



THE STAR



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

Message from Mrs How:

First of all.... a huge THANKYOU from all the children and staff.

This week the author and illustrator James Mayhew visited us for two days, spending time with each class telling stories and leading workshops. Everyone has enjoyed watching him create his artwork and inspire the children to try new things.

This visit was funded from the donations made by parents at the start of this school year. As you will know, school budgets are an ongoing problem and we are not alone in finding that the funds we receive barely cover the necessities, leaving nothing for all the enrichment activities that we would like to offer. Your generous contributions enable us to provide these fun and exciting events.

Change to school times from September

In order to comply with the government's updated recommendations for the length of the school week, we need to make some small changes from September 2023.

At the moment, the school day starts at 9.00am with children able to come in from 8.45am to complete activities and challenges set up in the classroom. **From September, school will start at 8.45am.**

Our current school day ends at 3.00 for Reception and 3.10 for all other classes. **From September, Years 1 to 6 will end at 3.15** with parents able to collect from Reception a few minutes earlier in order to get to the playground to collect older siblings.

There will be many reminders over the coming weeks about this change, and I am in contact with the LA's transport department about the impact on school bus times. As soon as there is more information on this, I will be in touch.

Regular articles

Diary Dates2
Noticeboard3
Starlings (Reception)6
Robins (Year 1)8
Owls (Year 2)10
Peacocks (Year 3)12
Swifts (Year 4)14
Herons (Year 5)13
Puffins (Year 6)16
Assemblies & Collective Worship 5
Community News23
Special features
James Mayhew Visit4
PTA News7
Book Fair9
Year 3 recipe book18
PTA Summer Fete19
Parish Pantry21
r alisti r aliti y21

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street Steeple Morden Royston Hertfordshire SG8 OPD

Phone: 01763 852474

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

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

Anthony J D-Angelo

School Meal Charges Summer 2023

 Daily:
 £2.40

 Weekly:
 £12.00

 1st half term
 £64.80

 2nd half term
 £72.00

 Whole term
 £136.80

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@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

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.



June

14th Year 3 dress up day - 1940s

15th Year 3 Bewilderwood meeting (3.15pm)

20th Year 4 trip to Waterbeach recycling centre

20th & 21st Book fair after school

28th } Sports days:

29th } Houses and times to be confirmed

July

w/c 3rd Bikeability

4th Year 3 walk to Ashwell

7th Year 3 trip to Bewilderwood & sleepover

8th PTA Summer Fete

13th Year 5 parent morning (9.30—10.30am)

17th & 18th Year 6s at Bassingbourn Village College

19th Year 6 Leavers Assembly (9.30am)

19th Last day of Summer term

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			
Measles	4 days from onset of rash and once# recovered			
Scarlet Fever	Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment completed			
*Sickness and/ or diarrhoea	Until 48 hours after last episode of sickness/diarrhoea			
Conjunctivitis	None			
**Headlice	None			
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling			
Tonsillitis	None			

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-and-nits/

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

James Mayhew Visit





We were extremely fortunate to have James Mayhew, the well-known author and illustrator, visit school on Wednesday and Thursday this week. He worked with each of the classes telling stories, while illustrating (sometimes upsidedown!) at the same time. The children then had the opportunity to create their own illustrations drawing their inspiration from stories and music. All created a lot of excitement and there was a very real 'buzz' around school - children and staff alike!















News from Starling Class (Reception)



Welcome back from Starling Class,

This week the children have had an exciting visit from author James Mayhew. We were blown away by the children's enthusiasm and respectful behaviour whilst watching how Mr Mayhew illustrated his work and whilst listening to his incredible stories, thinking of insightful questions and comments. The children then had a go at putting colour onto one of James' illustrations that he drew especially for them!

We also recapped the names of 2D shapes and thought about how we could use these shapes to create other shapes, for

example two trapeziums make a hexagon. We counted sides and corners and investigated whether two different shapes could be combined together to make a shape. We began our Phase 4 Phonics learning thinking about CVCC (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant) words. We have also been learning about oceans and the creatures that live under the sea.

We continued with PE lessons this week but had a number of children without PE kit. Please could you ensure that these are in school by Tuesday at the latest, thank you.

