



## Message from Mrs How:

I am hopeful that today we might manage a whole day in school without the sound of rain hammering against the windows or having to restrict the time children can be outdoors due to heavy downpours. I have noticed this week that as the weather has changed, particularly in the mornings, more parents are dropping their children off as close to school as possible. I appreciate this may be to prevent the children being outside for too long but this has caused some traffic problems along Hay Street.

Please avoid **parking** – even “just for a minute” close to the school gates or around the junction with Hay Street and Cheyney Street. This causes congestion and makes the area dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. I have seen the frustration in some drivers lead to them attempting to speed along the road to get away from all the parked cars. I do worry that there will be a serious accident one day... and one which could so easily be prevented.

I have also become increasingly aware of some people **smoking** around school during drop off times. Whilst I know that this is not against the law and I know that not all of those noticed are parents, in the same way that I frequently comment on dangerous driving or parking around school I thought it was time for a general reminder.

Smoking (including vaping and e-cigarettes) is banned on all school property. This is largely in response to studies which show that as children breathe faster than adults, they take in more of the harmful chemicals in second-hand smoke. They are even more sensitive to smoke than adults because their bodies are young and still developing and this can lead to respiratory illness. Whilst the public pathways around school are not subject to this legislation, I would ask please that all parents and carers consider their surroundings when smoking and please avoid exhaling smoke or carrying lit cigarettes around young children.

**On a more positive note ... please look out for communication early next week about how you can book your seats at the Nativity / Church service of your choice.**

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### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Hertfordshire  
SG8 0PD

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

*"Life isn't about finding yourself.  
Life is about creating yourself."*

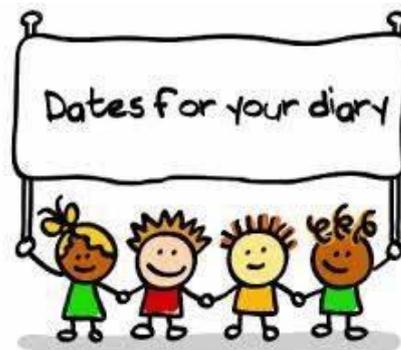
**George Bernard Shaw**

## School Meal Charges Autumn 2022

Daily:	£2.40
Weekly:	£12.00
1st half term	£84.00
2nd half term	£91.20
Whole term	£175.20

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](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)**



## November

- 30th Flu vaccination catch-up session
- 30th Cross Country at Wimpole (selected KS2 children)

## December

- 5th Year 3 Coffee Morning (9.10am - 10am)
- 6th Reception & KS1 Nativity (2pm)
- 7th Reception & KS1 Nativity (2pm)
- 14th Year 4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum
- 15th KS2 Church Service 9.30am
- 15th KS2 Church Service 6.30pm
- 15th Christmas Dinner
- 16th Rocksteady Concert
- 19th Christmas Jumper Day
- 20th Year 5 family get together - details tbc
- 21st Last day of Autumn term

## Absence Reporting

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

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

## School uniform

Please, please ensure that your child's belongings (uniform, bags, water bottle etc) are all labelled with your child's name. We have a number of jumpers and other items which have been misplaced by their owners which we can't return as they don't have the child's name inside, or have the name of a 'previous owner'.

# Notice Board

## Coughs, Colds and Covid

We are seeing many more seasonal coughs and colds than usual at the moment; all these viruses seem to be with us in abundance after the last couple of years.

Please, please encourage good hygiene practices with your children, reminding them to 'catch' coughs and sneezes; preferably in a disposable tissue, but at least into their hand or elbow.

The NHS offers the following advice on how to avoid spreading a cold:

- wash your hands often with warm water and soap
- use tissues to trap germs when you cough or sneeze
- bin used tissues as quickly as possible

Please also keep an eye out for symptoms of Covid-19, it hasn't gone away and we've had several cases in school recently. Advice regarding this is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

## Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on [office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steplemorden.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.

## School lunches

Please ensure that you check the school menu carefully for each day. We are seeing an increasing number of children who get extremely upset at morning registration when they realise that they don't like the day's menu options, but don't have a packed lunch with them. The menu is sent out each week on a Friday afternoon with the Star and is also available on the website at <https://www.steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/school-day-homework-school-meals>

## News from Starling Class (Reception)



Hello from Starling Class,

This week we have been practising the songs for our upcoming nativity play 'Wiggly Nativity' – we are sure you have heard some of these songs at home; you may even know some of the actions! Look out for a Parentmail next week to book your seats. Costume letters were sent home last week; you will only have received a letter if you need to provide a costume (or part of a costume). If you did receive a costume letter, could you please ensure the costume is in school by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November please.

