



## Message from Mrs How:

We all know that homework is a contentious issue in primary schools. Whatever we do, some parents always want more and some parents always want less.

There is so much to fit into the school curriculum that there is rarely time to give children the opportunities to practice many of the key skills that are taught. This is where we rely on support from home.

If you are able to spend just 10/15 minutes a day on the following activities (you could pick one a day) it makes a huge difference to your child's confidence and progress.

### Weekly expectations for parents/carers to support children in rehearsal and fluency

- Reading and phonics (aim for 4 times a week) and record in the reading diary, please
- Spellings (this is Spellingframe for the majority of children, some may have something slightly different))
- Athletics and Tackling Tables (Y2 upwards)

### Additional/Optional tasks which can enhance children's learning and deepen their understanding

We often have parents asking for advice or suggestions for activities that could further enhance their children's learning. While it is not possible to set individualised homework on a regular basis, we are going to trial a process where class teachers will send out a grid of possible activities tied in with the current class topic. These will give you and your children opportunities to investigate, visit or create something that works for you as a family, if you wish. **These are entirely optional – if time is limited please prioritise the practice activities above.** A date will be given when children will be able to share their learning from any of these optional activities in class.

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#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street  
Steeple Morden  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474  
E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk  
Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment  
before starting to improve the world"*

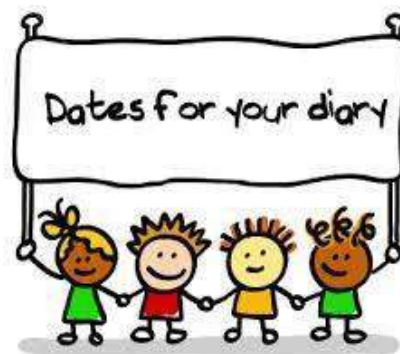
**Anne Frank**

### School Meal Charges Autumn 2022

Daily:	£2.40
Weekly:	£12.00
1st half term	£84.00
2nd half term	£91.20
Whole term	£175.20

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](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)**



## November

- 8th Nasal flu vaccinations (see Parentmail)
- 10th Year 2 trip to Woburn Safari Park

## December

- 14th Year 4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum
- tbc Reception & KS1 Nativity
- tbc KS2 Church Service
- 15th Christmas Dinner
- 21st Last day of Autumn 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](mailto: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.**

## Flu vaccination

You will have seen the Parentmail sent to before half term regarding this year's nasal flu vaccination which will take place on 8th November.

You are required to follow the link in the attachment entitled E-Consent, which will give you access to a consent form where you can either give your permission or opt out of the flu vaccination. This must be done by **14:45 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**, after this time, your child/children will not be on the list to be vaccinated.

# Notice Board

## Poppy Appeal

We will be selling remembrance poppies next week to support the annual Poppy Appeal.



Please send your children with any donations for this Appeal. If you would like to send your child in with a donation from Monday next week we will arrange for them to have a poppy. **Please ensure the money is in a named, sealed envelope, please.**

## Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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.

## Parking at school drop off and pick up times

We take the safety of the members of both our school and local community very seriously. Due to the location of the school and the volume of traffic outside school at the start and end of the school day, we rely on the cooperation of parents to help us reduce the risks presented and show respect for our neighbours on Hay Street.

If you are able to walk or cycle with your child to school and avoid using a car, we would be very grateful. If, however, you need to use your car, **please try not to park on Hay Street or surrounding roads near the school.** There is a car park with plenty of space to park, just a few hundred metres down the road, adjacent to the village recreation ground. This provides safe parking and is just a few minutes walk from school.

In addition, we are grateful to the Landlord of the Waggon and Horses who has given permission for parents to use the pub car park as an additional drop-off car park for the start and end of the school day.

We'd like to reiterate that we ask you **to avoid parking on Hay Street**; we have been advised of situations where residents are unable to safely leave their property or gain access due to cars parked in the vicinity.

Thank you for your support.

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Welcome back from Starling Class!

The children have hit the ground running with their learning this week and we have seen an increase in their confidence with their knowledge, so thank you for your support over half term in keeping their love of learning alive!



This week we have looked at the country of Mexico and discussed how different Mexico City is to Steeple Morden, using Google Earth to help us visualise the two settings. We noticed that there are a lot of roads and buildings with some houses having swimming pools in Mexico City whereas there was a lot of greenery in Steeple Morden! Our Geography work was linked to our Artist of the moment Frida Kahlo, we will be looking at some of her pieces and using them to inspire our own self-portraits over the coming weeks.