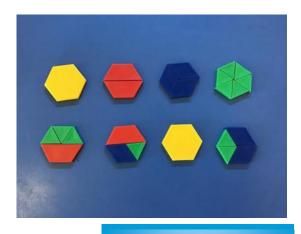


Next week, we will be thinking about Father's Day and all the special men in our lives. Mrs Monks will be in school on Wednesday before going on maternity leave.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Reception Team Mrs Meridew, Mrs Monks, Mrs Keech and Mrs Brown







Your child will be coming home with an empty brown paper bag and raffle tickets this week.

BROWN BAGS: We would be delighted and very grateful if your child could decorate the bag in any way they like and if it could be filled with a few child-appropriate items and returned to school on Friday 16 June.

Examples of items include a small toy, stationery items, sweets, hair accessories. The stall will be run by the Year 4 parents this year, we will be selling the filled bags for a small price at the fete to raise funds for the school.

RAFFLE TICKETS: We have sent 2 books of 5 raffle tickets per family home. Please buy what you can by sending your ticket stubs with cash or cheques made payable to "Steeple Morden Parent Teachers Association" along with any unwanted tickets back to school by Friday 23rd June. We are pulling together a fabulous set of prizes which we will publish in due course, although we can already tell you that the top prize is £100 cash, and other prizes include £50 Marks & Spencer voucher, free tickets to local attractions and a voucher for a Saxon Pool Party worth £190.

PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM: we will have a school uniform stall at the fete, please sort out any unwanted uniform and leave at the school office.

Assemblies & Collective Worship



Assemblies this week have not followed our usual format. With the INSET day on Monday and our exciting sessions with James Mayhew, there have been more classroom based assemblies giving the children a variety of things to think about and reflect on. We will return to our planned themes from next week.

Our prayer and reflection space continues to be used well with children adding thoughts.
Comments and prayers. Currently the children are asked to think about all the different ways that they and others celebrate and share happy times.



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

Welcome back to the final half term in Year 1! We've started with a busy week, recapping all our phonics and reading skills; hearing the story and identifying characters and plot in our book, 'Jim and the Beanstalk'; starting to think about the moving parts of a picture in

our D&T lessons; working on our skills ready to impress you at Sports Day and trying to remember all the skills we learned in Maths last half term. Phew – we're all ready for another holiday!

We had a very special visit from the author and illustrator, James Mayhew, on Wednesday, who spoke to the children about his job, drew and painted dinosaurs while he was talking and told the story of St George and the Dragon, which he illustrated as he went along! He was amazing, all the children were enthralled and they even have one of his drawings to colour in!





Seriously, the children have all worked hard this week and been talking lots about all the things they got up to in their half term break – even writing a little postcard to friends or family!

We had a lovely chick visit on Thursday, where we used our maths skills to work out that Cheepy is now 230g heavier than 2 weeks ago, and Daisy is 172g heavier. They have grown some serious wing feathers, but still feel soft and still like cuddles!

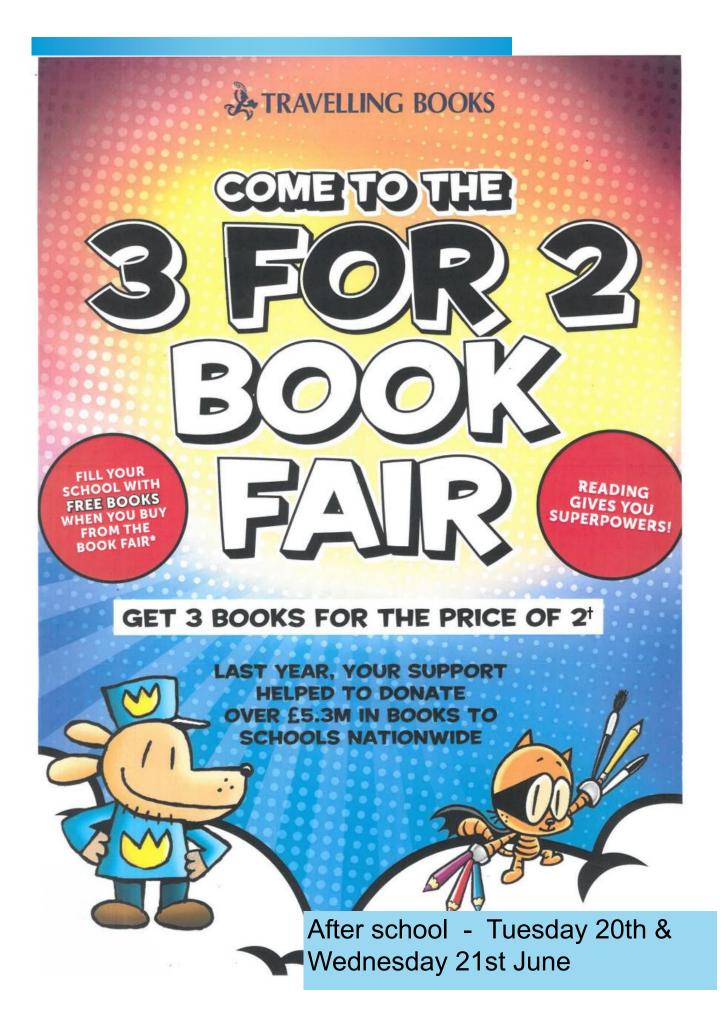
In English we have read the story Jim and the Beanstalk, which the children are enjoying and are starting to remember some of the repeated phrases. We will be looking for 'traditional' story language in the book next week and beginning to re-tell the story to our friends.



