## Message from Mrs How:

When asked, I always say that I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher here at Steeple Morden. There are daily examples of children and adults working and learning together with the shared aim of being brave, kind and the best we all can be. There are also examples of events outside the school grounds which remind me where that pride comes from.

Last Saturday I was proud to be part of a hard working team who organised the Fireworks event. To those who helped with the planning, organisation, setting up, running stalls, and clearing away afterwards ... thank you. There are more details on page 7 about the money raised and how you can get involved in future events. Today I was so incredibly proud of the children at our annual Act of Remembrance. Once again, we held our assembly in the church, where Fiona Davis our Lay Minister joined us to talk about the importance of poppies. After singing "We will Remember them" (a lovely version can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch? $\mathrm{v}=\mathrm{Dx} 6 \mathrm{~L} 0-74 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{A}$ ), we left the church and gathered around the memorial to continue the tradition of remembering those who gave - and continue to give - their lives in the service of others as well as those carrying physical and mental scars. Children in year 6 laid a wreath on behalf of the school, read the traditional words of Ode to Remembrance and the Kohima Epitaph and Mrs Bowmer played the familiar sound of the Last Post and Reveille. All the children behaved with respect and reverence, including silent reflection.

If you are able to take part in any events this Sunday or watch on TV, please ask your child to spot the similarities as it will help them to realise that our actions at school are repeated and reflected across the world.

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School
7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

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

## " The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today"

School Meal Charges
Autumn 2023
Daily: $\quad £ 2.40$
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

16th Year 2 Trip to Woburn Safari Park
24th-26th Christmas tree festival in church

## December

6th
KS1 Nativity performance to parents 2pm
7th
7th
14th
14th
14th
15th
20th

Year 5 Grandparents event 9.30am-10.30am KS1 Nativity performance to parents 2pm

KS2 Church service 9.30am (school and parents) Christmas lunch KS2 Church service 6pm (parents) Rocksteady concert 1.30pm (parents) End of 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.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.

Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn term begins
Autumn half term Autumn term ends INSET Days
(pupils not in school)

Spring term begins
Spring half term
Spring term ends

Summer term begins
Early May Bank Holiday
Summer half term
Summer term ends
INSET Days
(pupils not in school)

Tuesday 5th September 2023
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
Wednesday 20th December 2023
Friday 1st September
Monday 4th September

Thursday 4th January 2024
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024

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

## 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

## Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Royston, SG8 OPD Tel: 01763852474
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 $29^{\text {th }}$ November 10.00am 2023

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Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
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.

The school council would like to help raise money for Children in Need this year. All children are invited to wear something spotty on Friday $17^{\text {th }}$ November, although dressing up and donating is not compulsary. You could cut out paper spots and fix this to existing clothing.

If you wish to make a donation you can do so directly on line via the link or QR code below.
https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/Primarystandard



Wow! Where to start with our Fireworks event!
Firstly, there are many, many people to thank. The whole school community took part to make the event a success but there are a few groups and people who deserve a special mention.
School staff and governors - thank you for all your support in the lead up, set up, during the event, at clear up and after the event. You don't have to give your time to this but it shows your commitment to our children and the school.
Parent volunteers - there were many of you who contributed and we couldn't have done it without your support. There was setting up, transporting equipment, running stalls and clearing up.
The display team - you organised, set up and put on a spectacular display. Thank you.
The Bonfire team - you organised a beautiful bonfire and you continue to clean it up so we can use the community land again next year.
Then there are all the people who organised the tickets, advertising and stalls.
As chair I would like to personally thank two people in particular. Firstly, Ginny for sharing her wealth of knowledge so that we can continue to put on a fantastic event in future years. Secondly, Candice, the vast amount of work that she completed but went unseen is immense. There was first aid booking, ordering of bar, glow and hot chocolate items, applying for our alcohol license, arranging the floats and a whole load of other stuff.
While we are still finalising the accounts for the event we are pleased to share we have raised over $£ 3000$ for the PTA account, this will continue to support the school in offering extras for our children but we also hope to support some larger projects in the future. Raising this amount of money also makes all the hard work everyone put in worth it.
Thank you so much for all your continued support of the PTA.
Steph Barrett

## BBC 500 Words Competition

"Write a story you would love to read". BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. Open from 08:00 Tuesday 26 September - 20:00 Friday 10 November.

