



Message from Mrs How:

Having mentioned all things Nativity and Christmas related last week, there are a few more updates. Please keep an eye on the diary dates page of this newsletter for various events over the coming weeks.

Next week we will be in touch with parents of children in Reception and KS1 about arrangements for you to come and see one of our Nativity performances. For KS2 parents we will ask whether you plan to come to the church for the morning or evening service so that we are able to manage seating etc.

The following is a reminder that has been sent in various forms over the last year or so, but based on recent conversations with teachers and parents it feels a good time to share again ...

We all know that homework is a contentious issue in primary schools. Whatever we do, some parents always want more and some parents always want less.

There is so much to fit into the school curriculum that there is rarely time to give children the opportunities to practise many of the key skills that are taught. This is where we rely on support from home.

If you are able to spend just 10/15 minutes a day on the following activities (you could pick one a day) it makes a huge difference to your child's confidence and progress.

Weekly expectations for parents/carers to support children in rehearsal and fluency

- Reading and phonics (aim for 4 times a week)
- Spellings (this is Spellingframe for the majority of children, some may have something slightly different)
- Athletics and Tackling Tables (Y2 upwards)

Additional/Optional tasks which can enhance children's learning and deepen their understanding

We often have parents asking for advice or suggestion for activities that could further enhance their children's learning. While it is not possible to set individualised homework on a regular basis, each term teachers send out a grid of possible activities tied in with the current class topic. These give you and your children opportunities to investigate, visit or create something that works for you as family if you wish. **These are entirely optional – if time is limited please prioritise the activities above.** A date will be given when children will be able to share their learning from any of these optional activities in class.

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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@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

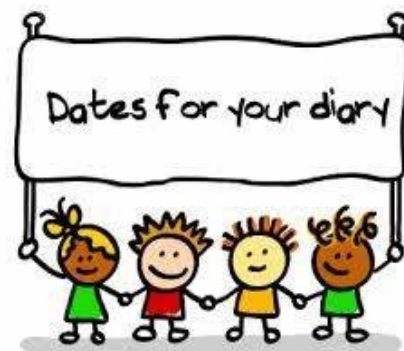
John Dewey .

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
8th	Year 3 Coffee Morning 9am-10am
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

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.



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



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 - 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

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)

This week the children have started their Nativity practising in earnest. They have been learning all of the songs for the play in addition to the actions to help them remember the words and they have even learnt the dances which they will be performing. The children enjoyed going into the Hall for a practice with the whole of Key Stage One and they got very excited to be part of a cast!

<u>Grapheme/ Phoneme</u>	<u>Mnemonic</u>
sh	The shabby ship shook
th	They were thirsty
ng	Ping pong
nk	Oooh! A pink sink!

This week in Maths the children built on last weeks learning about adding one more and this week turned their attention to finding one less. They were very good at using five frames and cubes to represent number stories and using stem sentences such as “**First there were 5 bees, then 1 flew away, now there are 4 bees**”.

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>
Departing	Leaving, often in order to start a journey
Trembling	Shaking slightly because you are frightened or cold
Torrential	Falling quickly and in huge amounts
Vivid	Very bright in colour
Flustered	A feeling of being upset and confused



Next week we will be practising for the Nativity most days, so expect tired children! Next week the weather looks like it will be turning colder, so please ensure your child has enough layers, a warm winter coat, suitable shoes for wet and cold weather, hat and gloves and most importantly please ensure it is all named!

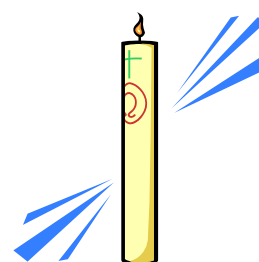
Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team



Assemblies & Collective Worship

We have begun practising our Christmas songs and Carols in earnest this week as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. As well as learning the words and trying to fit them to the tempo and pitch of the music we think about their meanings and how they relate to the Christmas story.



