



Message from Mrs How:

Thank you to everyone who was able to join our Year Ahead meetings. Teachers enjoyed being able to put faces to names and, in some cases reconnect with parents of past pupils. Hopefully you found the sessions useful and informative. For parents who were unable to attend, a hard copy of the document/presentation will be sent home. As always, if you have any questions or queries please contact the teacher via the school office.

Another thank you goes to those parents who completed our Family Questionnaire at the end of last term. All responses and comments will be shared with governors so that we can continue to make necessary and appropriate improvements to the school. We also carried out our annual Pupil Questionnaire in July and are working through the responses there. Sadly, we are not going to be able to build a water park on the field, and much as we might enjoy a longer weekend that is not an option either. Having said that, some of the comments and suggestions from the children were very insightful and useful.

The vast majority of parents feel their child is happy at school (94%) and well looked after (98%). The number of children who say they are happy here is slightly lower but explained in many cases by comments such as "it's not about being here – I don't want to be at any school". 92% of parent respondents said they were confident that if their child had a problem, there is someone they can go to in school, who will listen to them. 82% of children said there was an adult in school they would go to, with many explaining that they would prefer to talk to a friend, parent or other trusted adult (this was more common in older pupils). The percentage of parents who say they find the The Star or website useful has increased as has the percentage who feel that we provide appropriate opportunities for children to pray or reflect should they wish.

One area where responses continue to vary is that of homework. Some parents would like more, others would like less and some people want none at all. We try to take a measured approach by asking that children are supported to practise basic skills of reading, spelling and number facts (including times tables) and then offering optional activities that families can take up if they would like. Regular practise in those basic skills makes such a difference to a child's progress, confidence and sense of success so one final thank you to everyone who is able to find a few moments in a busy day to help with this.

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."

Jim Bishop

School Meal Charges Autumn 2023

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



September

25th School Photographer in school for individual & sibling photos

October

17th Parent Consultation Meetings (3.30pm - 6pm)
19th Parent Consultation Meetings (3.30pm - 6pm)
23th-27th Half 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

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

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn term begins
Autumn half term
Autumn term ends
INSET Days
(pupils not in school)

Spring term begins
Spring half term
Spring term ends

Summer term begins
Early May Bank Holiday
Summer half term
Summer term ends
INSET Days
(pupils not in school)

Tuesday 5th September 2023
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
Wednesday 20th December 2023
Friday 1st September
Monday 4th September

Thursday 4th January 2024
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024

Tuesday 16th April 2024
Monday 6th May 2024
Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024
Friday 19th July 2024
Monday 15th April
Monday 3rd June
Monday 22nd July

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/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>). 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.



There are 3 types of instrumental lesson available:

- 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:

Can you help?

As part of our computing curriculum, Owl Class are looking to develop their photography skills. If you know of anybody who would be willing to donate any old unused digital cameras we would be very grateful!

Thank you very much



By Fir0002 (composite version by Matt57) - Own work,

GFDL 1.2, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5159773>

Would you or anyone you know like to buy the school a book?

The school council have spoken with children and teachers about books we think we would enjoy reading in school. If anyone would ever feel like buying the school a book, we have set up a wish list.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/MR5YPP3QSVMS>



News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class!

This week the children have had their first full week of teaching and learning. They learnt their first four phonemes and had a go at writing the graphemes. It was so exciting to see how enthusiastic the children were at demonstrating their knowledge independently during COOL Time.

<u>Grapheme/ Phoneme</u>	<u>Picture</u>	<u>Mnemonic</u>
s	snake	swerve around the snake
a	ant	around the head, down the body
t	teacher	down her body and cross her shoulders
p	parrot	down his body, around his face

The children enjoyed their first week of Maths lessons and we have been exploring the world of 1, 2 and 3. The children met the Numberblocks and were fantastic number detectives listing the numerous ways they saw the numbers 1, 2 and 3 represented. The children were brilliant at demonstrating their reasoning skills as they sorted pictures into two groups such as “3” and “not 3”.

We began our first foray into the world of word collecting this week. We were inspired by the book by Peter H Reynolds ‘The word collector’. Each day we begin with a new word of the day to increase our vocabulary. I am informed that some children have been “blowing you away” with their intelligent vocabulary this week! The children have been attempting to use some of the words during the course of the day which has been lovely to hear.