We still have a few PE kits to come back, complete with trainers for athletics activities outside, please! Just a reminder that children really do need a water bottle in school every day. If you haven't yet sent in a hat to wear at playtimes, please do. There are a few spares in the classroom, but generally the children do like to have their own.

Have a super weekend – stay cool!

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



News from Owl Class (Year 2)

The children have all settled back into school this week and we have had another busy and exciting week.

In our Maths lessons this week, we have been revisiting addition and subtraction. The children have written 'fact families' using the same three numbers, for example:

$$7 + 6 = 13$$
, $6 + 7 = 13$, $13 - 7 = 6$, $13 - 6 = 7$

They have also been working on adding and subtracting both one-digit and two-digit numbers, as well as using some of our 'Steeple Big 5' to help us solve addition and subtraction calculations e.g. using the 'bar' method. This allowed the children to see how subtraction and addition are inverse operations, and can be used to check calculations, e.g.

If I know that 13 + 7 = 20, then I know that 20 - 13 = 7 and 20 - 7 = 13 etc.

20				
13	7			

In our English lessons, the children have been using their knowledge of how to write instructions, to help them write 'How to make an underwater world.' They have each finished making their underwater world from the shoeboxes you kindly sent in, and they've now hidden a pearl somewhere within it. We are hoping to put these on display next week, so will put a photo in next week's Star for you.



We also had a very exciting visitor this week when the author and illustrator James Mayhew came to see us. The children wrote some questions to ask him and they practised spelling question words too e.g. who/what/where/when/why/how etc. James Mayhew wrote and illustrated the book



'Katie in London' which we read in the spring term, and we also enjoyed reading his book 'Katie and the Dinosaurs' this week too.

James kindly talked to the children about where he gets his inspiration for his stories from and his journey to becoming an author and illustrator. He answered their questions and showed the children his sketchbook and the process he goes through to produce his illustrations. James also



played a piece of classical music called 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' and he began to paint whilst the children watched with intrigue. The children were all given black sugar paper and pastels, which they used to develop their own pictures in response to the music.

James went on to play the piece of music another three times (at the request of the children) who really enjoyed producing some amazing pictures! It was a wonderful afternoon and a fantastic experience for the both the children and staff alike.

James Mayhew's painting, which now has pride of place in our classroom.







Reminders					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Reading book/ record book	Reading book/ record book	Reading book/ record book	Reading book/ record book	Reading book/ record book	
Water bottle	Water bottle	Water bottle	Water bottle	Water bottle	
Yellow Spelling folder					
		Recorders in school today			
P.E kit (hair up + ear- rings removed)	P.E kit	P.E kit (hair up + ear- rings removed)	P.E kit	P.E kit	

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and thank you for your support.

Mrs Luebcke, Miss Blesic, and the Year 2 Team.

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In Year Three, we have had a floral, creative week. The main focus of our learning this week has been about the artists Georgia O'Keeffe and Rachel Ruysch. Both of these artists are well known for their flower painting, but their styles could not be more different.

When looking at O'Keeffe we thought carefully about her use of colour and simplicity of line, with Ruysch we considered her attention to detail. We thought carefully about what we would need to do to work in the style of the artist, with O'Keeffe we needed to use simple lines and strong colours in order to do this we experimented with using complimentary or opposite complimentary colour depending on the effect we wanted to create. We needed to be bold and confident in our work.



