



THE STAR



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

Message from Mrs How:

As we head nearer to the end of term there are various events being added to the diary. Please keep a close eye on the list published on page 2 each week and try not to rely on reminders from the office.

Thank you to everyone who has returned their raffle tickets and sent in brown bags in readiness for the fete. The PTA team are busy working behind the scenes to make sure everything is progressing as it should and that we will all be ready on Saturday 8th July. There are various pieces of information and requests throughout this week's Star so please look through all the pages.

Last week I explained about the slight changes in school start and end times from September but a few parents this week have looked surprised when it was mentioned. In case you missed it, I have included the message again below.

At the moment, the school day starts at 9.00am with children able to come in from 8.45am to complete activities and challenges set up in the classroom. **From September, school will start at 8.45am**.

Our current school day ends at 3.00 for Reception and 3.10 for all other classes. **From September, Years 1 to 6 will end at 3.15** with parents able to collect from Reception a few minutes earlier in order to get to the playground to collect older siblings.

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Phone: 01763 852474

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"The truth is you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow.

Life is a crazy ride, and nothing is guaranteed."

Eminem

School Meal Charges Summer 2023

 Daily:
 £2.40

 Weekly:
 £12.00

 1st half term
 £64.80

 2nd half term
 £72.00

 Whole term
 £136.80

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

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

Absence Reporting

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

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



June

20th Year 4 trip to Waterbeach recycling centre

20th & 21st Book fair after school

28th Sports day: Yousafzai (Blue) & Packham (Green)

(9.30—approx. 11am)

29th Sports day: Rashford (Red) & Rosen (White)

(9.30—approx. 11am)

July

w/c 3rd Bikeability

4th Year 3 walk to Ashwell

7th Year 3 trip to Bewilderwood & sleepover

8th PTA Summer Fete

11th Year 6 performance (afternoon)12th Year 6 performance (evening)

13th Year 5 parent morning (9.30—10.30am)

17th & 18th Year 6s at Bassingbourn Village College

19th Year 6 Leavers Assembly (9.30am)

19th Last day of Summer term

Notice Board

Illness in School

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

Condition	Absent for		
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash and all the lesions have crusted over		
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment		
Measles	4 days from onset of rash and once# recovered		
Scarlet Fever	Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment completed		
*Sickness and/ or diarrhoea	Until 48 hours after last episode of sickness/diarrhoea		
Conjunctivitis	None		
**Headlice	None		
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling		
Tonsillitis	None		

Please see (left) a basic summary showing recommended times for children to be away from school when suffering from childhood diseases. A comprehensive list is available at https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/
Guidance_on_infection_control_in%
20schools_poster.pdf

* For sickness and/or diarrhea it is essential to keep your child away from school **until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea/vomiting**. These sorts of bugs can be transmitted very easily, particularly in school settings. We do encourage lots of hand-washing in school and would ask you to follow this at home, as well. Please remember if your child is unwell they will be much more comfortable at home with a parent or carer who can look after them much more closely than we can in school.

**For advice on dealing with headlice please see https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/

Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk by **12 noon** if your child's home time arrangement will be different from usual.

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

Sports News – Thursday 8th June 2023

Last week we took a team of 10 children to the Year 4, 5 & 6 Quadkids Athletics Competition. The event was held at Cambridge University Athletics Track in Cambridge.



Nineteen schools took part and we were delighted to achieve 4th place.

Everyone did brilliantly well in their four events – a 75m sprint, a 600m distance race, a howler throw and a standing long jump into the sandpit! There were some superb individual performances with a number of children winning some hard-fought races.

The children rose to the challenge of quite a daunting venue and competed with enthusiasm, determination and great sportsmanship. We were so proud of all of them.

Thank you to all of the volunteer parents and carers who provided lifts to and from the venue and some great support.

Well done to Teddy, Olivia-Rose, Beatrix, Millie, Tom, Alfie, Arthur, Harry, Sophie and Eva!

