

## Message from Mrs How:

I have had a number of conversations with parents this week about the ever-changing weather and bemoaning the return of the cold and rain. However, our brave year 6 children (and staff) have been on the receiving end of much worse during their residential trip to Derbyshire. Snow, fog, ice and strong winds have been a feature but it would seem that they still managed to make the most of all the new experiences and opportunities.

At Steeple, we are very lucky that we have so many staff who are willing and able to organise and attend trips and visits and, in the case of residentials to leave their families at home to take care of your children. I know the children benefit massively from these experiences and look forward to them. We do expect the highest level of behaviour when the children are representing the school and we are very proud of all the positive feedback from the venues that we visit.

At the risk of sounding like a stuck record (that feels like a dated phrase - I wonder if there is a new version involving streaming and downloads) PLEASE make sure your children have waterproof shoes and a waterproof coat in school every day.

A final thank you to everyone who was able to attend parents evening last week. If you still have not been able to make an appointment to find out about your child's progress and learning, please contact the office to arrange a suitable time. Please be aware though that teachers have a number of additional responsibilities after school and it may take a while to find a date that works for everyone.

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"Keep your face always toward the sunshine and the shadows will fall behind you."

Walt Whitman

School Meal Charges
Spring 2023
Daily: $\quad £ 2.40$
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 Pay 360 account, please contact the office at office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Absence Reporting<br>If your child is absent please advise us on 01763<br>852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email office@steeplemorden.cam bs.sch.uk<br>Please don't message via Parentmail as we don't use this aspect of the system and so this won't be seen.



## March

| 24th | Rocksteady concert (1.45pm) |
| :--- | :--- |
| 27th | School Council Bake Sale (after school) |
| 28th | Easter Church Service (pupils only) |
| 29th | Year 3 coffee morning (time tbc) |
| 29th - 31st | Year 5 residential trip to Grafham Water |
| 31st | Last day of Spring Term |

## April

17th
18th Children return to school

May
3rd Reception class trip to Standalone Farm

## 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 lastminute phone calls at the end of the day for this reason.

## 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 <br> lesions have crusted over |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours <br> after starting antibiotic treatment |
| Measles | 4 days from onset of rash and once recov- <br> ered |
| Scarlet Fever | Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate <br> antibiotic treatment completed |
| *Sickness and/ <br> or diarrhoea | Until 48 hours after last episode of sickness/ <br> 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-andnits/


## School Pick-Up

Please note that the main and pedestrian gates to the school playground are opened at 3pm each day for parents/carers to go towards the playground to collect children. If you arrive earlier than this, please wait by the gates, rather than wandering around the car park and the parked cars. We would be grateful if you would pass this request onto others who may collect your child on your behalf.

Many thanks

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class,

This week we have been exploring everything 'STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) related. The children have been investigating how magnets work and have used them in their construction play by following designs to create different objects. They were inspired by the stories Iggy Peck Architect, Rosie Revere Engineer and Ada Twist Scientist which we chose to support their STEM discoveries this week.
 The theme of the week was
 'connections' so we have been thinking about how we are all connected as well as connecting to innovate and create together. In Maths, this week we have been learning about subtraction using our number bonds knowledge and skills with part whole models and tens frames to support our investigations.

Next week we will continue our STEM learning by turning our attention skywards to outer space! We are going out of this world with Neil Armstrong and Helen Sharman. We will be thinking about patterns - what they are and how we can make them.

Please remember our farm trip date has changed to Wednesday 3rd May 2023.

The Blueberries did a fantastic job of Show and Tell. Next week it is the turn of the Purple Grapes. Our theme is Spring/
 Growing.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend celebrating Mother's Day.

Mrs. Meridew, Mrs. Monks, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Keech



# EASTERBINGO 

## EASTERBINGO IS BACK!

## Thursday 30th March $5.00 p m$ School hall



EASTERBINGO
All families welcome (children must be supervised) Bingo Cards si a galne Easter egg prizes for a LINE and FULL HOUSE :

## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have started thinking about the story Egg Box Dragon in our English lessons this week. The children have begun to learn parts of the story which they will eventually retell in their writing - parts which include objects going missing and the Egg Box Dragon finding them. We are aiming to make our own egg box dragons next week, which we will take in a little adventure around school to ignite our imaginations!

