



Message from Mrs How:

Although England has officially reverted to "Plan A" for managing the pandemic, many of you will be acutely aware that here in school we are still seeing a number of positive cases and dealing with the required isolation periods. Without wishing to tempt fate, Reception and Year 3 have got through the week unaffected whilst other classes have had a much reduced attendance. Not all the absences this week are due to Covid, some children are suffering with heavy colds and tummy bugs; the 'normal' childhood illness that seem to be forgotten about.

I am therefore still asking staff to wear facemasks around school and we continue to reduce contact between classes where possible. I realise that it is now a personal decision to wear face masks in public places but I would urge you to please continue to do so when on school site so that we can prevent further spread. So many of our recent cases have been asymptomatic it is impossible to tell who may be at risk.

Years 5 and 6 were treated to a special workshop this week entitled *God and the Big Bang*. Being a church school within an area known for its science expertise this was a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that the two can successfully co-exist.

I know some of you have asked about our term dates for 2022-2023 (I can't think much beyond next week so am very impressed with those planning so far ahead). Our dates are on page 14 - but please remember if you have children in other local schools their dates may differ slightly. It is always best to check with each school before booking holidays.

Regular articles

Diary Dates	2
Noticeboard.....	3
Starlings (Reception)	4
Robins (Year 1).....	6
Owls (Year 2).....	8
Peacocks (Year 3).....	10
Swifts (Year 4).....	16
Hérons (Year 5).....	19
Puffins (Year 6).....	21
Community News.....	23

Special features

Assemblies & Collective Worship	9
PTA News.....	9
Art for All	12
Term dates for 2022/23	14
Children's Mental Health Week ..	17

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474
E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

"Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, treating people with respect."

Stephen Covey

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

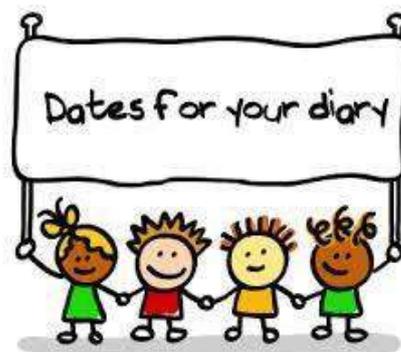
Please make payment for school lunches via Pay360 (formerly SIMS PAY) in **advance of meals taken.**

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@steeplemorden.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@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Please avoid using Parentmail to report pupil absences.



February

- 7 -11 Children's Mental Health Week
- 8th Year 6 parent meeting re Peak District trip (3.30pm via Zoom)
- 11th 'Dress to Express' day - see page 17
- 14-18 **Spring half term**

March

- 1st Parent Consultations (via Zoom)
- 3rd Parent Consultations (via Zoom)
- 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

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

School Lunch Menus

Did you know that you can find our school lunch menus on our website? Go to <https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/school-day-homework-school-meals>

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.

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.

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

Please also remember that if your child is being collected with another child to let us know; we've had a number of occasions when the office has had to make last-minute phone calls at the end of the day for this reason.

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Aloha from Starling Class!

This week we continued to think about recycling, littering and how we can help our environment with a focus on plastic pollution in the oceans. The children were shocked to learn how much water could be saved by just turning the tap off when brushing their teeth (approximately 12 litres) and Mrs Keech showed the children just how much 12 litres of water looked like in the water tray. Mrs Meridew set the children the challenge of turning off the tap when brushing their teeth each day, how have they got on with this?



The children also looked at the deepest point on our planet, the Mariana Trench and how plastic pollution has even managed to affect sea life there. We talked about small ways that we can help reduce plastic waste and make alternative choices. We watched an Octonauts episode which focuses on plastic pollution and how harmful it can be to the animals living in those areas and supported our thinking about how to tackle pollution and save the environment through reading the story 'The Lorax' by Dr. Seuss.

In PE this week, we looked at Hula dancing to 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' in an angry and then confident way. We thought about how each emotion makes our body move in addition to the difference in dance styles, as ballet requires elongated arms, pointed toes and is graceful, rock and roll has twists, flicks, kicks and is fast paced and hula is slow, flowing and uses lots of circling of body parts. The children all performed in their House groups and were able to identify positive elements and areas to work on next week.

To coincide with the Hula dancing, with Mrs Brown, the children learnt about the Hawaiian born ceramist and sculptor Toshiko Takaezu. They looked at some of her artwork and were invited to create their own sculptures inspired by her work. The children also learnt about the American state of Hawaii and that "**Aloha**" not only means Hello, but Goodbye, kindness, love and affection. They also learnt how to say thanks "**Mahalo**". The children had great fun making grass skirts and leis to support their learning about Hawaii and Hula dancing too!