In Phonics this week, the children have learnt 6 new graphemes (4 new phonemes) h, b, f, ff, l and ll. In Maths this week, we used our 3D shape knowledge from last half term to support our 2D shape work. The children have been thinking about the properties of 2D shapes using Mathematical vocabulary such as straight, curved and edge in addition to finding odd ones out using their knowledge of the properties of shapes to make decisions. In RE this week, we started our work on answering the big question 'Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?' The children looked at different costumes, discussed which one they would choose to wear and why, and tried to decide which costume was most important (very tricky!).

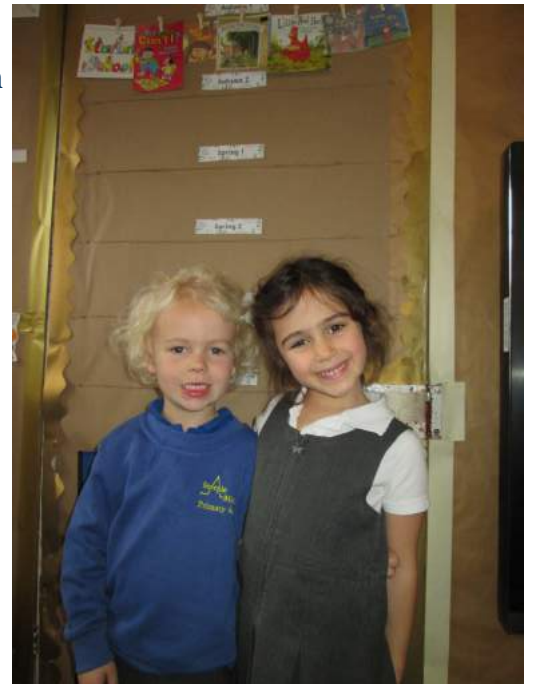




We look forward to seeing you all at our PTA Firework night on Saturday! You will be able to find Mrs Meridew and Mrs Monks at the Glow sticks stall.

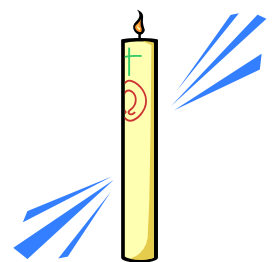
Have a lovely weekend!

**Mrs Meridew, Mrs Monks, Mrs Brown and Mrs Keech**



## Assemblies, Collective Worship and Reflection

Our Bible story for this Monday's assembly was from Luke 19 v1-10. Zacchaeus was a tax collector who was distrusted and disliked by the Jews, yet Jesus chose to visit his house and spend time with him. Zacchaeus subsequently apologized for his wrongdoings and promised to pay back any money that he had taken dishonestly. This story reminds us that Jesus often showed kindness to people who others disliked or did not want to spend time with. In many cases these people were able to show that, given the opportunity to change they could make a positive difference. This ties in with our message of being brave, kind and the best we can be. By showing kindness and giving second chances we are following Jesus' example.



## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We hope you all enjoyed at least some time with your family and friends over the half term break. It was lovely to hear the children's tales of fun and happiness as they returned on Monday morning.



We have begun the half term with an introduction to Goldilocks. Thankfully, most of the children know the story really well, so we could get down to the business of naming characters, ordering pictures, using some super language and getting to grips with the names. Considering the fact that all of the children know the trigraph 'ear' (as in ear) it was fun to talk to them about Daddy B-ear (beer) We got to know quite a lot about some Daddies out there!!!

We have continued our work on the countries of the UK by starting our 'fact files' with England. It sounded like a few of you had listened to the song in the last Star (here is the link again, just in case! <https://tinyurl.com/3vzushnz> ). We will be adding to this with the rest of the countries over

the next week or so!

Having assessed the children with their phonics last term, I have taken one more week to consolidate the graphemes they have already been taught. We are aware that quite a few children are not yet secure with these, so if you can please practise looking at them every day, this would really benefit your child. Next week we will be learning some new graphemes!



In Maths we have been impressed with the children's knowledge and memory about part-whole models from when they were in Reception (top marks, Mrs Meridew!) and have started looking at the + and = symbols. We have impressed upon the children that = or 'equals' means 'is the same as' (rather than "it's the biggest number next" or that "it comes near the end of the sentence"!) We will be dispelling some of these myths and will move on to subtractions at some point...!!



As mentioned at Parents Evenings, we will be encouraging the children to make sure they can read the following words on sight, following by trying to get the children to learn to spell them.

the, a, said, was, is, his, they, he, she, my, here, house, our

We will look at them in class, and I will let you know what we have covered in each particular week here. This week, we looked at spelling the word 'said'.

Thank you for sending PE kits back to school so promptly – it is much appreciated. If you know you are one of the last 2 or 3, please make sure it is with us on Monday morning ready for our next PE lesson.

