Friday 2nd February 2024 steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



THE STAR

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



Message from Mrs How and Mrs Daniels:

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who has sent messages or spoken to staff about our Ofsted report that went out earlier this week. Your comments gave us all a much needed boost at a time when we were feeling very low. Most of the staff had themselves only seen the report on Monday so emotions were all incredibly raw. We know we have work to do but it is reassuring that so many of you recognise all the hard work and effort that goes on every day. Thank you.

I am sure you cannot have failed to notice the abundance of germs in the local community (and nationally) at the moment. The changeable weather has done nothing to help, and many of the combinations of symptoms are unusual and not easily explained. Children, by the nature of how they interact with each other are particularly good at sharing germs with their classmates and adults around them. We all know the importance of regular attendance, and we want children to be in school learning. However, we also know that sometimes they are simply not well enough to be here or able to access the teaching that is being provided. We are not medically trained and we have to rely on our 'best judgement' about whether a child is able to continue the day in school. Most of us are, or have been, working parents so we understand the frustrations and challenges of being called to collect a child from school. If we phone you, it is because we have already tried to distract, divert or 'jolly them along' and we have run out of options. Sadly, we do not have the ability or resources to care for children who are not well which is why we ask for someone to collect them as soon as possible. If you know it is difficult to leave work, or you have a long journey please have a back-up plan. This could be family or friends; as long as you can let us know who it will be (we may ask for a 'code word' if it is someone we don't know). From a child's perspective, it is pretty grim if they are feeling unwell and sitting by the front desk for a long time waiting to be collected. Equally, if they claim to be too ill for school in the morning and you keep them at home, if there is a miraculous recovery after an hour on the x-box or in front of the TV you can always send then in after lunch!

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Special features

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

"Work hard, be kind, and amazing things will happen."

<u>Conan O'Brien</u>



School Meal Charges Spring 2024

Daily:	£2.40
Weekly:	£12.00
1st half term	£76.80
2nd half term	£57.60
Whole term	£134.40

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.cam bs.sch.uk

Please don't message via Parentmail as we don't use this aspect of the system and so this won't be seen.

February

5th-9th	Childrens Mental Health Awareness Week
6th	Peak District Meeting for Year 6 parents 3.30pm
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

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>	Friday 1st September
(pupils not in school)	Monday 4th September
Spring term begins	Thursday 4th January 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February 2024
Spring term ends	Thursday 28th March 2024
Summer term begins Early May Bank Holiday Summer half term Summer term ends INSET Days (pupils not in school)	Tuesday 16th April 2024 Monday 6th May 2024 Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024 Friday 19th July 2024 Monday 15th April Monday 3rd June Monday 22nd July
	2

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 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	P
Measles	4 days from onset of rash and once# recovered	r fi d
Scarlet Fever	Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment completed	h
*Sickness and/or diar- rhoea	Until 48 hours after last episode of sick- ness/diarrhoea	G 2
Conjunctivitis	None	1
**Headlice	None	
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling	
Tonsillitis	None	
1		

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

* 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-andnits/

Notice Board

Covid-19 - Current advice is that this should be treated as any other respiratory infection. The following is from <u>People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK</u> (www.gov.uk)

Symptoms of respiratory infections, including COVID-19

Respiratory infections can spread easily between people. It is important to be aware of symptoms so you can take action to reduce the risk of spreading your infection to other people.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are very similar. It is not possible to tell if you have COVID-19, flu or another respiratory infection based on symptoms alone. Most people with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections will have a relatively mild illness, especially if they have been vaccinated.

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick





Midday Supervisory Assistant (Thursday and Friday, term time only) 12.00-1.30 pm each day (£11.59 per hour)

Steeple Morden Primary School is a friendly and welcoming village school with approximately 165 pupils on roll. We are at the heart of a thriving village community.

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Midday Supervisory Assistant, working alongside our existing midday team, for Thursdays and Fridays term time only. The post holder will be responsible for supervising and assisting the children in the dining hall and during lunchtime play.

If you are interested in this position, please see our website for a copy of the Job Description and an application form. If would like more information, or are unable to access the documents on the website please email <u>office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk</u>

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

Start date: as soon as possible

We reserve the right to close this vacancy if we receive sufficient applications for the role. Therefore, please submit your application early

'Dress to Express Day' – Friday 9th February



As we are sure many of you are already aware next week is Children's Mental Health Week and we will be marking it with our usual 'Dress to Express' day on Friday where children (and staff) are encouraged to come to school wearing something that expresses something about them and their personality.

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'My Voice Matters' and there are a range of activities on the Place2Be website

https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/



'Safer Internet Day' - Tuesday 6th February

We will be highlighting this in our Monday morning whole school assembly. Please visit the website below for advice and guidance of how to help children stay safe online.

https://www.saferinternetday.org/

Message from South Cambs District Council

Parking enforcement changes - please think about where you park

From 1 February anyone parking on restrictions such as double yellow lines or zig zag lines near the school are far more likely to receive a parking ticket than before.

