styles in art and starting new spelling lessons as well as so much more.

In Maths the children have started to learn about money; looking at pence then pounds, exploring finding the same amount in different ways and how to count money efficiently. Any money play at home working on recognising coin and note values, adding up to a set amount or finding a given amount another way would really benefit your child. We will end the week by comparing amounts of money using the inequality symbols.  $<$   $>$   $=$

In English the children have been reading lots of information texts this week, mostly about London to support our new topic for the half term; 'All the way to Buckingham Palace.' By the end of the unit the children will know the features of an information text, how to use them and will include them when writing their own London tourist leaflet. Any interesting facts you may know about London and can share with us would be greatly appreciated.

In Science this week the children have been exploring seeking patterns to start off our new learning block; materials. The experiment to find the bounciest material was great fun and lots of new vocabulary was learnt. Do you know what a golf ball is made from? *Compressed rubber and resin.*



In phonics we have been reviewing the alternative spellings for the 'ai' sound. Please see below and practise at home recognising the phonemes as 'ai'

**ai:** rain **ay:** play **a-e:** bake **ey:** grey **ea:** great **eigh:** weight **a:** table

In spellings this week we have been learning the alternative spellings for the 'j' sound. **-dge -ge -g** Please support your child at home to learn their spellings.

**Reminders:**

**To be brought in daily:** Water bottle, Reading log and books, warm coat and appropriate accessories.

Homework folders in on **Thursday** for marking.

Spellings in on **Friday** for test, and new spelling sheets to come home.

If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email:- [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

Have a lovely weekend,

**Miss Blesic and the Year 2 teaching team.**



## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Welcome back, I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and a positive start to the New Year.

The children all returned last week with renewed enthusiasm and enjoyed a short week immersed in all things French. Over the two days, the children found out about some famous people from French history, eg Louis Braille, the Montgolfier brothers and Degas. They also found out about the geography of France by locating famous landmarks and regions in France on a map. In addition, we have found out a little about some French foods, and further developed our French vocabulary.

In Maths, we continued our work on multiplication and division. This week we have focussed on multiplying and dividing by 10. We worked on understanding what happens when multiplying by 10, and how to multiply a 2 digit number by 10. Next week we will continue with more multiplication and division work.

Our first full week back was all about the science of rocks and soils! We found out about how the three different types of rocks are formed, where we can see them, what they look like, their properties and how they can be used. We also found out about how fossils are made and discovered.

The science of soil made our brains hurt! Did you know there are more different living things in soil than there are on land? Also, there are more living things in one teaspoon of soil than all the humans on earth! We carried out an investigation into types of soil and filtration, investigated the properties of different soil types and created our own soil organism describing what job they did and what type of soil they would live in.



### **Up coming events**

Next dress up day, (date to be confirmed) children will be invited to dress as an archaeologist, ancient Egyptian or Howard Carter.

### **Weekly home activities**

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

Mathletics and Spelling Frame, 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 we began work on our new topic that explores a cross curricular topic titled 'Imagine, Inspire, Influence'. This topic has an Art and Design and Technology focus, which allows us to look at present day advances in technology that affect our lives today and in the future. We will be learning about inspiring innovators, inventors, artists, architects, designers and painters. As well as looking at their many achievements, we will be considering how they dealt with pitfalls and difficulties. We will be able to reflect on their resilience and use some of their behaviours in our own work.

In our maths lessons, we have been exploring how to accurately measure incorporating this into problem solving activities. We have been applying our knowledge of Chinese numbers and producing longer sentences by creating days and months. For example in Chinese the 13<sup>th</sup> January is written as. 一月十三日。 As part of our Geography lessons, we have begun to explore the countries of Europe and revisited where to find the names of the world's major oceans from previous years.

**From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team**





## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Welcome back to your first Star entry of 2024! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and have started 2024 on a positive note. In class, we have certainly not hesitated to jump straight back into our learning across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have been working on fractions – adding to and subtracting from mixed numbers, including crossing and breaking the whole.

In English, we have started to look at science fiction texts. We have discussed and justified our opinions about whether or not we believe there is life on other planets and then we started to identify the features of a science fiction text.



In Science, we looked at historical ideas of a flat Earth and discussed the evidence that we have that proves that the Earth, Moon and Sun are roughly spherical bodies.

In History we shared what we already know about the Roman invasion of Britain (quite a lot it turns out which is great). ‘Horrible Histories’ featured in our discussions which lead to an interesting discussion about primary and secondary sources of evidence. We looked at maps to explore the scale of the Roman Empire and shared facts about the might of the Roman Army!

In PE we demonstrated great control in our first hockey lesson of the term. We took care with our push shots and stops and navigated our way around Mrs Weddepohl’s challenging circuit to show off our dribbling skills. We did all of this very enthusiastically despite the icy temperatures.

