



Message from Mrs How:

I feel I need to start with an apology – especially to parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I know that it is only the middle of November but we have already begun to think and talk about Christmas. The younger children need plenty of time to learn and practise songs, dances and narration for their Nativity performance and the older children are busy learning and revisiting songs and carols for their Christmas Service, which will be held in the church. We do realise that this change in routine and a long build-up to Christmas can cause some children to become unsettled or overly focused on 'the big day'. Please be assured that we try our very best to balance this need to practise with trying to keep a sense of calm and normality – for our sanity as well as for yours.

Thank you to those families who have already responded to the plea for donations to help us provide additional activities and visitors for the children. We have a total of £945 at present but would still love to receive more donations from anyone who is able to. Payments can be made through Parentmail, by Monday 20th November please.

We have an increasing amount of 'lost property' around school. This is often as a result of children running around and getting hot at break times and leaving discarded coats and jumpers behind as they return to class. We aim to return all named items to their owners (or at least the correct classrooms) but there are still so many that do not have any names, or they have names of previous owners who are no longer at the school. PLEASE name all items of clothing so that we can try to prevent them becoming lost forever.

It was lovely to see so many children wearing spots today to mark Children In Need day. If you are able to make a donation to this fantastic charity, Please use the link/QR code on page 6.

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/Primarystandard>

Regular articles

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474
E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

"The only way to have a friend is to be one."

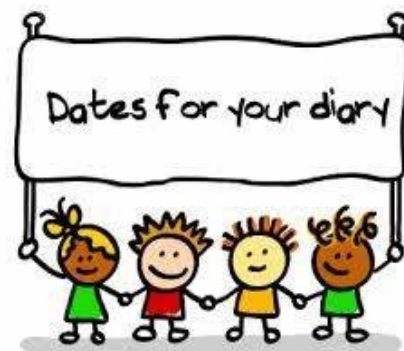
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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 either cash or



November

24th-26th Christmas tree festival in church

December

| | |
|------|--|
| 6th | KS1 Nativity performance to parents 2pm |
| 7th | Year 5 Grandparents event 9.30am-10.30am |
| 7th | KS1 Nativity performance to parents 2pm |
| 14th | KS2 Church service 9.30am (school and parents) |
| 14th | Christmas lunch |
| 14th | KS2 Church service 6pm (parents) |
| 15th | Rocksteady concert 1.30pm (parents) |
| 20th | End of term |

January

4th Start of Spring Term

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 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



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7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Royston, SG8 0PD

Tel: 01763 852474

Email: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey How

Cleaner Vacancy
10 hours per week, £10.60 per hour term time
Starting ASAP 2023

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated part time Cleaner. There is some flexibility when the hours could be worked and can be either directly before and after school, 5 days per week.

Option 1 - 7.30 – 8.30 am and 1 hour between 3.30pm and 5.30pm

Option2 – 3.30 – 5.30pm

This post may be suitable for someone wanting to work around their studies.

The post holder will join our cleaning team and be responsible for ensuring the building is cleaned to a safe, high standard at all times.

If you are interested in this position, please see school website for further information and an application form. Applications should be sent to Mrs Alisa Lopez-Adcock e-mail office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

We are committed to stringent safeguarding procedures and applicants will be subject to a full enhanced DBS check. Please note, references will be requested prior to interview. As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all members of the community.

Closing date: Wednesday 29th November 10.00am 2023



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Headteacher: Mrs Tracey How

Vacancies

We have the following vacancies currently:

- Finance and HR Manager (Part time) 18.75 hours a week across 3 days not consecutive) term time
- Class Teacher Part Time 4 days – 2 days – Maternity Cover
- Class Teacher Part Time 0.2
- Cleaner 10 hours per week

If you are interested in any of these positions, please see the school website for further information and an application form.



**WE'RE RAISING MONEY FOR
BBC CHILDREN IN NEED**

SCAN TO DONATE ONLINE



**BBC
CHILDREN
IN NEED**

BBC.CO.UK/CIN

BOOK NOW!!

