



## Message from Mrs How:

Where has the time gone? We only have five weeks until the end of term and so much to squeeze in. This week I am finding out about the children's learning in much the same way that you are – by reading this newsletter. I am typing this from home whilst battling Covid (again) and looking forward to feeling well enough to be back in school. Although staff have been keeping me up to date, I can't wait to catch up with the children again.

It has been a while since I have put out any **Covid messages** but this feels like a good time for a reminder. I am sure you will have seen various media outlets warning of increasing case numbers and the Cambridgeshire Heads' WhatsApp group (it is as much fun as it sounds) seems to bear that out. Whilst most of the population are unable to test and confirm infections, the guidance is that anyone with symptoms of a "respiratory infection" should take action to try and prevent any further spread. The list of symptoms has increased (see page 3) and more details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19> The guidance for adults and children is slightly different, so if your child is feeling at all unwell it is worth checking whether they should still attend their school or childcare setting.

We have finalised our key **diary dates** for this half term so please make a note of all those relevant to you and your child/ren. These can all be found on page 2. As mentioned last week, we will not be filming or recording all these events so please attend in person if you can.

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### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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SG8 0PD

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Website: www.steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

*"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.  
If you want to be happy, practice compassion."*

**The Dalai Lama**

## School Meal Charges Summer 2021

Daily:	£2.35
Weekly:	£11.75
1st half term	£65.80
2nd half term	£70.50
Whole term	£136.30

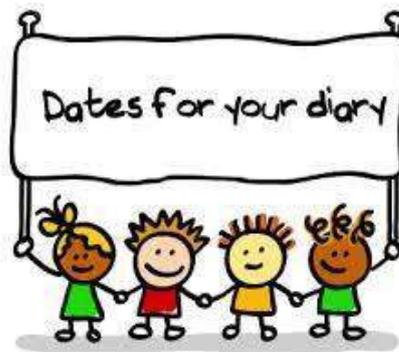
Please make payment for school lunches via Pay360 (formerly SIMS PAY) **in advance of meals taken.**

**We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept either cash or cheques. If you need to set up a Pay360 account, please contact the office at [office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)**

## Absence from School

If your child is absent on a day, please call the school office on 01763 852474, or email [office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

Please avoid using Parentmail to report pupil absences.



### June

- 21st Year 4 assembly (10am)
- 22nd Reception class coffee & play (9.15—10.15am)
- 21st/22nd Book Fair — see page 9 for more details
- 24th Year 3 trip to Bewilderwood
- 28th Sports day - morning } see page 12 for
- 29th Sports day - morning } more information
- 30th Year 5 coffee & cake morning (time tbc)

### July

- 6th Year 2 class assembly (10am)
- 7th Year 1 games morning (9.30 - 10.30am)
- 8th Rocksteady concert
- 12th Year 6 matinee performance
- 13th Year 6 evening performance
- 14th Year 3 coffee & cake (9.15am)
- 15th Year 6 leavers' party
- 18th & 19th Year 6 move up day to BVC
- 22nd Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (9.30am)
- 22nd Last day of Summer 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@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steplemorden.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.**

# Notice Board

## 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

For more information go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#symptoms-of-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>

## 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.

## 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'.

## Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk) by **12 noon** if your child's home time arrangement will be different from usual.

It is really important to let us know as soon as you are able to so we can ensure messages get to the class in good time for the end of the day. We appreciate that there are times (ie when stuck in traffic) when it isn't possible to let us know earlier, but we would ask you to help us help you and your child(ren) by advising us with an email either on the morning of the change, or the evening before.

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 last-minute phone calls at the end of the day for this reason.

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class!

This week the children have been learning all about Father's Day. They learnt about the history of Father's Day, why and how people celebrate Father's Day all around the world. The children spent lots of time thinking about the special men in their lives, what they do and what they like best about them. They even learnt a song which was recorded and if you haven't been able to see it yet, we will share it with you on Wednesday morning.

This week in Maths the children have been learning about measuring volume and capacity. It has been wonderful to see and hear them experimenting and applying their knowledge in a range of ways inside and outside with sand, mud and water. For the rest of this half term, the children will be focusing on consolidating their Phonics knowledge in small groups working on segmenting, blending and reading decodable sentences based on their areas of

need. The children will also be working on raising their confidence in writing again applying their phonic knowledge to spelling unknown words, using tricky words in



sentences whilst also practicing their handwriting. This week they have been focusing on the letters e, f, g, h in their handwriting, thinking about ascenders, descenders and ensuring they sit their letters on the line.