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week in Robin Class, we have started our new 'Chapter' in English – looking at the book, "Can I Be Your Dog?". Arfy, the dog, wants a home and writes letters to persuade the home-owners to take him in. The children have enjoyed looking at the pictures to draw out more information than the words alone have shown (e.g. the picture showing a character which is not mentioned in the text, or the post carrier delivering letters which are not in envelopes so she knows what the dog is asking). We have ordered the pictures from the story, decided who each letter is written TO and have come up with some lovely vocabulary describing the different 'homes' and Arfy's thoughts.

Thank you to anyone who has already managed to get costume bits and pieces to us this week. If you haven't managed this yet, please don't worry – you have until Thursday next week – but the earlier the better – one job to tick off your to-do list!? Please do remember to name all clothes coming in to school.

We had a very successful first sing through of all our Nativity songs with Year 2 and Reception class on Tuesday morning, so we all know and can use the same actions to help with individual class practising.

In Science, we have continued our theme of thinking about our senses. This week, we coupled our senses with 'History' – learning about 2 important people in the deaf and blind communities. First, we learned that Louis Braille invented the Braille alphabet, and were able to feel our own names, written in Braille. These may have come home, but some children liked having these on their drawers to see and feel. One of our COOL time challenges this week has been to try to 'read' and work out a short word written in Braille and match the words to pictures. We read words like bat, rat, dog or fox. We have also been able to have a go at writing our own Braille letters or words using the Braille writing tablet! We have also thought about Helen Keller, who was a deaf and blind girl/lady. She was taught by an amazing teacher spelling things onto her hand. We were able to think about the deaf-blind manual alphabet and how deaf-blind people sometimes communicate using sign language! We have also considered the fact that deafness and blindness are NOT always complete – that deaf or blind people do most often have some sight or hearing.

This week, do see the next Robin picture produced a few weeks ago!





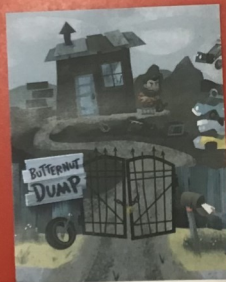
The Yellow House



The Butcher Lady



Last House on Butternut Street



Junkyard Guy



Fire Station No. 5

Have a super weekend, hope it's not too cold for you!

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Another busy week in year two, nativity rehearsals are in full swing; the children have started to learn new songs, their character lines and started to get used to their stage positions. They have learnt a new text type in English and begun subtracting two 2 digit numbers.

In Maths this week the children have learnt to subtract two 2 digit numbers across 10. This developed from learning how to add two 2 digit numbers across 10 last week. Learning to start adding or subtracting the ones in a number first supports them when they move onto more complex methods like column method. In doing this children also recognise when they need to exchange.

Kim is calculating $28 + 19$

I know I need to make an exchange.



Kim

How does Kim know this?

$8 + 9$ will be greater than 10

Calculate $28 + 19$ using base 10

T	O	$28 + 19 = 47$



In English this week the children have been recalling their trip to Woburn to write a recount. From reading diary entries of historical figures, newspaper articles and other recount texts the children explored and defined the features of a recount. Some already known from our other text types this year.

- > to write in chronological order
- > to use paragraphs
- > to use time connectives
- > to write in the 1st or 3rd person
- > to name specific names and places

The children then used these features to write their own superb recounts.

In science this week the children used their knowledge of habitats to build a diorama to represent the six habitats, forest, polar, freshwater, saltwater, desert and grassland. The children worked fantastically in teams to create their habitat and were very proud of their outcomes.



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.

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 teaching team

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English this week, when describing the chocolate room, we have collected ideas using all of the descriptive devices we have thought about in recent weeks. We have listed adjectives, expanded noun phrases and similes for the waterfall, glass pipes, valley and meadow, which are all features of the chocolate room. We will be using our ideas in sentences and descriptive passages next week.

The children are looking forward to sharing their full passages of descriptive writing with you on the 8th December.

