



Message from Mrs How:

Christmas has been creeping up on us over the last few weeks as children rehearse songs and spoken words for our Christmas celebrations. Now that we have reached December, the decorated tree in the main reception area and other Christmas displays and decorations add to the festive feeling.

We have a difficult task in schools during this time of year. Most children are looking forward to Christmas and are quite rightly excited about all the treats and events ahead ... but we still have a curriculum to cover and lots of learning to fit in. We also try hard to support those children who we know may have a more difficult Christmas – those where households have financial difficulties, those where families are in crisis and those children who prefer the routine and security of school. As you can imagine there are many different expectations and emotions for us try to balance at the moment.

At the risk of sounding Grinch-like, can I ask please that you help us to manage all this by **avoiding sending children in Christmas headbands, earrings, badges etc. until the last few days of term?** While they do look amazing, it is very hard trying to teach a maths lesson focusing on some complicated number skills when children (and potentially adults too) are distracted by a flashing headband! We have our "Christmas Jumper Day" on Wednesday 20th December which is a good time to break out the Christmas outfits.

We appear to be saying good-bye rather a lot at the moment. This week we send all our best wishes for the future to Mrs Lopez-Adcock, our Finance and HR Manager. After 10 years at Steeple in various roles, she is heading to pastures new and focusing on her HR skills in the business sector. She had been a valued member of staff and will be hugely missed by us all

Regular articles

Diary Dates	2
Noticeboard	3
Starlings (Reception)	7
Robins (Year 1)	9
Owls (Year 2)	11
Peacocks (Year 3)	13
Swifts (Year 4)	15
Heron (Year 5)	16
Puffins (Year 6)	17

Assemblies & Collective Worship	8
Community News	24

Special features

Clarinet lessons in school	19
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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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

" Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

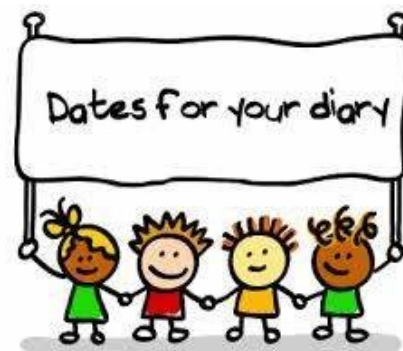
Marie Curie .

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



December

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
20th	Christmas Jumper Day

January

4th	Start of term
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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

5KM & 10KM CHARITY

SUPPORTING
AIR AMBULANCE
AND CAMBRIDGE
LUPUS GROUP

SANTA FUN RUN

**MEDAL
+
CAKE**

**SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 10.30AM
THREE TUNS, GILDEN MORDEN, SG8**

£5 CHARITY ENTRY FEE; EMAIL
STEEPLECHASERSRCC@GMAIL.COM

**FESTIVE
WEAR
WELCOME**

ORGANISED BY
THE STEEPLE CHASERS
RUNNING AND CYCLING CLUB



**BOOK
NOW!!**

SMARTIES DEC HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PLAN 2023

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

HANSEL & GRETEL PANTO

At The Junction Cambridge
A snack will be given on the
way to keep them going and
party food when we get back

THURS 28th DEC

CANCELLED
LET'S BAKE CHRISTMAS STYLES

7.45AM - 9AM
£6

9AM - 1.30PM
£18

9AM - 3PM
£25

9AM - 6PM
£35

FRI 29th DEC

CANCELLED
CELEBRATE NEW YEAR WITH OUR OWN DECORATIONS

10%
SIBLING
DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE

SUITABLE
FOR AGES
3 - 11

HAF
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED

**** Please note all activities are subject to change
** There may be a charge for non HAF children to attend the panto**

**Sadly due to low numbers we have made the decision to close on the
28th and 29th Dec**

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

A new mental health FREE text messaging support service

We all know the importance of supporting people when they struggle with their mental health – most of us will have some sort of experience of mental health difficulties, either ourselves or in friends and family.

We have been asked to share the following information with our school community – please if you know of anyone who would benefit from knowing about this service pass on the information below. The message is clear – if we SHOUT when we need help, someone will HEAR.



A new local mental health free text messaging support service launched across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on Monday 13 November.

HEAR 85258 is being funded by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, in partnership with the national service SHOUT. The free to use text service provides real-time support to people who are struggling with their mental health across the county.

When texting the word **HEAR** to **85258**, the person will be connected to a trained volunteer who will offer them calm in a time or place of crisis. During the confidential and anonymous conversation, the texter will be supported while working on a plan of action and signposted to local and national mental health services.

Texting HEAR to 85258 is free, discreet and runs 24/7. It won't appear on a mobile bill and requires no app, data, password, or registration.

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class!

We have had a busy couple of weeks getting ready for the Nativity performances and having our special visitors in last week. The children have been making us very proud with not letting anything phase them and carrying on as normal. Well done Starlings!