We have learnt FIVE new sounds this week: ch, sh, th, ng and nk! 'th' is a particularly tricky sound as it can make two different sounds; either th as in thin or th as in that. The children have been sorting words based on their initial sounds.

In Maths, we have introduced the part-whole model. The children have been thinking about what makes a part, and what makes a whole, in order to fill in their own part-whole models.

We have also been thinking about the very first Christmas and why we celebrate Christmas.

Last week the Yellow Bananas were fantastic during Show and Tell – apologies for not posting a reminder in the Star. This week the Green Apples were super! Next week it will be the turn of the Purple Grapes.





The weather has been pretty miserable! Can you make sure that your child has a waterproof coat in school every day please as we aim to get outside as much as possible. As the weather is getting colder too, you may wish to send your child in with a hat, gloves and scarf, all of which should be named.

Next week we will be in full swing with our Nativity rehearsals. We will also be learning some new sounds as well as thinking about spatial awareness.

Have a wonderful and hopefully, dry, weekend!

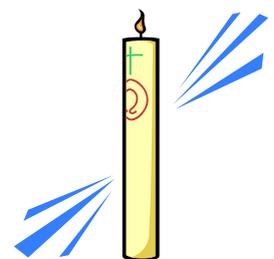
**Mrs Meridew,  
Mrs Monks,  
Mrs Brown  
and Mrs  
Keech**



## Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

Monday's assembly focused on the important learning throughout the school recently as part of anti-bullying week. Children from all classes shared the key messages around what bullying means, how to take action to prevent or stop it in our school and how to "reach out" and talk to people if anyone is concerned by something they have experienced or seen.

Class or Key Stage assemblies included The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13 v1-9), asking children to compare the way that the seeds needed a certain type of soil to grow, to how the word of God needs a special type of person or heart (one that is open and fruitful) to grow. We also related this to how particular conditions such as willingness and listening can allow learning to grow and flourish in school.



## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week we have embarked on a new mini-unit where we will be thinking about letter-writing. We have read a new book "Can I be Your Dog?" and the children have really engaged with it well, looking at the letters within it, which tell the story of Arfy trying to find a new home.

In Maths, we have been adding 2 1-digit numbers. I have been really trying to get some of the children to think about why an answer can't be correct (getting them to consider what mistakes might have been made in the working out). Some have responded well to this – others are making progress. We have also been investigating 2D shapes with Mrs Andrews, making pictures and describing position.

As we have mentioned in the last couple of Star entries, we will be encouraging the children to make sure they can read words on sight, followed by trying to get the children to learn to spell them. Our new list of words for the next couple of weeks are as follows. If you are able to encourage writing these words at home, the more practise they have, the better!

to, today, I, you, your, be, me, we, so, there, love, come, full

During RE this week we were thinking about how Jewish people view studying the Torah as a 'Mitzvah'. We read the story of Ruth and the children were amazing at spotting all the Mitzvah (good deeds) throughout the story!

In our Design and Technology lesson this week, the children worked hard to use 'slits' to help make flat pieces of paper join together in order to create walls to make a standing structure.