We are very excited to have Miss Webb back in school! We are very grateful to Miss Barton for being so helpful and spending her Fridays with Starling Class, so the children made her a 'thank you' card for helping them with their end of week learning. Miss Webb and Mrs Meridew will resume their part time working arrangements of Mrs Meridew Mondays and Tuesdays, Miss Webb Thursdays and Fridays and both alternating Wednesdays with Mrs Brown continuing her Wednesday afternoons as usual. There may be a few days where there are changes, but we will let the children know and remind them the day before.



It has been EXTREMELY HOT this week. The children do go outside in all weathers and our outdoor area is a lovely little sun trap. That being said there have been a high number of children arriving to school without hats this week, so please ensure your child brings their own NAMED sun hat into school with them in addition to their water bottles. The children have become very adept at refilling their water bottles numerous times this week and have been very sensibly sitting in the shade when they are asked/ feel they need to cool down a little. As a school we follow County guidance along with common sense when there are extreme weather conditions and your child's safety is always our top priority.



Next week the children will turn their attention to the sea and the living things that are found there and practicing sorting. It will be the Yellow Bananas turn for Show and Tell and don't forget to bring your library books back on Thursday to be swapped.

This week we have had a large number of toys, comforters and sunglasses arriving into school with the children. Your child's sun hat should provide enough shade for their eyes during playtime so they should not need sunglasses, particularly the sparkly, princess fashion variety ... Mrs Meridew only gets jealous that she can't wear them! Please refrain from sending them in, this however is up for discussion if your child has a medical requirement. With regards to the toys and comforters, they are becoming a distraction for all children, they get left in different places and then there is a panicked rescue mission (usually at the end of the day) and the children are distraught if they are touched by anyone else, or get messy or broken. It is additional angst which we do not need when we are all hot and sticky and coming towards the end of the academic year. Please reinforce that those items may come in for Show and Tell, but as they are moving into Year One very soon, they will not need them any longer.



Enjoy your weekend!

**Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb, Mrs Brown & Mrs Keech**

## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We started the week with a little visit from two not-so-little ducklings! We were all so surprised by how much they had grown – and how loud they were! Sparky and Silvie came to see us. We saw how their wing feathers are just starting to grow, that their soft, downy feathers are getting much lighter in colour and that they have grown so much. Before half term they were 10cm long, they are now 24cm long! Their beaks have more than doubled in size and their feet were HUGE!

The caterpillars arrived on Monday and have already grown from 10mm long to over 30mm and the ladybird larvae have changed from 'black dots' to 'chunky, black and orange creatures with 6 legs and a long body'. We are excited to see what changes they will go through next.



We have been able to look for different plants on the school field, watch nature, have stories outside and pretend to be different mini-beasts using the trim trail as part of our 30 Day Wild adventures in class (the Wildlife Trusts annual drive to get people out exploring nature in June) I wonder what wild activities you might get up to this weekend!?



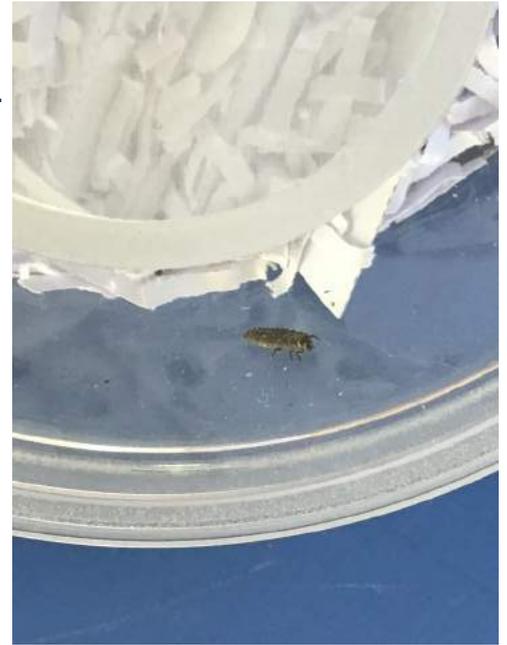
This week we concluded our work in Maths on Division. The children have also been doing some work on position and direction – following instructions to place things on the shelves (or writing their own), describing to others where to put things and making up their own challenges. We have also been working on walking forwards and backwards and turning a ‘whole turn’, ‘half turn’ and ‘quarter turn’. We introduced the latter as the same as ‘turning to the left’ ... or right – that being a quarter turn. Do practise ‘left’ and ‘right’ as this seemed to be a tricky one for many children. If your child would like more of a challenge, you could ask them to make quarter, half or three quarter turns to the right or left!