SMARTIES DEC HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PLAN 2023



**Thurs 21st Dec - Fri 22nd Dec &
Weds 27th Dec - 29th Dec**

THURS 21st DEC



GINGERBREAD HOUSE & SNOW GLOBES

BBQ chicken wraps, potato wedges & veg sticks
Apple cinnamon puffs & custard

FRI 22nd DEC



ALL THINGS SANTA. MAKE YOUR OWN PLATE

Pigs in Blankets, mini roast potato & veg.
Chocolate crispy christmas pudding

WEDS 27th DEC



MOTHER GOOSE
POSSIBLE PANTO TRIP? *

Homemade pizza & salad
Fruit jelly

THURS 28th DEC



LET'S BAKE CHRISTMAS STYLE

Fish fingers, sweetcorn and chips
Banana pancakes & natural yoghurt

7.45AM - 9AM
£6

9AM - 1.30PM
£18

9AM - 3PM
£25

9AM - 6PM
£35

FRI 29th DEC



CELEBRATE NEW YEAR MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Vegetable pasta bake & garlic bread
Sponge cake

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

SUITABLE FOR AGES 3 - 11

HAF VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

*The panto trip will be subject to demand and availability. An additional cost of £10pp may be charged
** Please note all activities are subject to change

For more information please contact Georgina
office@smartiesteeplemorden.co.uk
Ofsted Number: EY434661 Charity Number: 1162474

News from Starling Class (Reception)

This week the children have been thinking about what being kind might look, sound and feel like to tie in with anti-bullying week and Children in Need Day. The children have also been thinking about the festival Diwali and listened carefully to the story of Rama and Sita. The children were fantastic at comparing the festival of Diwali to events such as Bonfire night and could make links with other times of the year that are special and are celebrated with family.

| <u>Grapheme/ Phoneme</u> | <u>Picture</u> | <u>Mnemonic</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| y | yacht | under the hull and down to the anchor |
| z | zigzag | zig and zag |
| zz | two zigzags | a zigzag duet |
| qu | quill | around the feather and down the pen (u is as previously learned = under the umbrella and down to the tip) |
| ch | | chew the chunky chips |

As the weeks progress, the children will be learning more digraphs and trigraphs and without regular repetition and revision at home as well in school, these trickier sounds can get forgotten, so please help us to support your child with these at home by finding a few minutes each day to practise. Some children will be coming home with more than one book each week, one book will be linked to our learning of the week to embed those graphemes and Harder To Read and Spell words and the other book will be revisiting the graphemes and/or Harder To Read and Spell words that they weren't able to recall last half term from their Phase 2 learning. We know that time is precious but your child will benefit from that additional regular practise at home, even if it is a snatched 5 minutes! Please rest assured that we are also supporting your child in class regularly with these.

This week in Maths the children revisited their learning of numbers to 5 from last half term and began putting their knowledge to the test. The focus this week was on adding one more. The children were very good at using five frames and counters to represent number stories and using stem sentences such as **"First there were 3 children, then 1 more joined the group, now there are 4 children"**.

We continued our 'word collecting' work this week with the following words below to build on our ambitious vocabulary. Our word wall in class is becoming so full!



| <u>Word</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|---------------|--|
| Unfathomable | Something that cannot be understood |
| Coarse | Rough or harsh texture |
| Comprehend | To understand something |
| Robust | Something strong and firmly built |
| Insubstantial | Something lacking in strength and solidity |

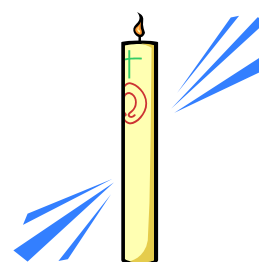
Our children have begun learning the songs from this year's Nativity offering 'The Innkeepers Breakfast' and you should have received confirmation of your child's role. The children were excited to learn what they were going to be and even had the pleasure of Mrs Monks popping in to help sort their costumes out with them! Next week we will turn our attention to Road safety week, thinking about our families (please send in a family photo for our book if you haven't yet!) and start practicing for our Nativity performances.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team