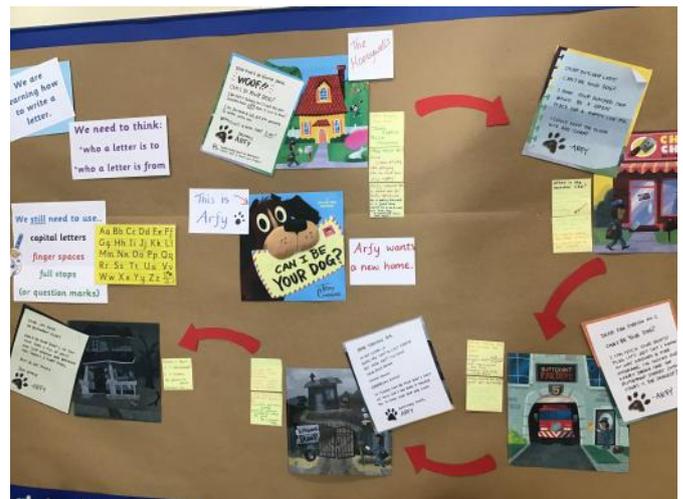


It has been great to have already collected in some costume bits for our Nativity Play. These need to be in by Thursday, please – do check book bags for the letter if you are not sure what to provide. If your child is a shepherd, the shorts and t-shirt will a) keep them a little warmer in the ventilated hall but also b) make sure they are not uncomfortable in the costume. If your child is a sheep, the leggings/joggers and t-shirt will also keep your child warm, but to let you know t-shirts can be long or short sleeved – they are to be the ‘legs’ of the sheep!

Thank you for your continued support from home. Water bottles are still needed in school daily, please, and a healthy fruit snack if your child may not like the fruit provided in school. Please ensure children are not bringing toys or fidget toys into school because it really does cause upset when other children want them – and I’m sure it would cause more upset if they got broken!

Have a lovely weekend,

**Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and Mrs Carter**



## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

This week the class extract is shorter than usual because we have been busy completing assessments in maths and rehearsing our nativity. The children have completed their addition and subtraction block of learning in maths and have now started the new block of shape. To start we have reviewed our shape knowledge so far, sorting 2D and 3D shapes, naming some known shapes and trying to work out some unknown ones.

In topic this week, we have finished our thoughts on changes in local history during our lifetimes. The children found it very interesting to see how many changes there have been in the local area in the last 6-7 years. We have then used the other topic sessions to rehearse our nativity; please continue to help your children learn their lines at home.

In English this week, we have started to look at traditional fairy tales and the themes that run throughout them. The children sorted fairy-tales by the scene, objects and what went wrong within the story. We have linked this learning to our computing and learned the internet safety fairy-tale. What information we can and should not share online and when we should ask for a grown-up.

**Reminders:** Please bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school every day and now the weather is turning please can we ask for a named coat to come into school daily too.

Reminders	
Reading books and reading record Book	to school every day please
Yellow Spelling folders	In school on Mondays please, ready for the new 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

Have a lovely weekend,

**Mrs Luebcke, Miss Blesic and the Year 2 team**





## PTA News



Over the past couple of years, due to impact of COVID, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for our school has fallen into disrepair and desperately needs new blood. The fundamental role of the PTA is to organise fun events to raise money for the school to buy extras that enhance all of the children's school experience.

The PTA has in the past contributed significant funding for a range of equipment including the outdoor play structure, outdoor learning zones and refurbishment of the library as well as funding smaller contributions such as the Christmas lunch crackers, cups and decorations, and Key Stage 1 Santa gifts / KS2 Classroom gifts as well as buying the Year 6 leavers' gifts.

Further to the successful Fireworks and Bonfire event last month where over £3700 was raised, we are looking to reform a properly constituted PTA Committee so that we can organise further fun events to raise even more money for the school.

To that end we are holding a meeting at the school on **Wednesday 30th November 2022 from 7-8pm** for everyone interested in finding out more about what is involved. Being a member of the Committee does not have to be a big commitment but the results of its work make an enormous difference and so we hope that a good number of parents/carers/relatives of children in the school will step up to the challenge and continue the amazing fun(d) raising work this committee has carried out in the past.

Without a PTA Committee in place we cannot continue with the fund raising so please lend your support to this important cause.

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English this week, when describing the chocolate room, we have tried to combine all the descriptive devices we have thought about in recent weeks.

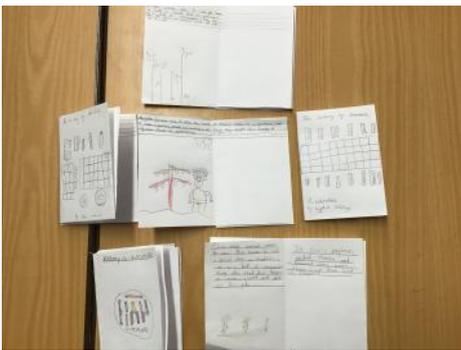
The use of adjectives, similes and prepositions has resulted in sentences like these ...

'Cutting through the middle of the meadow there flowed a rich chocolate river, frothing like a fizzy drink over shaken.'