This week in Phonics the children continued with our Phase 3 Phonics. They learnt the digraphs **ai**, **ee**, **oa**. In our Guided Group sessions, the children practiced their blending of **oa** words e.g. c-oa-t. Our Maths sessions this week had us thinking about more and fewer.



In our Maths groups we looked at two different sets and identified which had more or fewer. In our writing groups, we continued our focus on handwriting, concentrating on the letters **j** and **y**, noting that both letters are descenders and sit below the line! Lots of the children found these letters tricky, so we will practice the long ladder letter family again next week.

This week's Library excursion was to the Non-Fiction library. Next week it would be great if the Green Apples 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 'growing' in order to tie in with our environmental focus, we added another 7 new words to our 'word wall'. This week's words were:

Endurance: To keep doing something difficult for a long time

Flourish: To grow well or develop in a healthy way

Distinctive: Something that is easy to recognise because it is different

Cultivate: To prepare land and grow crops on it

Unite: To join together as a group

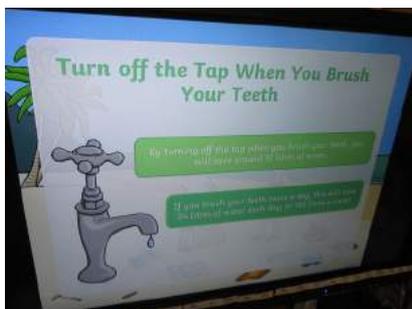
Stamina: Physical or mental energy needed to do a tiring activity for a long time

Wither: When a plant becomes weak and dry

Don't forget, next week will be the turn of Purple Grapes 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.

Have a relaxing weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown & Mrs Keech



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week we have started a new Unit of learning in Maths – all about addition within 20. The children have been thinking carefully about the methods they can use to add: ‘Counting On’ by putting one number in their head and counting on from that number. ‘Adding Ones’ identifying the ‘ones’ numbers they can add together (14 + 3) then using this knowledge to get 7 ones using the number facts they know. (The challenge for many was remembering that there was also a ‘ten’ in the answer!) We think we’re getting there... Wednesday and Thursday saw us getting to grips with using our knowledge of number bonds to 10 and using them to make number bonds to 20.

To really help your children at home, you can practise (orally, with speed) these bonds to 10 (1+9, 2+8, 3+7, 4+ 6, 5+5, 0+10) – and recognising that they are reversible (i.e. 2+8 = 8+2) Once your children can do these, please reinforce the skill they have thought about this week using bonds to 20.

“If I know that 2 + 8 makes 10, then I know that 12 + 8 makes 20” – or that 18 + 2 makes 20.

In our History lesson, the children all enjoyed looking at a series of picture of old toys through the years. For example, there were photos of dolls, which show how they have changed, as well as toy trains, teddies and building sets. The children were encouraged to look at how they developed, thinking about the materials they were made from and the style of the toy. They were challenged to try to put the photos in ‘time order’ which was an interesting exercise. We also made a Thaumatrope, with the children coming up with their own ideas about what image they wanted to see at the end and therefore needing to think carefully about where to draw each of the pictures. Hopefully they have shared these with you at home – the look of wonder of their faces was a joy to see as they observed the 2 pictures ‘blending’ into one – the wonder of science!

If you, or grandparents/older friends have any toys you or they would be willing to let us use as part of our toy museum, we would be really interested in seeing them. Obviously, this might well be in the form of a photo as we recognise older toys can be incredibly precious for a variety of reasons. If you could make sure there is some information about the toy sent to school as well that would be really useful. This could be in the form of an email with a photo typed by you, or if your child wants to complete this as a homework, that would also be brilliant. Information which would be useful: who’s is/was the toy. about how old is it?/when was it played with? (i.e. approx. 50 years old, played with between 1973-1980) Who does it



belong to now? (if different) How was it played with? (if necessary) An interesting fact about the toy (i.e. Mummy’s brother once threw it in a cess pit at cub camp!) As we have said before, we will obviously do our best with establishing ‘museum rules’, but actual toys are not always necessary so do send in a photo if you have something interesting and you’d rather not send in the toy – or pass a toy to the adult on the gate and we can look at it as a class, take photos and return it the same/next day.

Art this week saw your lovely children being so careful when squeezing out their own paint, using the mixing trays to mix secondary and tertiary colours from the primary colours and painting their own 'colour wheel'. We were immensely proud of their careful and tidy work, with only minimal cleaning up needing to be done at the end of the lesson. I'm sorry we were so late out on Monday evening, but we were so engaged with the whole lesson the afternoon just flew by! Must try harder next week to be cleared up and out to you all on the playground!