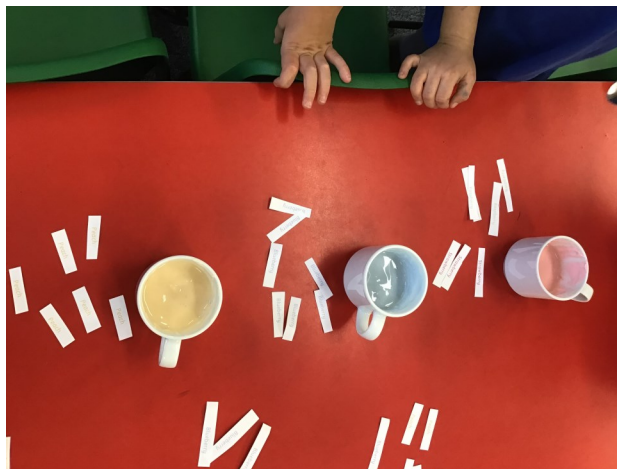
Assemblies & Collective Worship

This week's assemblies have focused on Anti-Bullying week 2023. This has also been the theme of our PSHE lessons over the week as we continue to encourage children to be brave and speak out when they experience, see or hear things that they know are not acceptable or kind.



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

What a successful week we have had in Robin Class! We have been working hard thinking of interesting and different vocabulary to tell our Goldilocks stories with. Some children re-arranged words into sentences and used great language skills to talk about the capital letters and full stops needed. Other children used their skills at sounding out the words they wanted to use in their sentences. Some children wrote creatively to express the story in their own words. ALL the children who have already completed this writing were rightly proud of themselves and pleased with the work they produced. We were delighted that we can see increased confidence, whether that was a willingness to put pencil to paper, sticking words in the correct order or using adventurous words.



It was also lovely to see the children working well in Maths earlier in the week. Again, we have such a variety of activities being completed – using whole part models and counters to help with making number sentences, developing use of a bar model and using existing knowledge of number bonds to 10 to complete a number bond triangle. It is a joy to work with each group, watching confidence grow in each of the challenges presented.

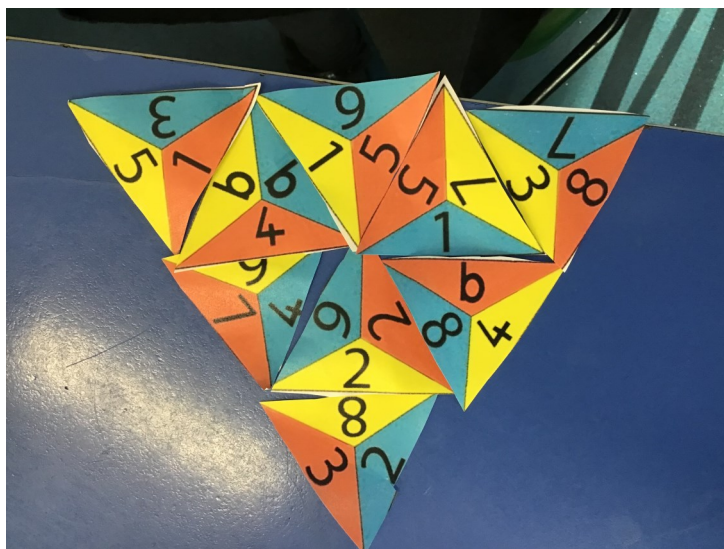
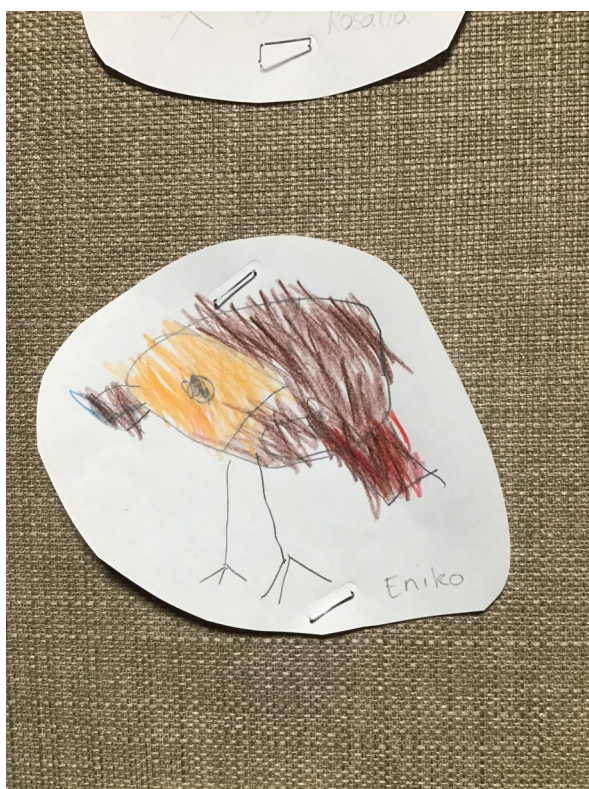
We were able to talk to the children about the Anti-Bullying theme this year of 'Make Some Noise', thinking how we can speak up if we notice someone is not happy – by talking to a grown-up, speaking to the person who may be doing the upsetting and being a good friend to anyone who may have been upset by another.