'Dotted around the meadow were spotted mushrooms, like jelly beans on a counter'

'The waterfall was as fast as lightening and as loud as thunder as it hit the frothing chocolate and exploded.'

The children are looking forward to sharing their full passages of descriptive writing with you on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.



In Maths, we have developed our understanding of formal written methods to solve a variety of subtraction problems. Most of us are able to identify the calculation needed and select the best method; however, a lot of revision was needed for number bonds to 20, so if you have a few spare moments can you please ask quick fire questions to consolidate the learning of all number bonds to 20, eg.  $17 + ? = 20$ ,  $20 - 8 = ?$ , 15 and what make 20? Next week we will begin work on multiplication and division.

In our topic work we have looked at the history of chocolate, we put key events into chronological order before making mini booklets to tell chocolate's history. It is one of the oldest edible items still in use. We were quite fascinated by the fact that during the Georgian period it was very fashionable to go to a chocolate house and meet up with your friends to enjoy a chocolate, much as we do with coffee today. In the chocolate houses and in rich people's homes they had special chocolate pots, cups, saucers, and

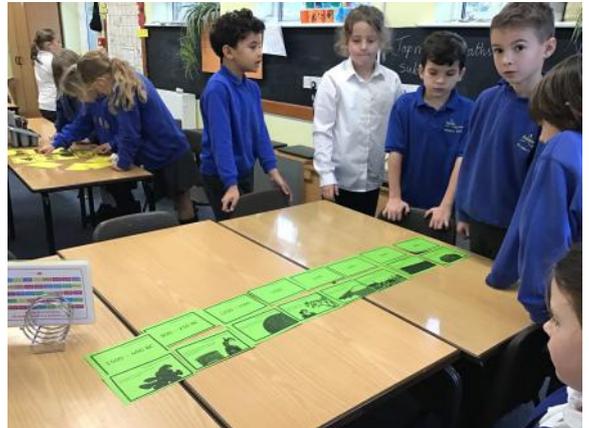
spoons for the drinking of chocolate. For most of chocolate's history, it has only been affordable by the rich and wealthy, it is only comparatively recently that chocolate has been enjoyed by all.



Next week we will begin our design technology work and look at the packaging of chocolate.

Despite all this pleasing news, I do have a little nagging to do. Sorry !

Over the last few weeks, home reading and the practising of tackling tables seems to have dropped significantly. The expectation is to read at least four times weekly and to regularly practise tackling tables. Both activities are best as short focussed sessions of no longer than about 10 minutes each. I cannot emphasise enough how important this is and what a difference it makes to the children's progress and confidence.



### Up coming events

- **30<sup>th</sup> Nov** Wimpole run (for some children) details separately
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 9.10am -10am coffee morning.** You may recall from the year ahead meeting that I was planning to hold termly coffee mornings so that you can come in and share the children's topic book, along with coffee, cake and a good natter.

### Weekly home activities

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

### Reminder

- Please name all clothing
- Send books and diary into school each day

Many thanks

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

**From Mrs Seward and Miss Smith**



As part of the Christmas celebration, we will be singing, 'Simply Having a Wonderful Christmastime' by Paul McCartney and 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens; it would be very helpful if you could practise these at home.



### **Additional homework task suggestions for Year 3**

We have all been exciting and enthusiastic about our 'Dahlicious' topic. The children have so far enjoyed looking at the features of biographies, information text on foxes, and descriptive language. They have also looked at the works of Quentin Blake, and collage techniques. Urban and rural features have been discussed, and in science what makes a healthy diet, bones and muscles and the science behind light.

- To compliment this work, you might like to do something at home that broadly related to our topic, this could be about foxes, maybe a fund raising pack explaining the need for monies to be raised along with poster, ideas, games etc. that could be used to raise the funds.
- They may like to research and produce a fact file about a different species of foxes.
- They could think about their favourite Roald Dahl book, and create a board game set around the book's events. Alternatively think about the central character and write a new adventure for them. Create a puppet theatre to retell the story.
- Create and cook a meal themed on a character along with a recipe card and instructions so that it could be recreated.
- Plan a birthday party themed around the events and characters in a book. This could include a homemade outfit, and list of suggested party games.
- Write a script for a favourite scene along with stage directions and suggested props.

These are only suggestions, please feel free to come up with your own ideas, anything goes as long as it is somehow related to our topic 'Dahlicious'.