In Phonics, we are continuing to learn new digraphs. Children need to be always looking for digraphs as they read – rather than sounding out tie, for example, recognising that the i and e say 'ie' as last week. We hope you are enjoying your children 'teaching' you about their new digraphs as they bring home a little game or exercise to do to reinforce their learning. We have found in the past that those who play the game and pass on their knowledge are more able to recall what the digraph says when we revisit it the following week. This week's new graphemes are as follows:

Week 3:

Old grapheme	New grapheme	examples of words to read and write	Tricky words
		the word old as found in: cold, cold, bold, fold, told	<p>To read: don't Mr Mrs who</p> <p>To spell: some come</p>
or	aw	jigsaw, crawl, straw, jaw, prawn, awful	
w (can be at start, middle, end of a word)	wh (always comes at the start of a word)	when, which, wheel, whisper, where, what	
h	wh	who, whole, whom,	
f	ph	dolphin, phantom, Phil, phonics, elephant, alpha-bet	

At the end of this term, Mrs Carter will be stepping down from her teaching role within the class and will increase her hours as a teaching assistant. This will increase the amount of support available for individual children and allow her to concentrate on one role in the classroom. As a result, I will be advertising for a part time teacher to work alongside Mrs Bowmer.

We hope you have a super weekend, and that those not with us in school make a speedy recovery and hope we see you soon.

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Carter and the Year 1 Team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

This week we have been learning more mapwork skills, studying a map of our school using keys and symbols. We talked about how reading a map is a very useful life skill!

In our English work we have begun work on a new text – ‘The Queen’s Hat’ by Steve Antony. We have studied the language used, the use of the past tense again, the use of apostrophes to show possession and we will continue to pick out key themes including the use of time connectives (first, then, next, after that, finally etc). Next week we will be using the structure of the story to write our own hat adventures!



In Maths this week we have been continuing with our work on multiplication and division and seeing the link between the two. We have also learnt more about odd and even numbers, using this information to help us solve mathematical number problems.

Fact Families

$$5 \times 4 = 20 \quad 4 \times 5 = 20 \quad 20 \div 5 = 4 \quad 20 \div 4 = 5$$

The class are enjoying our work on Tackling tables, using the cards and last week we attempted our first timed quiz! If you would like to purchase a home pack, these can still be ordered in school.

Reminders:

Reading Records Booklets – to school every day.

Yellow Spelling Folders – to school on Mondays. Please practise spellings!

Homework Folders – given out on Fridays, bring back to school on Wednesdays please

Mathletics – set every Friday. Tackling Tables – practise as often as possible at home.

P.E. – Mondays with Mrs Luebcke & Wednesdays with Mrs Daniels.

Recorders – please bring into school every Friday.

Please can you also ensure that your child has a **full P.E. kit in school all week** as follows:- shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms, sweatshirt (no hoods please), trainers suitable to wear outside and socks.

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

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



PTA News



January Lottery Club winners are:

1st:	11 - Julie Robotham	£16.12
2nd:	12 - J Edward Belson	£12.54
3rd:	98 - Linda Ellett	£8.96

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners!

Thanks to Mrs How for making sure the draw was done fairly and properly!

Thanks again for your support.

Your PTA

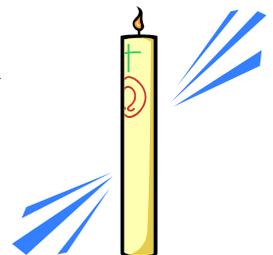
RSPB Bird Garden Birdwatch

This weekend is the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch where people across the UK are encouraged to spend an hour between Friday 28 and Sunday 30 January counting the birds, and help monitor how birds are faring. It's free, fun, and a great way to keep an eye on your local wildlife. Wherever you are, whatever you see, it counts! Go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> for more information.



Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

In Assembly this week, I read the story of *The Good Samaritan*. The version I used was from one of our Children's Bibles, but comes from Luke 10 v25-37. It is a widely known story and one that reminds us to look beyond other's prejudices or our own importance and to always be kind to others whenever we are able to do so.



News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In Maths, this week we have continued with our multiplication and division work. Next week we will continue with more multiplication and division.

Comparing multiplication and division statements 1

Discover

I have 20 pears.

I have the same number of pears as Richard.

Richard has 4 packs. Levi has 2 bags.

$4 \times 5 = 20$
 $5 \times 4 = 20$
 $20 \div 4 = 5$
 $20 \div 5 = 4$

So Levi has more pears.

I did not need to work out the number of apples for each person. All the packs have the same number of apples. Levi has more packs, so she has more apples.

