



Message from Mrs How:

It's hard to believe that we are now half way through the school year - it doesn't seem that long ago since we welcomed the children into their new classes in September. Now that we are almost at the end of February we can look back and reflect on all the learning that has taken place and see the progress that the children have made. Teachers are looking forward to sharing this with you at our next Parents Evenings on 7th and 9th March, Parentmail bookings will open at 10am tomorrow (Saturday).

Next week we will be marking World Book Day. Although this actually takes place on Thursday 2nd March, we will be engaging in all things book related on Friday 3rd as this fits better with our timetabling and other activities. We work hard to help children develop their reading skills, from those first phonic sounds in Reception to developing a deeper understanding of the text through inference, deduction and engagement in Year 6. Reading really is at the heart of learning and we hope that all children leaving Steeple will find enjoyment in reading and are able to find books and reading materials which appeal to their interests.

We spend a lot of time in school teaching reading, but there is often limited time to help the children practise. This is where we rely on families at home to support the children. If you are able to spend just 10 minutes a day reading to your child, listening to your child read or talking about the books they are reading this will make a huge difference to their progress. Please ask your child's teacher at parents evening if there is anything more you could do to help your child develop this key learning skill.

Regular articles

Diary Dates	2
Noticeboard	3
Starlings (Reception)	4
Robins (Year 1)	6
Owls (Year 2)	10
Peacocks (Year 3)	12
Swifts (Year 4)	14
Heron (Year 5)	16
Puffins (Year 6)	17

Assemblies & Collective Worship	11
Community News	20

Special features

World Book Day	5
PTA News	8
Handwriting competition	8
Term dates 2023-24	9
Second hand uniform sale	9
Parish Pantry	15

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

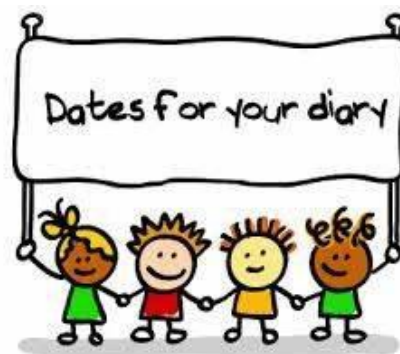
H Jackson Brown Jr

School Meal Charges Spring 2023

Daily:	£2.40
Weekly:	£12.00
1st half term	£64.80
2nd half term	£72.00
Whole term	£136.80

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

We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept either cash or cheques. If you need to set up a Pay360 account, please contact the office at office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



March

2nd	PTA Pre-loved uniform sale
7th	Parent consultations (except Yr 2) (3.30pm - 6pm)
9th	Parent consultations (3.30pm - 7pm)
13th	STEM Week
13th - 17th	Year 6 residential trip to Peak District
16th	Parent consultations (Yr 2 only) (3.30pm - 6pm)
22nd	Reception class trip to Standalone Farm
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	INSET day (children not in school)
18th	Children return to school

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.

Parents Consultation meetings

Parent consultation meetings will take place on Tuesday 7th March* (3.30pm – 6pm) and Thursday 9th March (3.30pm – 7pm). (*Year 2 Parent consultations will take place on Thursday 9th March (3.30pm – 7pm) and Thursday 16th March (3.30pm – 6pm)). All meetings will take place in your child's classroom.

Booking for appointments will open at 10am tomorrow, Saturday 25th February.

Notice Board

Head lice

Please note that staff have identified a number of cases of head lice around the school. Please could we ask you to check and treat your child/children as required.

The NHS advice is as follows:

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first.

You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. (The Nitty Gritty comb gets particularly good reviews)

There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- **wash hair with ordinary shampoo**
 - **apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)**
 - **comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends**
- It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.**

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

See also <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> for further information.

Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on

office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk by

12 noon if your child's home time arrangement will be different from usual.

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

Tummy upsets

There seem to be a few tummy bugs working their way around school at the moment.

Please remember that there is a 48-hour period after any episode of sickness or diarrhoea which children must be kept off school. This is in line with guidance from the Public Health Agency: see https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf for more information.

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Welcome back from Starling Class!

