



## Message from Mrs How:

**Welcome back** to the new school year here at Steeple and if you are the parent or carer of one of our new children – then welcome. For those who do not yet know, this is our weekly newsletter where we share information about your child's learning during this week along with an overview of the coming week. We also include lots of useful information about school events and messages. Please take the time to read through and keep a special eye on the Diary Dates page.

It was lovely to see so many smiling faces on Monday as the children came into school. Everyone looks very smart in their uniforms and I know the teachers have had a busy summer planning lots of fun learning activities for the coming months. Next week's **Year Ahead Meetings** will give you more information about what to expect this school year.

I write this as our country, and the world, begin a new era. Today, and over the coming days we mourn Queen Elizabeth II and acknowledge her service to the country and Commonwealth. As a church school we also recognise her role as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

In today's assembly, our main theme was a reminder of the school's underpinning theme of The Lost Sheep and how the lessons from this can help us to be caring and thoughtful to others. I spoke briefly about the sad passing of the Queen and why so many people will mourn her. Our prayers were centered around thoughts of her family as they grieve and asking that our new king, Charles III has the strength to take on his new duties during this difficult time. We rounded off our prayer with a phrase not heard in this country for over 70 years ... "God save the King." Monday's assembly will focus on Queen Elizabeth's service and faith and will also answer question such as the one I was asked today; "what will happen to all our money?"

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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

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

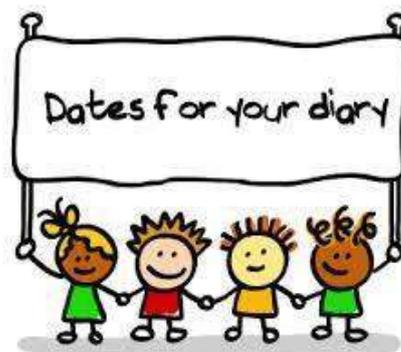
**Denise Witmer**

## 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)**



## September

- 12th Reception pupils in school full time
- W/c 12th Year Ahead meetings (see page 5)
- 26th School photos (individual & sibling)

## October

- 18th Parent consultation meetings (tbc)
- 20th Parent consultation meetings (tbc)
- 24-28th Autumn half term

## December

- 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.**

## School lunch pricing— from September 2022

Following the price increases we are seeing in food and electricity we have reviewed our school lunch charges and the cost of a school meal will go up from September 2022 to £2.40.

# Notice Board

## Shoelaces

When buying school shoes and trainers, please think about whether your child can tie shoelaces. Staff see lots of children around school with laces that have come undone and who aren't able to retie their own shoes. As you can imagine, staff don't have time to refasten lots of shoes!

Please help your child practice tying shoelaces, see <https://www.wikihow.com/Tie-Your-Shoes> for several different ways to try.

If your child simply can't grasp learning how to tie laces at the moment, please ensure you buy shoes with Velcro fastenings.

## 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.

## 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'.

## Emails to the school office

When emailing the school office, please ensure you use your child's first name, surname and their class/year group. This means that office staff, particular those who aren't necessarily familiar with all the children's names, can quickly action your message as appropriate.

## News from Starling Class (Reception)



The Reception Outside Area has had a bit of a revamp! We have created zones for the children to be able to have different learning experiences outside these include a mud kitchen, sand area, water wall, investigation area, large construction, story telling chair with seats for children, cosy reading cottage as well as the stage, road area, whiteboard and climbing wall. We are currently creating a small world and sensory garden area.



Can you help us with this?  
We are on the hunt for  
compost, liner, sensory  
plants and gravel/stones.

Please let us know if you  
can help, we would be  
very grateful!





## Would you like to volunteer in school?

We would dearly love to welcome volunteers back in to school, if you have any regular spare time, that you would like to give we can find a job for you.

Anything from gardening, sewing, simple woodwork, painting, an enjoyment for word puzzles, board games, reading etc...

If you have spare time we can fill it.

Please contact the office, to express your interest, with a brief out line of the time you could offer and what you would be interested in doing.