Please can you ensure that PE Kits are in school all week and should include the following in a named bag:

- shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms, sweatshirt (no hoodies please), spare socks, trainers.

Stud earrings need to be taped before the lesson but ideally they should not be worn on PE days. Many thanks for your support with this.

In PSHE, we considered how other people’s perceptions, views and stereotypes influence our own sense of identity.

With thanks for your continued support,

**Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team**



## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I hope everyone had a restful festive period and are raring to go for the new term and year ahead.

In English we have started to look at non-chronological reports. We wrote our cold text about a strange looking animal, and then we looked at the features of the genre, including studying some geographical features such as hurricanes and earthquakes. Next week we will be researching about the sinking of the Titanic and will be looking at the planning of non-chronological reports.

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing our work on fractions. Firstly, we concentrated on adding and subtracting fractions. A key point to remember here is that when adding and subtracting fractions the denominator stays the same – it is the numerator that is changed. We then focussed on multiplying and dividing fractions. Strangely, the class really enjoyed multiplying fractions!

DIVIDING FRACTIONS					
Remember!					
Keep	Change	Flip	Fraction divided by a fraction	Whole number divided by a fraction	Fraction divided by a mixed number
First fraction stays the same	Operation changes from ÷ to x	Flip 2 <sup>nd</sup> fraction for reciprocal			
<b>Step 1:</b> Write whole number as fraction; write mixed number as improper fraction.			$\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{1}{3}$	$9 \div \frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3} \div 2\frac{1}{3}$
<b>Step 2:</b> Find the reciprocal of the divisor (the number you are dividing by).			$\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{9}{1} \div \frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{7}{3}$
<b>Step 3:</b> The reciprocal allows you to change the operation from division to multiplication.			$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{9}{1} \times \frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{7}$
<b>Step 4:</b> Multiply the fractions.			$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{1} = \frac{6}{3}$	$\frac{9}{1} \times \frac{3}{1} = \frac{27}{1}$	$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{7} = \frac{6}{21}$
<b>Step 5:</b> Write the answer in simplest terms.			$\frac{6}{3} = 2$	$\frac{27}{1} = 27$	$\frac{6}{21} = \frac{2}{7}$



We also examined the differences between mixed number fractions and improper fractions; how we can convert between these and simplify the answers too. Ask your child about multiplying and dividing fractions; there are a few stages to go through. (See the above example.) Ask your child about what the difference is between mixed numbers, proper fractions and improper fractions.

Last week the class designed and made World War One trenches from shoeboxes (thank you for all the donated shoeboxes, by the way) as part of their DT project. It was an enjoyable and educational day – attached are some photos of the boxes in the building process.

Homework will be set again this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 18th January.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**



# We have a school clarinet and flute we would like to lend to a child if they would like to be taught how to play these in school

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

In school, we have a free school clarinet and flute and spaces for a specialist music teacher from Hertfordshire Music who can teach these to your child in the school day. If you and your child are interested, you can sign up here:

<https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>



There are 3 types of instrumental lesson available:

Individual lessons £14.70

Shared lessons £11.03

Small group lessons £7.25

There are children in school who are currently learning some of the woodwind instruments; saxophone, flute and clarinet. As well as these instruments the oboe, fife and recorder are also available although you would need to purchase these or hire them. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-lessons-in-hertfordshire/music-lessons.aspx>

*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. If you would like any further information please speak with Mrs Bowmer.*



# 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](mailto:sdcarroll849@gmail.com)

**GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED**






## Cleaners / Home Helpers needed now in Royston

£11.10 per hour PLUS holiday pay

Work involves cleaning , shopping and other domestic duties such as changing bed linen and laundry. You always see the same regular clients, helping them to stay independent and living in their own home .

- | We're really flexible, work at times to suit your day
- | Extremely satisfying, see the difference you make just doing the cleaning and being a regular friendly face
- | Office support and backup always available whilst you work .

For more information contact:  
[recruitsouth@ageukherts.org.uk](mailto:recruitsouth@ageukherts.org.uk)  
 01923 627055

**Age UK Hertfordshire, a name you can trust.**  
 Cleaning and helping athome for 1000's of clients across Hertfordshire

  
**Café Church is back!**  
 This friendly café runs every Friday morning 9-11  
 during term time in Steeple Morden Church  
 Tea, coffee, home-made cake  
 Toys and lots of space for little ones  
 Do join us after school drop-off



# Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool  
Litlington Preschool  
Bonfitness Pilates  
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes  
MF Tennis Coaching  
Modern Foreign Languages Tuition  
Biggleswade Swimming Club  
Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section  
Mindfulness Relaxation Sessions  
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>**

***“ Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy shall form an invincible host against difficulties.”***

**Helen Keller**

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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