<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Audible	Loud enough to be heard
Utensils	Tools or objects that you use in order to help you cook
Discussion	When people talk about something and share their ideas or opinions
Ravenous	To be very, very hungry
Voracious	Eating a large amount of food quickly and eagerly

The children have also been busy in PSHE thinking about things they have learnt already and set goals relating to things they would like to learn next. In Music, the children listened to 'Celebration' by Kool and the Gang and responded to it thinking about the different instruments they could hear, if they enjoyed the song, how it made them feel then learnt and performed the song pat-a-cake.

Next week we are going to have our first RE, Science, DT and Computing lessons as well as building on our Phonics and Maths learning from this week. On Friday the children will have changed their Library books, have their first book with words sent home, have their first Harder To Read and Spell word and their first four graphemes to practice at home. These will all be updated every Friday, please help us to ensure regular practice happens and that they are all kept safely in the book bags when not in use.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week your children have been great at exploring language. They were able to generate lots of super adjectives to describe how different materials and fabrics felt or sounded. This was in preparation for writing their own 'That's not my...' book, which we will be completing next week in our English lessons.

On Monday, they were also able to sort different objects in Science, according to which material they were made of. Discussions were had around things like clothes pegs and scissors, where two materials were visible. Mrs Brown enjoyed her day with them.

We have continued thinking about 'Am I My Stuff?' this week, which children discussing many different things they could do with their belongings when they grow out of them, or they don't play with them any more. Obviously we encouraged them to ask you first!

In Maths this week, we have been listening carefully to the language used to identify smaller numbers, with children thinking carefully HOW they know how many counters are in a 10-frame, talking about their knowledge of number bonds within 10 and counting accurately a group of cubes placed randomly. This has been a great base from which we can leap next week.



You should have received a data sheet this week from the office (in children's bags on Thursday afternoon) Please do send this sheet back with any necessary changes on Monday next week if you haven't returned it already!

Thank you for continuing to send in water bottles. A coat every day is also needed now that the weather is so changeable. We endeavour to take the children outside every play and lunch time even if it is raining a little so that they can run around and get some fresh air.

Sorry we didn't get to change Library books on Wednesday this week – we tried to get as many as possible done on Thursday and will return to Wednesday next week!

We all hope you have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Another very busy week in year 2 full of enthusiasm, resilience and new learning.

In English this week we have explored the features of a chronological report in more depth and the children started to write their own excerpts of each feature. In doing so the children have learnt new vocabulary; expanded noun phrase, technical language and introduction. Finding ways to remember the definitions proved an interesting game and gave an insight to how your child's mind works! Through some interesting methods the definitions were learnt well and the children recorded some fabulous examples.

Herbivore

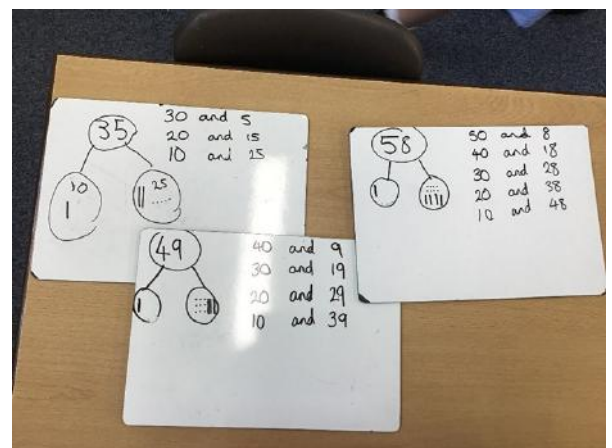
**The young, playful elephant.
The strong, wrinkled elephant.
The curled, opposable trunk.**

Habitat

Mammal

Tusks

In Maths this week we have been developing our knowledge of place value further and learnt not only how to partition numbers but how to flexibly partition them. We can understand where the tens and ones are in a number, but can also understand what the tens are made up of. For example we know 45 is made up of 40 and 5 but it is also made up of 30 and 15, 20 and 25, 10 and 35. We spent a couple of lessons this week really getting to grips with this knowledge unbundling straws in ten. Can you find all the flexible partitions of 67?



Thank you for your best efforts in returning reading books on time, this allows for a smooth transition to a new book coming home. Please note your child will receive a 'bead in the jar' working toward a class treat if they achieve four reads at home. The more home reads = more beads for the jar. Please ensure to record in the reading log any reading completed at home.

As your ears may have heard the children have learnt a new geographical song to help learning the seven continents and five oceans. On Wednesday the class all worked together to complete a world map puzzle and the humming of the song created a buzz in the room.

Puzzles were a theme this week, the children also completed life cycle puzzles in science. The understanding of the human lifecycle was a high discussion point but I am pleased to say the whole class now know after teenagers you're not just elderly!