Cambridgeshire County Council was given Civil Parking Enforcement powers by the Government late last year and are doing a final push with South Cambridgeshire District Council to remind people of the change before tickets, with fines attached, begin to be issued by Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

The safety of pupils and everyone in and around the school is really important and inconsiderate parking can make it more dangerous for people. Please use this change as an additional reminder to think about where you park.

In the past only the Police could issue tickets for illegal parking, but the changes mean it is now a civil matter and Council Civil Parking Enforcement Officers can issue the tickets for some matters.

For more details about Civil Parking Enforcement please visit Cambridgeshire County Council's <u>Civil</u> <u>Parking Enforcement page</u> of its website.



There will be a **second hand school uniform sale** on Wednesday 14th February from 3.10pm in the school playground (or in the hall if the weather is bad). All items of uniform for sale, including PE kit and shoes from age 3 to 16.50p an item and all money goes to the school PTA. Please bring donations of uniform to the front desk.

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Starlings have welcomed Mrs Nicola Hall to school this week. She will be joining Mrs Clare after half term and teaching the class and so we are all looking forward to that.

Again Mrs Keech and Mrs Brown have been amazed by how hard the children have worked in all areas of the curriculum.

In Phonics the children had a review of their Phase 3 learning this week whilst also learning the new digraphs **ure**, **er** and **ow**.

Grapheme/ Phoneme	Mnemonic
ure	sure it's the cure
er	a bitter winter
ow	go slow in the snow

In handwriting we have been practising the letters h, m, k and p. When we talk about the letters during 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.

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

Word	Meaning
competition	an event which people take part in
rivalry	a situation in which different sides compete
fatigue	a feeling of being physically tired
banish	to send someone away
substitute	to put someone in place

Maths was with dinosaurs this week as we have been working on our addition skills, using part whole models and dinosaurs to make 10.



In our PE session we enjoyed another session of Balanceability and practised approaching a crossing, remembering to stop, look, listen and keep looking when crossing the road. Jackie our visiting teacher from the South Cambs School Sports Partnership was so impressed with how well we did this!

In Gymnastics we demonstrated some more wonderful shapes.

Please note that our PE day is going to change for a short while so the children need to come to school in their PE kits now on Tuesday morning only (and not Thursday). Many thanks for your help with this.

We are becoming such dinosaur experts. Mrs Clare brought in some fossils to share with the children which they loved studying and then took great care to make an accurate sketch. We also studied the life and work of Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpott, two very well-known palaeontologists.





Buttons is becoming a very well-travelled bear indeed! Thank you all for taking the time to take photos and well done to the children for some brilliant writing in his diary! Please ensure that Button returns to school so another child can have their turn:-

Take Buttons home on Friday – return him on Monday + Take Buttons home on Wednesday – return on Friday

Well done to Purple Grapes for a brilliant Show and Tell session.

Next week we will be looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year!

Have a lovely weekend

The Reception Class Teaching Team

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We would like to start this week's Star with a 'thank you' – for the beginnings of a <u>great</u> Toy Museum! We have already had various interesting older toys. The children have enjoyed sharing all about the toys they have brought in, but those who haven't managed this yet have also been really respectful listeners when finding out about the items which have started our museum. Do keep sending your old toys in, but we do understand that if you are waiting to see relatives and friends in the half term break they might not be ready yet. Don't forget to return the questionnaire with any toys/photos of your old toys, so that we can have as much information to share as possible.

In Phonics, we have had an assessment week, so there are no new graphemes to share this week: Please keep practising the sounds AND words you already have in the wallet you had last term. It has been good to see some improvements in grapheme and word knowledge have been made over the last few weeks.

This week in English, the children were super at coming up with a wide variety of imperative verbs while I made a 'Bottle Beach'. They were able to order photographs and write instructions themselves, numbering each command, starting the sentences with 'bossy' verbs and demonstrating their sounding out skills when writing. The following lesson, we focussed on reading back through their work and trying to make their writing <u>even</u> better by checking for capital letters, correct spellings for familiar words and full stops.







In Gymnastics this week, the children have been developing their confidence at using tuck, star and straight shapes as they jump off the high tables. Many of the children started this half term not being able to get themselves into a 'shape' between their take off and landing. This week, a good number of them can identify the improvements they have made over the last few weeks. There is also increased ability and willingness to climb the ropes and safely ascend, traverse and descend the wall bars.

It has been really lovely to listen to the children recommend library books to each other. Some weeks, there is more of a 'book swap' going on in the classroom because of the enthusiasm shown about particular books friends have enjoyed at home. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that reading practice at home is so valuable. Please record in the Reading Record Book when you listen to your child read.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year 1Team

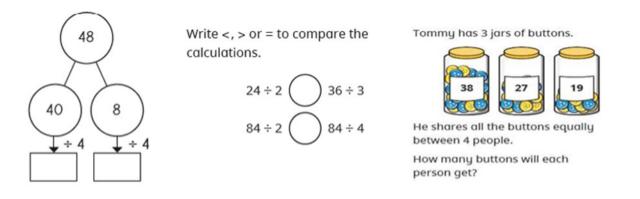
Assemblies & Collective Worship

In Monday's assembly we thought about why Christians pray to God. We compared this to talking to our friends as the reason is often the same – to share good news, to share a worry, to ask for help or to just offer thanks for their care and friendship. We then looked at the words of The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6 v9-13) to understand what they can mean to us today.

