



## Message from Mrs How:

Is anyone else struggling to know what to wear from one day to the next? Across this week we have had playtimes where many of the older children were running around in their t-shirts and feeling comfortably warm and other days when everyone is wrapped in scarves, hat and gloves. While the weather is so variable, **please send children in with warm and waterproof clothing every day.** We aim to get the children outside for a run-around as often as possible and will do so even in drizzle or light rain.

Avoiding the main news headlines of this week, I was disappointed to see that Sir Jonathan Van-Tam will be stepping down from his role as England's deputy chief medical officer. Prior to the pandemic most of us were not aware that such a role even existed, let alone being able to name the post holder and recognise him. JVT, as he became known, had a wonderful way of explaining scientific concepts in language that was easy to understand and using analogies that we all could relate to.

JVT presented *The Royal Institute Christmas Lectures* for 2021, and I would urge you (and your children) to watch them if you haven't already done so. These annual lectures were started in 1825 by Michael Faraday at a time when education for young people was scarce and apart from the period of WW2 they have continued each year. They were first broadcast on TV by the BBC in 1936, which makes them the world's oldest science TV series!

For anyone – adult or child – with an interest in science, the three 'lectures' (fun, informative and engaging programmes) can be found on BBC iPlayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00pmbqq/royal-institution-christmas-lectures> Although Covid-19 obviously features quite regularly, the information is much wider reaching. I certainly learnt things about how a virus behaves, how it can be transmitted and how it can be stopped.

### Regular articles

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### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."

C S Lewis

## School Meal Charges Spring 2021

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

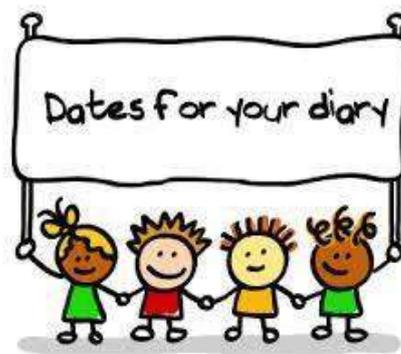
Please make payment for school lunches via Pay360 (formerly SIMS PAY) in **advance of meals taken.**

**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.



### January

- 18th Sports Stacks festival at Comberton Village College
- 18th Year 3 Egyptian dress- up day

### February

- 7 -11 Children's Mental Health Week
- 11th 'Dress to Express' day—more details to follow
- 14-18 **Spring half term**

### March

- 1st Parent Consultations (via Zoom) (tbc)
- 3rd Parent Consultations (via Zoom) (tbc)
- 4th World Book Day at Steeple
- 14-18 Year 6 residential trip to Peak District

### April

- 1st Last day of Spring Term
- 19th INSET day (children not in school)
- 20th Children return to school

### May

- 2nd Early May Bank Holiday
- 27th Additional bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee
- 30th - 3rd Jun Summer half term

### June

- 6th INSET day
- 7th Children return to School

### July

- 22nd Last day of Summer term

# Notice Board

## Absence Reporting

If your child is absent please advise us on 01763 852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

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

## Be Covid Aware

As you are aware we have had a number of cases of Covid in school recently and we would ask you all to be aware and vigilant to any possible Covid symptoms. Whilst the primary symptoms in adults remain a cough, temperature and/or change in taste or smell, the symptoms being seen in children (from our own school's experience) are much wider: sore throats, tummyache, sickness, sneezing, blocked noses and headaches.

We do understand that there are lots of the usual winter-season colds, coughs and sore throats around at the moment, but ask you to keep a close eye on your child's (and own!) symptoms. If you have any concerns about your child being in contact with a positive case or they are displaying any of these symptoms **we strongly urge you to book a PCR as soon as possible.** Please **do not rely on LFTs** as they are not considered reliable for children of this age group. Also, please don't assume that one negative PCR means everything is fine... sometimes it can take many days for the virus to take hold and generate a positive result. Please stay vigilant and be cautious.

