



# THE STAR



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

#### Message from Mrs How:

Next week we will be visiting the church for our annual Harvest assembly. The children will have the opportunity to reflect on why we celebrate the harvest as we join together to give thanks for the food that we eat and those involved in the production process (including people at home who buy and cook it for us).

Following the traditional act of sharing food at this time we invite all families who feel able to, to make a donation to the Parish Pantry food bank at the church during the coming week. If anyone is able to send produce into school on Wednesday morning we will take it to the church with us. There are plastic boxes in the porch of the church where donations can be left or where anyone who needs a little support can take what they need. Please see page 6 for more information.

I have spotted a number of children in school with the 'Push Pop' **fidget toys**, or other sensory/fidget equipment sent in from home. While these can be very useful for children with specific sensory needs, they can also be a huge distraction in the classroom. If your child's teacher feels your child would benefit from something such as this (we try to use the term 'concentrators' to make a clear distinction between fidgeting and needing support to help focus), they will discuss it with you and provide something suitable. Equally, if you think your child may need this help, please talk to the class teacher as they may have other options they can share. Please do not send in any toys or equipment for use in class without talking to the teacher first.

#### Regular articles

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#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street Steeple Morden Royston Hertfordshire SG8 OPD

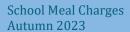
Phone: 01763 852474

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

"And he said to them "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest

to send out labourers into his harvest.""



Daily: £2.40
Weekly: £12.00
1st half term £81.60
2nd half term £91.20
Whole term £172.80

Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail in advance of meals taken.

We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept either cash or



#### **October**

17th Parent Consultation Meetings (3.30pm - 6pm)

18th Year 4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum

19th Parent Consultation Meetings (3.30pm - 6pm)

23th-27th Half term

#### **November**

7th Prospective Reception parents event (2pm - 3pm)

16th Year 2 Trip to Woburn Safari Park

#### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Summer term ends

(pupils not in school)

**INSET Days** 

Autumn term begins Tuesday 5th September 2023

Autumn half term Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023

Autumn term ends Wednesday 20th December 2023

INSET Days Friday 1st September

(pupils not in school) Monday 4th September

Spring term begins Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring half term Monday 19th – 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 - Friday 31st May 2024

Friday 19th July 2024

Monday 15th April

Monday 3rd June

Monday 22nd July

### 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.

### **Notice Board**

# Transfer to Secondary School—applications now open!

This is a reminder to parents/carers of all Year 6 pupils that you will need to apply for a place at Secondary school for your child. Applications are now open for September 2024 and will close on 31st October 2023. To apply for your child's place you will need to apply through the Local Authority to which you pay council tax (for most of you that will be Cambridgeshire County Council, in which case go to https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ residents/children-and-families/schoolslearning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondaryschool). Please note that Cambridgeshire County Council are not sending out letters as they have in previous years to remind you to apply.

Parents who make applications before the closing date of 31st October will receive their offer for a secondary place for their child on 1st March 2024. Any late applications received after 31st October will be dealt with as 'late applications'. We encourage you to apply in good time to ensure the best chance of obtaining one of your 3 school preferences.

If you do not wish to apply online, then paper application forms are available on request if you call 0345 045 1370.

If you have any questions about the application or online processes please refer to the Cambridgeshire County Council website or contact the Admissions Team.

### Playground

Parents are asked to ensure that their children, whether those who attend school or younger siblings, do not play in the gazebo or on the play structure at school pick up time. This is to ensure everyone's safety and prevent any damage to these valuable structures. Please ensure that once on the school premises, bikes and scooters are walked, not ridden.

#### 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'.

#### **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.

# Sign up now to in-school woodwind lessons!

### The benefits of learning an instrument as a child are huge!

Our visiting music teacher from Hertfordshire Music has spaces to teach clarinet or flute during the school day. You would need to hire/own an instrument, but we do have a couple in school that we could lend. If you and your child are interested you need to sign up here:

https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/. If you would like to borrow a school instrument please speak to us first.





- Individual lessons £14.70
- Shared lessons £11.03
- Small group lessons £7.25

Children who are currently learning some of the woodwind instruments, saxophone, flute and clarinet, played in assembly this week. As well as these instruments the oboe, fife and recorder are also available.