If your child would like to create their story and enter from home this year, more information on what's involved and how to enter is available here:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

## Welcome back from Starling Class!

This week the children shared their Bonfire night experiences during our weekly news session and it seemed like they all had a wonderful time! We turned our attention to Remembrance this week and the children learnt why it is celebrated, what the different coloured poppies represent and about Winston Churchill and why he was a significant figure in history. The children also attended the school's Remembrance service at the Church and we were so proud of how respectful the children were during the minute's silence at the memorial.

In Phonics the children began their Phase 3 learning and were introduced to four new graphemes $\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{x}$. This week the children learnt the Harder To Read and Spell words he, she and buses.

| Grapheme/Pho- <br> neme | Picture | Mnemonic |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
| j | jellyfish | swoop down the tentacles and dot the body |
| v | viper | down the tongue, up the tongue |
| w | wallaby | hop to the top, land and hop, land and hop |
| x | x x x | criss - cross the kiss |

This week in Maths the children reviewed their 3D shape knowledge and used their experience of 3D shapes to explore 2D shapes. The children had great fun creating shape faces using 3D objects to print 2D shapes onto paper using paint, the children went on a 2D shape hunt outside in our environment and they were fantastic at exploring the properties of each shape. The children were very good at explaining what made each 2 D shape special and unique e.g. "A circle has a curved edge", "A square has 4 equal straight sides and it has 4 corners".

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


| Word | Meaning |
| :--- | :--- |
| Endearing | Inspiring love and affection |
| Trivial | Having little value or importance |
| Prosperous | To be rich and have lots of material items |
| Invest | To use your money in a way that you hope will increase its value |
| Secure | To fix something firmly and correctly so it is not likely to move, <br> fall or break |

This week we continued our foray into the world of Drama with our second Helicopter stories session, danced in PE to the nursery rhyme 'the wheels on the bus' in the style of ballet and rock and roll and in Science we thought about the features of our face, naming the different parts and accurately labelling them on a model whilst considering facts about each feature. Phew! Another busy week! Next week we will begin learning the songs for our Nativity in class ... prepare yourselves to be humming along to them in the car unnoticed as some of them are little ear worms!

Have a relaxing weekend!
Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception


## Assemblies \& Collective Wor ship

Monday's assembly continued our theme of Parables and how Jesus would use examples that everyone could understand when trying to explain how God wanted them to behave. The Bible reading was The Parable of the Lamp (mark 4 v21-25), reminding us that as we would not light a lamp and hide it under a blanket we should not hide our own 'light' from others. We related this to all our gifts and talents including caring and kindness - that we should share these with others so that we can show how we are trying to be the best we can be. We finished our assembly by singing "This little light of mine".


## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have had a busy week in Year One, looking closely at the characters we meet in the story of Goldilocks. We thought about the things they might say and identified certain lines (some directly from the story - 'Who has eaten all my porridge?" and some less direct - "Why did she eat my porridge, Daddy?") We have also looked at the fact that sentences can end with a question mark; and how such sentences might begin (with a question word). The children all enjoyed trying to ask questions, with the correct character voice, and using different question words to begin each one, in order to sit in The Character Chairs!


In Maths, we are continuing to look at addition. We have been focussing a lot on finding all the different ways to make a total (e.g. $0+4 ; 1+3 ; 2+2,3+1,4+0$ to make 4) and checking understanding of how we can be systematic. Some children have also been explaining their understanding of number bonds to 10 ; or 20.

Last week we started to enjoy exploring using different body parts in our Dance lesson hands in Bollywood dance, and this week we have tried to use our feet, by attempting our own Irish Jig. We had lots of fun and manged to get quite out of breath, but are not sure we will be entering any dance competitions any time soon!!


We were pleased to have taken part in our school act of Remembrance this morning, noting how the children were respectful and thoughtful. Over the last week everyone has made a poppy to add to our wreath for the classroom door.

The children worked hard to create their own robin last week, too- we will feature one or two here each week for your enjoyment and appreciation.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team


## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

A fun filled week this week lots of writing in English practising features of a traditional tale, new methods in maths, categorising in science, dodgeball in PE and nativity song rehearsals in music.

In Maths this week have continued our addition and subtraction learning. Developing our number bond knowledge to support in subtracting from 10, across a 10 boundary and to subtract a 1 digit number from a 2 digit number. The children have learnt new written methods and been developing these skills. See below for the methods learnt.