1 a) Who has more apples, Richard or Levi?
 b) Richard's bags each have the same number of pears in them. Each of Levi's bags have the same number of pears in them. Whose bags contain the least number of pears?

Share

I worked out the number of apples each child had.

a) There are 3 apples in each pack. Richard has 4 packs. Levi has 5 packs.

$4 \times 3 = 12$
 $5 \times 3 = 15$
 $15 > 12$

So Levi has more apples.

b) Richard has 20 pears. They are grouped equally in 3 bags. Levi has 20 pears. They are grouped equally in 2 bags.

$20 \div 3 = 6$
 $20 \div 2 = 10$

Each bag contains 4 pears. Each bag contains 10 pears.

$4 < 10$ so 20 \div 3 $<$ 20 \div 2. Richard's bags contain the least number of pears.

I can work out the answer without doing a division. Richard and Levi have the same number of pears. Richard has more bags so he must have fewer pears in each bag than Levi.

Comparing multiplication and division statements 2

Discover



- 1** a) Are there more noodles in total in the boxes or the bags?
 b) Each jug holds 240 ml of juice. The first jug of juice is shared equally between the red glasses. The second jug of juice is shared equally between the blue glasses. Does one red or one blue glass contain more juice?

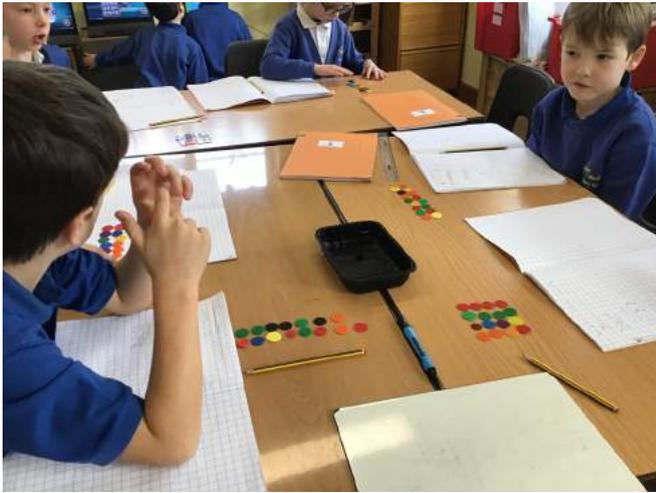
In our English work, we have started to pool our ideas in order to write a letter of application in response to the job advert placed by Howard Carter. We have started to think about how we can show that we are adventurous, a team player and can cope with working in extreme heat. At the moment working in any heat would be most welcome, please put extra layers on as the classroom is cold! Work will continue on our persuasive letter writing next week.

In topic work we have continued with the work introduced on our 'Howard Carter day', this will also help with our letters as we will be able to explain what we know about Egypt and hopefully skills that we have developed to be archaeologists.

Next week we will begin work on the preservation of body parts (using grapes). Please can you have a look in the kitchen cupboards and discuss any produce that is preserved in a liquid, e.g. pickled onions, olives in brine, fruit in alcohol or syrup.

Over the next coming weeks as part of our PSHCE work, the children will be invited to have a turn on our 'soap box'. They will have the opportunity to talk for no longer than 4 minutes about something they are interested in. This maybe a club they go to out of school, a favourite author, their pet dog, or a cake they have helped bake. The point is for them to develop their confidence in talking to a group about something they are interested in. Each week a child will be identified as the next week's speaker. It will be their responsibility to prepare the talk in their own time ready for the following week's lesson.





This week I have had a chat with the class about the importance of Mathletics and Spelling Frame. My records show that only two members of the class have used Spelling Frame at any point this term (I didn't look back to last term) and only five on Mathletics. These activities along with your home reading and Tackling Tables really are imperative and I cannot stress strongly enough how much of a difference they make. Now, more than ever, due to disruption caused by Covid, any extra that can be done is needed. Each of these activities only needs to be about five minutes. Little and often is the best way. Please try to support your children with these. Many thanks

Half term is approaching, if you are planning days out may I suggest the British Museum in London , <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/egypt> or the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge <https://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/about-us/collections/egypt> These museums both have Egyptian sections, all the children have been really taken with this topic, so visits to see 'real ' Egyptian things could be rather exciting.

