



THE STAR



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

Message from Mrs How:

This week we have welcomed our new Reception children into school full-time. My office overlooks the Reception outside space and as I type I can see children busy finding out about the environment. Musical instruments are being played, dinosaurs are being buried in the sand and there is some detailed drawing taking place too. In the classroom, children are exploring the home corners (the vacuum cleaners seem very popular today), creating long chains of coloured links and generally being very busy. I know they will say they have spent the day "playing" but the amount of learning from these social activities that use communication and physical skills is huge.

Elsewhere in the school there is less play but lots of children still busy with their learning – demonstrating their new skills in maths, English, Spanish and PE. In the distance I can hear one of the Rocksteady bands working together as they learn a new song. All in all a normal Friday morning here at Steeple.

As always, the Autumn term is one of varied weather. One day brings sweltering sun and the next brings clouds and rain. Please make sure that your children are prepared for both options by sending sun hats and rain coats every day. We try not to let light rain deter us from taking the children outside for some fresh air and a chance to run around and I noticed a number of them this week with no waterproof coats.

Next week we have our Year Ahead meetings where you can come and find out more about the plans and expectations for the coming year in your child's class. Please check dates and times carefully on page 2 and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Regular articles

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Phone: 01763 852474

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"A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen."

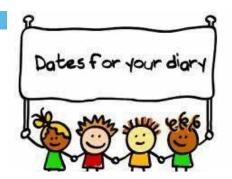
Denise Witmer



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

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Monday 15th April

Monday 3rd June Monday 22nd July

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Absence Reporting	Autumn term begins Autumn half term	Tuesday 5th September 2023 Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
If your child is absent please advise us on 01763	Autumn term ends <i>INSET Days</i>	Wednesday 20th December 2023 Friday 1st September
852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the	(pupils not in school)	Monday 4th September
absence line or email office@steeplemorden.cam bs.sch.uk	Spring term begins Spring half term Spring term ends	Thursday 4th January 2024 Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February 2024 Thursday 28th March 2024
Please don't message via Parentmail as we don't use this aspect of the system and so this won't be seen.	Summer term begins Early May Bank Holiday Summer half term Summer term ends	Tuesday 16th April 2024 Monday 6th May 2024 Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024 Friday 19th July 2024 Monday 15th April

INSET Days

(pupils not in school)

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.

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class!

Firstly a HUGE thank you to all of you lovely parents who so warmly welcomed us into your homes last week, we hope you found it as much of a positive experience as we have and we look forward to building strong relationships with you as the year progresses.



The children have been absolute superstars coming in bravely and with so much confidence! We are very proud of them all. The children may be very tired this weekend as they have had to absorb a lot of information. This will get easier as the children adjust to the new rules and routines.

It has been wonderful seeing children coming in each day proudly clutching their book bags, kindly gifted to them from the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). The PTA are a small collection of parents and teachers who work really hard to fundraise for the school. They are always on lookout for new members and people

to help out, so if you think you could please ask us and we can point you in the right direction.

This week the children have been focusing on learning the rules of the classroom, how to move through school respectfully, the routines of the school day and the most important job of all, making new friends and learning their names! The children have thoroughly enjoyed

exploring every inch of the classroom and all of the resources on offer, we have heard lots of polite "please" and "thank you" when speaking to each other and lots of asking if they can play other children's games... what a fantastic start!





The children all got to know the grown ups a little better this week as we all shared our own 'All about me' boxes in Show and Tell and this will help them to prepare for their own over the next few weeks! We were astonished at how well the children behaved during their first few days during lunchtime, lots of polite conversations, discussions about food, lots of trying new foods and plenty of clear dinner trays!

Next week we are going to begin our Phonics and Maths lessons which is so exciting! The children have already been keen to show us their love of books and number knowledge which is a delight.



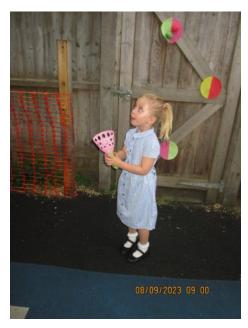
We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday at 3:30 for the Year Ahead meeting followed by the Phonics workshop. The Year Ahead meeting will be a whistlestop tour on what to expect your child to learn this year and any important information to note. The phonics workshop will aim to support you with knowing how to help your child at home with their reading and spelling whilst informing you about how we teach early reading in school.