In Phonics last week the children continued their Phase 3 learning and were introduced to the di-graphs **ai**, **ee**, **oa** and the trigraph **igh**. They also learnt the Harder To Read and Spell words **was**, **her**.

<u>Grapheme/ Phoneme</u>	<u>Mnemonic</u>
ai	Wait for the train
ee	Bee on my knee
igh	Light up the night
oa	Float on the moat

We are so proud of the children for getting onto the stage, dancing their socks off and singing their hearts out! We hope you all enjoyed their very first school Nativity performance! Next week we will be doing all things Christmas, so prepare for overexcited little ones as the festive season is here! Please keep an eye out for a Parentmail about a Polar Express Day which will be happening hopefully in the last week of term!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team

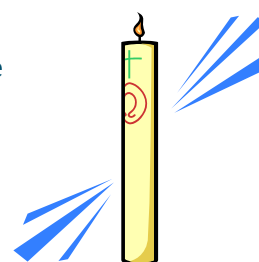




Assemblies & Collective Worship

We swapped our assemblies around this week, starting with a run through of all the songs for our KS2 Christmas service on Monday. On Tuesday, we lit the first of our Advent candles, the candle of hope. We aim to follow the church's patterns of reading and candle lighting during Advent with a continued reminder about the Christian story which is at the heart of our celebrations today. Our Bible passage was Isaiah 60, v2-3 where the prophet foretells of the coming of the Messiah and the hope that will bring to the world.

As well as our usual assemblies between now and the end of term, we will be joining in with Ely Cathedral's virtual Christingle service and are due to be visited by the GenR8 team.



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week has been a super busy Nativity Play practise and performance week. The children have been amazing, adapting to our different routine and getting on stage nearly every day! Please enjoy the photos!

Last week, because of our visitors there was no Star contribution from individual teachers. However, we really wanted to share with you some of the lovely things the children did. In RE we have been thinking about how Jewish people learn to do 'good deeds'. But we also thought that it's not just Jewish people who can do 'good deeds'! With this in mind the children made some special Christmas cards, which will be given to people who might be lonely this Christmas time.

In D&T, the children used all the skills they have learned in joining paper, using tabs, flanges, slit joints and zig-zag folding. They created their own 'island' using as many new skills as they could.

We hope you have a super weekend, and hope that the children can have some well-deserved off-stage rest!

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team





News from Owl Class (Year 2)

What a week I am so incredibly proud of all the Owls for remembering their lines, action cues and songs to perform three fantastic nativity shows. I hope all the families who managed to attend felt the same way and enjoyed it as much as we have enjoyed making it happen.

It has also been a busy week with new topics of learning in English and Maths, learning a Christmas song in Spanish and making moving Christmas decorations for our Design Technology project.

In Maths the children have started to learn about shape, both 2D and 3D and have spent lots of time with concrete resources manipulating them to find shape properties, learning how to accurately count sides and vertices and finding efficient methods so no mistakes are made. The children have also learnt how to draw 2D shapes with accuracy (a ruler!) and extended to look at what is a line of symmetry and how can I use one to complete a shape.

In English the children have been reading lots of recipes and 'how to...' texts.

From the list of features, do you know our new text type? Talk it through with your child for help. (Answer at bottom of features list)

- > Title
- > Present tense
- > Chronological order
- > Time connectives
- > Bullet points or numbering to separate steps
- > Imperative verbs

Answer: Instructions

During the week the children have found the features in different examples of our text type and then defined the features. Once we knew what the features were the children have practised being bossy to create a word bank of imperative verbs.

Cut, whisk, glue, fold, mix, tie, clip, put, stick, clean, bend, tear, add, paint.

I am sure your child would love to keep the performing spirit alive and share the song Feliz Navidad with you. The song has started each day for us this week and the enthusiasm and energy the children have singing it is infectious.

Our design and technology project this term was within the element of 'mechanisms and control.' The children have made a moving Christmas decoration, we hope not to have a spoiler in the star so I will not share too much more but it was great fun and the children all achieved something they didn't think was possible to start with. We love the phrase 'I can't do this... YET!'





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 warm coat at school every day.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and the children get plenty of rest it is another busy one next week before the end of term in the following week.

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 put together all our descriptive skills to write a descriptive passage for the chocolate room. We thought carefully about sentence openers, prepositions, adjectives, expanded noun phrases, similes and the use of all our senses to help us with our texts. We are all very proud of what we have achieved, as when we started the unit on descriptive writing it seemed rather daunting, but we have all achieved work we can be proud of.

‘Under their feet flowed a great brown river, swirling and turning like a ballerina. The children and grown ups stood aghast’

‘In the centre of the enormous room flowed a huge extraordinary river of rich brown chocolate. It smelt like five thousand chocolate bars.’