## 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.

## School Lunches

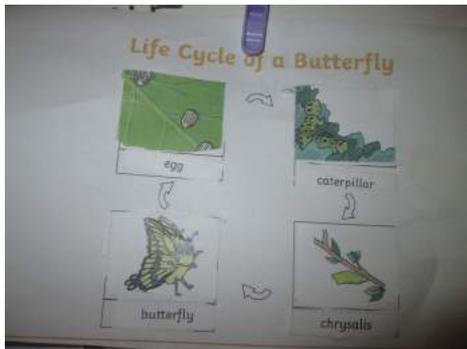
Please note that if your child isn't in registration in the morning (ie medical appointment) and would like a school lunch we need to know **by 9.30am at the latest.**

If your child comes into school after this time and hasn't booked to have a school lunch, we will need you to provide a packed lunch for them.

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Happy New Year from Starling Class!

This week we had a very full timetable! Our topic this week has been about how animals and humans grow over time. We began our week learning what different animals call their young



(not names like Steve!) and the children were amazed to learn that dolphins, cows AND elephants all call their young calf! The children also learnt new words such as larvae (bees) and hatchling (crocodile). The children focused on the lifecycle of a butterfly in preparation for when the weather turns warmer, so that they can be eagle eyed nature detectives! They watched an extremely informative video showing a Cabbage white butterfly changing over 30-50 days; they were most fascinated by the butterfly larvae frass (poop!) The children also thought about how they have changed so far in their 4/5 years of

life and how humans grow and change and were asked to sequence how humans grow over time.

This week in Phonics the children continued with our Phase 3 Phonics. They learnt the digraphs **ch**, **sh** and **th** (voiced e.g. **then** and unvoiced e.g. **think**). Our Maths sessions this week had us thinking about numbers 6, 7 and 8. We focused on cardinality (how many items in a set), how we can represent these numbers in different ways and meeting the corresponding Numberblocks! In RE the children have been thinking about how we can help others when they need it and in PE we have begun a new dance topic 'dance til' you drop!' This week we looked at the style of ballet (think graceful arms, pointed toes, deliberate and slow movements, elongated limbs) and how to show different emotions through dance. This week we looked at the emotions happy and sad and the song they danced to was 'I'm a little teapot'... it made for wonderful choreography choices!



We began our small groups to practice and extend our knowledge in reading, writing and Maths. In our reading groups, we have been blending CVC words such as **zip** and words with two syllables such as **liquid**. The children are all very good at identifying the Phase 2 graphemes individually, so now the hard work begins with the blending of those phonemes to build up those words. At home, when your child is decoding a word, encourage them to build the word up like a snowball (we add another phoneme to make the word bigger like when



making a snowball) e.g. ship = sh, sh-i = shi, shi - p = ship. In our writing groups, we focused on handwriting, particularly the letters **l** and **i**, noting the difference in height, the fact that **l** is an ascender, both letters sit on the line (not floating up into the sky), that the dot on the **i** is a dot NOT a coloured-in football, nor a circle, and that we always form those letters from the top! In our Maths groups we represented the numbers 7 and 8 in as many ways as we could.



This week's Library excursion was to the Non-Fiction library. Next week it would be great if the Red Cherries could be prepared to talk about their opinions of their book .

We had a look at our 'An Interesting word for every day of the year' book again this week with a focus on words linked to 'dance' in order to tie in with our PE work this term, we added another 7 new words to our 'word wall'. This week's words were:

**Accomplish:** To achieve or complete something

**Choreographer:** A person who puts together the moves for a dance performance

**Composition:** A piece of music that someone has written

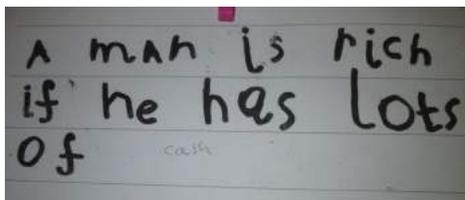
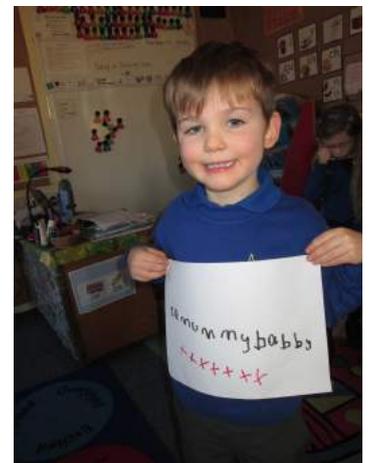
**Ensemble:** A group of musicians, actors or dancers who perform together