Thank you for sending in water bottles, cardigans/jumpers, coats, hats etc. this week, the weather has been extremely changeable at best and all of the children have been prepared for all eventualities weather wise!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team





News from Robin Class (Year 1)

Robin Class News

What a wonderful first couple of weeks in Year 1 for the new Robin Class! It has been lovely to get to know your children and start thinking about their new learning environment, as well as giving lots of time to how we can think and talk about our emotions. The book, The Colour Monster, really helped us to start using some more adventurous vocabulary to talk about how we are feeling – maybe being anxious or nervous rather than scared, and how we could end up being terrified if that feeling was strong.



We have given some thought to how we can react when we have different feelings through the days and weeks – "When I am angry I can breathe using my finger" and "when I am sad I can talk to a friend". We were delighted that everyone was happy to have a go at writing a sentence (and that some children even remembered to use finger spaces and full stops!)

Mrs Andrews and the class spent time on Thursday afternoon last week thinking about colours and patterns that reflect our different emotions. The children created some wonderful doddles in response to their different feelings. This week they have begun their work on portraits (please see photos of some of this week's pieces of art).

As you have probably noticed, we have already begun our weekly library sessions. Books



will come home on a Wednesday to be returned the following Wednesday, please. Obviously if your child would like to keep the book for another week, that is fine; we ask that they bring it back and tell us at library time, please.

Reading books linked to our Phonics teaching will be sent home from next Friday. We will talk about this and the Phonics sounds and Harder to Read and Spell Words (HRSW) at the Year Ahead Meeting next Thursday.

Thank you so much for remembering to send in fresh water in bottles, daily – and for waving to us as your child reaches the front of the line at pick-up time (we really do appreciate it, especially as we learn to match your faces to your children!)

As last year, if your child is more likely to eat a healthy fruit snack brought in from

home, please do send one in (fruit or veg only, please as that will reflect the free fruit/veg snack provided in school).

If your child does not yet have a NAMED PE kit in school, please send it in as soon as possible – our official PE days are Thursday and Friday, but we may go out at other times depending on the weather and availability this term. Please also ensure all clothes are also named – we do not want to spend valuable time trying to match clothes and children by smell!

We all hope you have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



News from Owl Class (Year 2)

The children have made a fantastic start to the term in Year 2 so far and are very pleased to all be back together again and ready to learn.

We are looking forward to being able to talk through our plans for the year at our 'Year Ahead Meeting' on Friday 22nd September at 4:00pm. We are also in the process of updating information on our class page of the school website.

Here are just 'a few' of the things we have been learning in school over the two weeks as we begin to find out where everything is in our new classsharing books, reading fascinating

facts about elephants, making our own collage of an owl, finding out information about each other, practising our handwriting, counting games, having fun at playtime, drawing selfportraits, practising our team building skills in PE, a very long spelling test, discussing the importance of sorry, agreeing the class rules and enjoying some whole class stories!



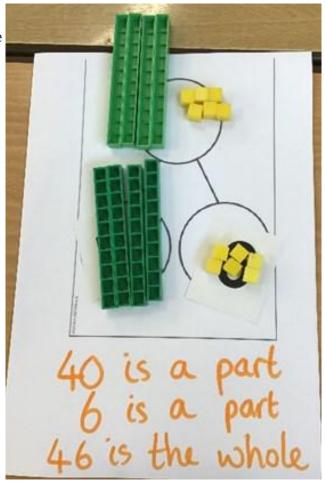
In English this week we have explored the features of a chronological report and the children are preparing to write their own in the next week or two. The children started by recording questions about elephants that they may wish to find out, we then looked at a range of fact files and answered some of those questions. Did you know the largest elephant to be recorded was 13ft tall?



In Maths this week we have been developing our knowledge of place value. We can understand where the tens and ones are in a number, we can partition that number into a part, part, whole model and we can finish incomplete models. The children particularly enjoyed building the models to show the value of each part. 46 is 40 and 6 not 4 and 6.

We have been completing reading and phonic assessments this week and shall continue into next week. Please note we aim to send books home from today (Friday 15th) and will share more information on this during our 'Year Ahead Meeting'. You should see in your child's reading record a 'due to return' date, please try and adhere to these so we can keep exciting new stories coming home.

It is going to be a busy term so please read our news in the Star each week and look at our website for more information. If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email:- office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



Reminders:

- Water bottle in school daily.
- Reading log in school daily
- Homework folders in Monday and Thursday.

We expect that the children might be feeling quite tired this weekend so some early nights might be needed!

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team.