In D&T this half term, the children will be learning different ways to join paper to paper. From next week, it might be a suitable question to ask on a Wednesday to see if they can explain what they have learned, or even better, show you!

In Science, the children did a great job of sorting pictures of animals, with direction, starting with mammals, then adding in birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects. We did talk about insects being a subgroup of a more general 'minibeasts', but the pictures were all of insects!

Have a lovely weekend!

**Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and Mrs Carter**





## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

The children have returned from half term well rested and keen to learn. It has been a busy first week back but everyone has settled back into routine smoothly.

This week we have been working hard recapping our learning from last term and using our knowledge to investigate further. In our Maths lessons, we have been using our number bonds to 10 to add to the next ten and subtract from a ten.

I know  $3 + 7 = 10$ ; therefore I know  $73 + 7 = 80$ .

Handwritten math problems showing addition using number bonds to 10:

- $24 + 6 = 30$
- $47 + 3 = 50$
- $40 = 30 + 10$
- $9 + 12 = 20$
- $70 = 5 + 65$
- $7 + 83 = 90$

Handwritten math problems showing subtraction using number bonds to 10:

- $60 - 7 = 53$
- $30 - 9 = 21$
- $50 - 2 = 48$
- $40 - 5 = 35$
- $70 - 1 = 69$

In our Topic work this week we have been busy making food chains and looking at what animals eat and why.



We have also started looking at our Henri Rousseau art project, inspired by his painting entitled 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm'. We looked at the techniques used by the artist and started to create our own backgrounds.





In English this week, we have looked at the features of a recount. The children have also looked at the past tense word ending – *ed* in their phonics and spelling work and how this can vary in pronunciation, e.g. *asked*, *listened* and *landed* all end the same but sound different.

<b>Features of a recount:</b>
Who? Where? When?
Past tense verbs: went, walked...
Time connectives: First, Next, Then, Finally...

In PE this week the children really enjoyed starting to play hockey and using the wooden hockey sticks for the first time. It was trickier than first thought and Miss Blesic did slip causing great eruptions of laughter, but by the end of the lesson everyone could hold the hockey stick and dribble the ball.

**Reminders:** Please bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school everyday and now the weather is turning colder, please can we also ask for a named coat to come into school daily too.

Reminders	
Reading books and reading record Book	to school every day please
Yellow Spelling folders	In school on Mondays please, ready for the new spelling sheet to be put in it. Thank you.
Spelling Frame	set every Monday
Mathletics	set every Friday
P.E kits in school	in school every day please

Have a lovely weekend,

**Mrs Luebcke, Miss Blesic and the Year 2 teaching team**



# 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



Wednesday 16th November 2022  
3.30 pm — 4.30 pm

For parents and carers of children due to start  
school in September 2023



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

Please call or email if you plan to attend so that an information pack may be prepared for you.

**Steeple Morden Primary School**

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Nr. Royston, Herts, SG8 0PD

Tel: 01763 852474

Email: [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

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



# STEEPLE MORDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



# FIRE WORKS

**SATURDAY 5 NOV**  
**GATES OPEN 5.30PM**

**LICENSED  
BAR**

 **BURGERS  
& BANGERS**  
by "BETWEEN BUNS"

No sparklers or personal fireworks please.  
Children must be supervised at all times.

## ADVANCE TICKET PRICES

**FAMILY TICKET:** £15 (up to 5 people, max 2 adults age 17+). **INDIVIDUAL:** £6.00

*ON SALE NOW at Steeple & Litlington Post Offices and at Steeple Primary School office.*

**ON THE NIGHT PRICES:** £6.00 (under 17s)  
£10 adults (no family tickets available on the gate)

**BEST  
VALUE**

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

A jolly week in Year Three, the children are all refreshed from their half term week and have been eager to learn.

In English, this week we have started to look at the descriptive work in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. So far, we have reminded ourselves what nouns and adjectives are and how they can be used in a descriptive sentence. We then worked together to gather adjectives and descriptive phrases to describe the factory. We have saved all of our ideas and suggestions for use in future lessons. The descriptive work based on this story will continue for the next couple of weeks.



In Maths, we have started to think about subtraction by subtracting a single digit number where the subtraction bridges a 10. This introduced how to exchange 1 ten for 10 ones. We then thought about how to subtract a multiple of 10 from a 3-digit number, including where we have to exchange 1 hundred for 10 tens.