Register secret code! Consider the following question, I may ask you for your reasoning, the answer will be the code for Monday's register. *"Would you rather, be able to swim like a fish, or fly like a bird?"*

Weekly home activities

- **Reading**, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in reading diary.
- Books and diary **must be** in school daily please.
- **Mathletics and Spelling** Frame are up and ready with set work for the children, logins for both are in reading diaries
- **Tackling Tables** practise.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Seward and Miss Smith





Art is for All

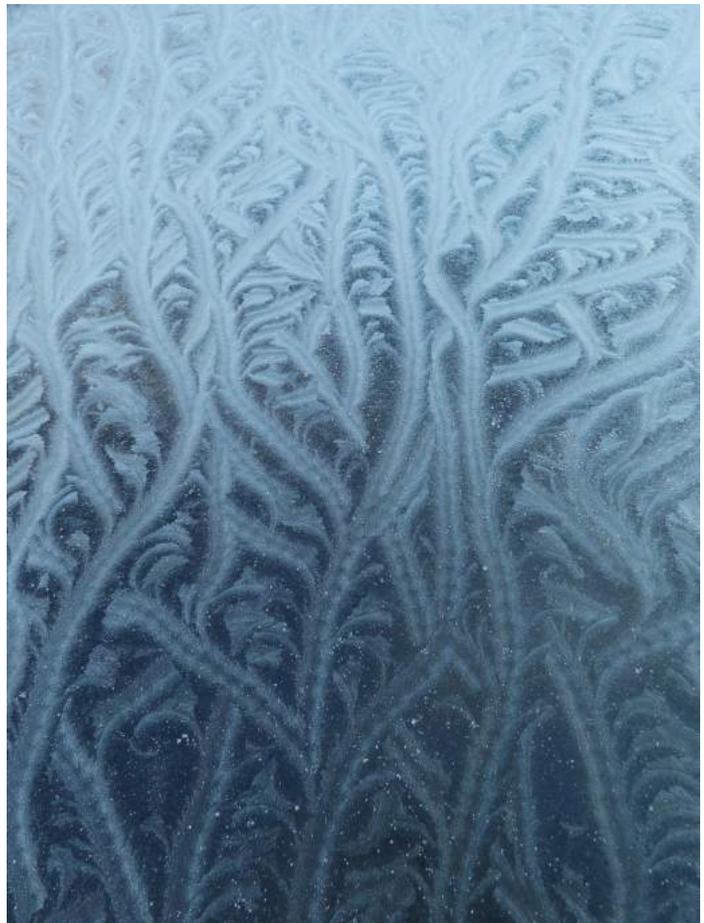
Your Task:

Go out for a walk, have in mind Andy' Goldsworthy'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 Goldsworthy'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.

Art is for All Gallery



Term dates 2022/2023

Autumn term begins	Monday 5th September 2022
Autumn half term	Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October 2022
Autumn term ends	Wednesday 21st December 2022
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Thursday 1st Sept</i> <i>Friday 2nd Sept</i>
Spring term begins	Thursday 5th January 2023
Spring half term	Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023
Spring term ends	Friday 31st March 2023
<i>INSET day</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Wednesday 4th January 2023</i>
Summer term begins	Tuesday 18th April 2023
<i>Early May Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 1st May 2023</i>
Summer half term	Monday 29th May - Friday 2 June 2022
Summer term ends	Wednesday 19th July 2023
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Monday 17th April</i> <i>Monday 5th June</i>

Playtime snacks

As many of you know, we are able to provide snacks for children in Reception and KS1 through a government funded scheme. At KS2 we encourage children to bring their own healthy snacks to enjoy at playtime and keep them going through the morning between breakfast and lunch.

To help us encourage healthy lifestyles could you please check that any playtime snacks sent into school are fruit or vegetables rather than carbs and sweets? If your child also has a packed lunch, by keeping the snack separate we can ask children to leave lunch boxes alone until lunch time.

Packed lunches

We also keep an eye on children's packed lunches, again to encourage healthy lifestyles and check that they have the essentials for a focussed afternoon of learning. We hope to find a balance of carbs, protein, fruit and veg and the all-important treat for dessert. However, we are noticing a few chocolate bars sneaking into the packed lunches which we would not encourage.

As a self-confessed chocoholic I am not proposing any sort of ban on sweet items (and I know that some of the school dinners include sweet desserts; obviously produced within strict dietary guidelines) but I would ask please that chocolate bars are not sent into school. A rice cake with a chocolate topping or a cookie with chocolate chips is fine but please leave Kit-Kats, Curly-Wurllys etc for treats at home.

Many thanks for your support with this.

