



## THE STAR



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

### Message from Mrs How:

The Packham and Yousafzai sports day went ahead this week in almost ideal conditions. The cloud cover kept the air relatively cool and there was not a single drop of rain. The Rushford and Rosen sports day was an entirely different story with overnight rain continuing in to the morning, making the field and playground unsafe. Typically the weather had improved by late morning but the decision had already been made to postpone. The new date and time is Tuesday, 11th July 9.30—11am (approx.).

As you can imagine, the school office is a very busy place. As well as providing all necessary secretarial support for all the staff, they deal with medical needs and first aid and are one of the first points of call for pastoral support. Each morning, they manage all the attendance figures (including contacting parents who have not informed us about absences) and they collate all school dinner figures. All this against a backdrop of children arriving late, phone calls and messages to be passed on.

One time consuming and unnecessary task is dealing with (predominantly key stage 2) children who come into school and say they do not like the school dinner options on offer. The children then ask that parents are telephoned to bring a packed lunch instead. In the meantime, kitchen staff have to start preparing the meals. They cannot assume that a packed lunch will arrive, so they have to work on the numbers they have. As a result this not only uses valuable office time, it also leads to food being wasted that has been prepared and not required.

Going forwards, unless we believe there is a genuine medical or welfare reason for a child requesting a packed lunch being brought in we will not be making these calls. We will assume that as parents you have checked the menu and are confident that your child will be able to eat the food offered that day. We will speak to the children about this and fully expect to deal with some challenges over the coming weeks but I am sure you will understand why we need to take a firmer stance on this.

#### Regular articles

Diary Dates	2
Noticeboard	3
Starlings (Reception)	7
Robins (Year 1)	9
Owls (Year 2)	11
Peacocks (Year 3)	12
Swifts (Year 4)	
Herons (Year 5)	15
Puffins (Year 6)	
Assemblies & Collective Worship	6
Assemblies & Collective Worship Community News	
Community News	19
Community News	19 4
Community News	19 4 5
Community News	19 4 5 6
Special features Calling All Bakers PTA Summer Fete Book Fair	19 4 5 6 8
Special features Calling All Bakers PTA Summer Fete Book Fair PTA News	19 4 5 6 8

#### 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

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence."

Vince Lombardi

#### 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.



#### July

w/c 3rd **Bikeability** 

Year 3 walk to Ashwell 4th

7th Year 3 trip to Bewilderwood & sleepover

8th **PTA Summer Fete** 

11th Sports day—Rosen and Rashford Houses (9.30 –11)

11th Year 6 performance (afternoon) 12th Year 3 coffee & cake morning 12th

Year 6 performance (evening)

13th Year 5 parent morning: Café Italiano (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

### September

1st & 4th INSET days (children not in school

Children return to school 5th

8th Reception children start school (half day)

11th Reception children half day

## **Notice Board**

#### Illness in School

If your child is absent from school, you must notify school by 9.30am of the reason for absence. If we haven't heard from you, we are obliged to investigate your child's absence.

Condition	Absent for		
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash and all the lesions have crusted over		
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment		
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.



## Calling All Bakers!



In preparation for the School Fete on 8 July, we would be very grateful for donations of cakes, cupcakes, brownies, flapjacks and any other baked goods for the cake stall.

Store bought items are also welcome.

Home made goods should be labelled please so that we may identify their contents. Please identify where containing nuts.

Donated cakes can be either dropped off to the school office at pick up the day before the Fete (Friday 7 July) or brought to the stall on the morning of the Fete (Saturday 8 July).

Please ensure that any containers are labelled with your child's name and class year if you require them to be returned.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Debbie (Year 6) and Ginny (Year 4)





## **Book Fair**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair last week.





We raised £776.27 which means we have rewards of £405.76 to spend on books for the school.

## Assemblies & Collective Worship

We were visited by the GenR8 team on Monday and they talked to the children about how we can all make a big difference by loving our neighbours as Jesus taught. The Bible sketch was 'the feeding of the five thousand' - the only one of Jesus' miracles which is recorded in all four gospels: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17, and John 6:1-14. It tells how Jesus fed an enormous crowd with a boy's lunch of just five loaves and two fish. Please talk to your children to see how much they can remember from this assembly.

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class,

This week the children have been thinking all about sports day. They have been getting ready for it with lots of practising in PE, at lunch and dinner times ready for their first ever Steeple Morden Primary sports day! Sadly, only half the class have been able to show their skills so far but we are very proud of our little Starlings and it was wonderful to see so many of you able to spectate on Wednesday.