In Maths we are still noticing many children not yet confident, or fast at their recall of number bonds to (and within) 10. i.e. $7+3 ; 6+4 ; 2+8$; or knowing that 7 can be made with $3+4,5+2,6+1$, etc. If you could possibly practise these at home, we would appreciate it so much. We have moved on to numbers to 20 , thinking about addition and subtraction strategies up to and including 20. Next week, we will be moving on to learning more about numbers to 50 . (if your child is not yet confident with recognising numbers 11-19, please also continue working with these at home). Top Marks ‘Blast Off' game can help with this, but please be aware that this is an online game. https://
www.topmarks.co.uk/ learning-to-count/ blast-off


Phonics continues to see us reviewing the graphemes we have already learned. The children are becoming so much better at spotting them within words, but do encourage them to sound out any words in their reading books for
 themselves. The books which have come home this week are mostly new for each child, but I am aware that a few children have, this week, got a book they have seen before. The books mainly match with a particular set of sounds the children are not yet confident identifying within words, or do not yet know.

In D\&T the children have successfully made their peg person, using their designs from last week. We hope you think they are as brilliant as we do!

As part of Science Week this week, we were able to look at our fingerprints, by carefully collecting our own and looking at how special they are. We also learned some fun facts about fingerprints and enjoyed finding out if ours had 'whorls', 'loops' or 'arches' hidden within them. These sheets have come home so you
 can see them and so that you can carefully and safely dispose of them - and they are not laying around at school!

We also made some connections between the reasons we wash our hands before we eat and after we touch pets or dirty things. We are waiting to see what may grow on the bread we touched with our dirty fingers! Results next week, but we predicted that the 'dirtiest' fingers would be those that were muddy from the ground outside.

## Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team

## Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

Assemblies this week have followed the school's focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Children have been challenged to think about how and why things happen and they were able to share their learning at the end of the week.

In Key stage 2 assembly the children learned about Rosa Parks, the American activist whose actions during the civil rights movement led to changes that ripple on through history.


Prayers and songs this week invited children to give thanks for the wonders of the world around us and to always try to be the best we can be.

## We Need Your Help!

Have you got 'junk' at your house that you do not need any more? Then let Starling Class use it for their Junk Modelling.

We need: cardboard boxes, kitchen roll tubes, buttons, plastic bottles, egg boxes, foil trays, yoghurt pots, lolly sticks, fruit punnets, cupcake cases, cotton reels, plus anything else that we could repurpose!

All items need to be clean and safe. Please don't send in any item that has previously contained nuts, ie Crunchy Nut Cornflake box.

Please feel free to hand to Starling Class staff a the blue door as and when you have the items.


Thank you in advance!

## The School Council need your help!

Would you be able to help make items for our Bake Sale in two weeks' time?

In two weeks' time, straight after school on Monday 27th March, the School Council would like to hold a bake sale to help raise money for the school and our charity Water Aid.

If you would like to help by donating items, we are looking for individual items such as cup cakes, cookies, and brownies to be sent on the morning.

Please label your cakes with any allergens such as dairy, eggs or if they are vegan, vegetarian or gluten-free. For everyone's safety, please avoid using any nuts or nut products/oils in any of the items.

Thank you very much indeed.


School Council


## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

We have had another fun and busy week in Owl class. Because it was STEM week, we have had the opportunity to complete science experiments and be inventors. The theme for STEM is connectivity and we made our own seismometer to investigate the connections between 'owl class vibrations' and measure how they change. We started by making the seismometer, it is impressive what a paper cup, a shoebox and some string can do! Then as our day progressed and we had some louder lessons (recorders) and some quieter, we checked to see how the vibrations recorded differed. We definitely saw a change. Just look at the vibrations when we packed our recorders away!


In our Maths lessons this week we have started to learn about fractions. We have learnt to recognise and find $1 / 2,1 / 4$ and $1 / 3$. Finding fractions by dividing a shape and finding a fraction by dividing a number. (e.g. a square can be halved with a horizontal or vertical or diagonal line, and the number 4 can be halved by dividing into 2 groups of 2.) We have been using the stem sentences 'a fraction is an equal part of a whole' and 'a whole is something that is complete, one object or a quantity.' You could enjoy a pizza together and ask the children to share their fractions knowledge.


Our English work has moved on to instructional writing. We have started by looking at lots of instructions for example; a pancake recipe, how to make pet facemasks and how to wash your hands. The children have really enjoyed finding the imperative verbs or 'bossy words.' Put, whisk, clean, cook, stir, cut, pour, turn, stick etc.

Just a little reminder that our P.E days are Mondays and Wednesdays, so your child will need a full P.E kit in school (for both outdoor P.E and indoor P.E) on these days. If your child has long hair please could it be tied back on P.E days too - thank you.

| Reminders |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| Labelled water bottle | In school every day please |
| Reading books and reading <br> record Book | In school every day please |
| Yellow Spelling folders | In school on Mondays please, ready for the new <br> spelling sheet to be put in it. Thank you. |
| Spelling Frame | set every Monday |
| Mathletics | set every Friday |
| P.E kits in school | In school every day please including outdoor PE kit <br> for use on Wednesdays - spare socks and warm <br> clothing required. |

Thank you for your support and we hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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

## Easter Artwork

As I shared with the children in assembly, we would like them to create a piece of art work that represents part of the Easter story.