Koy works out 24-7


In English this week the children have started to record features of traditional tales. The learning included finding missing time connectives, adding adjectives into sentences to improve them and using a random word generator to come up with a repetitive phrase for a traditional character. The children started to record a plan of their own traditional tale looking at chronological order; focusing on a beginning, a problem to solve in the middle and then a happy ending.

I apologise books were not been sent home on Thursday last week. I was then off unwell and with my days of work you would have received a book for one night. The children have been reading traditional tales at school and I have encouraged them to read any books from home. Please find the new home books in bags this week and apologies again.


In preparation for our trip to Woburn next week we started to learn names of animals that we would find in a zoo in Spanish Can you work out what the following are? Serpiente, Elefante, Mona, Jirafa.

The children have really got stuck into history this half term. Learning about chronological ordering of events in their own histories and of key national moments. The children have engaged in conversations using common words and phrases related to the passing of time to share about their own timelines. The children then researched relevant historical events to complete a missing pieces timeline. In the research some interesting facts came to light. Did you know how many barrels Guy Fawkes used in the gunpowder plot? Do you know why the poppy is the chosen remembrance flower?


Please can you help us out with our next Art project?
We are studying the artist Joseph Cornell and then using his techniques to create our own moment in time art.'
We need a shoebox per pupil to accomplish this style of art and would really appreciate any you can provide. We would like them in school by Friday $\mathbf{1 7}^{\text {th }}$ November please.

Thank you in advance.

## 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 cooler please make sure your child has a waterproof coat

If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Have a lovely weekend,

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Another fun packed week in year three.

In English, this week we continued our work on descriptive writing by considering what Charlie could have heard, seen, smelt or felt when looking longingly at the factory. Once we had gathered our vocabulary, we had a go at writing extended noun phrases. The descriptive work based on this story will continue for the next couple of weeks.

'The huge iron gates protected the secret Wonka chocolate from greedy children.'
'The shiny red Wonka vans, travelled to their secret destinations.'
'The factory hummed like a charm of humming birds.'
'Charlie's eyes were fixed on the towering factory that covered the town with beautiful chocolaty sniffs.'
'The town had its own heartbeat of buzzing, whizzing and banging. After dark the sounds of whooshing, pinging and popping could be heard.'

In Maths, we have been thinking about subtraction by subtracting a single digit number where the subtraction bridges a 10 and where 10 s bridge 100 . This involved exchanging 1 ten for 10 ones and 1 one hundred for 10 tens. This thinking was then applied to solving simple problems involving subtraction and finding the difference between two numbers.

Wednesday's Mayan Madness was great fun! We discovered who the Mayans were, a little about their daily life, culture, religion and social structure. We also found out about their use of cocoa beans to make the first chocolate drink quite different to ours and not to everyone's taste! We made clay chocolate gods, looked at square numbers while we built temples and we had a go at Mayan numbers and writing.


Thank you for all your effort with the costumes, everyone looked marvellous.
Our next dress up day will be in the Spring, when we will be archaeologists or Ancient Egyptians (some costumes can be made by remodelling the Mayan costumes).

## Up coming events

Christmas tree festival 24th-26th

## Weekly home activities

Reading, please aim for at least 4 x 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.

## From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team



## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

Our English lessons have been exploring non-chronological reports and the basis of these has been about the lifestyles of Anglo Saxon families. We have started to use more formal conjunctions and technical vocabulary to convey information about this time period. Reading nonfiction texts at home can help children become familiar with more formal language.

Our Maths lessons have looked at exchanges in subtraction and have been concentrating on how we set out the calculations on paper and properly document the exchanges to reduce the likelihood of error due to digits not being placed in the correct column.

This week, we have been using Raspberry Pi computers in our computing lessons. In today's digital age, it's essential for children not only to use technology but to understand how it works. Raspberry Pi provides a hands-on experience that helps demystify the technology that surrounds us. We have been learning to connect input and output devices and have begun to write simple programs.

In our art lessons this week, we explore the weaving techniques that the Anglo Saxons used to create their clothing. Children have busy experimenting with different weaving methods, allowing them to appreciate the craftsmanship of the and gain a greater understanding of history.

In science lessons, we have been learning about the transformation of matter. Specifically, the change in state from liquid to solid by making butter. After a lot of hard work agitating double cream, they were able to enjoy the butter to make up for all the energy they had spent making it!