**Gratuitous:** Something that is uncalled for, or done without good reason

**Passion:** A strong liking and interest for doing something, like a hobby or activity

**Pressure:** The force that is produced when someone pushes on something

Don't forget, next week will be the turn of Yellow Bananas for Show and Tell. Please feel free to send in photographs of your Christmas and New Year celebrations for your child to talk about or their favourite toys/ presents.



The children have worked really hard this week and are already exhausted, so we hope you have a restful weekend!

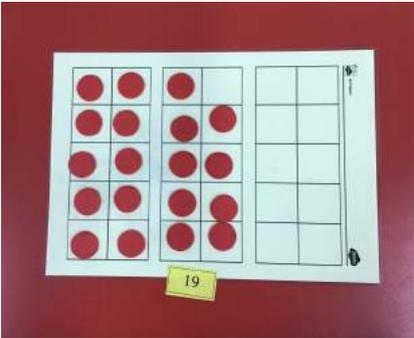
**Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown & Mrs Keech**



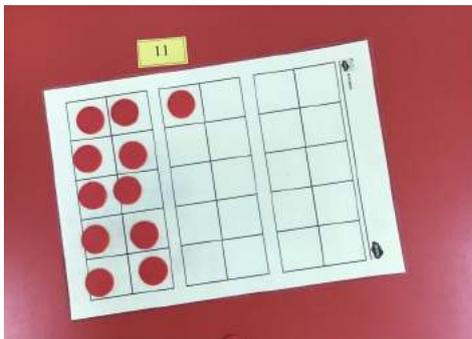
## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week we have started thinking about our new Topic: Terrific Toys. The children really enjoyed looking at their old photos on Wednesday and creating their own timeline during the afternoon with their own photos. We decided that, to find out about this particular part of 'history', we have looked at photos of the children as they grew up. We also recognised that we could ask you and talk to you as parents, because you were there, too!

In Maths we have started looking more in depth about numbers to 20, learning that we need a 'ten' and 'some friends' which we now call 'ones' to make the numbers 11-19. The focus has needed to be on forming all the digits the right way around for many children - and we have been trying really hard to remember to write the 'ten' first, before the ones. It has been great to hear the children explaining their maths understanding, using the correct vocabulary.



Thursday gave us a treat of watching Widdershins Theatre performance of The Elves and the Shoemaker. We all had a great morning watching.



In Phonics this week, we have started Phase 5. The children have been learning some new graphemes which make the same sound as those previously taught. We will continue to learn and use these over the coming weeks. Each week, I will let you know here which graphemes we have covered and will send home a short activity which will reinforce each one. We won't need these back in school, so please try them out and keep them at home as reminders. Thank you!

Week 1:

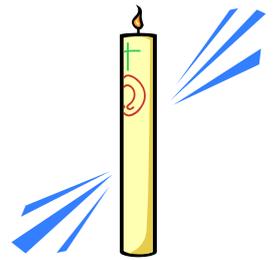
| <b>Old</b> grapheme  | <b>New</b> grapheme                             | examples of words to read and write              | Tricky words taught (green to read, red to spell) |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>ai</b> (not usually found at the end of a word)   | <b>ay</b> (usually at the end of a word)        | stay, clay, pray, play, tray, stray, day, spray, | people<br>said                                    |
| <b>ow</b>  | <b>ou</b>                                       | out, cloud, loud, proud, scout, count            | so  |
| <b>igh</b><br>(note: <b>I</b> - this capital letter is a <u>word</u> on its own and NEVER used to make a sound in a word (unlike the letter i which can be, and is introduced later) | <b>ie</b> (this makes the sound in other words) | pie, pie, tie, die                               |   |