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)



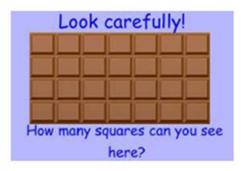
We have had an enthusiastic, positive start to the year, long may it continue! We started the week with a number of peacock-based activities, we wrote individual, new term targets, about a school based skill that we would like to have improved by Christmas. We wrote these on paper hands to make the feathers of a peacock's tail. We reinvigorated our listening skills, by following a tutorial on how to draw a peacock, our creations were used to create an ostentation (collective noun for peacocks) on the class window; we also conducted some research into peacocks so that we could all write a different fact on a 'Did you know?'

strip. We collected over 30 facts, ask how many your child can remember.

We launched our term's topic 'Dahlicious', with our Roald Dahl dress up day, thank you for all your efforts with the costumes: the children really did look splendid. Can you name the characters from the props in the picture?

During the day the children were engaged in a number of activities inspired by characters, themes and events from some of Dahl's stories. After thinking about the theme in James and the Giant Peach the question 'what makes a good friend?' was answered in the making of 3D peaches. Holiday news was

reported "sdrawkcab", after reading an extract from Esio Trot: this gave us the opportunity to share some of the exciting things the children had been up to and the chance to think about the



creativity of Roald Dahl's use of words. Favourite character wheels (in the most parts) reflected the children's outfits and reasons for choosing that character. Our maths puzzle solving brains were put to the test to see how many squares can be found in a bar of chocolate, there are more than you think. Have a go at home with the picture included. And what special day would be complete without a sweet treat? Whipple scrumptious fudgemallow delights were crafted, eaten and

evaluated in the school kitchen. I'm not

sure Delia Smith needs to be hanging up her apron just yet, but a few pulls at the cord may be in order.



In Maths, we have started a unit of work on place value, so far we have recognised the place value of each digit in a three-digit number, read and written numbers to 1,000 in numerals and words, and identified, represented and estimated numbers using different representation. We will continue with a place value focus next week.





In PE we have made the most of the fine dry weather and started to think about the skills needed for net and wall games. This week we focussed on needing quick and nimble footwork. Next week we will build on these skills and start to introduce some simple team games using them.

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

• 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.

Dates

• Year Ahead meeting Friday 22nd 3.30 in the year 3 classroom.

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)

你好!

I have enjoyed getting to know your children since the beginning of term and we are finding ourselves settling in to school routines. We have started to work on understanding

the lives of the Anglo Saxons by looking at where they appear on a time line in relation to other historical events. We have also been making use of our artistic skills to design and create brooches similar to those found by archeologists.

Our language this year is Chinese Mandarin, one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. We have started to learn about the different tones in Chinese (as the meaning of a word can change depending on how you say it)



and how some of the writing looks like the object it is describing. Dog (狗) for example looks like a little dog facing to the left!

Homework has started to be set this week; it is issued weekly on a Thursday and is to be handed in just over a week later on the Friday. It will consist of Mathletics tasks and spellings, which link to the work we are studying in class. Each term there will be some creative projects to work on over a period of three weeks or so. This is alongside daily reading and practising the times tables they have been working on.

I look forward to seeing you in school on Monday on the 18th September at 3:30, when I



can share more information about the year ahead and what we hope to achieve. There will also be time to answer any questions you may have.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 team.

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Welcome to our first contribution to The Star for this academic year. We hope you have all had a lovely summer break; the children certainly seem to have done so and have mostly returned to school relaxed, rested and ready to learn.

We have been enjoying getting to know your children, or discovering how they have changed since some of us last taught them! They have



settled in well to the new routines and expectations in Year 5 and are looking forward to taking on some of our whole school responsibilities.

In our English lessons this week we have begun to read 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty which is the text we use to teach the class all about writing playscripts. It also links perfectly with our historical topic theme 'Full Steam Ahead' where we learn all about what life was like for children in Victorian times. The children are already absorbed in the characters we have met so far.

In Science we are working on our first topic, 'Animals'. We have spent a few minutes recapping our learning from Year 4 around using dichotomous keys to classify animals. We discussed why scientists like to classify animals in this way and what the potential advantages of such a system are. We then moved straight into the Year 5 curriculum and focused on life cycles, firstly the life cycle of mammals. We considered the gestation periods of different types of mammals and investigated whether there was a relationship between the size of the animal and the length of its gestation period. Next, we dusted off our maths skills to represent this information in a graph.

As well as our work on Roman numerals and place value so far in maths we have also had a chat about Tackling Tables. We considered what helps us to prepare for these tests and the ways that we thought it would be most useful to use the tests to move our maths forward in Year 5. From now on, these will take place every Friday and we would appreciate any help you could give your child at home with practising and preparing for these weekly tests.