Reminders:

- Water bottle in school daily.
- Reading log and book in school daily.
- Homework folders in Monday for spellings and Thursday for marking.
- As the weather is turning cooler please make sure your child has a waterproof at school every day.



If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email:- office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team.

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Another busy, fun and productive week in Year Three!

In English, we have changed our notes about Roald Dahl into text, we have thought about using extended sentences through the use of conjunctions and the use of pronouns to prevent repetition of nouns! We are very pleased with what we have managed to write so far.

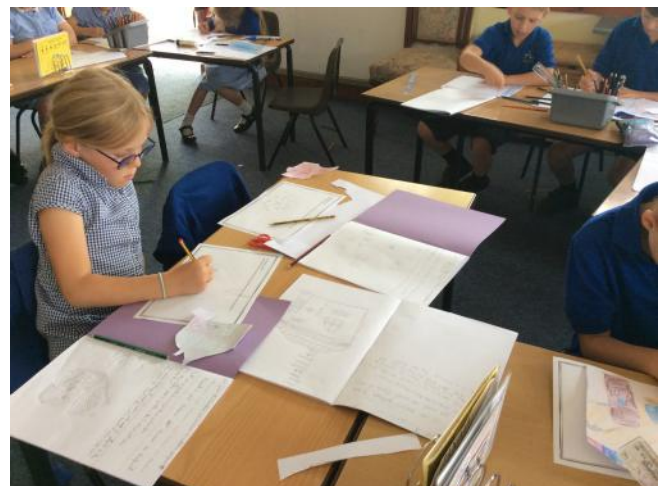
We are all in agreement that Roald Dahl was a very clever writer, he used so many of his own life experiences to give him ideas for his stories and characters. Next week we will edit our work and produce our final pieces of work, and begin our work on foxes.



In Maths, we have further developed our understanding of place value, by working out what is 100, 10 or 1 more or less than a given number. This understanding has then been applied to solving problems and writing statements using $<$ or $>$. Place value work will continue again next week.

In other lessons, we have designed our own writing huts. In order to do this we had to think carefully about what we would need around us and why, where the hut would be and why as well as the atmosphere we would want to create in order to feel comfortable and inspired to write.

With Miss Smith, in our music lessons, we thought about the pulse of a piece of music and had a go at learning our first song. Eventually we are hoping to be able to perform our song to a lucky select audience.



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.
- Mathematics and Spelling Frame are up and ready with set work for the children, logins for both are in reading diaries
- Following our spelling assessment this week, we will use the next few weeks to consolidate the spelling of the year 2 common exception words before embarking on the year 3/4 list. If you have successfully completed the spelling frame activities and would like an extra challenge, please start to look at the year 3/4 words, that can be found in the centre pages of reading diaries.
- Tackling tables practise.
- Homework will be discussed in more detail in the Year Ahead meeting.

Reminders

- Please name all clothing
- Send books and diary into school each day.
- Street paper (see below)
- Many thanks for your support and input for the positive start to the year.
- 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 for examples. Please collect 'street paper' ready for our work



News from Swift Class (Year 4)

It's been an exciting week in Swift Class as we took part in our first swimming lesson offsite.

In English we have been exploring sentence expansion and how authors develop character. We've been emphasising the importance of using appropriate adjectives to enrich sentences in order to paint vivid pictures with words. This not only enhances descriptive writing but also makes children's storytelling more engaging.

We've been exploring how authors build characters in stories. Using the book "Max and the Millions" as our guide, we've delved into the techniques authors employ to create multi-dimensional and relatable characters.

In Maths we have been continuing to expand the value of the numbers children work with, we are now working with numbers in the ten-thousands. Understanding how many tens and hundreds make up these numbers in the ten thousands, this helps to build a solid foundation for more complex mathematical concepts in later years.

We have been learning about drawing figures in proportion in our art lessons and have been trying to improve with each attempt annotating our work as we go.

Thank you for ensuring your children came prepared for their first swimming lesson. The first week primarily focused on assessing each child's current swimming abilities. This information will help us tailor the teaching approach to accommodate a wide range of skill levels over the coming weeks.

For those of you who were able to visit our classroom this week to learn about the areas we'll be focusing on this year, thank you for attending. If you were unable to attend, a paper copy of the information has been sent home with your child, and you can also find a digital copy on our class web page for reference.



Mr Beavan and the Year 4 team.