We hope you have a fantastic weekend,

**Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Carter and the Year 1 Team**

## Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

In Monday's assembly we talked about the baptism of Jesus by his cousin John. I read a story from one of our Children's Bibles based on Matthew 3 v 13-17. Although we tend now to think of baptism or christenings as something happening to babies, this happened when Jesus was an adult (coming so soon after Christmas when we celebrate his birth, this can take a bit of explaining). I talked about baptism as an example of new beginnings and a time when people think about changes they might need to make which also ties in with any New Year resolutions that have been made. Ultimately, we do not need to wait for a special day or event to have a fresh start – any day can be a time to pause, reflect and make changes that improve life for ourselves and for those around us.



## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

The class were very excited to learn that our new topic 'All the way to Buckingham Palace...' is going to begin with a focus on London. We received a postcard and some photographs from Lola the Leopard who has been doing some sightseeing! The children had lots of knowledge to share about our capital city and are looking forward to setting up a Tourist Information Office in the classroom. We will be looking at maps of our classroom, our school, Steeple Morden and London and comparing life in a village with life in a large city!

Our English work this week has been based around the story 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew. We looked out for nouns and verbs in the text and also talked about the present and past tense. We discussed that when we add the suffix 'ed' to the end of a word to change from present to past tense there are some spelling rules we need to think about:-

*hop* (short vowel sound) – double the consonant and add 'ed' – *hopped*

*hope* (long vowel sound) – remove the e and add 'ed' - *hoped*

Phonics and Spellings– children brought home their new spellings this week in their yellow folders. We would be really grateful if you could spend a few minutes practising with them using 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' – the focus this week is on the rules above for adding 'ed.' Spelling Frame has been updated if you would like to practise spellings there too.

In Maths we have introduced the class to multiplication and division. We have looked at 'equal' and 'unequal' groupings and using cubes we have investigated how many different sized groups we can make from a given number of cubes.

In our class we have 20 children – we looked at this as a repeated addition and discussed how this could be simplified and recorded as a multiplication number sentence:-

$$2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2=20 \quad 10 \times 2 = 20$$

*We discussed all the different groupings we could find with our 20 cubes –*

$$1 \times 20 / 20 \times 1 / 10 \times 2 / 2 \times 10 / 5 \times 4 / 4 \times 5$$

We have been using our Tackling Tables cards to practise our multiplication facts. We had our first attempt at a 'quiz' this week to see how many facts we can remember. We talked about what to do when we multiply a number by 0 and by 1 in addition to looking at patterns in the 2x, 5x and 10x tables.



Any help you are able to give at home with your home packs of cards would be fantastic. You will have received a Parentmail about how to order your home pack if you are able to. There will also be a notice in the Star giving details again of how this can be done.

The children are bringing home a new set of homework activities which we have introduced in class. As usual, there are a range of activities in different subject areas which can take as short or as long a time as you have.

### **Reminders:**

- Reading Books & Reading Records Booklets – to school every day in yellow folders, please
- Yellow Spelling Folders – to school on Mondays only
- Homework Folders – given out on Fridays, bring back to school on Wednesdays
- Mathematics – set every Friday
- Tackling Tables – practise as often as possible at home
- PE – Mondays with Mrs Luebcke & Wednesdays with Mrs Daniels.
- Please can you also ensure that your child has a **full PE kit in school all week** as follows: shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms, sweatshirt (no hoods please), trainers suitable to wear outside and socks.

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for the lovely cards, messages and gifts we received for Christmas. They were very much appreciated by all of the teaching team in Year 2.

Thank you for your continued support with everything. Have a lovely weekend.

**The Year 2 Teaching Team – Mrs Luebcke, Mrs Daniels and Mrs Brown**

*Uniform – please can you check that your child's uniform is named – it is very difficult to send items of clothing home with the right owner otherwise!*



## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Welcome back, I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and a positive start to the New Year.

The children all returned last week with renewed enthusiasm and enjoyed a short week immersed in all things French. Over the three days, the children found out about some famous people from French history, eg Louis Braille, the Montgolfier brothers and Degas. They have also found out about the geography of France by locating famous landmarks and regions in France on a map. In addition, we have found out a little about some French foods, and further developed their French vocabulary.