The children have had a wonderful week learning about weight using balance scales in Maths, played doctors and nurses in the role play area, and have been learning about our bodies. We have been reviewing our Phase 3 Phonics learning and applying our knowledge to reading and writing too!

This week the children were overheard using their new vocabulary during the school day “I have got SUCH a big **appetite**” and “I am **extracting** this blood from my patient”, who knew we had such wordsmiths in our midst! We thought it would be a good idea to share with you our weekly interesting words and their definitions each week, so please find this weeks below.

Appetite	A desire for food or drink
Extract	To remove or take something out
Abundance	When there is more than enough of something
Domestic	Belonging or relating to the home, house or family
Inconspicuous	Not seen or attracting attention

This half term the children will be participating in balance bike activities every Tuesday afternoon. If your child has their own helmet, then please do send them (named) into school, just let us know if they need to be returned each week or if they can stay at school for this half term. We do have a few helmets at school if your child does not have one, but please can we ask that long hair is tied low enough that a helmet will fit securely on their head without requiring adjustments. It would be handy if your child could practice putting them on and removing them independently too, however we will help wherever needed.

Next week we will be shifting our attention to thinking about the season of spring and the wonderful world of World Book Day! We cannot wait to see their costumes next week!

Next week, Show and Tell will recommence with the Yellow Bananas. We're learning about 'growing' so any items relating to this would be particularly appreciated.



Have a lovely weekend!

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





Steeple's World Book Day
Friday 3rd March.

World Book Day

As a school, this year we will be looking at a poetry collection from renowned performance poet Benjamin Zephaniah, celebrating the diversity of British society. A unique portrait of British children, Benjamin has written 12 poems, each one about a child in his or her home environment. The children are from a range of backgrounds and cultures and the book challenges traditional perceptions of the way children live. It shows that despite their differences, children have many similar preoccupations whatever their cultural background. We Are Britain springs from the rich interaction between many peoples which characterises modern Britain.

As in other years the children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. You don't need to buy expensive costumes, lots of great costumes can be made simply at home - see <https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas/>.

We look forward to seeing their outfits.

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

It has been lovely to see all your children back this week after the break. On Monday we heard about some of the things they were able to do during the week; what a range of bike rides, family walks, holidays away, day trips, meeting friends at the park and film nights at home we heard about. We hope you enjoyed the week as much as they seem to have!



The children have continued thinking about imperative verbs and instructions this week as they all made their animal marionettes. We will be writing our own instructions to say how to make these, hopefully next week, and will be making another class book with the children's writing and photos.

On Thursday, we invited other classes from across the school into Robin Classroom to visit our class Toy Museum. The children were very proud of the toys they were able to exhibit and all the teachers who came around were impressed with the knowledge, labels and range of toys that have been loaned to us. Thank you again for your part in this activity. We will begin to send toys home next week, but if you still have one to show, don't be shy about sending it in!



Phonics this week has seen us learning the last new graphemes we will learn for a few weeks. The grapheme cards are in the children's Reading Record Book and are shown in the table below. Next week will be an assessment week and then they will be bringing home books which will reinforce or practise the sounds they are not yet confident with.

Grapheme previously learned:	as in	New grapheme:	as in the word
igh/ie	light/pie	i-e	kite
oa/oe	boat/toe	o-e	bone
oo/ew/ue	flew/glue and pew/ cue	u-e	flute/tune
s	sat	c	ice

In Maths, the children have been very enthusiastic learning about the 'greater than' (>) and 'less than' (<) symbols. We have been making sure we have read the 'number sentence' from left to right and included the correct phrases before placing the symbol.

e.g.: First we wrote: 15 19 14

Then we said, "15 is less than 19, 19 is greater than 14"

Then we filled in the gaps: 15 < 19 > 14

We have intentionally NOT mentioned 'the crocodile wants to eat the bigger number' because this does NOT promote understanding of what each symbol actually represents! If your child is not yet confident with using the symbols, please do not worry. **We** are confident that most children can use the 'greater than' and 'less than' language. The symbols are re-visited later in Year 1 and again throughout the school.

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



PTA News



January Lottery Club winners are:

1st:	44	Chris Duck	£15
2nd:	50	Andy Dibb	£10

February Lottery Club winners are:

1st:	51	Andy Dibb	£15
2nd:	57	Rebecca McClelland	£10

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners!