Mrs Daniels









News from Starling Class (Reception)

This week the children have been thinking all about the special men in their lives ready for Father's Day celebrations this weekend. They worked hard on learning a special Father's Day song, made cards and drew portraits of the special men in their lives during COOL Time and morning work.

During Phonics we have continued our Phase 4 learning with a focus on CCVC words and words ending in –ed that make the t sound e.g. camped. In Maths this week we have been looking at volume and capacity (which went down a treat with this week's heatwave!) and the children were using the vocabulary of full,

half full and empty in order to compare amounts. The children were very focused during their PE sessions where they started to practise the skills required for

sports day... eggs and spoons can be rather tricky!



Please can you ensure that your child has everything they need in school each day. We have been unsuccessful in reading with a few children this week due to forgotten books bags, or empty ones with no books, grapheme tiles or HTRS words inside.

Due to the high temperatures, please ensure your child is wearing a high factor all day sun cream each day, bring a water bottle and a sun hat each day. The children spend a lot of time outside at playtime, lunchtimes and during COOL Time, so these are essential bits of kit.

We wish Mrs Monks all the best for her Maternity leave and all of the joy that a new baby brings!

Have a fabulous weekend,









School Fete - Saturday, 8th July

BROWN BAGS: If you didn't manage to get your child's brown bag decorarted and filled to be collected today, we will be collecting again on Monda 19th at drop off time.

Examples of items include a small toy, stationery items, sweets, hair accessories. The stall will be run by the Year 4 parents this year, we will be selling the filled bags for a small price at the fete to raise funds for the school.

RAFFLE TICKETS: We sent 2 books of 5 raffle tickets per family home last Friday. Many thanks to those who have already returned ticket stubs and money. Please buy what you can by sending your ticket stubs with cash or cheques made payable to "Steeple Morden Parent Teachers Association" along with any unwanted tickets back to school by Friday 23rd June. See some of the amazing prizes we have!

PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM: we will have a school uniform stall at the fete, please sort out any unwanted uniform and leave at the school office.

GAMES STALLS: we have visited Year 6 today to talk to them about running the games stalls as part of a 'new tradition' and giving them some ownership and responsibility . We will send a Parentmail with further details in due course.





LUXURY HAMPERS



SAXON SWIMMING POOL PARTY WORTH £190









GIFT VOUCHERS





LOCAL ACTIVITIES





TICKETS £1



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

Firstly, thank you so much for sending your children in with a hat in this warm sunny weather. Getting ready for playtime has never been easier!! Keep up the good work!

We have some great bean-growing action going on in the classroom – we're hoping they will reach the castle, although are not too sure they are going to be strong enough to climb any time soon! The children have enjoyed more thinking about our Jim and the Beanstalk story, they are really getting to



grips with the structure and order and came up with some great ideas when thinking of other things an aging giant might need...



In PE we have continued to practise our Sport Day skills this week, with standing jump practise and even a race against Mrs Bowmer (she thinks it was a draw!). We will attempt baton-passing as soon as we can find the batons and will make sure our egg and spoon racing skills are top notch before you come in to watch!

For Music this week, we started learning a song called 'Your Imagination', in which we started to think about parts, will focus on improvising with words and will try to learn some musical parts, too!