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

A very hard working week in Year Three!!!

In Maths, we have developed our understanding of division by learning new methods that rely on us using what we know. We have then applied these to problem solving activities.



We have also used multiplication and division to help with scaling and problem solving. In English work, we have started our draft letters for Howard Carter, thinking carefully about how we can persuade him to take us to Egypt.

In our letters, we have made sure we have addressed the areas he said he needed to see in one of his team; adventurous, team players who can work in heat and know how to keep records. We wrote paragraphs to prove how we were each of these things.

Next week we will think about how to use interesting sentence openers, conjunctions and extended sentences.

In topic work, we have found out about the Egyptian creation story, comparing this to the ancient Mayans beliefs and the Christian's story of creation.

The science investigation all went to plan and our decay experiment is set up in the classroom. Thank you for the time spent investigating what liquids can be used as preservatives, it was time well spent as we had a very successful lesson. We are observing grapes in water, brine, syrup and vinegar solutions to see which has the best preserving qualities.

During the lesson, we focussed on what makes a 'fair' test and tried to make sure our investigations were so that we can draw conclusions from our results in a few weeks' time.

Many thanks

Weekly home activities

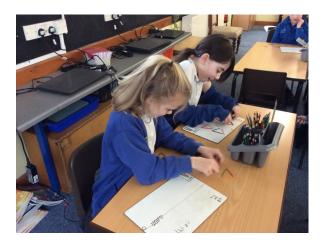
Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly, noting what has been read in reading diaries Books and diaries must be in school daily please. Mathletics and Spelling Frame, logins for both are in reading diaries Tackling tables practice.

Reminders

Please name all clothing Send books and diary into school each day. Full PE kits needed in school everyday

From Mrs Seward and the Year 3 team









News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our recent art lessons, we've been exploring the works of artists who have mastered the art of printing. The children have begun their own printing journey by focusing on 'block printing.' They have been manipulating string over blocks in different ways to create overlaying, repeating patterns.

Our weekly swimming lessons continue to 'make a splash' this term as all groups progress steadily with their skills in the water. From developing their lifesaving skills, honing their but-terfly kicks and building water confidence, the children are all progressing in their own way. In our gym sessions during the second half of the week, the children are revising getting the equipment out safely and independently which allows us to then focus on different rolling techniques, which children are linking together in a sequence of moves.

In our Maths lessons we have been applying some of our skills in division and multiplication tackling open ended investigations, which require children to be resilient, work systematically, present their mathematical thinking and be adventurous and flexible in their approach.

Children have been using their newfound skills in circuit building in Science to make their own 'hoop games', a buzzer sounds when the circuit is completed many of these took quite a bit of dexterity to navigate!

Next week we are looking forward to mental health week, which will also be incorporating online safety about taking time to talk to your child to help understand their online world and navigating changes online.

Thank you for your support.

From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team





News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week, we have learnt about how to create nouns using the suffix –ness. There is work on Spelling Frame connected to this for your child to practise at home and consolidate their skills.

In Maths, we have begun some work on division and made a very promising start. We have been using a short method to divide up to four digit numbers by 1digit numbers and have just introduced remainders too. Well done everyone for your hard work and resilience with this topic this week.



In Science this week, we have been learning about the Sun. We have learnt that it is the star at the centre of

our solar system and that it has eight planets. We used some resources to classify planets as either rocky or gas giants and tried to establish whether or not there is a relationship between distance from the Sun and surface temperature of the planet.

Building on our work so far exploring the strength and power of the Roman army in History, we moved on to study the reasons why early attempts to invade Britain by Julius Caesar may have failed and what was different about the successful invasion of AD43 led by Emperor Claudius. We talked about how the Roman army gradually extended its control over much of England and Wales and attempted to venture into territory now in Scotland. Next week we will be embarking on some research about Boudicca, looking at how she is depicted in a range of historical sources.

Our hockey skills are developing well and we were able to put them into practice in some matches this week in PE. Well done everyone!

With thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team



News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

In English we have almost finished writing our non-chronological reports based on the Titanic. We will edit them, which will include checking for punctuation, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary and sentence structure to see if we can improve the overall piece of writing. Year 6 have worked very hard on this and have really enjoyed researching and writing about the Titanic. Well done to all.

In Maths lessons we have started to look at ratio and proportion. Ask your child to remember that ratio compares part with part and proportion compares part with whole. We will continue with this topic next week.

We have also finished our latest round of SATs papers this week, with the children completing papers in spelling, grammar, reading and maths. Next we will analyse the test papers as a class and look at how to answer the questions to gain all the marks to see what is required.

A reminder that we have a meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 6th February at 3.30pm, in the Year 6 classroom, about the upcoming residential trip to the Peak District, in March.

Homework will be set again this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 8th February.

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

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 line n and laundry. You always see the same regular clients, helping them to sta y 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: rec ruitsouth@ageukherts.org.u k 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 Relax & Unwind 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

"When you're true to who you are, amazing things happen."

<u>Deborah Norville</u>

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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