Thanks to on of our Year 1 pupils and Mrs Holley who made sure Mrs How did the draw fairly.

Thanks again for your support.

Your PTA

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/handwriting-awards/> for entry information.

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

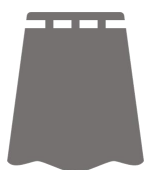
Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn term begins	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Autumn half term	Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October 2023
Autumn term ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Friday 1st September</i> <i>Monday 4th September</i>
Spring term begins	Thursday 4th January 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February 2024
Spring term ends	Thursday 28th March 2024
Summer term begins	Tuesday 16th April 2024
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
Summer half term	Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024
Summer term ends	Friday 19th July 2024
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Monday 15th April</i> <i>Monday 3rd June</i> <i>Monday 22nd July</i>



Second hand uniform sale
after school Thursday, 2nd March
donations in aid of the PTA

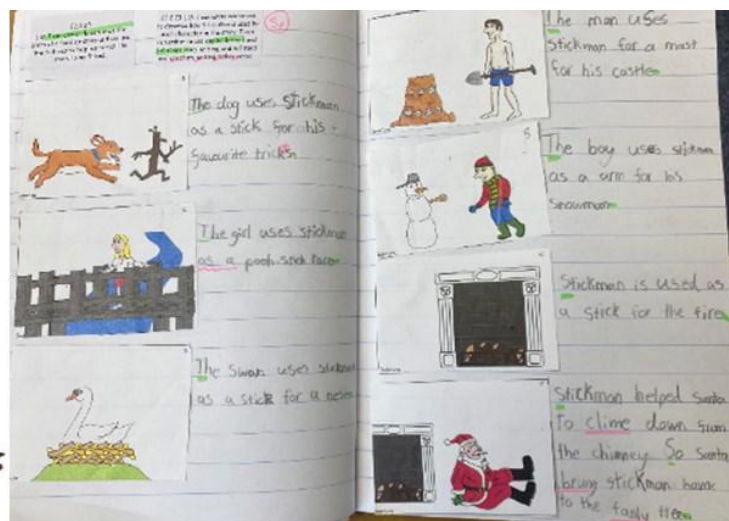
Please bring your old uniform to the school office
save money – help the environment – fund the PTA



News from Owl Class (Year 2)

The children have returned from half term well rested and eager to get back into their routines and expectations. We have had a fun busy week fitting in lots of learning, a visit to Year 1's toy museum and a number of investigations for Maths.

In our Maths work this week, we have looked at measuring and comparing lengths and heights using both centimetres and metres. The children enjoyed investigating various lengths of objects from around the classroom and putting them in the correct order from shortest to longest or tallest. Trying to line up in height order also revealed some competitive spirits!



In our English work this week, we have been finding out about the author Julia Donaldson and her story 'Stick Man.' We have sequenced the order of events in the story and then we went on to write sentences about how Stick Man was used by each character. Our writing focus this week was on remembering to use capital letters and full stops correctly, as well as to read and check their own writing along the way!



Most excitedly, the children started their recorder lessons this week. We have started by listening to instrumentals created just by recorders and then some accompanied by other instruments. The children are very keen to bring their recorders home this weekend and start practising how to hold and blow a 'tu' sound into the recorder.



We will start teaching the notes next week, but we're aware that the children are excited about their new recorders and want to play with them this weekend first.

Reminders: - Please can all children bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school every day. Thank you for your help with this.

Reminders	
Reading books and reading	to school every day please
Yellow Spelling folders	In school on Mondays please, ready for the new
Spelling Frame	set every Monday
Mathletics	set every Friday
P.E kits in school	in school every day please

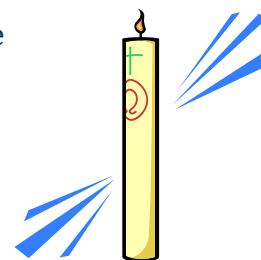
We hope you all have a really happy and restful weekend.

Mrs Luebcke, Miss Blesic and the Year 2 Team.

Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

This week's assembly theme has been Responsibility. On Monday, we used the Creation story from Genesis 1 (read from the Lion Storyteller Bible) to think about God's responsibility for creating our world and everything on it. We also thought about His responsibility for guiding us to be the best people we can be by following the examples of Jesus and other Biblical leaders.