SMARTIES OUT OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLUB



MONDAY 14TH FEB -
FRIDAY 18TH FEB
2022

MONDAY

ACTIVITY:
LOVE HEART SOONES
(FRUIT/CHEESE)
HEART BEADED HANGING
DECORATIONS

FOOD:
HOMEMADE SAUSAGE ROLLS
POTATO WEDGES & BEANS
ICED SPONGE CAKE &
CUSTARD



TUESDAY

ACTIVITY:
ART WORK TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY
'MORDENS ART TRAIL'

FOOD:
HOMEMADE SPAGHETTI
BOLOGNAISE
GARLIC BREAD
YOGHURT



WEDNESDAY

ACTIVITY:
TERRACOTTA GIFT
POTS FILLED WITH
HOMEMADE FUDGE

FOOD:
FISH FINGERS
CHIPS & PEAS
VANILLA CHEESECAKE



THURSDAY

ACTIVITY:
HOMEMADE BATH
BOMBS
CANDLE MAKING

FOOD:
HOMEMADE CHICKEN
PIE, MASH & VEG
MELON



FRIDAY

ACTIVITY:
BOTTLE AIRPLANE
ANIMAL DESK
ORGANISER

FOOD:
HOMEMADE PIZZA
CHOCOLATE CHIPS
COOKIES



COME AND JOIN IN OUR VALENTINES THEMED HOLIDAY CLUB

FEES*:

9AM - 1.30AM SESSION - £15
(HALF DAY LUNCH INCLUDED)

1.30PM - 6PM - £12 (HALF DAY NO LUNCH)

9AM - 3PM SESSION - £18 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

9AM - 6PM SESSION - £28.50 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

*CANCELLATION FEES APPLY PLEASE SEE BOOKING FORM

EMAIL: SMARTIESOOSCLUB@GMAIL.COM TO REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST ASAP

CHILDREN CAN BRING BIKES AND SCOOTERS HOWEVER SAFETY HELMETS MUST BE WORN.

ELECTRICAL DEVICES CAN BE BROUGHT ALONG BUT THEY WILL BE TIME LIMITED AND GAMES MUST BE 'AGE APPROPRIATE' FOR YOUR CHILD.

PLEASE PROVIDE A REFILLABLE BOTTLE OF WATER WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME

PLEASE NOTE THIS COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS INCREASE

SMARTIES OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB UNFORTUNATELY CAN NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PERSONAL ITEMS

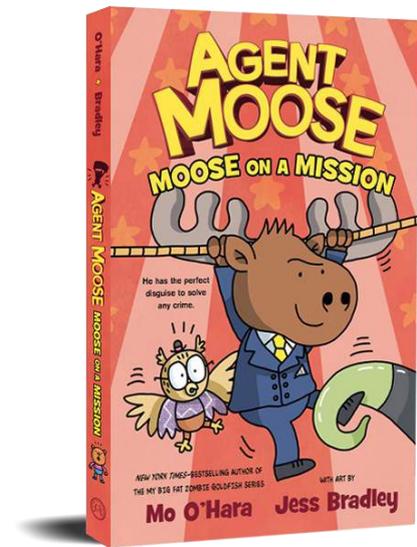


News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week some of our work has had a cross curricular link. We have been studying the lives of famous people and finding out about what they have achieved in their lives. In English lessons, we have also been studying biographies. We began by looking at what the word meant by analysing parts of the word – bio (meaning life) and graph (meaning to write), and then looking at the difference with autobiography (auto meaning self). We have also been looking at the features of biographies and how text is organised in order to develop a sense of cohesion. In our grammar work we continue to remind children to remember the capitalisation of proper nouns i.e., names, places and titles - biographical writing gives us plenty of opportunities to do this! We took part in a live lesson with writer Mo O'Hara and illustrator Jess Bradley who spoke about their brand-new graphic novel series, Agent Moose.

Our Maths lessons have seen us use our multiplication tables to solve problems around the number of different combinations it is possible to have for example, when choosing which combination of clothes to wear.

In our science lessons we are looking at the different methods used for generating electricity. We are investigating both fossil fuels and renewable resources and considering the impact that these have on the environment. We are also looking at the component parts of an electrical circuit and have been experimenting to find out what is needed to make a successful circuit. To help us record this information, in a scientific way, we have introduced some of the symbols used to help us label diagrams accurately. Our next steps will be to look at circuits which have been organised in different ways and to decide if they will work successfully.



Mr Beavan & the Year Four Team

Children's Mental Health Week 7-13th February 2022

This year we will be marking Children's Mental Health Week in school by taking part in Place2Be's 'Dress to Express' campaign. Place2Be is a children's mental health charity with over 25 years of experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools. Together with Place2Be we want to shine a spotlight on the importance of young people's mental health and also try to raise funds to ensure that every child has easy access to mental health support whenever they need it.

There will be plenty of fun events taking place throughout the week in school culminating in a special assembly on Friday 11th February. We would like to encourage everyone (staff and children!) to wear something to school on this day – **'Dress to Express' day Friday 11th February** - that expresses something about themselves or how they are feeling. This could be as uncomplicated or overstated as your child might wish! Suggestions include your child/children wearing their favourite colour to school, an outfit that expresses their hobbies or interests or a unique outfit that tells us something about how they feel or who they are. The only requirement is that your child needs to be able to explain what the outfit tells us about them and we will be sharing some of these ideas in class and maybe even in assembly too.