Throughout history, artists have retold the story in their work and now it is your turn. Look carefully at the pictures in The Star. What do you like about them, how can you use the ideas and styles to influence a piece of your own? Please do not be tempted to copy one; this must be your own work.

The children should have been given a piece of card to create their work on; this has the instructions of what they need to do on the back.
1.start with your card in the portrait orientation.
2.fold it in half, so that it is now landscape and the fold is at the top of your artwork (as Mrs Seward showed you in the assembly).
3.fold the card, so that this message is on the back.
4.add your name and class to the back of the card.
5.use the examples of art work here to inspire your representation of the Easter story. Remember this is not an Easter Gift Card, it is a piece of artwork. The only reason for the fold is to allow us to hang it over string to display.
6.return your work to your class teacher by $23^{\text {rd }}$ March.

Your work needs to be returned to school by $23^{\text {rd }}$ March at the latest. Each returned piece of work will be awarded a house point The class with the highest percentage of returns will receive a prize. Remember your work will be displayed for all to see in the church.

Have fun!



## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In this week's Maths, we have used our developing understanding of fractions to help us with everyday problems such as ...

Dexter is thinking of a fraction. $\frac{3}{8}$ more than Dexter's fraction is 1 whole. What fraction is Dexter thinking of? How do you know?

Some children are measuring the mass of different objects.


## Alex is ordering fractions.

She has spilt ink on her work.


What could the missing numerator be?
What could the missing numerator not be? Explain your answers.

What could the mass of the bucket be?

Next week we will look at the measurements of mass and capacity.

In English we have continued writing our myth by thinking about the rules of reported speech. We made a 'five rule' hand to help us remember how to punctuate speech correctly. We also reminded ourselves of our work on similes, and wrote some suited for use in our myth.


Next week we will put all the parts of myth writing together and write the story of Isis' search.

We had a special STEM day thinking about how science, technology, engineering and maths could be related to the topic of connections.


For this we went for a walk to spot signs of Spring. We went on the same route as our Autumn and Winter walks so that we could make comparisons about how things have changed. During the walk, Mrs Seward explained the science behind the seasons and the changes we could see, explaining how the changes are connected and how one supports the other. Please see our web page for pictures. Once back in the classroom, to show what we had found out we made an interconnecting diagram with flaps! For this we needed to use our technology, engineering and mathematical skills

To compliment this we have watched extracts from the new David Attenborough series 'Wild Isles'. One of our favourite parts is about how an oak tree supports so much life, and how each of the species that live in the tree are connected and need each other. This included a family of dormice, fascinating, funny, amazing and adorable all in equal measure. Nature is incredibly clever.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0f0tcfq/wild-isles-series-1-1-our-precious-isles

We have also had lovely news from our adopted donkey; he has two new young friends Chief and Chubby.

## Burghley visit

Thank you to those that have replied and paid, for those that have not, please remember to reply and pay ASAP by Monday $20^{\text {th }}$ March at the very latest.

## Weekly home activities

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


## Dates for the diary

Wednesday 29th March - Spring coffee morning in Year Three

Many thanks
Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

## From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week we will be taking part in science technology engineering and maths based activities (STEM) as part of National Science Week - this is a great chance to focus on practical activities that teach us about how to work with accuracy and link our learning to the real world. We have been investigating changes over time and the importance of hand washing related to the growth of mould (in sealed bags!) We also found out about the STEM jobs that are currently available in our local area and discussed the skills that would be needed for jobs that do not even exist yet.

In our maths lessons we are exploring the concept of division.
 Being familiar with times tables really helps. Using real life objects to represent numbers can help build the images children can use to perform and understand calculations mentally.

Next week we will be looking at contemporary fiction and some of our work in this area will give us a chance to look at how we structure our sentences to show when, how and where an event happened.

Our work in Design and Technology has seen us make our own chairs based on the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh - he is a designer who was famed for making his designs cohesive and would design everything in a room not just individual items.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

## PARISH PANTRY

Local Food Bank


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

There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.

This is open and available to all that need it, whether you don't want to waste petrol to go and buy a bag of sugar, you need a full meal to feed your self, your children, or you have no transport to get to the shops.

If you are in a position to donate items required are:
Tinned Meat, Pies, Veg, Potatoes \& Fruit
Cereals
UHT Milk
Sugar
Flour
Pasta
Pasta sauces
Mug shots
Pot noodles
Individual wrapped cakes

Location: St Peter \& St Paul Church Steeple Morden SG8 0NJ


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

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED

## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

This week in English, we finished our work on Roman myths and moved onto studying our next genre, non-chronological reports. We spent some time identifying the features of this genre and next week we will move onto writing our own reports.