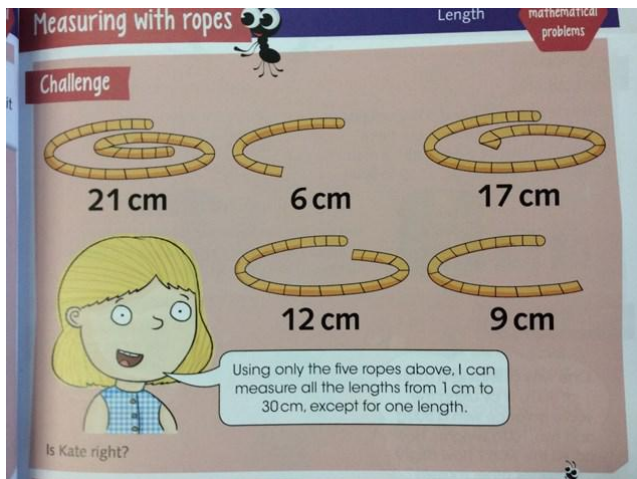
The song *Think of a world without any flowers* reminded us how lucky we are and that we need to be thankful for all the wonderful things in our world.



News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

We have returned with the same hard working approach as before half term, only this week with more enthusiasm as we are not quite so jaded following the half term's rest.

This week we have continued our unit of maths work on length and perimeter. On Tuesday we focussed on converting measurements between cm and mm, using our understanding of dividing and multiplying by 10 to help. We further developed our equivalent work by converting between cm, m and mm. Other measuring work involved addition of lengths and finding the difference between lengths to work out how much shorter or longer items were than each other. Measurement and length will continue again next week.

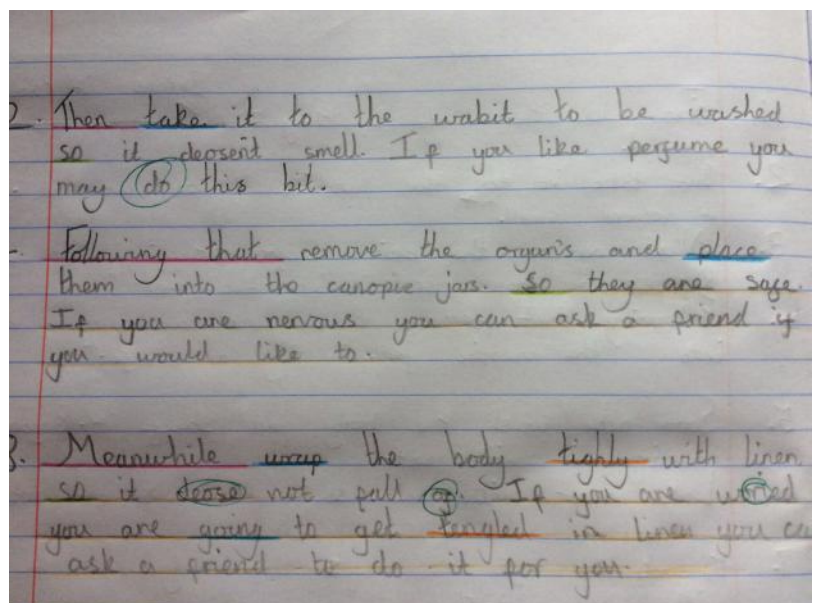


We had a go at this challenge, the children thought it would be fun for you to have a go at home!

In English, we have continued our thinking about instructions by including the features we had identified in our own writing. We needed to ensure that each instruction had an imperative verb, adverbs, sequential language, a conjunction, and that the sentence was clear so that the instruction could be followed. We will be editing our instructions next week.

In topic work, we have looked at the Egyptian gods, and there are many. There are gods for gods, some gods have two names, some gods have two identities, and some gods come back to life before becoming another god. We have had to think carefully and focus so that we do not become too muddled. To help us be sure about our god facts we have each chosen just four gods to gather information on from a variety of sources, therefore we have needed to use all of our research skills.

Once our research had been collected, we started on our 'lift the flap' charts about our gods.