## From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team



## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week we have started work on our next unit, letters. We spent some time this week reading letters to and from famous people. We read a letter from Queen Elizabeth to President Eisenhower where she shared her drop scones recipe with him, one from Roald Dahl to one of his fans and finally letters that Victorian mothers had written that they left with their children when they had to give them up on the steps of the Foundling Hospital in
 Victorian London. We will be writing letters of our own soon, delivering them and hoping for a reply.
In Maths we have continued with our work on multiplication and division, trying hard to use the correct mathematical language and increase the speed of recall of key facts:-

| multiple | A number that can be divided by another number a certain <br> number of times without a remainder. <br> eg, multiples of $5=5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50,55,60$ <br> etc |
| :--- | :--- |
| common multiple | Multiples of 3:- 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30 <br> Multiples of 5:- 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, <br> eg, common multiples are 15, 30, 45 etc |
| factor | A factor is a number that when multiplied by another num- <br> ber produces a given number. <br> eg, factors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6,12 |
| common factor | Factors of 12:- 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12 <br> Factors of 15:- 1, 3, 5, 15 <br> eg, common factors are 1 and 3 |
| prime number | A number greater than one with only two factors - one and <br> itself. <br> eg, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19 etc |
| composite number | Any number which is not a prime number. <br> square number <br> Multiply a number by itself and the result is a square num- <br> ber. <br> represented $3 \times 3=9 / 3$ squared=9 $/ 3^{2}=9$ <br> cube numberMultiply a number by itself and then by the number again, eg, <br> $3 x 3 x 3=27 / 3$ cubed=27 / $3^{3}=27$ |

Please encourage your child to have a go at the activities on Mathletics to reinforce these important ideas which will really help with quick mental recall. Please also practise with your Tackling Tables cards at home to keep working on number fluency.

In Science, we have continued with our work on materials, thinking about The properties of materials and their uses and looking in more detail at thermal and electrical conductivity. Next week we hope to carry out some experiments to investigate these ideas further.

On Friday we joined the rest of the school at our Remembrance Service at the war memorial and the Church in the village. We are pleased to let you all know that your children were respectful and behaved appropriately at this important ceremony.

Have a lovely weekend,

The Year 5 Team.

Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.


## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, in Maths, we have been looking at factors, square numbers and prime numbers. We have listened to songs and raps to help us and have discussed the 'Sieve of Eratosthenes' - ask your child who and what this is. We then moved onto looking at the order of operations and the use of brackets in mathematical equations.

In English, we have planned, written and edited our 'hot texts' for a balanced argument. We have focussed on the language found in the genre (sentence openers, conjunctions, modal verbs) and have looked at various examples, from subjects ranging from should dogs be banned from parks through to should tourists be allowed to visit Mount Snowdon, among many others. Our next, brief, topic will be on performance poetry before getting into the meaty subject of Shakespeare!

In PE lessons we have started our new topics of hockey and rugby. Check out these photos of the children passing the ball from our rugby lesson earlier in the week.

Homework will be set this Friday and should be completed by Thursday $16^{\text {th }}$ November. Keep on reading and learning those times tables as well please.

Some of the class also helped with the Remembrance this week. Thank you to those who contributed.

Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team



## Sign up now to in-school woodwind lessons! The benefits of learning an instrument as a child are huge!

Our visiting music teacher from Hertfordshire Music has spaces to teach clarinet or flute during the school day. You would need to hire/own an instrument, but we do have a couple in school that we could lend. If you and your child are interested you need to sign up here:
https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration\#/. If you would like to borrow a school instrument please speak to us first.


There are 3 types of instrumental lesson available:

- Individual lessons $£ 14.70$
- Shared lessons $£ 11.03$

- Small group lessons $£ 7.25$

Children who are currently learning some of the woodwind instruments, saxophone, flute and clarinet, played in assembly this week. As well as these instruments the oboe, fife and recorder are also available.

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. More information about hiring and FAQ can be found by scanning this QR code here, you can also speak with Mrs Bowmer, our music leader:

## 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 ONJ


For more info:
Sam Carroll
07494588663
sdcarroll849@gmail.com


Open to all children in Reception \& Year 1 (Sept 22)
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AT hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk


* . * 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
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
Royston Stagecoach
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
" Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall

> behind you."

Walt Whitman