It was fun in Science to think about our senses of taste and smell. All the children completed a 'smell challenge' trying to identify different scents, and most children were brave enough to complete the taste challenge and were surprised that when we see what we eat, we can be tricked into thinking we can taste different things!

This week, we have allocated parts for the EYFS and KS1 Nativity play. Costume letters have come home detailing what we would like you to provide from home. Please do ask around friends to borrow items if you don't have something – we have found in previous years that other families can be happy to loan items. We do need these additional items in school by Thursday 30th November, so we are all ready for our dress rehearsal. The clothes rack is already up and storing outfits and costumes. Please send in items in labelled bags on hangers whenever you are ready. For our 'choir' members, any festive trousers or skirts

Please see the next couple of robin pictures for your enjoyment!

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



News from Owl Class (Year 2)

What an amazing week this week! We went to Woburn and saw monkeys jump on our coach, we got to feed giraffes and saw so many interesting animals. The keepers were fantastic and shared so much of their expert knowledge with us about how animals adapt to their habitat, what animals need to survive and what it is like to work in a zoo. Whilst we went on our foot safari we collected leaves, bark, leaflets, maps and even a tuft of goat hair ready for our Joseph Cornell inspired art next week. Please remember if you can help we are collecting shoeboxes for this to happen.





A great big thank you to Mr Cox and Mrs Ogilvie for coming along too!

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 colder please make sure your child has a waterproof and warm coat at 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 weekend,

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English this week, we have continued to develop our skills in descriptive writing by reminding ourselves about powerful adjectives, before being introduced to prepositions and similes.

Some days I feel very fortunate to be doing the job I am especially when I get sentences like these;

From deep inside the factory, rustling papers could be heard.

The loud red vans spluttered from the factory day and night, delivering chocolate all over the world

A sweet, yummy chocolaty smell drifted from the cracks around the windows.

The strong shiny iron gates reflected the weak winter sunshine.

I look forward to reading the descriptive passages that the children will be putting together next week.

In Maths, we have started to apply our understanding of addition and subtraction to solving real life problems. We have focussed on identifying what operation we need, and then the best method to use to solve the calculation. We also decided it would be a good idea to have a think about what sort of number we would expect the answer to be. For example if we need to subtract, we will end up with a smaller number than we started with. On the other hand, if we were adding two 2-digit numbers we are not going to end up with a 4-digit answer.

In our topic work this week we have continued our Mayan activities, I was pleasantly surprised by how much the children had remembered and what they could explain about the learning behind each activity. Some children had carried out their own independent research and had new facts to share with the class.

Once we had finished our Mayan work we started out DT unit by analysing a product; chocolate boxes. Later in the term, we will be making our own.



Up coming events

Christmas tree festival 24th-26th

29th Nov Wimpole run (for some children, children to be confirmed) details to follow

Weekly home activities

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

Mathletics and Spelling Frame, logins for both are in reading diaries

Tackling tables practise.