Learning an instrument at a young age forms a productive hobby that you can return to throughout your lifetime. It also cures boredom, develops discipline, serves as relaxing downtime, forms physical benefits, aids academic learning, improves listening, trains memory, boosts social skills, forms confidence. More information about hiring and FAQ can be found by scanning this QR code here, you can also speak with Mrs Bowmer, our music leader:



# **BBC 500 Words Competition**

"Write a story you would love to read". BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. Open from 08:00 Tuesday 26 September - 20:00 Friday 10 November.

If your child would like to create their story and enter from home this year, more information on what's involved and how to enter is available here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

Tackling Tables Home Packs: for parents of children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

#### Deadline for new orders 6th October 2023

We will shortly be placing an order for the Tackling Tables Home

Packs which have proved so useful in helping children practise their multiplication tables at home. These are used in conjunction with our school resources and have proved to be a popular tool for helping children to learn their multiplication tables in a fun way.

Year 2 begin work using the cards after Christmas and all other classes (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) regularly use the cards and complete weekly quizzes to test skills before certificates are given out in our weekly Friday Celebration Assemblies.

If there are any families new to the school or in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 who have lost their pack or not yet purchased a pack and would like to please go to Parentmail payments/shop\_\_\_\_\_ and place your order by next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The packs will then be delivered before the half term holiday.

The packs are priced at £8.50 as we have secured a school discount on the advertised price of £12.50.

Many thanks for your continued support.



September Lottery Club winners are:

1st: 17 Stephanie Barrett £15 2nd: 47 Sarah Richardson £10

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!

Thanks again for your support.

# **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

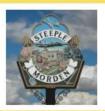
Pasta sauces

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



# Steeple Morden Primary School

"Steeple Morden is a caring school. The values of 'be brave, be kind and be the best you can be' shine through. Adults care deeply about pupils." Ofsted 2022

# **Prospective Parents Event**



Tuesday, 7th November 2pm — 3pm

For parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2024





Join us to find out what we have to offer to your child.

Please email us if you would like to join our event for prospective parents so that we can provide you with all the necessary information.

#### **Steeple Morden Primary School**

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Nr. Royston, Herts, SG8 0PD Tel: 01763 852474

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

#### News from Starling Class (Reception)

#### Hello from Starling Class!

This week the children have had an action packed week full of learning. In Phonics lesson the children revisited last week's learning of the graphemes **s**, **a**, **t**, **p** and the Harder To Read and Spell word **a**. This week the children learnt three new Harder To Read and Spell words **I**, **the**, **no**. We have been extremely impressed with the level of engagement from all families with regards to regular if not daily Phonics and reading practice, please keep it up because the children are thriving and their confidence is shining through!



<u>Grapheme/</u> <u>Phoneme</u>	<u>Picture</u>	<u>Mnemonic</u>
i	inventor	down her body, spot her idea
n	nest	down the bird and over her nest
m	meerkat	meerkat, mound, mound
d	duck	over his back and around the tail, up his neck and down to his feet

The children built on last week's learning of the numbers 1, 2 and 3 this week and were introduced to Numberblock 4. We learnt that 4 is a square number, 4 is one more than 3 and we thought about how to answer 'how many' questions and the process we need to follow.

We saw some excellent independent Maths exploring during COOL Time with lots of the children exploring five frames for the first time whilst trying to represent 4. We have also seen a whole array of different representations of the Numberblocks characters!





We continued our 'word collecting' work this week with the words below to build on our ambitious vocabulary. We even heard a child explain how "ravenous" they were before lunchtime, which was brilliant as they were applying their word knowledge from last week!