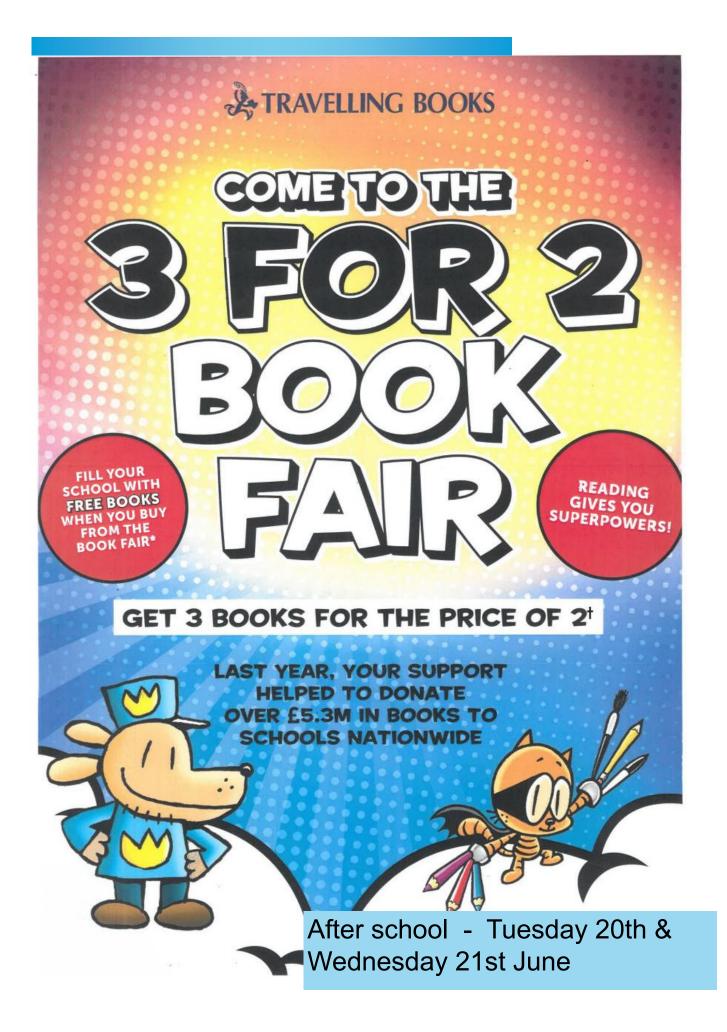
Our caterpillars, which arrived last Friday, have grown massively and have shed their skin at least once already. We will be on watch to see when they turn into chrysalises next week.



On Wednesday, the children looked at how pivots work and created their own picture with a moving pivot. They all tried really hard and were so proud of their achievements by the end of the afternoon.

Enjoy the weekend!

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



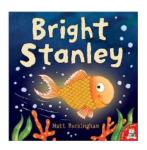
News from Owl Class (Year 2)

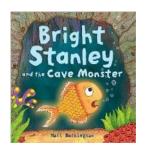
Hello from Owl Class!

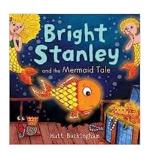
We have had another busy week this week and we have now finished making all our 'Underwater worlds'. Each child has been photographed proudly holding their finished underwater world, and we have now put these photos in our topic books, along with instructions on how to make an underwater world. They are also all displayed, inside our classroom.

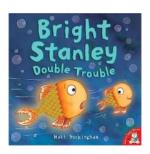


In our English work this week, we have been reading a book by Matt Buckingham called 'Bright Stanley'. Matt has written other stories in this series which we also hope to read later. We used the Bright Stanley story to help us look carefully at how writers structure their stories, to include a beginning, a middle and an end, and we looked at some of the vocabulary choices that help add more interest and detail to our writing. The children then went on to make their own 'Bright Stanley' books, which they used to retell the story in their own words.









In Maths this week, we have revisited some work on the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have reminded ourselves of key vocabulary such as vertices/ faces/ curved surfaces etc and the children have sorted those 3D shapes into groups.

In some of our recent PSHE work, we have been talking about 'managing safety and risk'. This unit aims to broaden the children's understanding of what might constitute a risky situation, to consider their responses and to equip them with the skills to assess the level of risk to themselves physically, emotionally or socially. Some of our work next week is for the children to



be able to say their full name and address and to know in which types of situations it might be appropriate to give this information. They will also learn about when it might not be safe to give away such personal information. If you would like to help your child practise learning their own address as part of this, then that would be very helpful.