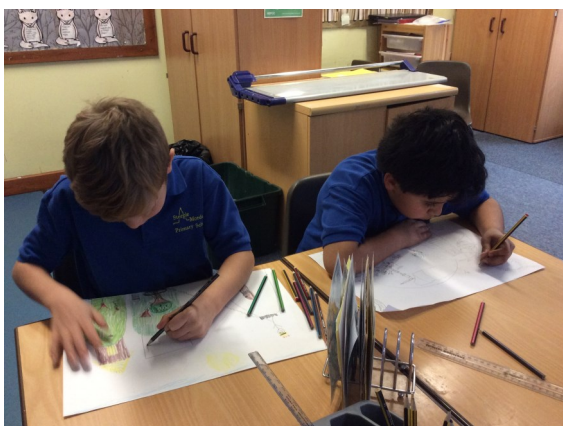
Reminders

Please name all clothing

Send books and diary into school each day.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team



News from Swift Class (Year 4)

Our exploration of textiles and the art of weaving continues to unfold. The children have been hands-on with various materials, experimenting and creating their own woven pieces helps them understand the nature of textiles and the skill involved in weaving.

In our Mandarin language lessons this week, we have been learning how to say the days of the week in Mandarin, which is building on our previous work with numbers because numbers form part of the day names in mandarin.



We have been learning more about efficient methods of subtraction – the homework on mathematics this week is all about the ‘bump to 10 technique’, which we have been practising in class:

$$\begin{array}{r} 95 - 57 = \\ +3 +3 \\ \downarrow \downarrow \\ 98 - 60 = \end{array}$$

As subtraction is ‘finding the difference’, the difference is maintained by adjusting the first number by the same amount as the one adjusted to the nearest ten – this makes calculation easier to do mentally.

In our science lessons, we have been studying the properties of liquids, testing viscosity by timing how long it takes drops to flow from the top to the bottom of a slope.

The class enjoyed raising money for Children in Need and the class was an array of spotty items! We have also been speaking about the values of empathy and kindnesses part of anti-bullying week, teaching them the importance of helping those in need.

From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team



News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English we have spent some time working on phrases and clauses, we then moved on to look at relative clauses. These have been challenging pieces of work for some and ideas that we will be revisiting again and again in year 5 to improve our confidence. We are learning about these aspects of grammar so that we can include them in the formal letters that we will be writing in class in the next few weeks.



On Thursday, we spent some time considering how bullying can affect people's mental wellbeing and behaviour. This work is part of Anti-Bullying Week which has been marked this week by a series of lessons and assemblies on the topic. The week is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and this year has the theme 'Make a noise about Bullying', with the message that too often we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter.'

In Science we have continued with our work on materials, experimenting with a variety of materials to see which ones are the best electrical conductors.

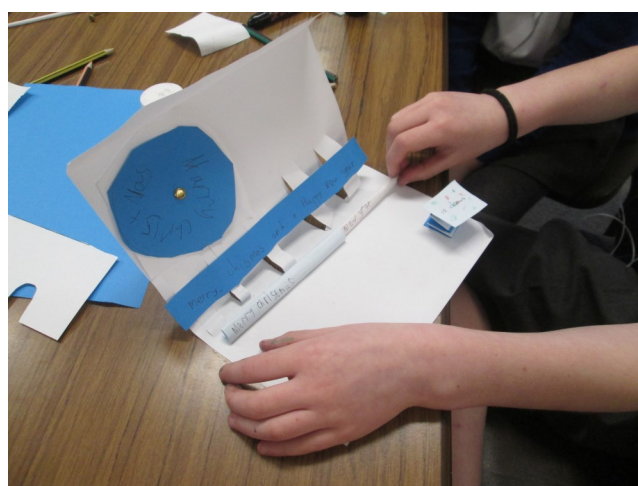
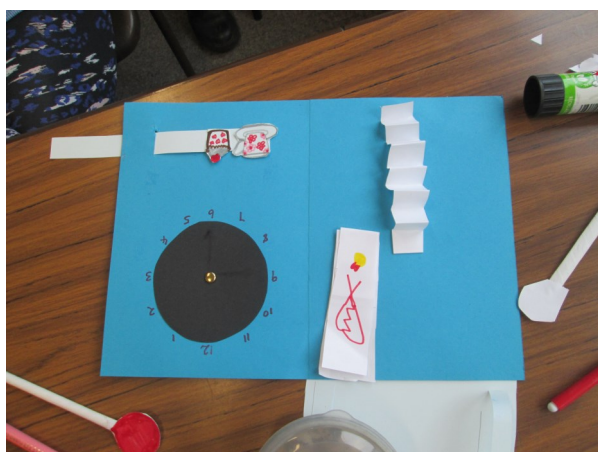
In Maths we have been looking at strategies to help us multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000. We have used place value charts to help us to do this – thinking about how when we multiply, the digits move to the left and when we divide the digits move to the right. Again we talked about the importance of using zero as a place holder. We also reminded the children about using commas when writing numbers of 4 digits or more. This helped us read out our numbers accurately.