<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	
Accelerate	When something begins to move more quickly	
Cooperate	To be helpful by doing what someone asks you to do	
Prevent	To stop something from happening, or someone from doing something	
Debris	What is left over when something has been destroyed	
Nuisance	A person or thing causing annoyance	

This week we had our first mini fire alarm practice where the children learnt what to do if the fire alarm went off. We went on a search around the school to see if we could spot any fire exit signs too! We had our first RE lesson where we met Tom and Tessa and they showed us their precious treasures and some of them were Christian objects which lots of us were able to identify. We then discussed going to Church and we were impressed with the children's knowledge about the locations of our local churches! Another first this week was our Science lesson where we discussed autumn.



sharing the facts we already knew about autumn and then we went on a Science discovery walk to spot any early signs of autumn, which in turn prompted fantastic conversations about taking care in nature. In PSHE the children were thinking about how they can work and play well with others in class, we thought being polite, turn taking and sharing were the most important things to remember! In Music with Mrs. Brown, the children listened to 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams and they were able to identify a variety of different instruments within the





Thank you so much to those of you who have sent in family photographs. We are still waiting for lots of them to come in to create our family book. Please bring them in at your earliest convenience.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team

#### News from Robin Class (Year 1)

The children had a great time on Monday and Tuesday afternoons mapping all of our body parts and answering the question 'Am I my muscles?' and 'Am I my guts and stuff?' As staff, we were impressed by their knowledge and enjoyed their enthusiasm. There were a few laughs (together!) about where some organs had been placed and between us we have written a super list of what they want to find out with regard to how their bodies work. In addition to all of this, our Robins have



shown kindness, adaptability and friendship in abundance this week, as well as resilience and bravery. You should all be proud of your lovely young people.

We have all been impressed with the writing skills demonstrated this week with all the children writing their own 'That's not my..." book. Words have been available to use as prompts, children have sounded out their own choices of words and improvements have been made to letter-formation skills (although some need continued support). All your children were able to say what they wanted to write and tried their very best.

During our maths lessons this week, the children have been able to demonstrate their ability to 'count on' and say what is 'one more than' a given number. Do support your children in being able to do this by asking them to count from any number you might say to them (and then try counting backwards, too). Some children have also been working on some reasoning problems – What is the mistake we have made? How do you know? These children have shown good verbal skills at explaining their knowledge and putting what

they understand into







If you have not yet returned your signed data sheet (yellow sheet which came home last week) PLEASE return it to the front desk as soon as possible even if it is just signed and everything on it remain the same! Our lovely staff will be so happy to see them back so as to update or confirm if your data is the same.

Thank you for your continued support in all you do with your children at home from asking them to listen to you, to practising reading skills to providing them with a water bottle every day. Ensuring your child knows they have all the right things for their day really does help them feel secure at school.

We all hope you have a super weekend,

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



#### Assemblies & Collective Worship

Our whole school assemblies are continuing with the theme of parables. We have revisited the parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18, v12-14) which underpins our school ethos. The concept of rejoicing when something that has been lost is found or when someone who has made a poor choice is able to reflect and make a change is something that we can all relate to. In the same way that the shepherd in this parable represents how God treats those who are 'lost' we also compare this to how we treat each other in school.

#### News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Yet another good week in Owl class, lots of learning, some factual writing and our heads are wrapped around number lines.

In Maths this week we have been continuing with our topic of place value. We have learnt about position of number. The children enjoyed being a number and working out their position on a child-built number line. The children learnt key vocabulary such as start point, end point and intervals and can now confidently label number lines with intervals worth 10 or 1. Finally, the children built on their understanding of tens and ones and used this to estimate missing numbers up to 100. As every week, we looked at our times tables and this week we introduced the 5 times table. Please support your child with this at home.

In English this week we have written our non-chronological report. It has encouraged stamina and perseverance but all the children should feel very proud of their outcomes. On Tuesday we spent time researching each chosen animal and note taking facts. Then we got straight on and wrote our titles, introduction and expanded noun phrase all in one session. Remembering to use technical language, the children recorded three sections of superb facts the following day ending with an exclamation. Ask your child about the animal facts they know; I am sure some will surprise you!

Our animal knowledge has continued in science this week as we learnt about the basic survival needs of animals and humans. It was lovely to hear the initial responses from the children of what they couldn't live without: "my parents" came up frequently as well as "my dog", "my iPad" and "my favourite dinner".

We continued learning about the world in geography and what the points on a compass represent and how we can describe the world using directional language.

Europe is to the west of Asia. Antarctica is the most southern continent. Africa is to the east of the Atlantic Ocean.