In Maths, we have started our unit on multiplication and division, so far we have thought about using and making equal groups, using arrays, multiplying by 2, 5, and 10 as well as sharing and grouping. Work will continue in this area next week.

In our topic work we have looked at the history of chocolate, we put key events into chronological order before making mini booklets to tell chocolate's history. It is one of the oldest edible items still in use. We were quite fascinated by the fact that during the Georgian period it was very fashionable to go to a chocolate house and meet up with your friends to enjoy a chocolate, much as we do with coffee today. In the chocolate houses and in rich people's homes they had special chocolate pots, cups, saucers, and spoons for the drinking of chocolate. For most of chocolate's history, it has only been affordable by the rich and wealthy, it is only comparatively recently that chocolate has been enjoyed by all.

Next week we will begin our design technology work and look at the packaging of chocolate.



Up coming events

Christmas tree festival 24th-26th

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

8th December Year three coffee morning 9am-10am

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.

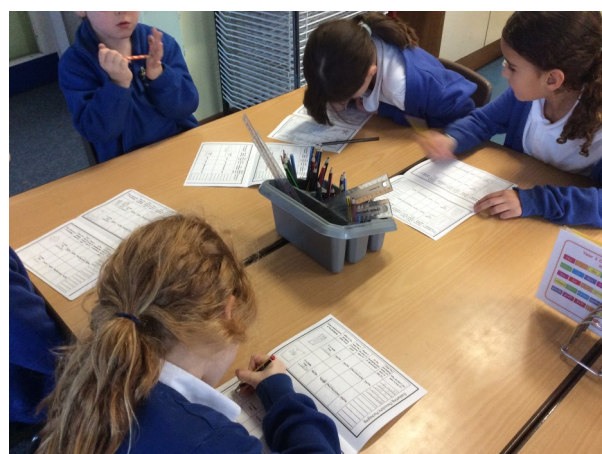
Reminders

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)

Swift Class has spent some time this week preparing a Christmas tree, adorned with carefully crafted snowflakes and holly. If you would like to see the tree, it will be on display at the festival taking place this weekend at the church.

In our maths lessons, we've been concentrating on finding the perimeter of shapes and counting accurately. We have also been revisiting division and using this skill to solve word problems. A solid foundation in division will help children in their mathematical journey and grasp later concepts.

In PSHE lessons, our focus has been on the skill of recognising and understanding the emotions of others and thinking about how people may react differently to a situation.

We have started to explore the workings of Raspberry Pi computers and have been venturing into text-based programming using a programming language called python. We are able to control a special version of Minecraft called Minecraft Pi, which allows python to interact with it.

In our Religious Education lessons, we've been focusing on Hinduism through studying the story of Rama and Sita. This epic tale holds great significance in Hindu culture and helps us to develop a deeper understanding of the Hindu religion.

Next week we are looking forward to some Chinese based cooking. (月饼)

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.

From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team



News from Heron Class (Year 5)

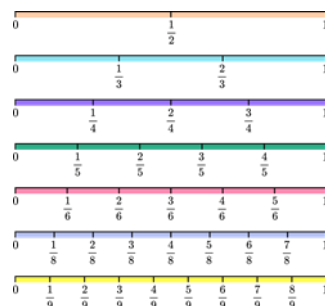
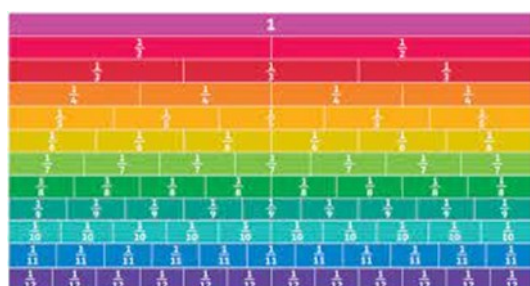
We have had another busy week in Year 5 that started with our Year 5 Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) leading part of our whole school assembly on Monday. They introduced themselves and their role, spoke clearly about the Green Cross Code and launched a competition to design a poster with prizes for Key Stages One and Two. Well done JTAs, you worked very hard in your own time on the PowerPoints and script for this assembly and then had to control your nerves enough to be able to speak in front of a packed hall of pupils and staff. We are sure you will agree this is quite a task for anyone, we are very proud of you.