We will share any creations in the last week of term.

Have fun!!

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In computing lessons children have been learning to understand the difference between the Internet and the World Wide Web. One came into existence in the 1960s and the other in the late 1980s. Activities children have been doing in anti-bullying week have included knowing how to stay safe online and encouraging children to talk to a trusted adult if they are uncomfortable with anything they have seen.

Our maths lessons continue to focus on a range of times tables and associated division facts. This week we have been concentrating on the 7 times table – if you are able to work with your child on these that would be fantastic – especially from 5x7 onwards and not necessarily in order.

If you did not have chance to catch it, here is the Christmas tree Year 4 made through printing – our tree depicted a New York cityscape and the department store because this was tied in to the school's film theme from the film *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*.



Children have become fairly adept at speed stacking and it has been testing their resilience for when things don't go to plan and how they can just try to focus on their next step. We have progressed to various combinations of arrangements and introduced an element of competition.

### Mr Beavan & the Year 4 Team



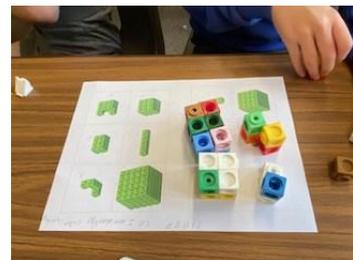
As part of the Christmas celebration, we will be singing, 'Simply Having a Wonderful Christmastime' by Paul McCartney and 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens; it would be very helpful if you could practise these at home.

## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Letters will come home early next week inviting family members to our 'Year 5 Christmas Get Together.' The children have enjoyed thinking of a whole host of activities for our visitors – please bear in mind that limits of time, space and resources may mean that some of the plans the children have suggested may need to be adapted! We are planning a range of games, art and craft activities, refreshments and a raffle! We would be really happy to receive some letters in reply that we can share and read out in class.

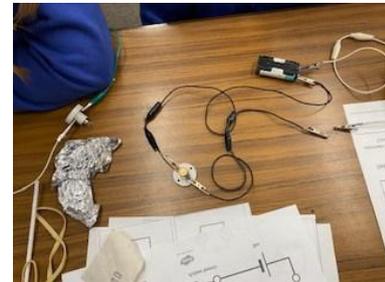
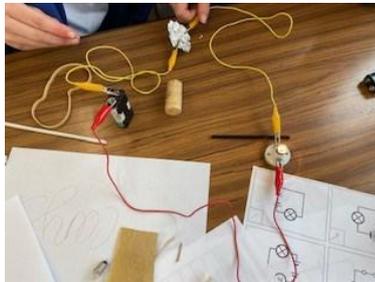
We have mentioned our forthcoming Christmas Church Service to the class today and have explained that we will begin learning some songs next week and also work out our roles in Church. Some may involve a small speaking part but there will not be too many lines to practise at home.

Our learning in Maths this week has focussed on square numbers and cube numbers, the latter involved some construction with multilink cubes and you can see from the photos that we soon got to grips with this.



In addition to completing our letters in English, we have moved on to study instructional texts and look at the key features of these. We began to study main clauses and subordinate clauses and then subordinating conjunctions – quite tricky words and concepts but we will revisit them throughout the year.

Our Science work focussed on building electrical circuits to test out which materials were conductors of electricity and which were insulators. We tested a range of materials and came to some scientific conclusions about why different materials are used for different purposes. We discussed safety in the home and why electrical wires were covered in a plastic casing for example.



Another busy week has flown by. Have a relaxing weekend and please continue to work on Mathematics and Spelling Frame activities.