In Maths, we have started a substantial unit of work on multiplication and division, so far we have thought about what multiplication actually means, combining equal groups to find total amounts and linking this to writing repeated addition and multiplication statements. We then focussed on understanding what it means to multiply by 3, seeing the link between repeated addition and multiplication in groups of three. We then moved onto considering what division means and how this can be represented and repeated subtraction. Next week we will continue with more multiplication and division work.



Our first full week back was all about the science of rocks and soils! We have found out about how the three different types of rocks are formed, where we can see them, what they look like, their properties and how they can be used.

We also found out about how fossils are made and discovered. Andy Lawrence, of Widdershins theatre (the puppet man) came in to work with just our class to do a special workshop all about how fossils are made. We made fossils using clay and plaster, rather messy, but lots of fun as most messy things are!



Along with how soil is made and the different layers that make up the top layer of the earth. (This or many, was the favourite part as it involved making a soil layer trifle, who knew soil and worms could taste so good!!)



## Reminder

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January** - Egyptian dress up day, the children are invited to dress as an ancient Egyptian, archaeologist, Howard Carter or Lord Carnarvon. Please see class web page for ideas from last year.

Can I please remind you of the importance of home reading, I appreciate Christmas is a very busy holiday and many routines are not in place, but it would appear from reading diaries that nearly three quarters of the class have not read at all since the last week of term.

## 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.

## Mrs Seward and Miss Smith

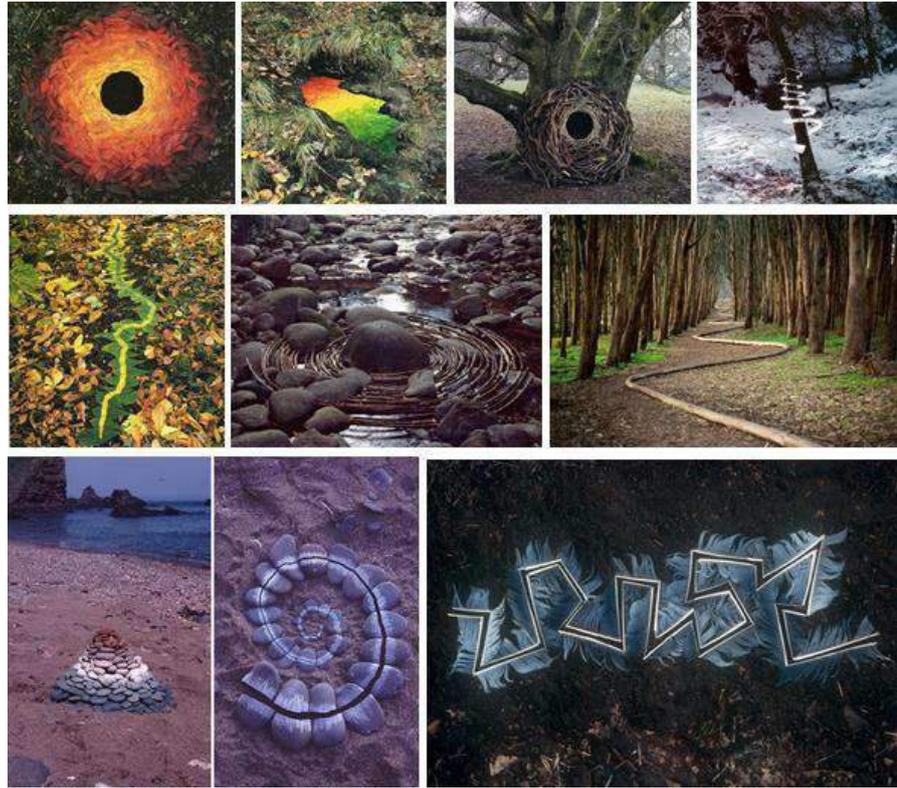


# Art is for All

Welcome to your next 'Art is for All'.

This time we are going to look at a contemporary artist who takes his inspiration from nature.,  
Andy Goldsworthy.