In PSHE we continued our work on valuing difference in society. We have identified and discussed different groups and ethnicity including shared histories, family origins, cultures and traditions. We also explored common stereotypes and people's reactions to coming across someone different through reading and discussing The Three Monsters book.



In RE we moved onto Hinduism and began to explore the next Big Question – Why does a Hindu want to collect good Karma?

Our adopted donkey is happy in the early Spring sunshine, and sent us a Valentine's card with a little news from his friends.

Days out: many of the children have enjoyed sharing their trips and visits to various museums with me. They seem to have really enjoyed their experiences. I did venture to Swaffham museum. For a small town museum, it is very good, but I would suggest not worth a dedicated trip. However, should you find yourself in the town or just passing through then it is worth popping in.

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.

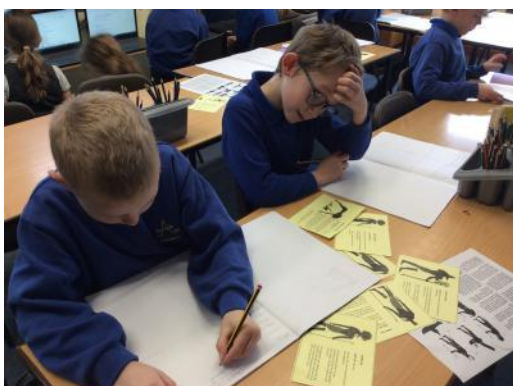
Dates for the diary

- Book dress up day Friday 3rd March
- Parent consultation evenings 7th and 9th March
- Wednesday 29th March Spring coffee morning in Year Three

Many thanks

From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team

PS Canopic jars are ready to come home, please send in a small bag or box for transportation. The children are very proud of them; it would be a shame if they got damaged on their way home.



News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week as part of our topic work, we have been looking at the difference between physical maps and political maps. We are also becoming more familiar with the location of countries in the continent of Europe.

In Science children have been examining the seven life processes in order to determine if something is alive. Some children have programmed a camera to take a picture of some daffodils in the classroom every hour for a week and merged them together in a time lapse to see if plants move in any way, as movement is one of the seven life processes. We also finished our study of electrical circuits and drawing neat electrical diagrams.

Our maths lessons are concentrating on the subject of division, which is the inverse of multiplication. Please ask your child to tell you what multiplication they are working on and if they don't know or can't remember I am happy for you or them to ask me. I will be sending a letter shortly explaining how we are approaching the memorisation of times tables and how you can help support this at home. Being able to recall these will free up memory when dealing with more complex mathematical problems in the future.



Mrs How worked with us on Wednesday morning and showed us this maths game from the BBC Bitesize site. We had a lot of fun playing and showed her some really amazing maths skills, explaining our thinking and building on each other's ideas. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd2f7nb/articles/zn2y7nb>

Book week is approaching, where there's an option to dress up as a book character on Friday March the third – here are some 'easy' examples on line to help decide what you could do. <https://www.madeformums.com/toddler-and-preschool/last-minute-easy-world-book-day-costumes/>



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

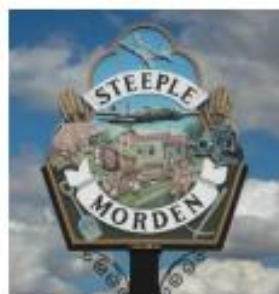
There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.

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
07494 588663
sdcarroll849@gmail.com

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

It was lovely to welcome the children back this week and to hear everyone's news about what they had been getting up to over the half term break. We have jumped straight back into learning and in Maths this week we have finished off our fractions unit with a quick assessment to measure progress and then started on our next topic, which is multiplication. All the hard work that you have been putting in at home to speed up the recall of your children's times tables facts for our weekly Tackling Tables tests is paying off and we are seeing an increasing number of children with the fast and accurate recall that is so essential to success with this new maths topic. Ask your child to explain to you the new 'grid' method that we worked on to help us multiply...

x	20	7
20	400	140
4	80	28

$$400 + 140 + 80 + 28 = 648$$

In English, we are getting to work on a new genre - Myths and Legends. We spent some time looking at the Roman myth of Romulus and Remus, examined the structure of myths, and noticed that they typically contain more than one dilemma that needs to be resolved before the story concludes. We also concentrated on creating and spelling nouns using the suffix -ity in our spelling lesson on Monday. On that note, a big 'Thank you' to all of you who have been encouraging your children to use Spelling Frame regularly. We have noticed a much-improved engagement with this aspect of weekly homework and we are grateful for your help.