Miss Blesic set up a little Science investigation this week with the children, thinking how we could prove that a plant needs water, light, soil and warmth to grow. We will share the results with you once we know the outcome.



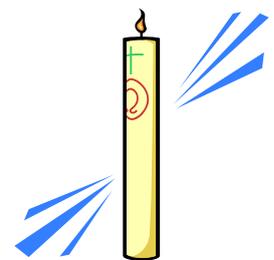
Please remember as the weather gets hotter to bring in fresh water in water bottles as well as sun hats on a daily basis. Whilst we will stay out of the mid-day sun as much as possible, the children still do need some time to run around at lunchtime so a sunhat is essential. Please put suncream on your child **before** sending them in to school in the mornings. Thank you.

**Mrs Bowmer, Miss Blesic and the Year One Team**



## Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

Monday's assembly was taken by Mr Beavan who shared a book called "I Choose Kindness", encouraging children to think about how the choices they make impact on other's feelings and happiness. The key message is that by making the choice to be kind we can make others feel better and also feel better about ourselves. At the end the children had the opportunity to pray and ask for help being kind to each other, even when that seems difficult.

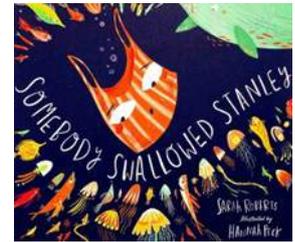


## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

We've all had a good week this week and have enjoyed reading and sharing a range of information books and stories linked to our topic 'A Voyage to the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea.' We read the story of 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' which was written by the author



Sarah Roberts, an animal behaviourist. In the story, other sea creatures think Stanley is a jellyfish when he's actually a plastic bag! He finds himself being chewed up and swallowed by lots of other sea creatures until a boy rescues and re-uses him to make a kite. The children have been very interested in learning about plastic pollution and the effects of single use plastics on our ocean creatures. This story has inspired us to read and learn more about both jellyfish and plastic pollution this week.



This has also linked to our Science work on Materials, in which we've explored a range of materials and their properties. We've also identified items in our classroom and looked at their suitability for certain purposes. The children had some super ideas and observations to share with each other.



In Maths this week, we have been looking again at the range of methods we can use to help ourselves when solving addition calculations. We have really enjoyed learning how to do column addition too, remembering to start with adding the 'ones' column first, before going on to add together the numbers in the 'tens' column.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{T} \quad \text{O} \\
 4 \quad 5 \\
 + 3 \quad 1 \\
 \hline
 7 \quad 6
 \end{array}$$

### Reminders:-

Please can all children bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school every day, have suncream applied before school and have a sunhat. Thank you for your help with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Luebcke, Mrs Daniels and Mrs Brown**





# BOOK FAIR

Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd June  
3.15pm - 4.15pm

Please support our Book Fair - every book sold means FREE BOOKS for our classrooms and library.

Children will be able to look at the books on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd during school time, with parents welcome to look at the books at the above days/times.

There is an option for parents to view the books and pay online - go to <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/travelling-books/parents>

This link is available from 2nd June until 4pm on 22nd June. Our Fair ID is 1216456. You can also pay using the QR code (right).

 TRAVELLING BOOKS



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online  
or visit [travellingbooks.co.uk/pay](https://travellingbooks.co.uk/pay)

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

### A most enjoyable week

The children are very enthused and interested in 1940's life.

In English we prepared our open questions in preparation for interviewing Mrs Mead and Mr Thorpe, who kindly came in to tell us about childhood life during the war. The children listened respectfully and enjoyed listening to what they had to say. Next week we will be writing up the interviews.

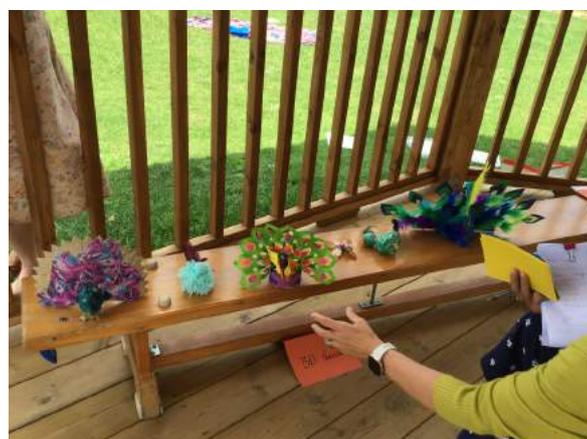
In maths we have been working on properties of shape: quarter turns, clockwise, anti-clockwise, 90 degree, acute, obtuse, tessellate, parallel and perpendicular are all terms we have learnt about and used to describe shape. We have also used our accurate measuring skills to measure in cm and mm the length of the sides shapes. We will continue with more shape work next week.