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

Also if your child doesn't have a PE kit in school please can you send one in on Monday – thank you.

Reminders					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Reading book/	Reading book/	Reading book/	Reading book/	Reading book/	
Water bottle	Water bottle	Water bottle	Water bottle	Water bottle	
Yellow Spelling					
		Recorders in			
P.E kit	P.E kit	P.E kit	P.E kit	P.E kit	

We hope you all have a happy and restful weekend and a very happy Father's Day on Sunday too. Thank you for your support.

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

Assemblies & Collective Worship

Our theme in assemblies this week has been Forgiveness. On Monday we thought about the story of Joseph and his brothers, which one of our year 4 children identified as the inspiration for the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. For Joseph to show his brothers compassion after they had treated him so badly must have taken great strength of character, but he followed God's example forgiveness. Children were invited to pray and ask God to help them follow the examples of Biblical men and women who showed us how to forgive.

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

A most enjoyable week.

The children are very enthused and interested in 1940's life.

In English we prepared our open questions in preparation for interviewing two visitors who were children during the 40's. Next week we will conduct our interview and begin to write it up.

In maths we have been working on properties of shape:

quarter turns, clockwise, anti- clockwise, 90 degree, acute, obtuse, are all terms we have learnt

about and used to describe shape. We have also used our accurate measuring skills to measure the lengths of shapes in centimetres and millimetres. We will continue with more shape work next week.

On 'Holidays at Home' day on Wednesday, we had the best of days working

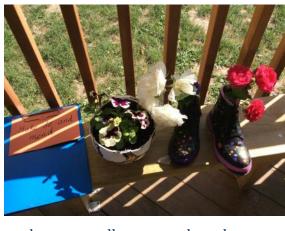
outside on a range of activities that were recommended by the wartime government for what you could do while holidaying at home. These included a crosscountry run, tennis, croquet, a beetle drive, cottage

crafts (we made paper cottages that tessellated), homing pigeons that transported secret messages in Morse code and making peacocks from old tablecloths and curtains. Thank you for the efforts from home with costumes and the entries for the craft competitions, our judges were

most impressed and had great difficulty selecting

winners.







Thank you for those who attended the meeting regarding Bewilderwood and the sleep over. Most of what was shared is just common sense; please chat amongst yourselves if you did not manage to make it.

Main points

- All overnight things to be brought into school evening on Thursday 6th July, school will be open until 5pm
- Remember to bring a drink, sun hat, food and snacks for the day out. The children will be carrying this around with them, so please make sure it's in a suitable bag or rucksack.
- table
- Children should wear trousers, long sleeved tops and trainers and long hair needs to be tied back.
- On Saturday morning please remember to collect your child at 8.30am



Weekly home activities

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

Dates for the diary

28th (am) } Sports days 29th (am) } Sports days

4th July Walk to Ashwell - details to follow 7th July Bewilderwood and sleep over

From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team





Calling All Bakers!



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

Store bought items are also welcome.

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

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

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

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Debbie (Year 6) and Ginny (Year 4)



News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our History lessons this week, the children have been introduced to the fascinating world of the Vikings. They have a rich history, which we will be discovering and also exploring their impact on various regions. We have also made connections to our previous Geography unit on modern Scandinavia.

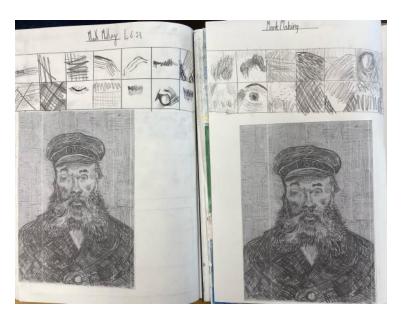
In Maths, the focus has been on linking fractions to decimals and ordering them appropriately. The children have been engaging in hands-on activities and problem-solving tasks to reinforce their understanding of these concepts.