Andy Goldsworthy is a British sculptor and photographer known for creating installation and sculptures using existing materials of nature such as rocks, leaves, branches, ice, thorns, and mud. He then documents how his artwork changes through photography.



The key idea behind his work is to show the life cycle of the materials and ecologies he works with, focusing on the passage of time through his on-site installations.

Andy Goldsworthy said about his art

'Movement, change, light, growth and decay are the lifeblood of nature, the energies that I try to tap through my work. I need the shock of touch, the resistance of place, materials and weather, the earth as my source. Nature is in a state of change and that change is the key to understanding. I want my art to be sensitive and alert to change in materials, season and weather. Each work grows, stays, decays. Process and decay are implicit. Transience in my work reflects what I find in nature.'



# Art is for All

## Your Task:

Go out for a walk, have in mind Andy's quote 'Nature is in a state of change and that change is the key to understanding. I want my art to be sensitive and alert to change in materials, season and weather.'

You may find that nature has done the work for you and you can just photograph something that captures your interest and reflects the ever-changing natural world, or you may gather and arrange some items together forming a spiral or circular pattern that is common in Goldworthy's work. Alternatively, bring a selection of seasonal items home and create a 'frozen moment in season' sculpture. (Follow link below) <https://artful-kids.com/2011/01/05/icy-artwork/>

Please be brave, don't think too much about it just have a go. Photograph your masterpiece and send it into the school office so that it can be displayed in the Star's very own art gallery. Good luck and have fun.

## **Tackling Tables Home Packs – for parents of children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6**



**Deadline for new orders 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Parents in Year 2 are currently ordering their packs for the first time.

If there are any families new to the school or in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 who have lost their pack or not yet purchased a pack and would like to please go to PAY360 and place your order by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The packs are priced at £8.50 as we have secured a school discount on the advertised price of £12.50.

Many thanks for your continued support  
*Jo Daniels (Maths Subject Leader)*

T H A N K  
Y O U !

All staff would like to say a huge thank you to children and parents for their very kind Christmas presents, messages and cards. These are all very much appreciated.

# Treat Day!

Thursday 20th January

Frankfurter Hot Dog/Veggie Dog in a Bun  
Chips or Mashed Potato with Baked Beans or Peas  
with a free Milkshake

Cookie or Yogurt and Fruit

We are moving 'Chip Day' to Thursday this week and offering everyone who has a School Dinner a free milkshake!



## **IMPORTANT LUNCHTIME INFORMATION** **CHILDREN IN STARLING, ROBIN AND OWL CLASSES**

As many of you know, all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals programme.

We realise that some children can be a little wary of the 'school dinner' lunchtime routine of walking to the hatch to choose food that has been cooked by someone who isn't their parent or family member. For this reason, every so often we try something different to encourage children to 'have a go' with school dinners.

Next Week (Thursday 20th January) we will be doing just that. There will be a change to the usual menu with 'treat day' happening on Thursday. In addition, **all children in Starling, Robin and Owl class will be offered a milkshake and cookie to have alongside their packed lunch, if they wish.** (Children with dietary requirements will be offered a suitable alternative).

This will be completely FREE OF CHARGE. Please let us know if you do not want us to offer this to your child.

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

## **Independent Review Panel members**

**Are you interested in being part of the school exclusions process?**

**Would you be interested in a key role ensuring permanent exclusions are lawful, rational and procedurally fair?**

Cambridgeshire County Council are looking for volunteer Review Panel Members:-

- **A lay member to chair the panel** – this must be someone who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity
- **Current or former school governor** - who has served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last five years and has not been a teacher or head teachers during that time
- **Head teacher or former Head Teacher** (within the last five years).

**What would I do?**

Your primary role as a panel member would be to:

- read the case papers in advance of the Review;
- actively participate in the hearing process; and
- help determine the outcome of the exclusion review request.

In this role, you must be sensitive to the concerns of parents/carers and to the circumstances of the excluded pupil. You will need to have regard for the interests of other pupils and people working at the school.

You must be a good listener and have the ability to be objective and act impartially

**What training is required?**

Training will be provided on the legal framework of the Independent Review Process. Following the training you will be offered the opportunity to observe a Review.