In other areas, we have started our next unit of science all about light. In this, we needed to consider how we use light to see and how shadows are formed. There were many activities enjoyed to cover this work; feely bags to prove we need light to see, shadow hand puppets to show that shadows are made when an object blocks the light, a bingo quiz to learn scientific facts about light, a word search to learn key vocabulary and sorted light sources from reflectors. We made 'fortune tellers' to test each other on our knowledge. We will continue with our work about the science of light next week.



In PE, on Friday, we were introduced to skills that could be used in a game of Hockey. Many of the things we had thought about in our tennis work were useful, nifty footwork, hand eye coordination and ball control.





In French, we greeted each other, asking how we each were before we revised our numbers to 10 and learned 11 and 12. We then started to learn some of the colours; we will build on this so that we can use the colours as adjectives for some common objects, eg. the red apple.

With Miss Smith, we moved to the New Testament and thought about how Jesus chose his first disciples.

We even managed a 'spot the signs of Autumn' walk, please see class web page for pictures.

### **Up coming events**

Wednesday 9th November, Mayan dress up day. Please do not feel you need to spend a lot of money on the costumes, it is surprising what you can do with a pillowcase and empty cereal boxes!



### **Weekly home activities**

- Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in the reading diary.
- Mathematics and Spelling Frame
- Tackling tables practise.



### **Reminder**

- Please name all clothing
- Send books and diary into school each day
- Recorders

Many thanks

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

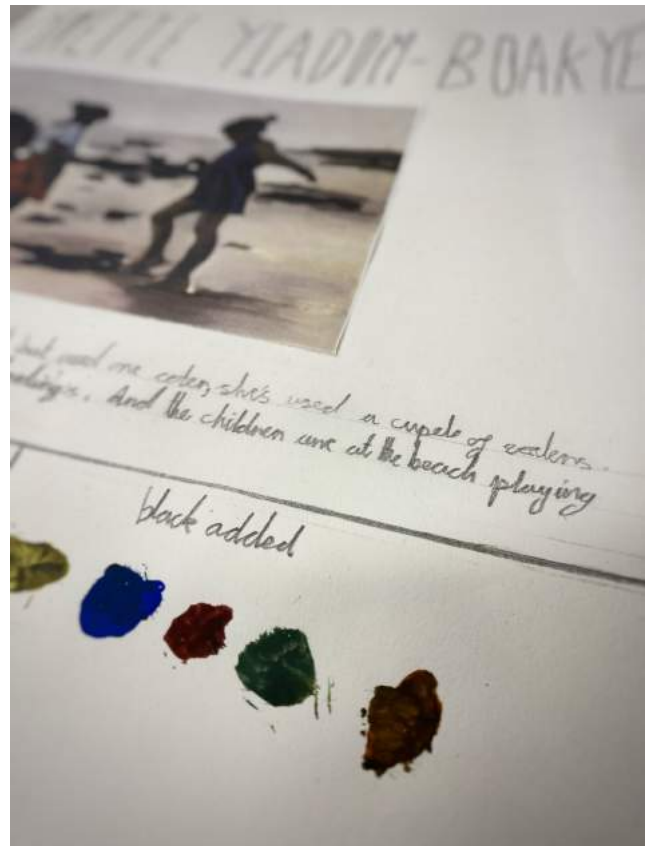
**From Mrs Seward and Miss Smith**

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our English lessons, we are writing explanation texts and exploring the features associated with this such as paragraphing, sub-headings and colons and using these skills when writing in other subjects. Pointing these features out in the texts children read can be helpful as can finding examples of where 'topic sentences' are particularly effective. A topic sentence is a name for the first sentence of a paragraph that introduces the content of the paragraph. If a piece has been constructed well, it should be possible just to read the first sentence of each paragraph and understand the gist of the whole piece.

This week in our Maths lessons, we have begun to explore the concept of area and the units involved. After children have become proficient with area, we will help them recognise how this is different from perimeter as they can get these concepts confused.

Some of the work we have covered in art lessons this term is based on drawing figures. We are now looking at some of the work of a contemporary British artist, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. She will have an exhibition of her work at the Tate Britain from 24<sup>th</sup> November to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023. We have been looking in detail at the muted colour palette which she uses in her work. By using differing amounts of paint and experimenting, we have made a variety of tones and will use this palette to create art work of our own.



We will start to think about Christmas decorations, which feels incredibly early, but the Church's Christmas Tree festival is taking place mid-November as there's lots going on at church in December.



Swimming will take place as planned next Monday.

**Mr Beavan & the Year 4 Team**

## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Welcome back after what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable half term break for you all.

We have jumped straight back into the learning and in Maths we have carried on our work on addition and subtraction that we started before the half term break. We have spent time this week solving problems and trying to choose the most efficient method to reason out solutions to our problems. We looked at examples that we could work out mentally and then examples where we might need written methods such as column addition or subtraction. Mathematics will have some activities set this week to fine tune our skills!