In Maths, we have continued working on division and have begun to try using a formal method to divide a two, three or four digit number by a one-digit number. We have also done some work using a formal method to divide with remainders.

As you will no doubt have read elsewhere in The Star, classes have all done some work this week to mark British STEM week. In Year 5, we explored yeast and carried out an experiment to explore what happens when yeast reacts with sugar across a range of temperatures. We wanted to explore whether there was a temperature that made the
 yeast grow most quickly. We caught and measured the amount of carbon dioxide that was released when this chemical reaction took place and that helped us to draw our conclusions. We enjoyed sharing these conclusions with the rest of the school in assembly on Friday.

In PSHE this week we concluded our work on legal and illegal drugs. We have focused on medicine safety and understanding the affects that different drugs can have on our bodies and brains.

In PE this week we worked effectively as a team to complete three challenges focussing on our endurance and our agility. This included some very impressive pacing when running and tackling a challenging obstacle course, skills we will be using on our forthcoming trip to Grafham.

Please have a look inside your child's bag over the weekend just in case there is an envelope addressed to someone at home which could be opened on Sunday - the children were very proud of these creations!


It was lovely to see so many of you at parent consultation meetings last week, thank you for coming and we hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to take a look through your children's work.

With thanks for your continued support,

## The Year 5 Team.

## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)



We look forward to hearing all about the activities Year 6 have been doing in the Peak District.

Photo from a previous residential trip to the Peak District so you get a small taster of the visual delights your children have experienced this week; although there may be some snow in the photos we see next week!


Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team

## Queen Mother's Handwriting Award

It was during a visit to the East of England Show in 1976 that The Queen Mother expressed an interest in children's handwriting saying. 'Clear handwriting is an essential element of communication and self-expression. It is for this reason that I felt able to suggest to the East of England Show organisers, during a visit to the Schools Area in 1976 that I would support an initiative directed at improving children's writing skills.'

The competition was set up in her name the following year. Following the sad
 death of the Queen Mother, the East of England Agricultural Society wrote to Her Majesty The Queen and asked if they could continue the competition in memory of The Queen Mother. Her Majesty kindly agreed and so the competition continues.

Please read carefully the guidelines in the schedule on how to enter, taking note of the details to go on the back of each entry. Go to .https://www.eastofengland.org.uk/education/handwritingawards/ for entry information.

Please note: Entries close 12 noon on Monday 20th March

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School
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Email: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey How

## Cleaner Vacancy <br> 10 hours per week, $£ 10.50$ per hour term time Starting ASAP 2023

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated part time Cleaner.

There is some flexibility when the hours could be worked and can be either directly before and after school, 5 days per week.
Option 1-7.30-8.30 am and 1 hour between 3.30pm and 5.30pm
Option2-3.30-5.30pm

This post may be suitable for someone wanting to work around their studies.

The post holder will join our cleaning team and be responsible for ensuring the building is cleaned to a safe, high standard at all times.

If you are interested in this position, please see school website for further information and an application form. Applications should be sent to Mrs Alisa Lopez-Adcock e-mail ALopez-Adcock@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

We are committed to stringent safeguarding procedures and applicants will be subject to a full enhanced DBS check. Please note, references will be requested prior to interview. As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all members of the community.

# SMARTISDRESCHOAL cout of schook clus <br>  <br> <br> SMARTIES PRE SCHOOL \& OUT <br> <br> SMARTIES PRE SCHOOL \& OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB 

 OF SCHOOL CLUB}

## "Growing and Having Fun Together"



The Community Building. 7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire SG8 OPD
www.smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk.
Registered Charity Number: 1031476


## SMARTIES PRE SCHOOL \& OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB <br> "Easter Holiday Club - 3-11 year olds"



Smarties are trialling a new way for parents/carers to book on the holiday club.
Go to https://forms.office.com/e/eyaYY3QRV9


- ${ }^{*}{ }^{*} A^{*}$ * ${ }^{*}$, This friendly café runs every Friday morning 9-11, during term time in Steeple Morden Church

Tea, coffee, home-made cake Toys and lots of space for little ones

Do join us after school drop-off



## Community News

## Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool
Litlington Preschool
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes
MF Tennis Coaching
St Ives Town Football Club Tots Programme
Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes
Bonfitness Pilates
French Saturday Club
Modern Foreign Languages Tuition
Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section
Biggleswade Swimming Club
Oxford \& Cambridge Singing School - Easter course
Hertfordshire Performing Arts Easter Stage School
Anglesey Abbey—Spring/Summer 2023
Perse Summer School 2023
Therfield Heath Easter Egg Hunt - 2nd April 2023
Theatretrain Royston
Easter Holiday Athletics and Sports Camps
Cambridge Literary Festival - 19th - 23rd April 2023
To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: https:// www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/community
> "Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy."

Norman Vincent Peale