We look forward to meeting you all soon at the 'Year Ahead' meeting next Thursday 21st September at 3.30pm when we can share all the information you will need to help your child with their Year 5 learning.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I have enjoyed getting to know all of the children over these last few days and I now know all of their names, I think! The children have settled in really well and they can be pleased with what they have achieved so far in Year 6.

The first part of the day, before morning break, is usually when we complete our maths activities. Over the last two weeks, we have started looking at place value in Maths and numbers up to 10,000,000 before going onto rounding numbers. Also, when the children arrive in class in the morning they will be given a maths activity that I call '5-a-day Maths', which contains differentiated questions, for them to work on at the beginning of the day.

In English (usually after break and before lunchtime) we have started working on our new topic on newspaper reports, focussing on the outbreak of the Great War and the causes and consequences of this. At the start of each new unit of work, or genre, the children will be writing a 'cold text' to see what they know about this area already. After we have looked at the genre and all the features and punctuation associated with it, the children will write a 'hot text'. In this way they will hopefully see an improvement in their understanding of the genre and the features of it.

Other topics that we have started include looking at God in RE, humans and animals in Science and we have also looked at the geography of Germany in preparation for our German lessons. In PE lessons (Monday and Wednesday), we are working on developing our netball and tennis skills.

Homework should have been set this week. This term the children will be working on Mathletics and Spelling Frame. These should be completed by Thursday 21st September – thank you. They should also keep on reading from their reading book as well as learning their times tables – these are crucial to their mathematical development. The children have also been issued with a homework diary where the weekly homework has been set. Please check this if you are unsure, as it will state what homework has been set and when it has to be returned.



On another note please could you send in any shoe boxes that you do not need as we will require these for a DT project we are doing later in the term.

Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team

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



School Uniform Guide

Clothing

- Trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore (navy or grey)
- Blouse, shirt or polo shirt (white or royal blue)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan (royal blue)
- Blue and white check dress during the summer months
- It is a Year 6 privilege to wear black uniform (polo tops, jumpers and trousers/skirts/shorts)

PE Kit (to be kept in a bag, which is hung in the cloakroom):

- T-shirt (colour of assigned House) separate to that worn during the day
- Shorts (blue or black)

In addition (from Year 1 onwards):

- Tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt without hood for the winter months
- Trainers for outdoors

Year 4 pupils will need:

- swim wear (swimming costumes should be one piece and swimming trunks should be above knee length)
- a towel
- swimming hat all children (available for purchase from the pool)

Shoes

- Children will travel to and from school in black school shoes
- The majority of children will remain in these shoes all day
- Children who wish to change into an older pair of trainers at playtime (much better for kicking a ball on a muddy field) can do so if they wish
- Children will need a change of footwear for PE lessons

Please ensure your child can fasten, without assistance, the shoes they wear for school.

Coat: It is very important that your child comes to school with a coat appropriate for the season. All children go outside to play at break time and lunch time and, as you know, the British weather can change during the school day! Reception Class also have an outside learning area.

Book Bag: Each child should have a book bag to keep reading books clean and safe on the journey to and from school.

Ordering School Uniform: http://www.totalclothingshop.com

School uniform can be ordered from the website detailed above. The link to the site can also be found on the school website in the Parents Section on the Welcome Page. Uniform can be ordered from this site and be delivered to your house (for a small postage charge) or to the school for free.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT IS CLEARLY NAMED

- We actively discourage the wearing of jewellery in school, including earrings, for Health and Safety reasons and in line with County policy.
- Earrings must not be worn for PE and swimming (if they have to be worn for the first six weeks after initial piercing, they must be taped over).
- Children may wear a cheap watch to school.
- Children are responsible for the safety of their own jewellery and watches.
- Please ensure that long hair is always tied back in school.

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

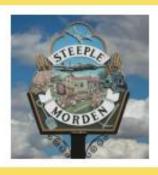
Pasta sauces

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"



Are you looking for childcare after school?

Well 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:



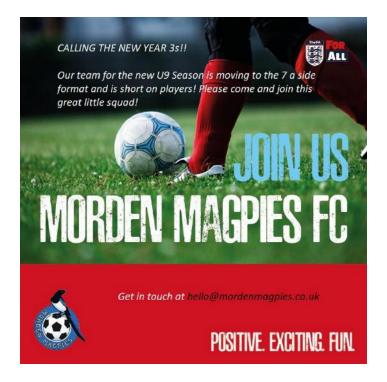
The Community Building, 7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire SG8 0PD www.smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk.

Registered Charity Number: 1162474 OFSTED Number: EY434661









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

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

"Dreams come a size too big so that we can grow into them."

Josie Bissett

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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