### Holidays at Home

On Tuesday, we had the best of days working outside on a range of activities that were recommended by the wartime government for what you could do while holidaying at home.



These included a cross-country run, tennis, croquet, a beetle drive, cottage crafts (we made paper cottages that tessellated), homing pigeons that transported secret messages in Morse code and making peacocks from old tablecloths and curtains. Thank you for the efforts from home with costumes and the entries for the craft competitions, our judges were most impressed and had great difficulty selecting winners.





Thank you for those who attended the meeting regarding Bewilderwood and the sleep over. Most of what was shared is just common sense; please chat amongst yourselves if you did not manage to make it.

### **Main points**

All overnight things to be brought into school evening on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, school will be open until 5pm

Remember to bring a drink, sun hat, food and snacks for the day out. The children will be carrying this around with them, so please make sure it's in a

suitable bag or rucksack. Children should wear trousers and trainers and long hair needs to be tied back.

On Saturday morning please remember to collect your child at 8.30am

### **Upcoming dates**

6<sup>th</sup> July walk to Ashwell more information will follow  
14<sup>th</sup> July coffee and cake am 9.15am-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** are up and ready with set work for the children, logins for both are in reading diaries
- **Tackling Tables** practise.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

**Mrs Seward and Miss Smith**



## Sports Day 2022

We are very excited to be able to invite parents in to school to view Sports Day. We have decided to try a new format this year; we are going to split the children into their houses for Sports Day meaning you only need to attend once if you have multiple children at the school!

The focus of the Sports Days will be teamwork working towards earning as many points as possible as a team. We anticipate each Sports Day lasting an hour. Please see timings on the table below.

Packham	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 9:15-10:15am
Rashford	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 10:45-11:45am
Rosen	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 9:15-10:15am
Yousafzai	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 10:45-11:45

Please ensure your child(ren) comes in wearing their PE kit on their designated Sports Day. They will also need a water bottle and a sun hat. It would be advisable to apply sun cream to your child(ren) before they come into school. If the weather forecast is bad we may have to reschedule but we will keep you informed.

Please enter and exit the playground via the gates from the school car park.



As the school plans for Sports Days the week after next and the opportunity for parents to come to school once again, the PTA are looking forward to supporting these events and in line with tradition the PTA will be providing the children with ice lollies after the event. We are also planning to use these events for fundraising by having a PTA refreshment stall so parents can purchase refreshments whilst on site watching the sports. We are seeking parent helpers to run this: if you can help with either setting up the refreshments, selling refreshments, clearing up/ washing up or providing cakes to sell please do volunteer. A separate Parentmail form will be sent next week.

Kind regards

The PTA

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week we have been rehearsing for our class assembly. It has been a great opportunity for children to work in groups and develop their speaking and performing abilities ... and they've also been making props, which range from cash registers to tumble driers! If you are able to, you are welcome to join the rest of the school in the hall at 10:00 next Tuesday.

Today we welcomed The Problem Solving Company to school, they presented a number of challenges to the children had to work together solve and they learnt about the soft skills needed to work well with other people such as compromising, flexibility, resilience, fellowship and leadership.



For the remainder of the term, spellings on Spellingframe will now follow the national curriculum's [year 3-4 spelling list](#). The list is a mixture of words children frequently use in their writing and those which they often misspell. Some of the listed words may be thought of as quite challenging.

Our swimming session has changed to Tuesdays for the remainder of the term. Please could you now send your child to school with their swimming kit on Tuesdays.

### Mr Beavan & the Year Four Team



## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Another busy week has flown by in Year Five. Alongside our usual class-based learning, some of us have been lucky enough to take part in some Play Leader training in preparation for our fast-approaching time in Year Six. Many children volunteered and were able to take part and spend Thursday afternoon receiving training by our visitor from the South Cambs School Sports Partnership, Julia Scarborough. When these children reach Year Six they will now be ready, willing and able to support younger children in school during unstructured social times such as playtime and lunchtime. They will help these children organise and play games together and generally have successful playtimes. Thank you so much to Julia for taking the time to help us with this.



In English, we have checked on our progress so far with learning to spell the words from the various statutory Spelling Lists for Key Stage Two. Results will be shared with parents/carers as soon as we have marked them all.

In Maths, we have also rounded off our work on percentages and decimals and will be moving onto our next unit on Monday, Properties of Shape.