In English, we have started to look at a new genre – letters. We spent some time this week reading letters to and from famous people. We read a letter from Queen Elizabeth to President Eisenhower where she shared her drop scones recipe with him, one from Roald Dahl to one of his fans and finally letters that Victorian mothers had written that they left with their children when they had to give them up on the steps of the Foundling Hospital in Victorian London. We will be writing letters of our own soon, delivering them and hoping for a reply.

In Italian, we had a very enjoyable lesson playing bingo with numbers in Italian up to 100. If you have a minute, perhaps ask your child if they can remember how to say any of these numbers in Italian as some of them really do sound quite spectacular!

In our Art lessons this week we continued to be inspired by the work of William Morris and created our own designs which we have begun to imprint on tiles. In our next lesson we will be completing these and then printing with rollers and printing inks. The class have worked really carefully on their designs and we think you will be impressed with the final results.

We had a number of children without a full PE kit for our lesson on Wednesday. Please could you ensure that your child has a pair of shorts, t-shirt, jogging bottoms, socks and trainers and the kit is labelled in a PE bag. Ideally, stud earrings need to be removed on PE days as this would save time taping several ears. Please can long hair be tied back at home before the children come into school. Thank you for your help with this as we would like to maximise our time outside doing PE.



You should have received a spelling letter in your child's bag today. If it hasn't appeared yet, please have a little rummage for it in their schoolbag.

With thanks for your continued support,

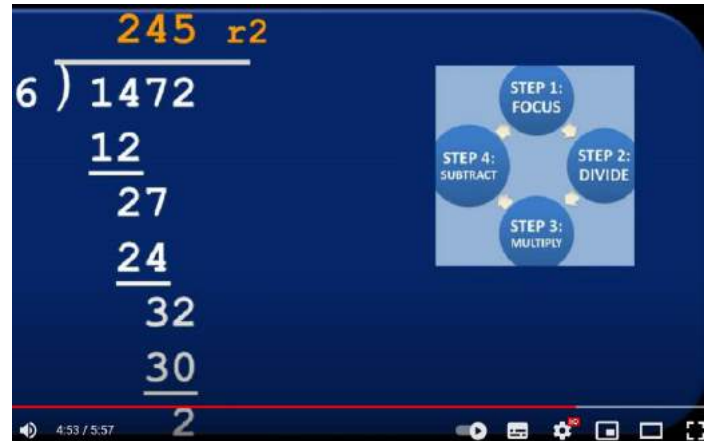
**The Year 5 Team.**



## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I hope that you all had a restful holiday last week and are gearing up for the lead up to Christmas now!

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing to look at division. The children have been working on short and long division. Please look at the attached example of long division and ask your child to explain how to work through the stages of the question. Again, I must emphasise how important it is for your child to learn their times tables. As well as examining these formal methods, we have developed our reasoning skills when studying worded problems involving division. For example, division is also about multiplication, addition, subtraction, place value, fractions etc.



In English, we have started to plan and write our 'hot texts' for a balanced argument. We have focussed on the language found in the genre (sentence openers, conjunctions, complex sentences) and have looked at various examples, from subjects ranging from should dogs be banned from parks through to should pupils be allowed mobile phones in school, among many others.

In PE, this term, we will be playing hockey and rugby on the field. Please, therefore, could your child bring in a PE kit that they do not mind getting dirty if the weather deteriorates over the next few weeks. Thank you.

Homework will be set this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 10th November.  
Keep on reading and learning those times tables, please.

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](mailto:sdcarroll849@gmail.com)

**GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED**



**MORDEN  
MAGPIES  
YOUTH F.C.**

**JOIN US!**

CALLING FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION &  
YEAR 1! THE MAGPIES' SOCCER SCHOOL

**STARTS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2022!**

FITNESS **FUN** COMPETITION

Open to all children in Reception & Year 1 (Sept 22)

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AT [hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk](mailto:hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk)

[www.mordenmagpies.co.uk](http://www.mordenmagpies.co.uk)



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PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

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AGED 2+**

**Contact the team today to arrange  
a visit!**

Call: 07984935193  
or email:  
[admin@litlingtonpreschool.net](mailto: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](mailto:hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk)

**POSITIVE. EXCITING. FUN.**

# Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool  
Litlington Preschool  
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes  
MF Tennis Coaching  
St Ives Town Football Club Tots Programme  
Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes  
Bonfitness Pilates  
French Saturday Club

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

*"I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness; I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too. I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more."*

**Anne Frank**

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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