During Phonics we have continued our Phase 4 learning with a focus on CCCVC words and have been trying really hard with our handwriting and spelling. In Maths this week we have been looking at time, thinking about why it is important to tell the time and how to sequence an order of events. The children used the First, Then, Later stem sentences such as "First I went to school, then I had my lunch, later I went home."



Please can you ensure book bags (with reading records and books inside), hats, water bottles, cardigans/jumpers and

waterproof jackets are brought into school each day, particularly as the weather can be so changeable we only have limited spares of each of these items.

It is with joy that we are able to announce the safe arrival of Mabel Violet Monks. Both Mrs Monks and baby Mabel are doing well after a speedy delivery in the early hours of Saturday morning; her two older sisters are being wonderful siblings and are helping Mummy and Daddy out!

Have a restful weekend,

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Monks and the Reception Team







## School Fete - Saturday, 8th July

Another reminder to return any raffle tickets to school as soon as possible. We are also looking forward to receiving donations of bottles on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July and cakes for the cake stall.

Please be aware, that despite our best efforts, the bar, BBQ, cake stall and other PTA run stalls will be cash only. If you can spare some time to volunteer on a stall please get in touch with either the year group PTA link or email us at

pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk if you could manage half an hour on a stall it would be a great help. All the preparation is in place so it is really just turn up and man the stall for a small stint.

**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.



## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

The children in Packham and Yousafzai houses thoroughly enjoyed their Sports day activities. Thank you so much for helping prepare your children for their morning by sending them in dressed appropriately and with their water bottle and hat on Wednesday. We hope you enjoyed cheering them all on, too. Hopefully the rearranged Sports Day will be just as well organised and entertaining for Rosen and Rashford children - we are looking forward to finding out the winning team!

If you haven't already, please remember to send any PE kits back into school on Monday – we will send them home as appropriate, but will also continue PE lessons up until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July when we will send them home for the final time this year.

We were all excited to see the butterflies emerging at the start of the week, watching them get juice from various fruits, and then all had a lovely time releasing them in the Reception garden.

We also had a special dragonfly visitor this week, thanks to Johnny's family. It was very interesting to see all the detail we wouldn't usually see, due to it keeping beautifully still for us!

In Maths lessons during the next couple of weeks we will be reminding ourselves of the coins we have in the UK, and using them to make different amounts. We will also be using vocabulary related to time, having a go at using calendars to find and record events, describing when

things might happen and looking at telling the time, simply to the hour and half past. We recognise that some children can already tell the time to this accuracy – they will be working on some word problems related to time.

Thank you for continuing to send in sunhats/water bottles daily and apply sun-cream



before coming to school in the morning. If you have forgotten this over the last week, please resume sending them in from Monday.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team

## **School Uniform Guide**

#### **Clothing**

- Trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore (navy or grey)
- Blouse, shirt or polo shirt (white or royal blue)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan (royal blue)
- Blue and white check dress during the summer months
- It is a Year 6 privilege to wear black uniform (polo tops, jumpers and trousers/skirts/shorts)

#### **PE Kit** (to be kept in a bag, which is hung in the cloakroom):

- T-shirt (colour of assigned House) separate to that worn during the day
- Shorts (blue or black)

#### In addition (from Year 1 onwards):

- Tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt without hood for the winter months
- Trainers for outdoors

#### Year 4 pupils will need:

- swim wear (swimming costumes should be one piece and swimming trunks should be above knee length)
- a towel
- swimming hat all children (available for purchase from the pool)

#### Shoes

- Children will travel to and from school in black school shoes
- The majority of children will remain in these shoes all day
- Children who wish to change into an older pair of trainers at playtime (much better for kicking a ball on a muddy field) can do so if they wish
- Children will need a change of footwear for PE lessons

#### Please ensure your child can fasten, without assistance, the shoes they wear for school.

**Coat:** It is very important that your child comes to school with a coat appropriate for the season. All children go outside to play at break time and lunch time and, as you know, the British weather can change during the school day! Reception Class also have an outside learning area.

**Book Bag:** Each child should have a book bag to keep reading books clean and safe on the journey to and from school.

#### Ordering School Uniform: http://www.totalclothingshop.com

School uniform can be ordered from the website detailed above. The link to the site can also be found on the school website in the Parents Section on the Welcome Page. Uniform can be ordered from this site and be delivered to your house (for a small postage charge) or to the school for free.

#### PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT IS CLEARLY NAMED

- We actively discourage the wearing of jewellery in school, including earrings, for Health and Safety reasons and in line with County policy.
- Earrings must not be worn for PE and swimming (if they have to be worn for the first six weeks after initial piercing, they must be taped over).
- Children may wear a cheap watch to school.
- Children are responsible for the safety of their own jewellery and watches.
- Please ensure that long hair is always tied back in school.

## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Hello from Owl Class!

This week we have really enjoyed reading from a range of poetry.

Early in the week we focussed on reading a poem called 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough and we then went on a walk around the school premises and collected all sorts of sounds to use for own 'Sound Collector' poems. Next week we are going to carry on reading a variety of poetry from poets such as Michael Rosen, Roger McGough,

Julia Donaldson and Eleanor Farjeon to name just a few. If your children have any favourite poems or poetry books that they would like to bring in next week and share with the rest of the class, then we would love to see them – thank you.

> In Maths this week, we have revisited some work on Fractions. We spent some time recapping on some of the vocabulary that we've been using so far (e.g. whole/equal groups/half/quarter/third etc.) in order to check the children's understanding, and we used some of our resources in order to work out what a half, a

quarter or a third of an amount looks like.

In one of our topic work sessions, the children have designed their own sea creature fabric collages; which they are now starting to sew. We are hoping to be able to share some photos of these with you very soon.

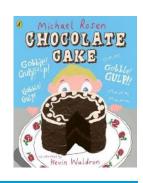
Just as a reminder, please can all children bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school every day, have sun cream applied before school and bring a (named) sunhat.

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 happy and restful weekend. Thank you for your support.

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





Chosen by Children P Edited by Roger Met

Michael Rosen

Quentin Blake

Put Mustard in the Custard

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English, following last week's interview, we have concluded our writing. When writing up the answers to our three favourite questions we needed to make sure we were writing full explanations. To do this well we needed to use conjunctions, pronouns and make sure our sentences and paragraphs made sense so that somebody who did not hear the interview would still understand the answers that were given.

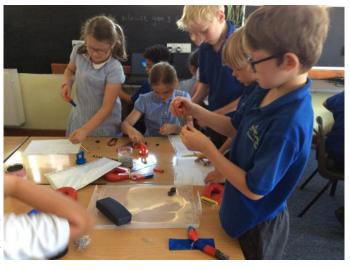
In Maths, we have continued working on properties of shape, this week focusing on 3D objects. We have identified the faces, edges and numbers of vertices that different shapes have. We have found out what makes a prism and compared different types of pyramids.

Next week we will be thinking about statistics.

Other work in the classroom this week...

At the moment we are finding out about the science of forces and how some materials are attracted to magnets and others not. We have sorted items into magnetic and non-magnetic, sorted a range of metals into those that are magnetic, and tested the strength of magnets by conducting a fair test with three magnets and paper clips.

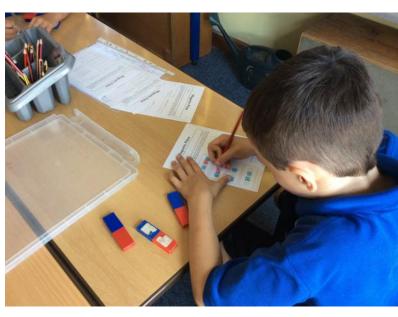
We have then started to combine our understanding of magnetics, knowledge of WW2 government campaigns and our designing skills to plan and create a magnetic game. Work on this will continue next week.



By now you should have received, (via Parentmail) the information about the walk to Ashwell next Tuesday. Please consider footwear carefully, it is a long walk and the children are on their feet all day. Remember if they are going to paddle they will need a complete change of clothes and towel including a change of footwear, shoes and socks, both will get wet. For sports day, we

needed to attend to quite a few blisters; these were because of shoes that did not fit or because children had no socks on. There is only so much we can do with a plaster!





Please also be aware that the route we are able to walk to Ashwell is only by permission of the landowner. We are not exclusively on public pathways, therefore, should you be tempted, *you will not* be able to walk to Ashwell via the route we take.

And finally, please remember next Friday is our trip to Bewilderwood and sleep over.

Please remember overnight things must come into school in a clearly named bag on Thursday when the children are collected at the end of the day.

#### Weekly home activities

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

### Dates for the diary

4th July Walk to Ashwell7th July Bewilderwood and

sleep over

12th July Coffee and cake in

year three

## From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team



## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

The children thoroughly enjoyed representing their houses and trying their best at the Packham and Yousafzai sports day this week. It was great to see the classes supporting and cheering for each other. Thank you to everyone who could take the time out of their busy schedules to offer support. We look forward to 11th July for Rosen and Rashford to enjoy their slightly delayed sports day and then to finding out which House will be announced the winner.

In our art lessons, we have been exploring fabrics. Children have been using acrylic paints to create seascapes and landscapes on cotton fabric. The addition of different textures

through sewing various types of stitching into the fabric has further enhanced their artwork. We have been incorporating the line work techniques we mentioned in last week's Star, the children's pieces are looking promising!