When working like Ruysch we needed to look very carefully at the flowers and draw accurately for line and shape. Matching colour was important. For this, we developed our observational drawing skills. We discussed our personal feelings about the work and considered if the artist had portrayed what they set out to achieve. One of the artists said... 'I want to force people to stop, take time and look and really look and understand flowers'. But, which do you think it was? Which one would you spend more

time looking at?

Thank you for the flowers we used for our artistic studies.

In Maths, we concluded our work on time by adding and subtracting times, in order to solve real life problems, as well as telling time to the minute in order to work out durations of time. Duration of time is the area, that when asked, most children felt they needed more support. If you get chance please ask how long something will take, how do you know, how can you work it out?



In French, we wrote letters, in French, to our 'Zoom' friends in Geneva; these are now in the post, we hope to hear back from them in the next few weeks.

It will not be too long now until we go to Bewilderwood, and then sleep over at school. To help answer any questions you may have, I would like to invite you into school on 15th June at 3.15pm. If you are unable to attend, I can arrange for a Zoom link to be used; please let me know if you would need a Zoom link.





Weekly home activities

- Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in the reading diary.
- Mathletics and Spelling Frame
- Tackling table practise.
- Remember 'holidays at home' activities

Dates for the diary

14th June 1940s dress up day

15th June Bewilderwood sleep over parent chat

28th (am) } Sports days 29th (am) } Sports days

4th July Walk to Ashwell - details to follow 7th July Bewilderwood and sleep over

From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team



News from Swift Class (Year 4)

I hope you all had an enjoyable break – it has been interesting hearing about what the children got up to.

In our maths lessons this week, we have been revising the concept of lines of symmetry. The children have been exploring symmetrical shapes and objects. In our English lessons we have been looking at the book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell to help us with building character in fiction writing.

As you will see from images elsewhere in The Star, the highlight of the week was the pleasure of hosting a special guest, James Mayhew, an accomplished author who is also an

illustrator. The children were captivated by his stories and illustrations, gaining insights into the creative process behind creating a book. He also conducted an art workshop with Swift Class, helping the children express their imagination and creativity using oil pastels.

This week children have also been practising their multiplication skills using the government's multiplication check 'have a go' software. The



children will be taking the real multiplication check next week in small groups. Your support in encouraging your child to continue practicing their multiplication facts at home is appreciated and will boost their confidence and speed in recall. Any assistance you can provide at home, such as practicing times tables together or using online resources mentioned in last month's Star and on the class web page, will help your child with their

future maths work.



Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week, we have had a very exciting time. As you will no doubt have read elsewhere in The Star, we have had a visit from James Mayhew, the author and illustrator. We very much enjoyed his workshop where we heard the story of Scheherazade, listened to music by Rimsky-Korsakov and watched as James Mayhew created an amazing piece of art in the time that it took for the piece of music to play. We then had a go ourselves, creating our own pieces of art using black sugar paper and oil pastels.





On Thursday afternoon, we also tried to join in with Cambridgeshire Schools Big Read and Write. This is an event put on specifically for year 5 children across the county and gives them the opportunity to read and discuss a new text and then meet with the author on Zoom to ask any questions and listen to her perspectives about her writing. The book that was chosen this year was 'Corey's Rock' by Sita Brahmachari, an award winning story about ten-year-old Isla who has moved from Edinburgh to the Orkney Islands to start a new life after the death of her younger brother. We were all particularly entranced by the illustrations by Jane Ray that brought life to the text. Unfortunately, technology was not our friend on the day and an unstable internet connection meant we were unable to remain in the webinar. However, we are hopeful that there was a recording made that we can watch later and we had an excellent discussion ourselves about the book.

Also on Thursday afternoon, some pupils from Year 5 had a fantastic time at Quadkids Athletics competition at Wilberforce Road along with some pupils from Years 4 and 6. They were so proud to represent the school and they all did brilliantly in their races. Everyone had to compete in a 600m run, a sprint (75m), howler throw and a standing long jump. We were so proud of the way that everyone conducted himself or herself and showed such great sporting behaviour. We are delighted to tell you that we came fourth out of nineteen schools that was a truly excellent result.



In Maths this week, we have continued our work on decimals by introducing thousandths using practical equipment and focusing on the place value of each digit.

In PSHE, we have been discussing issues around the idea of personal safety and how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe. As ever, your children discussed the issue with sensitivity and maturity.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Year 5 Team.