**How many hours are required?**

The Reviews are generally a maximum of 5 hours.

**How often will I be required?**

You are not obliged to offer a set number of hours. You will be advised of the review dates and you offer your time if you are available.

**Where are the Reviews?**

All Reviews are currently virtual via TEAMS.

Please email [zoe.shanahan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:zoe.shanahan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) if you are interested in this role.

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week we began work on our new topic that explores a cross curricular topic titled 'Imagine, Inspire, Influence'. This topic has an Art and Design and Technology focus, which allows us to look at present day advances in technology that affect our lives today and in the future. We will be learning about inspiring innovators, inventors, artists, architects, designers and painters. As well as looking at their many achievements, we will be considering how they dealt with pitfalls and difficulties. We will be able to reflect on their resilience and use some of their behaviours in our own work. This will tie in with work in PSHE, where we are learning about how we can develop a growth mindset.

In our maths lessons we have been exploring how to accurately measure area in maths and incorporating problem solving activities. We have been applying our knowledge of Chinese numbers and producing longer sentences by creating days and months. For example in Chinese the 14<sup>th</sup> January is written as. 一月十四日。

The children have started to think about ideas for the 'Steeple Morden Primary News' podcast and we will be completing this over the spring term. Ideas have included book reviews, maths quizzes and music!

### **Mr Beavan & the Year Four Team**



Self-isolation rules have changed

# Let's help **keep** **things moving**

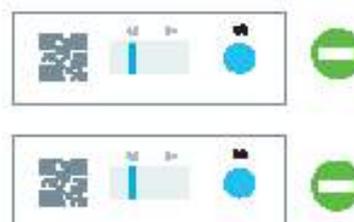
**Tested positive for Covid-19?**

You can now **reduce the time you self-isolate to 7 days instead of 10**

## How have they changed?

**From day 6** of self-isolation take a rapid lateral flow test every 24 hours. After **two negative results in a row** you can stop self-isolating, whether you're vaccinated or not.

**From day 6**



## Why have they changed?

Our analysis shows that 7 days of self-isolation with 2 negative test results **gives nearly as much protection as 10 days without testing**. This will reduce disruption to everyone's lives.

**7 days**





On Thursday we were all treated to another spectacular performance by Andy, from Widdershins Puppet Theatre. This time Andy magically told the story of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' in his own special way.

He really does need to be seen to fully understand and appreciate the magic that he brings.



## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Although Mrs Watt and Mrs Morris have both been unwell this week, the children have been busy learning with Mrs Hannah, Mrs Weddepohl and Mrs Barber.

The focus in English lessons has been science-fiction texts with the children starting to unpick the main features and themes of this genre. Over the coming weeks they will be building up to writing their own stories which all the adults in the class are looking forward to reading.

Maths has been about column multiplication which always raises questions about which digits need to be multiplied together and the importance of remembering to add anything that has been “carried”. The coming weeks will provide plenty of opportunity to practise.

Romans have been a feature this week with the children considering what traits and abilities would be needed by a Roman soldier, and looking at the spread of the Roman empire across Europe around two thousand years ago. In Science, the children have begun a new series of lessons about materials with an investigation on magnetism.

All in all it has been a very productive week and the children have coped incredibly well with the changes of staff.

### The Year 5 Team



It is with sadness that we will be saying ‘Goodbye’ to Mrs Watt at the end of term. She has a new job from Easter which is closer to home and will bring her lots of new and exciting challenges. We will miss her and wish her all the best for the future.

That does mean that I will be advertising for a new teacher to work alongside Mrs Morris and as soon as I have more news on that I will let you know.



## My child is unwell—what should I do?

We have had a few questions about children being unwell recently so I thought I would clarify the current position.

Tummy bugs – easy! Child to remain off school for 48 hours after the last bout of diarrhoea or sickness.

Chicken pox/slapped cheek etc. – follow your Doctor / Health Visitor's advice (in the case of Chicken Pox this is often to avoid school until all blisters have crusted).