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English, we have continued with our work on 'Street Child', focusing this week on predicting what might happen next (using clues from the text) and also empathising with some of the main characters and trying to imagine how we would feel if we were in their situation. The children have impressed us by sharing some very thoughtful ideas. We have also started to read examples of play scripts as this is the first genre that we will study this year. The unit of work will hopefully conclude with us writing our own play scripts, set in Victorian Britain, and possibly even performing them.



In Science, following on from our work on the life cycle of mammals we have begun to think about one particular mammal, humans. We have discussed the changes that occur in human beings as they develop to old age. We have begun to compare generalised examples of cognitive, physical and emotional changes in every stage of the human life cycle.

In Maths, we have used our work on Roman numerals as a way in to thinking in more depth about place value, in particular representing numbers to 1,000,000. A sound understanding of place value is fundamental to making progress in maths and that is why we start with this topic every year. We have represented numbers on place value charts with counters and also placed numbers on number lines.

In our Art lesson this week we continued to look at the work of William Morris, pointing out key features of his work. We will soon be designing our own pieces that we will be able to replicate in press print.

The class enjoyed learning about how times have changed for children since the Victorian era. We learnt about what it might have been like to work as a chimney sweep, a street sweeper, in a factory or in a coal mine. This linked well with our work on 'Street Child.'



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Year Ahead meeting on Thursday after school. It was lovely to meet you and we look forward to working with you to make this a successful year for your child.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, we have been continuing to look at place value in Maths and numbers up to 10,000,000 before we moved on to rounding numbers up to a million (and beyond in some cases). We then looked at negative numbers and investigated football league tables and the temperatures in arctic Canada and Siberian Russia. Ask your child about this and check out some of the examples of the work attached. The Mathletics homework that is set weekly

Arctic Canada *Inter*

Minima	Maxima
-33	-33
-32	-55
-27	-42
-16	-102
-68	-164
41	-111
6	-132
6	-100
1	-100
-7	-107
-14	-126
-22	-154

tries to reflect and consolidate on our learning in class so please make sure that the homework is completed.

In English, we are continuing with our topic on newspaper reports, focussing on the outbreak of the Great War and the causes and consequences of this. We are now looking at various newspaper reports and the features that would be expected to be found within them.

In other subjects we are studying the biology of living things in Science; World War One in History; God in RE and Turner's paintings in Art. In

Computing we will be using spreadsheets and in PSHE we are studying rights and responsibilities. Finally in PE we are playing netball and tennis.

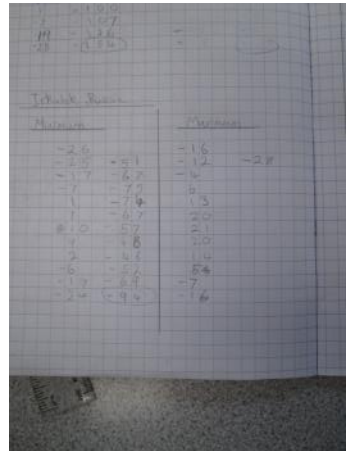
Thank you to all those who attended the Year Ahead meeting on Wednesday. I hope you found this informative. Please e-mail in any questions to the office that you may have and I will endeavour to answer them.

The children who completed the play leader course whilst in Year 5 have now begun to put their training into use as they started to deliver their weekly rota of activities last week. They seem to be enjoying leading and organising games and activities for the younger children.

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Thursday.

Thank you

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team



PARISH PANTRY

Local Food Bank



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

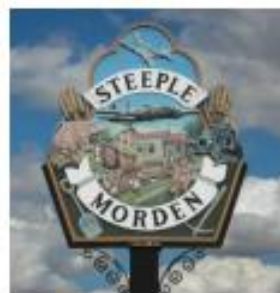
There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.

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



SMARTIES PRE SCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

"Growing and Having Fun Together"

AFTER SCHOOL
CLUB
3-11 YEARS
3PM - 6PM



Are you looking for childcare after school?

We look no further than
Smarties Out of School Club

We offer a warm and safe environment with a range of games and activities for 3 - 11 year olds. This is a great opportunity for your child to engage with their peers from different year groups, boosting their confidence and building friendships. We also support Primary School children with their homework.

Opening hours:

3pm - 4pm - £7

3pm - 5pm - £13 (including a hot meal)

3pm - 6pm - £18 (including a hot meal)

To book your place contact:

Georgina Dowley or Joanne Payne

01763 852888

office@smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk

Other services available at Smarties:



The Community Building, 7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire SG8 0PD
www.smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk

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Call: 07984935193 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

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

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

*“It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings,
and toasty marshmallow evenings,
and, best of all, leaping into leaves!”*

AA Milne

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