In Science, the focus has been on the human life cycle. From exploring the stages of infancy to old age, the children are gaining a deeper understanding of the different phases of life.



In history, we looked at the key features of Viking long houses. As well as finding out how they were constructed, we also learned about some of the items that would be found inside. Although not all children were keen on the idea of people sharing their homes with their animals they understood that this allowed them to make sure all the animals were safe, and on a cold night everyone benefitted from them being inside. A few children pointed out that we also have animals that live in our houses but that a couple of cats or dogs were quite different to cattle and goats. Children then considered the similarities and differences in key elements of Viking homes compare to ours.

Next week in our maths lessons we will be looking beyond tenths to hundredths, and also will be exploring the rounding of decimals. In later weeks we are going to look at time. If



your child is not already familiar with the analogue clock, it would be helpful if you could practise telling the time – especially the 'quarter to' and 'ten to' times. This will help children with our work converting times into the 24 hour clock format.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 team.

## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week, we pulled our group writing on African American music together into a Team Text. This writing is an exercise that has obviously helped us work on the features of explanation text writing but has also been a useful way of assessing the children's abilities to work together successfully in a group. Much has been learned in both respects.

In Maths, we completed a fractions, decimals and percentages assessment to be able to confidently report on everyone's progress with this topic. We then started our next unit of work on shape. We have begun by classifying types of angles, practising estimating the size of angles and then moved onto using a protractor to measure these angles accurately. Initially, using a protractor can be a very tricky skill to master, but we have persevered and are all making good progress now from our individual starting points.

We were lucky to enjoy a sunny Sports Day morning on Wednesday for team Packham and Yousafzai to demonstrate their sporting skills. Thank you to all of those parents and carers who were able to join us for this event and for the support and encouragement that you gave to the children. The children reported that they had enjoyed themselves and some were very pleased to have been ranked highly in certain events on the day. Teams Rashford and Rosen were disappointed that the weather wasn't kinder on Thursday but this second sports day has now been re-scheduled for <u>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July (9.30-11.00am)</u> so fingers crossed for dry weather on

our second attempt!



On Friday afternoon, Alison Osbourne from The South Cambs School Sports Partnership joined us in school. She was pleased to train a group of our year 5s to become Play Leaders when they are in year 6. This is a very important role involving engaging younger children in

fun and structured playtime and lunchtime activities throughout the week. We were very proud of the way the Year 5s conducted themselves during this training and we are sure that they will go on to be real assets to the school in this role when they are in Year 6.

Finally, a quick reminder that next week is Bikeability training for Year 5 so please remember that your child



will need to bring their roadworthy bike and safety helmet into school from Monday to Thursday inclusive.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Year 5 Team.



## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week we have been rehearsing for our end of year production. The children are enjoying this and are working very hard in all aspects of the production – from acting the scenes to singing to making the props and backdrops. You should have received a letter regarding the costumes, from your child, on Wednesday. Please could the children start bringing in their costumes next week and by Wednesday ( $5^{th}$  July), at the latest. You should have also received a letter about the ticket allocation for the two performances on the  $11^{th}$  July at 1.45pm and  $12^{th}$  July at 6.00 pm. Please could you return the slip to us as soon as possible and by Friday 8th July, at the latest.

Homework will be to continue to learn the words and the lyrics of the production.

As well as rehearsing for the production, the children have continued with Art, Science, RE, Geography, PSHE and some investigative problems for Maths lessons.

This week only Yousafzai and Packham managed to participate in sports day. The other sports day, as you know, was unfortunately postponed due to the weather conditions. For those who did take part, they enjoyed the events working together as a team and competitively against the opposition too.

Thank you for your continued support

#### Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team





## **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

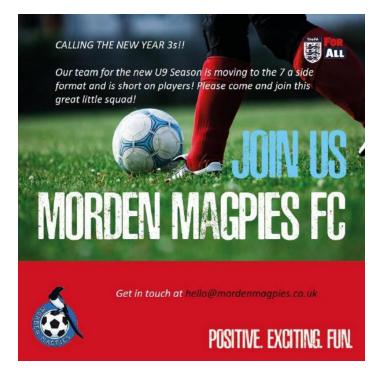
GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED











# **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

Mindfulness Relaxation Sessions

Beat Your Bills Course - starting 30th June

Steeple Morden Tennis Club Summer Holiday Coaching

An Evening with Author Sarah Harrison—30th June

Castle Coaching—Football & Rugby Coaching sessions

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

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

**Edith Wharton** 

#### 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