In Science this week, we have been rounding off our Space topic by thinking about gravity. We discussed the difference between mass and weight and carried out an experiment with Newton meters and measuring scales to see if we could find a relationship between the two measurements.

We rose to a timed Design Technology challenge on Tuesday which resulted in the creation of a fantastic display of Roman shields – each one unique and carefully thought out. They are currently on display in our cloakroom but will be coming home soon along with some clay Roman coins.



There were more challenges in PE as we worked in teams with hoops and balloons to problem solve and we also worked on our fitness with some running, trying hard to pace ourselves. Over the coming weeks we will be working on some orienteering skills prior to our visit to Grafham.

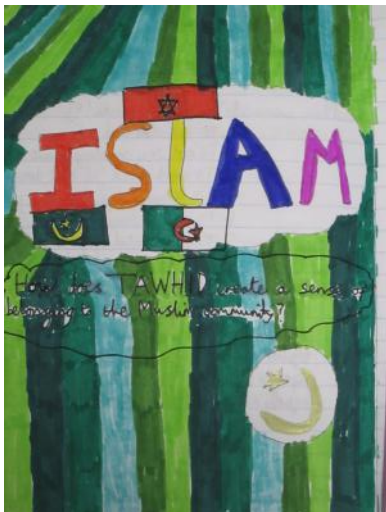
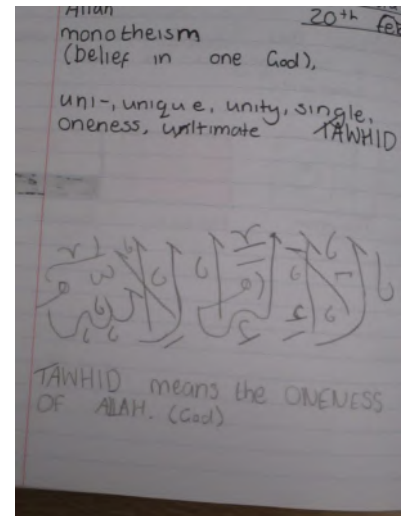
With thanks for your continued support.

The Year 5 Team.

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

In English our new topic, for the start of this half term, is about persuasive writing. We have already looked at examples of persuasive writing, fact and opinion, and on how to reverse plan a persuasive argument text.

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; we will continue to study this next week as well as looking at linear number sequences in the future.



In RE we have been working on units about other world religions. We have already studied 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. Please see the photos for some examples of the learning that we have done recently.

With the residential trip coming up in the middle of next month, please let us know if you have not received a kit list for the trip. You should have also received a Parentmail form asking for your consent to administer Calpol and

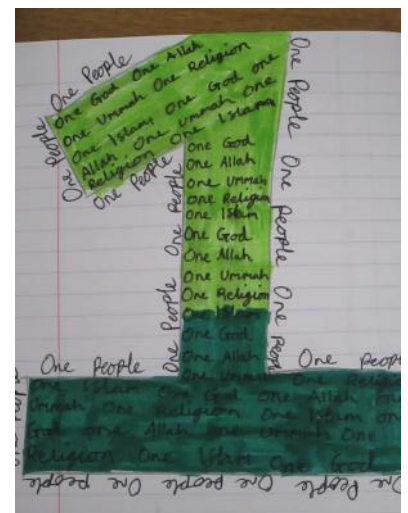
Piriton to your child if required; please remember to complete this. The children almost have made their menu and room choices this week.



Homework will be set again this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 2nd March.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team





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office@smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk



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PRE
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9AM - 3PM



AFTER
SCHOOL
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or email:
admin@litlingtonpreschool.net



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

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
Modern Foreign Languages Tuition
Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section
Biggleswade Swimming Club
Oxford & Cambridge Singing School - Easter course
Hertfordshire Performing Arts Easter Stage School

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

*"Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts.
This is the secret of success."*

Swami Sivananda

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
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