#### **Reminders:**

Water bottle in school daily.

Reading log and book in school daily.

Homework folders in on Monday for spellings and Thursday for marking. As the weather is turning cooler please make sure your child has a water-proof at school every day.



If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email:- <a href="mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk">office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk</a>

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team.

# Treat Day!

### Thursday, 5th October

Fish Fingers, or Fishless Fingers
Chips, Jacket or Mashed Potato with Baked Beans or Mixed Vegetables
with a free Milkshake or Juice!

#### Cookie or Yogurt and Fruit

We are moving 'Chip Day' to Thursday this week and offering everyone who has a School Dinner a free milkshake or carton of juice!

# IMPORTANT LUNCHTIME INFORMATION CHILDREN IN STARLING, ROBIN AND OWL CLASSES

As many of you know, all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals programme.

We realise that some children can be a little wary of the 'school dinner' lunchtime routine of walking to the hatch to choose food that has been cooked by someone who isn't their parent or family member. For this reason, every so often we try something different to encourage children to 'have a go' with school dinners.

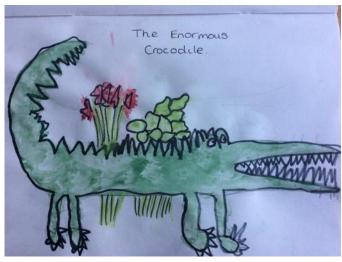
Next Week (Thursday 5th October) we will be doing just that. There will be a change to the usual menu with 'treat day' happening on Thursday. In addition, all children in Starling, Robin and Owl class will be offered a milkshake or juice and cookie to have alongside their packed lunch, if they wish. (Children with dietary requirements will be offered a suitable alternative).

This will be completely FREE OF CHARGE. Please <u>let us know if you do not want us to offer this</u> to your child.

### News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Another busy, fun and productive week in Year Three!

In English, we have started our work on foxes, this has involved us identifying the features of an information board, and being information hunter-gatherers. To be an information hunter-gatherer, we needed to work in groups. One person went and read facts about foxes and returned to the group to report one discovered fact, and one member of the group would write the fact down, while the remaining members created an action to help us remember the fact. Everyone took turns at each job. The most successful hunter-gatherers were those that could work in a cooperative group. Some of us found this easier than others, but we all realised that we had learnt a lot about foxes as well as how to work in a group. Next week we will continue our fox work in our fox groups.

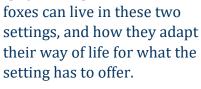


We also started our work on foxes, by sorting statements into 'true', 'could be true' or 'false'. For each statement, we had to explain the reasons behind our choices. Next week we will continue gathering information to create an information board all about foxes.

In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of place value, by ordering numbers and solving mysteries of missing numbers. Next week we will use our understanding of place value to help with addition and subtraction work.

In other lessons, we have been developing our geographical knowledge by thinking about maps and mapping. We identified all the key features of a map. We then drew a map using all the

features. Our maps were of our imaginary landscapes for the setting of Fantastic Mr Fox. We also impressed Miss Smith with how much we knew about urban and rural settings, adding to our understanding by finding out about how





#### Weekly home activities

- Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in the 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.

#### **Reminders**

- Please name all clothing
- Send books and diary into school each day.
- Street paper (see below)

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

#### From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team



PS In a few weeks, we will be looking at the work of Kurt Schwitters, a collage artist who used 'street paper' for his creations. Street paper, bits of paper that might be found on the streets, see picture above for examples. Please collect 'street paper' ready for our work







#### News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our recent Science lessons, we have gained further insights into the makeup of sound by learning about the causes of changes in pitch and volume – no musical instruments were harmed!

In our English lessons, with various props for inspiration, such as hats and walking sticks we have been developing characters. These hands-on activities have allowed children to explore the vocabulary and details needed to build characters through the thoughtful selection of adjectives.

We have been honing our skills with numbers in the ten thousands in our maths lessons. The children have been working diligently to ensure they can accurately place these numbers in relation to each other on a number line.