Many thanks, we look forward to seeing you.

## Year Ahead meetings

We have our annual "Year Ahead" meetings next week where class teachers are able to explain about organisation, plans and arrangements for the coming year. This year we are excited to be able to invite you into school! Meetings will be in your child's classroom so you can see the environment where they will be working and learning this year. Class teachers will also provide you with a Year Ahead Booklet containing all the information for you to keep.

We would prefer not to have any children in the meetings and are intending to offer supervision during the 30 minute meeting period.

Reception / Starling Class - Wednesday 14th at 2.00pm

Year 1 / Robin Class - Wednesday 14th at 3.30pm

Year 2 / Owl Class - Tuesday 13th at 3.30pm

Year 3 / Peacock Class - Friday 16th at 3.30pm

Year 4 / Swift Class - Monday 12th at 3.30pm

Year 5 / Heron Class - Thursday 15th at 3.30pm

Year 6 / Puffin Class - Wednesday 14th at 4.00pm

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the above dates.

## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

What a wonderful first week 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

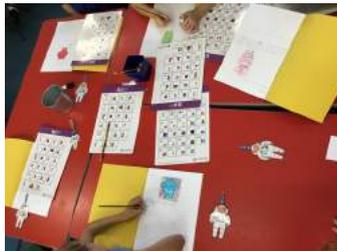


Colour Monster', has really helped us to start using some more adventurous vocabulary to talk about how we are feeling – maybe being anxious or nervous rather than scared, and how we could end up being terrified if that feeling was strong.



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!).

We have had lots of time in the classroom to reconnect with each other and meet some new friends, as well as playing parachute games on the field, building collaboratively and drawing pictures for other friends.



In small groups we have been talking about what we know when ordering numbers and objects. The children have remembered vocabulary such as greater than, less than, more, fewer, longer, shorter and the same as.

We have even been reminded that 11 is '10 and 1'.

Mrs Andrews and the class spent time on Wednesday afternoon thinking about colours and patterns that reflect our different emotions. The children created beautiful doddles in response to their different feelings.



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!).

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 Monday and Thursday, but we may go out at other times depending on the weather and hall 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 Mrs Carter**

# PARISH PANTRY

## Local Food Bank



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

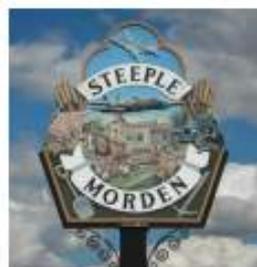
There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.

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**

## 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 Tuesday 13th September at 3:30pm. We are also in the process of updating information on our class page of the school website.

Here are just some of the things we have been learning in school this week as we begin to find out where everything is in our new class ....

sharing books, reading fascinating facts about owls, making our own collage of an owl, finding out information about each other, practising our handwriting, counting games, having fun at playtime, making bookmarks, practising our team building skills in PE, a very long spelling test, some imagination writing and enjoying some whole class stories!

As part of our cross curricular topic, we will be studying animal habitats around the world this term and how different animals have adapted to life in different places. The children are looking forward to taking 'A Walk on the Wild Side....' and have already shared some interesting animal facts new to us!

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 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and will share more information on this during our 'Year Ahead Meeting'.

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

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

Have a lovely weekend.

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



## Multisport Clubs

This year we are happy to announce that we have established links with Cambridge United Community Trust and they will be running two after school clubs (Tuesday for KS1 and Friday for KS2). The clubs will be run by qualified and fully-DBS checked coaches. Please see the link to book a place for your child.

Steeple Morden Tuesday KS1 Multi-sport

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/cambridgeunited/steeple-morden-ks1-multi-sports-tuesday-autumn-term.html>

Steeple Morden Friday KS2 Multi-sport

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/cambridgeunited/steeple-morden-ks2-multi-sport-friday-autumn-term.html>



Thank you to all those who sent in 'extreme reading' pictures, it looks like there was a lot of fun reading that went on over the holidays.