This week we have looked at the architecture of American Architect Frank Lloyd-Wright. The children had previously drawn their own representations of his building block houses and this week they created their own Lego versions, some even complete with water underneath, just like the architect would have done! The class were very creative and they enjoyed working with a partner to create their masterpieces. We also looked at American artist Grant Wood and his gothic style of work. We now know that arched windows are a key feature of Gothic Art.



In English, we are planning our recounts all about our time in Year 5. We are trying to pick out all the best bits including funny moments and the topics they have found fun and interesting. We can't wait to see the finished articles.

**The Year 5 Team**

HAF  
PLACES  
AVAILABLE

# SMARTIES SUMMER CAMP 2022



**Wk 1** Monday 25th July - Friday 29th July

**Wk 2** Monday 1st Aug - Friday 5th Aug

**Wk 3** Monday 8th Aug - Friday 12th Aug

**Wk 4** Monday 15th Aug - 19th Aug

SUITABLE FOR AGES 3- 11 YEARS



9AM -  
1.30PM  
**£16**

9AM - 3PM  
**£20**

9AM - 6PM  
**£30**

10%  
SIBLING  
DISCOUNT  
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**Specialised Theme Days will include:**

Forest Activity | Animal Kingdom |

Aqua Splash | Carnival |

Beach | Sports & Dance | Arts & Pottery |

NERF Challenge | Bubble | Science .... and so much more!!

Watch this space for details of Trips to  
Shepreth Wildlife Park and Jurassic Adventure Golf

For more information please contact Michelle  
smartiesmanager@gmail.com  
The Community Building, 7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden SG8 0PD  
Ofsted Number: EY434661 Charity Number: 1162474

## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

The children had a fun and educational time at Stibbington Education Centre in the north of the county on the Wednesday, as we learnt a lot about rivers and the water cycle. We investigated river flow by taking part in fieldwork in a tributary of the Nene, before examining maps and models, river flow and erosion back at Stibbington. The children behaved very well and gained much from their experiences – well done to all of them. Here are some photos of us working in the ‘field’ (river)!



This week we have been continuing to focus on our writing. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading Michael Morpurgo’s ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ and have discussed the book and the themes in it. We will be writing our own adventure stories based on the book, next week, focussing on story mountains to do this.



Shortly we will be focussing on our end of year production. We will hold auditions next week for this and the pupils will be given scripts and roles that they will play. The play will be one based in the future with two retired pensioners looking back to their time at primary school all those years ago in 2022! From next week we will be rehearsing, designing, singing, acting, dancing, making, building, drawing, painting, writing and many other '-ing' endings in preparation for the production. There will be two performances; 12<sup>h</sup> July in the afternoon and on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> July.



Homework this week will be for the children to practice their lines for the auditions which will take place next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**



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text FOSTERING to 60777



Litlington Pre-school

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Contact the team today to arrange a visit!

Call: 07984935193  
or email: [admin@litlingtonpreschool.net](mailto:admin@litlingtonpreschool.net)

**A MIDSUMMER PARTY**

**25 JUNE 2022**  
2pm - 6pm

**Caldecote Manor, Caldecote Baldock, SG7 5LD**

**Fusion of British and Ukrainian food and entertainment**

Come and make the difference! Enjoy the day, have fun, make new friends and support local hosts and refugee Ukrainian families!

Professor Sir R J Timothy (Tim) Wilson DL  
Deputy of the Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire will be opening the event.

**Tickets are:**

**£5 Individual ticket**   **£10 Family ticket\***



\*Family - two adults with children under the age of 16  
Individual - one person over the age of 16  
Ukrainian Guests to the UK free (please show proof).

Your ticket includes a free concert by Just Cruzin and a Ukrainian singer, Ukrainian dancing, kids' area with toys, games and face painting. Alcohol and soft drinks, burgers, Ukrainian food, antique plates, and arts and crafts are not included in the ticket price and but are available to purchase on the day.

Contact us on [paygulechka21@gmail.com](mailto:paygulechka21@gmail.com) and [Baldocks0@gmail.com](mailto:Baldocks0@gmail.com)



**BALDOCK & ASHWELL**  
ACTION AID  
UKRAINE



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  
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes  
MF Tennis Coaching  
Norwich City Football Club community clubs  
St Ives Town Football Club Tots Programme  
Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes  
Bonfitness Pilates  
Multi Active Holiday Childcare  
Steeple Morden Tennis Classes  
Herts Performing Arts Summer Stage School

**To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: <https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/community>**

*“They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world:  
someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.”*

**Tom Badett**

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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