In English, our focus has been on the development of character in literature. The children have been analysing how authors create believable and engaging characters through their writing techniques such as 'show not tell'. I have been impressed by their insightful observations and thoughtful interpretations of the characters in 'The Explorer', the book we are using as inspiration for our own writing this half term.

This week, the children also took part in the government's multiplication check. Thank you

for your efforts in supporting your children's revision of these essential mathematical facts.

In art, the children have been immersed in textile work, creating their own seascapes and landscapes. In preparation they have been experimenting with mark making and have also been learning about how acrylic paints behave to generate backgrounds on fabric. This work will continue into next week, allowing them to refine their skills and produce captivating works of art.



Looking ahead to next week, we are looking forward to visiting the waste recycling park on Tuesday, where they will gain valuable insights into what happens to our rubbish. They will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops focused on sustainability and



environmental awareness. We will depart soon after the school day starts and return shortly before the school day normally ends. Please, if you have not ordered one through the school kitchen, remember to send your child in with a packed lunch.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 team.

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week, we have begun work on explanation texts. These non-fiction texts describe how or why things happen. We started, as always, by looking at an example of a well-written explanation text and decided on the specific features of this text type. We then brushed up our knowledge of plural and possessive apostrophes and moved onto researching the content of our explanation text. We have decided to link together our Music, Geography and English curricula here and write a piece on the development of African American music since the 1880s. This work will take us on a journey through blues, jazz, rock 'n' roll and hip-hop up to the work produced in the 1980s. We are hoping that we will find some music for everyone to enjoy in this selection.

In Maths, we have continued with our work on decimals, comparing and ordering decimals up to three decimal places and identifying the value of decimal digits, again up to three decimal places. We then moved onto rounding decimals to the nearest whole number and



rounding to one decimal place. On Friday, we introduced the word 'percentage' and worked on understanding the meaning of this new mathematical term.

In Science, we started some work on Forces by learning about air resistance and had a marvellous time making different types of parachutes and then experimenting by dropping them from an identical spot on the play structure. We were aiming to see what factors affected the speed of the descent of the parachute (and the attached ball from the P.E. cupboard!)

We began our Design Technology project this week by looking at the work of the renowned American architext Frank Lloyd Wright. This links perfectly with our North America Geography themed topic. We looked at some of his most iconic designs and then used his ideas to create some models of our own using Lego, polydron and wooden building blocks and were interested to know that it was playing with his building blocks as a child which first triggered his interest in design.

"The mission of an architect is to help people understand how to make life more beautiful, the world a better one for living in, and to

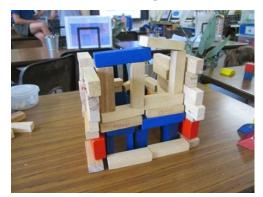


give reason, rhyme, and meaning to life." Frank Lloyd Wright





We worked together in small groups to share our design ideas and then were able to talk about what aspects of our designs we were impressed with.













Following on from our work last week in PSHE, we collated the results of everyone's individual maps of the school. We were aiming to discover which areas of school made the children feel most secure and which areas made them feel more vulnerable. We then brainstormed some ideas of how we could make these areas where children felt more vulnerable, feel safer and Mrs How has accepted our invitation to come to Year 5 next week to listen to our ideas.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Year 5 Team.

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week we have been continuing to focus on our writing. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading Michael Morpurgo's 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and have discussed the book and the

themes in it. We will be writing our own adventure stories based on the book, next week, focusing on story mountains to do so.

Last week we were involved in the visit from author and illustrator James Mayhew. He told us the story of Swiss folk hero William Tell. Then to the music of Rossini's William Tell Overture (which lasted for 12 minutes) he painted this picture, using his paint brush to the timing of the music. Many of the children were literally open mouthed!





Afterwards the children had a go at painting their

own pictures using the music as an inspiration. Here are some photos of the children hard at work and their final outcomes too.