The pictures are now displayed in the library for all to enjoy.

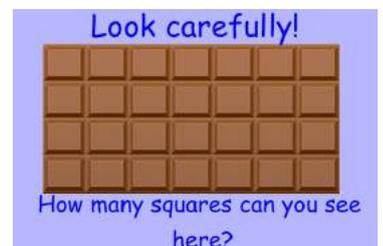
## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

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.



On Wednesday 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.



With Miss Smith, we wrote a recipe for a perfect teacher, thinking carefully and justifying our ideas, before putting them together to make a poem. For a perfect teacher you will need...

A cup of happiness  
A squirt of helpfulness  
A spoonful of firm but fair  
A heap of inspiration  
A good dollop of understanding  
A tube of patience  
Mix together, shake well,  
and there you have it.



All I can say is that I promise I will do my best.



We have shared the book 'The Huge Bag Of Worries'; we then talked about what a worry is, how it makes us feel and what we can do to solve the worry. We came up with a list of things that we can do; if it is only tiny think about it ourselves , if it is a 'big tiny' tell the cat or dog , if you need help, tell a friend or grown up who can help us make the worry go away. We all made a list in our minds of people we could talk to.

### Weekly home activities

- Reading, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in 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.
- Tackling tables practise.
- Homework will be discussed in more detail in the Year Ahead meeting.

### Reminder

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

### Dates

Year Ahead meeting Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Miss Smith**



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)

I have enjoyed getting to know your children over the last few days as we ease back into the school routines. We have been working on our artistic skills drawing self-portraits focusing on quality rather than being the first to finish.

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 will begin next week. It will be issued weekly on a Thursday and is to be handed in on the following Wednesday. It will consist of Mathletics tasks and spellings. 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 of the times tables they have been working on.

I look forward to seeing you in school on Monday at 3:30, when I can share more information about the year ahead and also answer and questions you may have.

**Mr Beavan & the Year 4 Team**



## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Welcome back to the first edition of 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 had a good week spending some time getting to know your children, or enjoying discovering how they have changed since we last taught them! One of the great advantages of the staff team in Year Five this year is that both Mrs Daniels and Mrs Weddepohl already know your children very well, leaving only Mrs Morris to play catch-up!

In Science this week with our first topic, 'Animals', we have spent some time 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. The children then had a go at classifying their own favourite animal.

As well as our work on Roman numerals in Maths this week, we also had a go at our first Tackling Tables test in year five. 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 have a fantastic History topic this term which the children are already very inspired by as they have realised that our own school dates back to the time in question. We will be learning all about what it was like to be a child in Victorian times... much more to follow on this in subsequent issues of the Star! Our text in English links perfectly to this theme. We have enjoyed meeting the characters in 'Street Child,' by Berlie Doherty and the children have already demonstrated their reading skills by looking for clues in the text which can give us valuable insights into the thoughts and feelings of the characters.



We look forward to meeting you all soon at our Year Ahead Meeting, sharing with you all the things we have planned and organised for the year and talking to you about how you can help at home too.

Have a lovely weekend,

**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 proud of what they have done so far in Year 6.

The first part of the day, before morning break, is usually when we complete our maths activities. This week, we have started looking at place value in Maths and numbers up to 10,000,000 – we will continue working on this next week. 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 does contain 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 has been set this week. This term the children will be working on Mathletics and Spelling Frame. These should be completed by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 development mathematically. They have also been issued with a homework diary where the weekly homework has been set. Please check this if you are unsure, as they will be stating what homework has been set and when it has to be returned.

Thank you.

**Mr Baker and Mrs Barbour.**



**MORDEN  
MAGPIES  
YOUTH F.C.**

**JOIN US!**

CALLING FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION &  
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[www.mordenmagpies.co.uk](http://www.mordenmagpies.co.uk)

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[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  
Multi Active Holiday Childcare  
Steeple Morden tennis coaching  
French Saturday Club

**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

7 Hay Street  
Steeple Morden  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474  
E-mail: [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