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I hope you all had a restful and peaceful break last week and the children are ready to enjoy their very last half-term at primary school.

This week we have been continuing to focus on our writing. The children finished writing their own autobiographies earlier in the week. There were some very honest accounts and some very readable anecdotes! We have now begun our next genre, where we will be focussing on an indepth book study, leading to the children writing their own adventure story based on the book.

Earlier in the week, we learnt about four and six -figure grid references before we had a go at our own orienteering activity at school. This forms part of the PE curriculum called Outdoor Adventurous Studies, or OAA. This covers topics



like orienteering, problem solving exercises and tasks involving trust. Last term the children took turns being blindfolded and trusting their partner to help them cross the field or find certain objects or landmarks. Have a look at some of the photos.





We have also started our work on RSE (or Relationship and Sex Education) this week and we will continue to look at issues around this linked to puberty, changes and relationships, next week.

Homework, this week, will only be the usual spellings, which are due back next Thursday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team





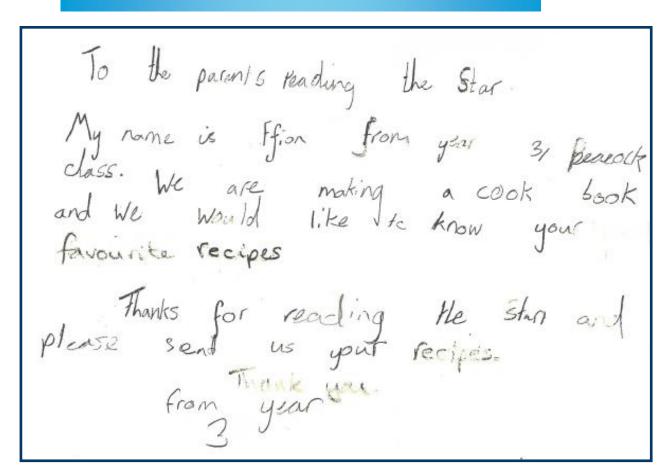


Transition to Bassingbourn Village College

You should have received communication from BVS regarding transition arrangements. They are holding a parents' meeting on 13th July at 6.30pm.

On the transition days on 17th and 18th July, children can use the Myalls bus service from home pick up/drop off point to/from BVC.

If you have any questions regarding transition, please direct all enquiries to BVC.



Can you help Year 3 create a recipe book? See note from Ffion on behalf of the class asking for your favourite recipes.











Children in receipt of income-related free schools meals are eligible to attend for up to 64 hours.

Other children may also be eligible, visit the County Council webpage for further details.

Further information: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf (or scan the QR Code)

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk













PARISH PANTRY

Local Food Bank



We will be opening a village foodbank in St Peter & St Paul Church from Monday 18th

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.

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 07494 588663 sdcarroll849@gmail.com

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED

Supporting children and young people's mental health

Free online workshops for Cambridgeshire/Peterborough Parents/Carers



Thursday 27th April

Anxiety

10.00 - 11.30 am

Wednesday

1.00 - 2:30 pm

3rd May

Self Harm

Wednesday

https://procfu.c **Emotionally Based**

9th May

School Avoidance

10:30 - 12 pm

Monday 15th May

Gender Questioning

10.00 - 11.30 am

Tuesday 16th May

Peer support group

9:30 - 11.30 am

Monday 22nd May

Bereavement and Loss

1.00 - 2.30 pm

nessieined.com

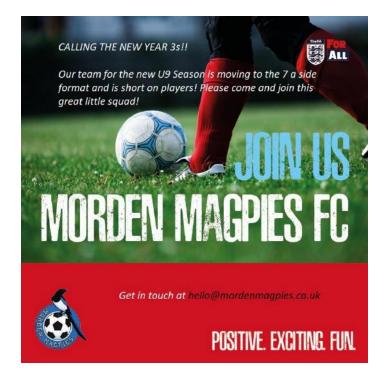












Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool

Litlington Preschool

Helen O-Grady Drama Classes

MF Tennis Coaching

St Ives Town Football Club Tots Programme

Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes

Bonfitness Pilates

Modern Foreign Languages Tuition

Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section

Biggleswade Swimming Club

Perse Summer School 2023

Theatretrain Royston

Steeple Morden Tennis Club

Oxford & Cambridge Singing School—July 2023

Children's Mental Health Workshop

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

"Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."

Lao Tzu

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