Shortly we will be focussing on our end of year production. We held auditions earlier in the week and the pupils will be given scripts for the roles that they will play. The play will be one based in a television studio, to link in with our trip to the film studios of Burwell House at the end of May. From next week we will be rehearsing, designing, singing, acting, dancing, making, building, drawing, painting, writing and many other words with '-ing' endings in preparation for the production. There will be two



performances in the last full

week of term (11 $^{\rm h}$ July – pm and 12 $^{\rm th}$ July – evening). More details to follow in due course.

Homework this week will be for the children to practice their lines for the auditions which will take place next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6
Team



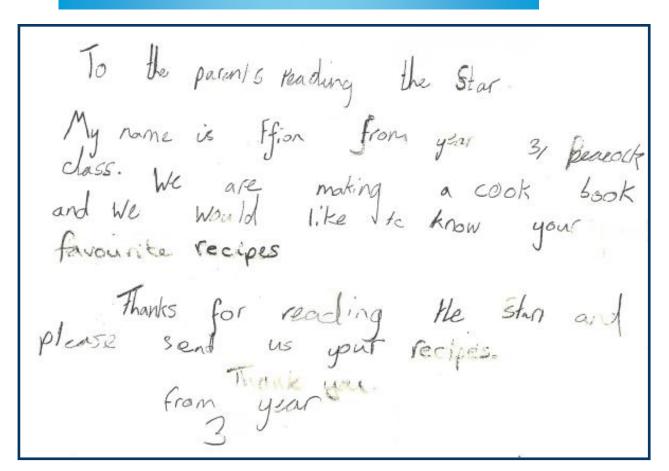


Transition to Bassingbourn Village College

You should have received communication from BVS regarding transition arrangements. They are holding a parents' meeting on 13th July at 6.30pm.

On the transition days on 17th and 18th July, children can use the Myalls bus service from home pick up/drop off point to/from BVC.

If you have any questions regarding transition, please direct all enquiries to BVC.



Can you help Year 3 create a recipe book? See note from Ffion on behalf of the class asking for your favourite recipes.











Children in receipt of income-related free schools meals are eligible to attend for up to 64 hours.

Other children may also be eligible, visit the County Council webpage for further details.

Further information: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf (or scan the QR Code)

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk













PARISH PANTRY

Local Food Bank



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

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

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

Tinned Meat, Pies, Veg. Potatoes & Fruit

Cereals **UHT Milk**

Sugar

Flour Pasta

Pasta sauces

Mug shots

Pot noodles

Individual wrapped cakes

Location St Peter & St Paul Church Steeple Morden SG8 ONJ



For more info: Sam Carroll 07494 588663 sdcarroll849@gmail.com

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED

Supporting children and young people's mental health

Free online workshops for Cambridgeshire/Peterborough Parents/Carers



Thursday 27th April

Anxiety

10.00 - 11.30 am

Wednesday

1.00 - 2:30 pm

3rd May

Self Harm

Wednesday

https://procfu.c **Emotionally Based**

9th May

School Avoidance

10:30 - 12 pm

Monday 15th May

Gender Questioning

10.00 - 11.30 am

Tuesday 16th May

Peer support group

9:30 - 11.30 am

Monday 22nd May

Bereavement and Loss

1.00 - 2.30 pm

nessieined.com













Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool

Litlington Preschool

Helen O-Grady Drama Classes

MF Tennis Coaching

St Ives Town Football Club Tots Programme

Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes

Bonfitness Pilates

Modern Foreign Languages Tuition

Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section

Biggleswade Swimming Club

Perse Summer School 2023

Theatretrain Royston

Steeple Morden Tennis Club

Oxford & Cambridge Singing School—July 2023

Children's Mental Health Workshop

Mindfulness Relaxation Session - 20th June

Beat Your Bills Course - starting 30th June

Steeple Morden Tennis Club Summer Holiday Coaching

An Evening with Author Sarah Harrison—30th June

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

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

Marie Curie

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