Thank you for sending in examples of books with all different moving parts. The children really enjoyed looking at all of the different examples of mechanisms – sliding, rotating, pop up etc



We had a go at making our own examples of each mechanism, which we will be able to incorporate into our own project designs over the coming weeks.
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 finished studying work related to the four operations. Recently we have been looking at the order of operations, with an emphasis on the use of brackets (ask your child about BODMAS) and also different methods to calculate problems mentally. Our next topic will be fractions.

In English, we looked at tempo, intonation and dynamics in poems before performing some of these poems to the rest of the class. Next week we will study the Shakespeare play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and our next topic will be reading and interpreting this story and some of the language and characters from it.

We have been busy designing and making our decorations for our Christmas tree, which will be on display, along with all the others, at the church next weekend. We will aim to finish these in the coming week.

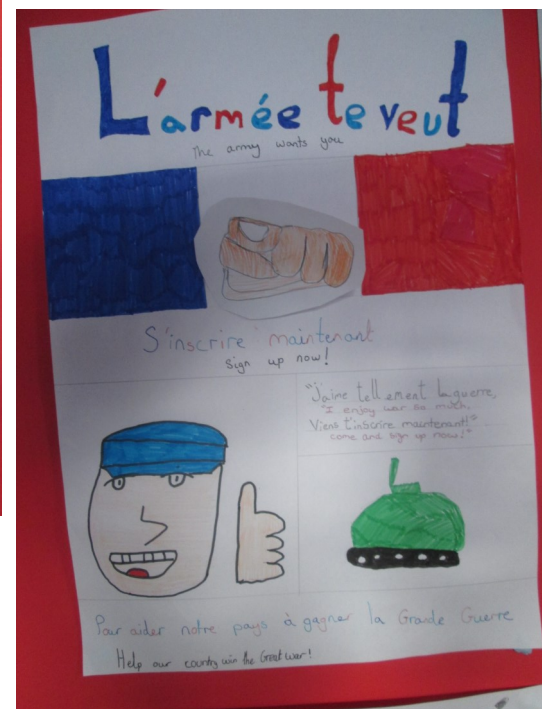
In History lessons, we have been looking at World War One. We recently looked at the propaganda that was used by governments on all sides and we came up with some of our own propaganda posters in a variety of languages. Have a look at some of the examples.

Homework should be completed by Thursday 23rd November – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please – these are crucial to their development mathematically.

Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team





Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team

We have a school clarinet we would like to lend to a child if they would like to be taught how to play this in school

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

In school, we have a free school clarinet 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

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

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED



**MORDEN
MAGPIES
YOUTH F.C.**

JOIN US!

CALLING FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION &
YEAR 1! THE MAGPIES' SOCCER SCHOOL

STARTS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2022!

FITNESS **FUN** COMPETITION

Open to all children in Reception & Year 1 (Sept 22)

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AT hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk

www.mordenmagpies.co.uk



Ofsted
Good Provider

Litlington Pre-school

January 2023

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

Spaces available for immediate start Funding & Vouchers Accepted

Children can join the pre-school from the age of 2

Friendly and Knowledgeable Staff who have the children at the heart of all they do!

CONTACT THE TEAM TODAY TO ARRANGE A VISIT!
Call: 07984935193 or Email: admin@litlingtonpreschool.net

"CHILDREN FEEL SAFE AND SECURE AT THIS WELCOMING PRESCHOOL"



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







CALLING THE NEW YEAR 3s!!

Our team for the new U9 Season is moving to the 7 a side format and is short on players! Please come and join this great little squad!

JOIN US

MORDEN MAGPIES FC

Get in touch at hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk



POSITIVE. EXCITING. FUN.

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
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>

“ Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom .

Marcel Proust

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