Cold with runny nose and sneezing – as long as your child does not have any potential Covid symptoms and they are feeling well enough in themselves they can come to school.

Temperature/cough/change in taste or smell – child should not attend school and a PCR should be booked as soon as possible. This is based on the current Government advice that anyone with these symptoms, even if they are mild should take a PCR. LFTs are designed for asymptomatic use, not to check whether symptoms are Covid or not. **If in doubt, ask yourself why you are giving your child a LFT? If it is because they have some possible symptoms then you should be booking a PCR instead.**

### **From the Gov.uk website**

*Self-isolate straight away and get a **PCR test** as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:*

- *a high temperature*
- *a new, continuous cough*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*
- 

If your child has any of these symptoms, please do not rely on a LFT to indicate whether they may have Covid. Book a PCR, keep them at home until you have a result and let us know.

## Covid Test Results Email Address

We have an email address set up specifically for parents to alert us to any positive Covid test results from within your household. The email address is: [Covidtestresult@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:Covidtestresult@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

This email address will be checked each morning, evening and during the day (including weekends) and we ask that you use this address to advise us of Covid -19 positive test results for any member of your household. Although there is unlikely to be any action required it does mean that we can alert members of the school community to be extra vigilant. Please do not use this email address for any other issues, all other emails should still be sent to [office@steeplemorden.cambs.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.uk) as usual



## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I hope everyone had a restful festive period and are raring to go for the new term and year ahead.

In English we have started to look at non-chronological reports. We wrote our cold text about a strange looking animal then we looked at the features of the genre, including studying some geographical features such as hurricanes and earthquakes. Next week we will be researching the sinking of the Titanic and will be looking at the planning of non-chronological reports.

This week, in Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing fractions and have started to look at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages, and how we can convert between them. We also examined the differences between mixed number fractions and improper fractions and how we can convert between these and simplify the answers too. Ask your child about multiplying and dividing fractions; there are a few stages to go through. See the example attached. Ask them what 'convert' and 'reciprocal' mean, Also, ask them about what the difference is between mixed numbers, proper fractions and improper fractions.

| Remember!  |                               |                             |  | DIVIDING FRACTIONS                 |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Keep   | Change                        | Flip                        | Fraction divided by a fraction                 | Whole number divided by a fraction | Fraction divided by a mixed number             |  |
| 1st fraction stays the same  | Operation changes from ÷ to × | 2nd fraction for reciprocal | $\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{1}{3}$                 | $9 \div \frac{1}{3}$               | $\frac{2}{3} \div 2\frac{1}{3}$                |  |
| Step 1: Write whole number as fraction; write mixed number as improper fraction.           |                               |                             | $\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{3}{3}$                 | $9 \div \frac{1}{3}$               | $\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{7}{3}$                 |  |
| Step 2: Find the reciprocal of the divisor (the number you are dividing by).               |                               |                             | $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{3}$               | $9 \times \frac{3}{3}$             | $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{7}$               |  |
| Step 3: The reciprocal allows you to change the operation from division to multiplication. |                               |                             | $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{3} = \frac{6}{3}$ | $9 \times \frac{3}{3} = 27$        | $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{7} = \frac{6}{7}$ |  |
| Step 4: Multiply the fractions.  |                               |                             | $\frac{6}{3} = 2$                              | $27 = 27$                          | $\frac{6}{7} = \frac{6}{7}$                    |  |
| Step 5: Write the answer in simplest terms.  |                               |                             |  |                                    |  |  |



As you should have seen from the homework that your child brought home on Friday, it is different from the homework set in the Autumn Term. With the SATs exams approaching fast we will be working on more SATs type questions in school and at home. With the two books that your child brought home (the Maths and SPAG books) please make sure that they complete it within the ten-minute time frame (or close to it as possible) and then could you go over the answers with them after they have completed the tasks. This will aid what we are doing in school this term and at the beginning of the next term.

Homework will be set again this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**

# Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool  
Litlington Preschool  
La Jolie Ronde online French classes  
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

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

*"We learned about honesty and integrity—that the truth matters...  
that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules...  
and success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square."*

**Michelle Obama**

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