We feel that this day is very important in helping your child to develop a strong and healthy sense of self that is so vital to their long-term positive mental wellbeing. In addition, if anyone is able to contribute anything on the day to Place2Be then we will be setting up a Justgiving page and putting the link for this in The Star next week so that you can contribute in this way. Thank you.

We very much look forward to seeing what you come to school wearing on the 11th February!



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.

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 you are advised to do daily LFTs for 7 days. If they are displaying any of these symptoms **we strongly urge you to book a PCR as soon as possible**. 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.

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

It has been an interesting week in year 5 where every day has brought a new combination of children and adults.

With Mrs How, the children looked at some myths and tried to identify some common themes running through them. These will then be used to write our own myths. Next week we will be looking at our main characters and creating some suitable heroes and villains.

Maths has continued to be a challenge for everyone with column multiplication needing a considerable amount of concentration and lots of different steps to work through. Everyone has improved from their starting point last week and we will soon be ready to move on to another fun topic.... division!

We have learnt more about the Roman way of life around 2000 years ago and the children have created some lovely quizzes to try out on each other when we are all back in class.

During the second half of the week we were lucky enough to have a visit from 'God and the Big Bang' - a group of visiting speakers organised through the Diocese of Ely. The workshop focused around exploring the relationship between Faith and Science which, as you may remember, was our R.E. topic in the autumn term so linked in extremely well. This meant that Year 5 came to this special event with lots of thoughts and questions already formed which, year 5 agreed, the speakers handled very well.

We have also spent some time checking our progress on the accurate spelling of words from various statutory spelling lists and we will be sharing these results with you soon. A quick dust-down of our Tackling Tables, some new work set on Mathletics for homework this weekend, the months of the year in Italian and an extremely enjoyable viewing of the Rocksteady concert in class (which saw some truly amazing performances from our Year 5 Rocksteady members) and a well-earned weekend beckons!