‘Between the beautiful trees in the valley flowed a beautiful stream of the finest melted chocolate. It smelt as yummy and delicious as the most amazing chocolate bar in the whole world.’

In Maths, we have continued our unit on multiplication and division, by using our knowledge of the 5 and 10 times table, sharing and grouping and then moving on to multiplying by 3. This work will continue next week.

Is the statement always true, sometimes true or never true?

A multiple of 5 is
a multiple of 10

Explain your answer.


Tiny thinks of a number.

My number is
less than 9 lots of 5
It is greater than
4 lots of 10
It is a multiple of 2



What number could Tiny be thinking of?





In topic work, we have continued with our design technology work, by designing our own chocolate boxes. For the design, we had to consider all the data and information we gathered last week about what the best product would be. Once we had this we needed to think about what makes packaging eye-catching, and then the biggest challenge was to get our design onto a net in the correct orientation. To help with this we made a (much needed) prototype.

Up coming events

Christmas dinner Thursday 14th December

Church service Thursday 14th December 9.30 am 6 pm

Christmas jumper day Wednesday 20th December

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)

Over the last two weeks, Swift Class has been learning about changes in state. To help us do this we have carried out a number of experiments such as making ice cream, moving liquids and creating different gasses through chemical reactions. We have also been concentrating on improving the precision of our scientific diagrams so they are easy to understand.

We made our delicious mooncakes (月饼) which involved much kneading, mixing, stirring, folding, boiling, and moulding! Next week we will be improving our chopping technique when we make another traditional Chinese dish. Our Design and Technology work will also see us learning about how textiles can be used to create useful items. This sits alongside our work in art, where we are exploring how textiles are used in weaving to create artistic works.

In case you missed it in church, here is a picture of Year 4's Christmas tree that appeared alongside others from the community at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Last week, half the class took part in the Wimpole cross-country run alongside 23 other schools. We were impressed with the children's resolve to try their best.

We have enjoyed watching KS1 rehearsal for their Christmas Production and we are looking forward to KS2's Christmas service, which takes place not just once but twice next Thursday; once in the morning and once in the evening.



From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team



News from Heron Class (Year 5)

We have had another busy week in Year 5 that included much excitement on Thursday when we hosted our Grandparents' Christmas Party in class. We have been preparing for this for a while; writing our formal letters and sending them home, researching Victoria Sponge recipes and then spending time making the cakes this week for our guests to enjoy. We all had a lovely time together sharing some craft activities and playing board games and chatting about memories of Christmases that we have enjoyed. Thank you so much to all those grandparents who were able to join us, we know what a busy time of year this can be and really appreciate you taking the time to come into school and spend time with us.

Have a lovely weekend,

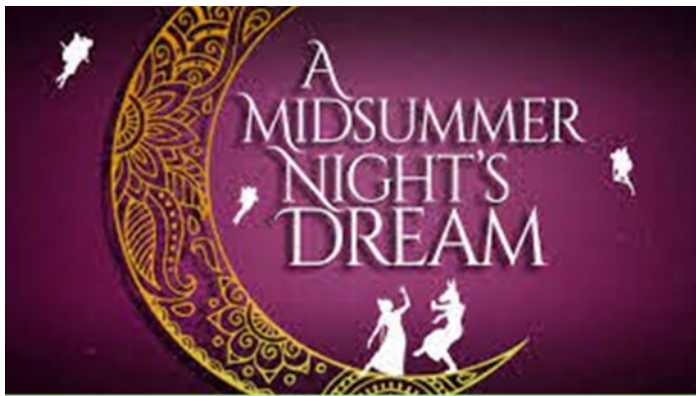
Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team



News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, we have finished working through old SATs papers. The children have worked hard and now have a feel of what all the SATs exams will be like in mid –May next year. They are becoming familiar with the types of questions that appear, as well as how quickly they should work and how the questions should be answered. We will be working through the answers, and methods to get to the answers in some of these tests next week.

In Maths lessons we have continued to look at fractions. We have been adding and subtracting fractions, then converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We shall look at multiplying and dividing fractions and converting between decimals and percentages over the next few lessons.



In English, we have continued to study 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. After looking at some of the main characters from the play and focussing on improving a descriptive paragraph about one of them, we are in the process of planning, writing and editing a critical evaluation of an animated film of the play. Some of the children enjoyed the play a lot, and they are beginning to understand the humour and language used by Shakespeare.



We have also been working hard in class on our contribution to the KS2 Christmas service, which is due to take place in the church next week.

Homework should be completed by Thursday 14th December – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables too please.

Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team



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



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



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
 01923 627055

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

PTA News

December Lottery Club winners are:

1st:	40	Anna Radchuk	£15
2nd:	26	Emma Phillips	£10

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!

Winners will be contacted by email. Please reply at your earliest convenience so we can transfer your winnings promptly.

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>

“ The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.”

Bertrand Russell

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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