With thanks for your continued support,

**The Year 5 Team.**

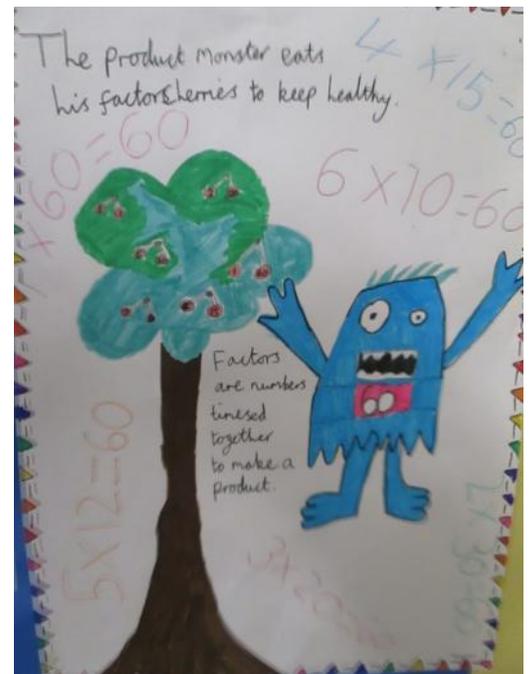
As part of the Christmas celebration, we will be singing, 'Simply Having a Wonderful Christmastime' by Paul McCartney and 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens; it would be very helpful if you could practise these at home.

## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, in Maths, we are onto our next topic - fractions. We looked at equivalent fractions and how to write these, draw these and look at them visually too. Simplifying and ordering fractions and adding/subtracting fractions are the areas we will visit next. We also are continuing with our weekly multiplication tests using 'Tackling Tables'. The children are progressing well, which will put them in good stead for our unit on fractions – where quick fire multiplication recall is essential.



Previously we have looked at prime numbers, factors, multiples, common multiples and square numbers. Have a look at some of our work, which is on display, about factors. Ask your child what the difference is between factors and multiples.



In English lessons, we have now started to read the Shakespeare play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. We will be studying some of the language used, as well as the characters and the relationships formed between them. Although there were many characters in the play, and some found it quite difficult to keep up with who was who, most children in the class enjoyed reading Shakespeare (the first time for many of them). Shakespeare will be studied a lot in secondary school, so this is a good introduction for the children.



Next week, and into the following week, the class will work through another batch of practice SATs papers in Reading, Maths and SPAG.

Homework should be completed by Thursday 1st December – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please – these are crucial to mathematical development.

Thank you.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**

As part of the Christmas celebration, we will be singing, 'Simply Having a Wonderful Christmastime' by Paul McCartney and 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens; it would be very helpful if you could practise these at home.





# PEDALS

Cycles, Helmets, Accessories

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We would like to thank Pedals, a local, independently run, push bike shop and HC Jewellers for their continuing support for the school and for their kind donations to sponsor the school's Christmas trees this year. (Photos of last year's trees).