Enjoy your weekend and stay safe,

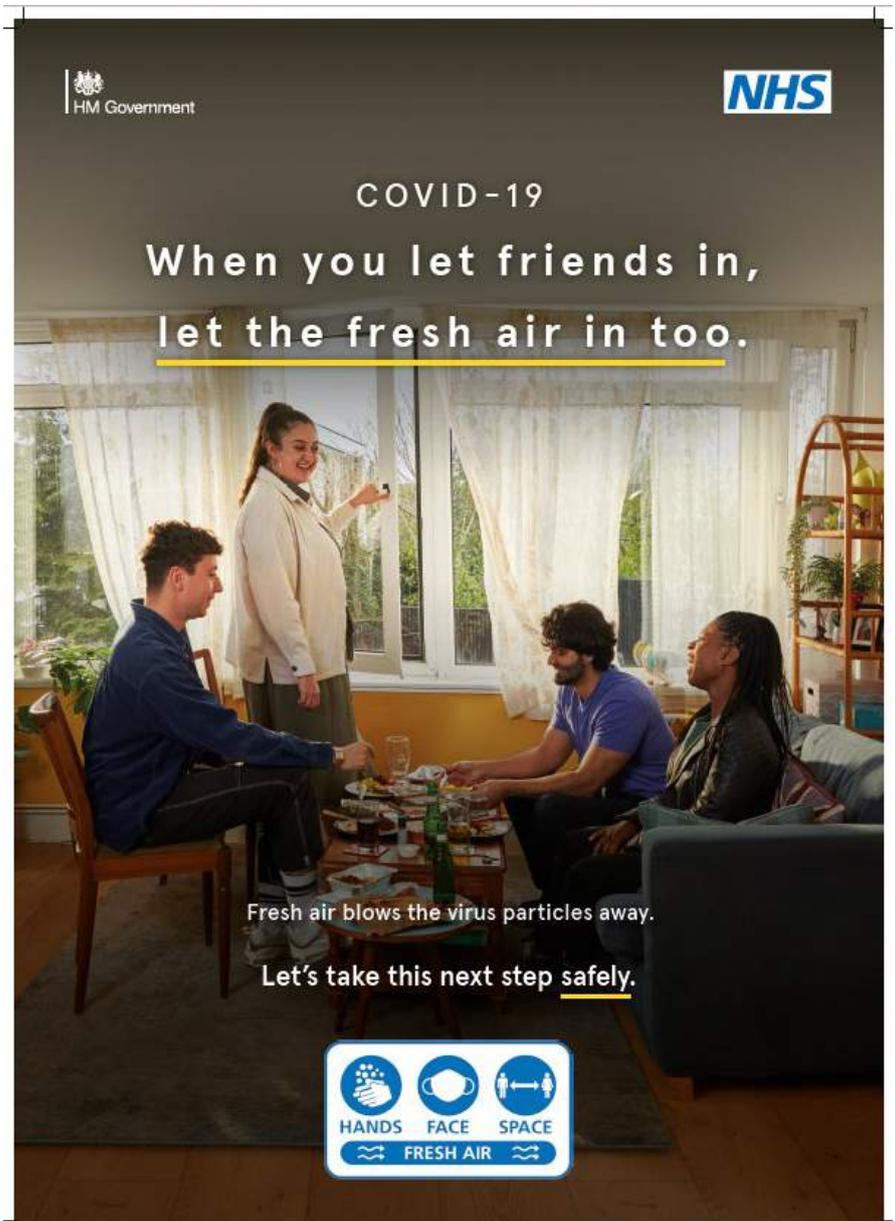
The Year 5 Team



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

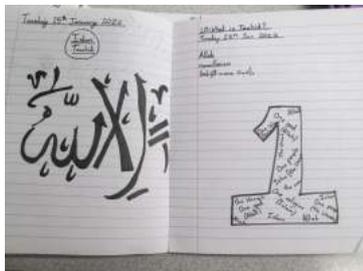
This email address will be checked each morning, evening and during the day (including weekends) and we ask that you use this address to advise us of Covid -19 positive test results for any member of your household. Although there is unlikely to be any action required it does mean that we can alert members 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 as usual



News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

In English we are continuing to look at non-chronological reports. We have looked at how to plan our work and to be descriptive about the subject we are writing about. We will continue to look at the features of non-chronological reports and link this to the sinking of the Titanic.

This week, in Maths, we started our new topic on algebra. Some in the class found this challenging but with a lot of perseverance many were happy when they achieved success in the lessons. Many also found this easier than they thought and one said that it 'was really just replacing numbers with letters.' We will continue to study this next week as well as looking at linear number sequences.

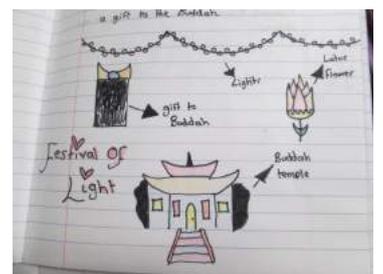


In RE we have been working on units about other world religions. We have just finished a unit about Buddhism and the children learnt about the enlightened path and the festival of lights (Wesak). This term we have started a unit about Islam and the children will be learning about Tawhid and how the five pillars of Islam are so important to the Muslim faith. Attached are some examples of the learning that we have done recently.



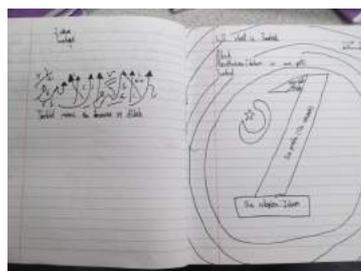
Homework will be set again this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 3rd February.

A reminder that we have a Zoom meeting scheduled to take place on 8th February at 3.30pm about the upcoming residential trip to the Peak District in March.



Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 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 5 days instead of 6**

How have they changed?

From day 5 of self-isolation take a rapid lateral flow **test each day**. After **two negative results in a row you can stop self-isolating**, whether you're vaccinated or not.

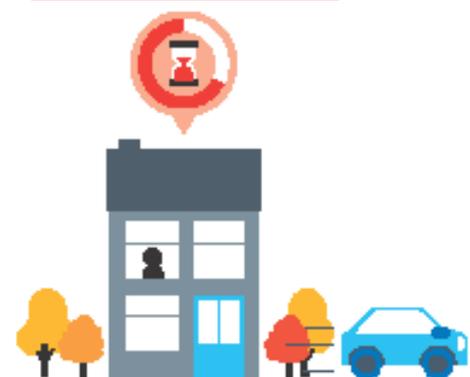
From day 5



Why have they changed?

Our analysis shows that 5 full days of self-isolation with 2 negative test results **gives nearly as much protection as 6 days without testing**. This will reduce disruption to everyone's lives.

5 full days



Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool
Litlington Preschool
Kapla February half term holiday club
February half term French holiday club
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes
MF Tennis Coaching
Norwich City Football Club community clubs
St Ives Town Football Club Tots Programme
Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes
Bonfitness Pilates
Multi Active Camps for February half term

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

*“Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity
than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.”*

Proverbs 28:6

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474
E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