For those early birds who love an active start to the day, we're excited to say running club has begun. It takes place every Tuesday morning from 8 am, Mrs. Weddepohl and I will be leading this and we want to emphasize that the club is designed to cater to all speeds, ensuring that every child can participate comfortably. There are a handful of places left so if your child is willing and you would like to sign your child up for the

Running Club, please make the £11 payment for the term via ParentMail.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 team.

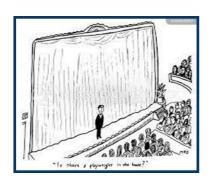




#### News from Heron Class (Year 5)

It has been a busy week in Year 5 across the curriculum.

In English, we have continued with our work on 'Street Child' and also worked hard to try and complete the full set of baseline assessments in both spelling and phonics so we are completely confident that we have accurately identified any gaps or weaknesses your child may have in these areas that we will work on this year.



We identified the features of a playscript in a text (eg, a cast list, a new line when a new character speaks, each name is followed by a colon, speech is written without inverted commas etc). We also learnt how to use brackets to insert extra information into a sentence. We learnt that we always need a <u>pair</u> of brackets. Inside the brackets is the extra information. The rest of the sentence would still make sense without it. This extra information is often called 'parenthesis.' Here are some examples:-

Sophie's toy bunny (who was eleven and had brown fur) loved to kayak. Ralph's bear (who had a ginger beard) loved to play Minecraft. Harlee's dog (who had a long tongue) loved to play board games.

In Science, following on from our work on the life cycle of mammals, we have now begun to think about the life cycle of birds. We have started to compare the similarities and differences between these two life cycles and represented our ideas on Venn diagrams.

In Maths, we have continued our work on place value by comparing and ordering numbers to 1,000,000. We have also learnt how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000. This was tricky as we needed to apply our knowledge of place value but also we needed to be very efficient in our counting in multiples of 10. Rounding will be the Mathletics activity for this week to reinforce this concept.

Please also look out for the separate notice about Tackling Tables (see page 5) if you need to purchase a home pack of cards to help with practising multiplication tables at home.

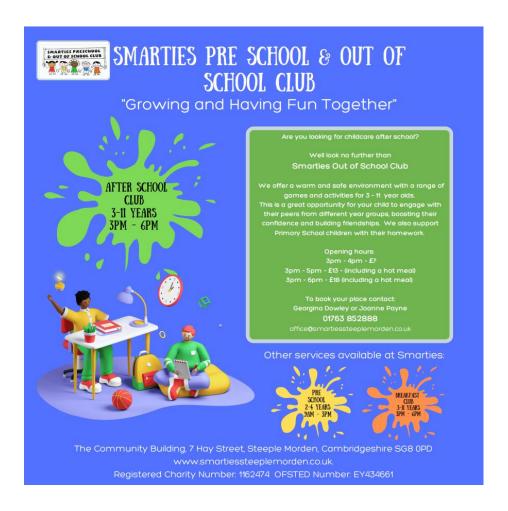




## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

Year 6 have been so busy with their learning this week they haven't had a chance to write about it! Check back here next week for up-to-date news.



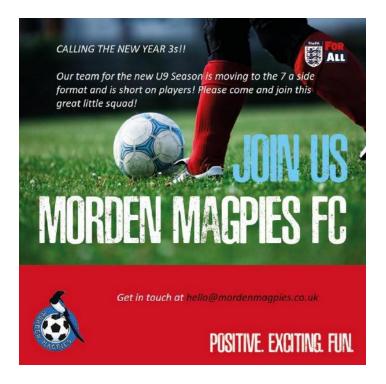












# **Community News**

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

**Smarties Preschool** 

Litlington Preschool

**Bonfitness Pilates** 

Helen O-Grady Drama Classes

Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes

**MF Tennis Coaching** 

Modern Foreign Languages Tuition

**Biggleswade Swimming Club** 

Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section

Theatretrain Royston

**Mindfulness Relaxation Sessions** 

Royston Stagecoach

Summer Netball & Athletics Camps

**NCT Nearly New Sale** 

Festival of Science - 7th October

Castle Coaching Football and Rugby training sessions

First aid course—for adults, juniors and teens

Bow Books—National Bookshop Day and Bookmark competition

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

"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."

**Henri Frederic Amiel** 

#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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