**HC JEWELLERS**  
Wish you a very  
*Merry Christmas*

**HC JEWELLERS**  
& GOLD BUYING CENTRE

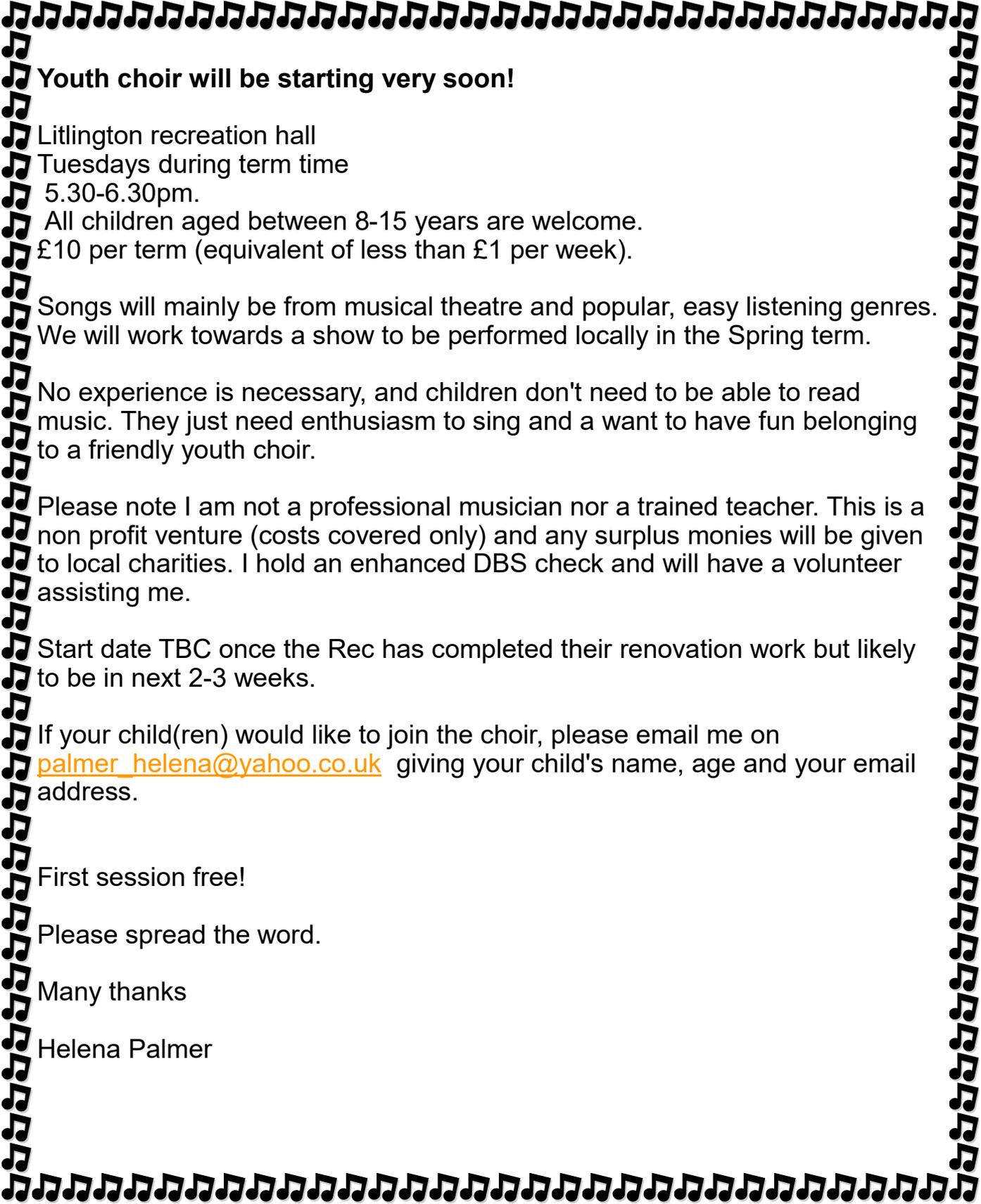
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THE MARK OF QUALITY

**Youth choir will be starting very soon!**

Litlington recreation hall  
Tuesdays during term time  
5.30-6.30pm.

All children aged between 8-15 years are welcome.  
£10 per term (equivalent of less than £1 per week).

Songs will mainly be from musical theatre and popular, easy listening genres.  
We will work towards a show to be performed locally in the Spring term.

No experience is necessary, and children don't need to be able to read music. They just need enthusiasm to sing and a want to have fun belonging to a friendly youth choir.

Please note I am not a professional musician nor a trained teacher. This is a non profit venture (costs covered only) and any surplus monies will be given to local charities. I hold an enhanced DBS check and will have a volunteer assisting me.

Start date TBC once the Rec has completed their renovation work but likely to be in next 2-3 weeks.

If your child(ren) would like to join the choir, please email me on [palmer\\_helena@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:palmer_helena@yahoo.co.uk) giving your child's name, age and your email address.

First session free!

Please spread the word.

Many thanks

Helena Palmer

# PARISH PANTRY

Local Food Bank



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

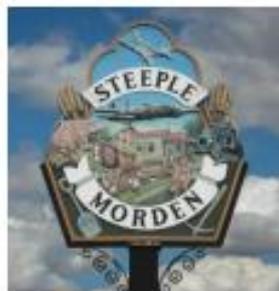
There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.

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  
07494 588663  
[sdcarroll849@gmail.com](mailto:sdcarroll849@gmail.com)

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 CALLING FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION & YEAR 1! THE MAGPIES' SOCCER SCHOOL  
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 FITNESS **FUN** COMPETITION

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**Café Church is back!**  
 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



CALLING THE NEW YEAR 3s!!  
 Our team for the new U9 Season is moving to the 7 a side format and is short on players! Please come and join this great little squad!  
**JOIN US**  
**MORDEN MAGPIES FC**  
 Get in touch at [hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk](mailto:hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk)  
**POSITIVE. EXCITING. FUN.**

# 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

Mother Goose Pre-School Santa's Magical Trail (bookings <https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/mother-goose-pre-school/santa-s-magical-christmas-trail>)

Multi Active Christmas Holiday Activity Camps

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

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.  
The important thing is not to stop questioning."*

**Albert Einstein**

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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