In English, we have finished writing our formal letters and have spent some time editing and improving our writing before our letters are posted. We have also continued to read 'Street Child' as a whole class; the children are very keen to find out what will happen at the end of the book so we are making progress as quickly as we can.

In Maths we have launched into our new topic all about 'Fractions.' We have talked about how our recent work on multiplication and division will help with our understanding of equivalent fractions.

We have begun to learn new strategies to convert fractions into equivalents as well as how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and how to group and order fractions. We looked at different representations to help us to do this including a fraction wall and fractions on number lines. Please encourage your child to have a go at the activities on Mathletics to reinforce this key learning.



We have also spent some time this week considering the RE question 'What kind of King is Jesus?' We discussed whether we believe that Jesus came to Earth to show people how to get into heaven or if He came to Earth to make Earth more like Heaven. Once again, we are pleased to say that your children had interesting ideas to share and listened to one another's points of view.

We delivered our Christmas tree to church ready for the Christmas Tree Festival and visited today to have a look at the wonderful array of trees decorated by the village community. If you have a few minutes this weekend it is well worth a visit.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.



News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, in Maths, we are onto our next topic - fractions. We looked at equivalent fractions and how to write these, draw these and look at them visually too. Then we looked at simplifying and ordering fractions. Next week we will be adding and subtracting fractions. We are also continuing with our weekly multiplication tests using 'Tackling Tables'. The children are progressing well, which will put them in good stead for our unit on fractions – where quick fire multiplication recall is essential.

In English lessons, we have now started to read the Shakespeare play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and we will be studying this play and some of the language used, and the characters and the relationships formed between them. Although there were many characters in the play, and some found it quite difficult to keep up with who was who, many in the class enjoyed reading Shakespeare (the first time for many of them). Shakespeare will be studied a lot in secondary school, so this is a good introduction for the children.

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 this weekend. Here are some photos of some of those on display. Ask your child what the German written on some of the decorations means. We hope that you enjoy them.

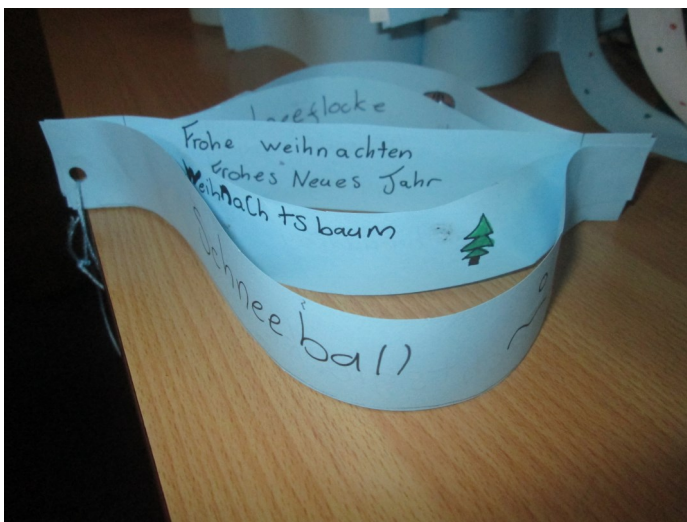
Next week, and into the following week, the class will work through their first batch of practice SATs papers. It will give the pupils a chance to see what sort of questions are in the papers, the timings involved and give them a feel for what the tests will be like in six months' time. They will be having tests in reading, maths and SPAG.

Homework should be completed by Thursday 30th November – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please – these are crucial to their mathematical development.

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



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

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>

“A smile is happiness you'll find right under your nose.”

Tom Wilson

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