Friday 31st March 2023 steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



# THE STAR



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

### Message from Mrs How:

Unsurprisingly, it has been a week of Easter celebrations. We had two special assemblies where we welcomed visitors to talk to the children about the Easter story and remind them of the reasons why we celebrate Easter and enjoy all those chocolate eggs. We try to help them understand that although Christmas is often thought to be the main Christian celebration, it is actually Easter when Jesus rose from the dead that holds the most important message for Christians.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Fiona Davis, the new Licensed Lay Minister for the Shingay Churches and Annie Bowen, our churchwarden. As well as listening beautifully to the important messages, the children also had the chance to 'show off' their singing skills with *Sing out an Easter song* which they have been learning recently.

On Thursday, the GenR8 team visited and used their usual combination of puppets, acting and storytelling skills to encourage the children to think about what Easter means to them. This is the team who visit us regularly and have supported us with setting up our prayer/reflection area.

As well as assemblies, classes have been busy with Easter crafts and activities. I do hope that any cards, gifts and chocolate nests made it home safely to you!

Later today, the children and staff who have been at Grafham since Wednesday will return – tired, muddy and damp but hopefully with a sense of achievement after tackling new things and showing bravery and resilience in pushing themselves to do more than they thought possible.

All that is left this term is to thank you for all the support you have given to the school and your children over the last few months. We have said our goodbyes to those children who are leaving us today and we wish them well in their new schools and new homes.

On behalf of everyone here at Steeple, I wish you a peaceful Easter break – wherever you are and whatever you are doing. We look forward to the children returning on **Tuesday April 18**th.

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#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street Steeple Morden Royston Hertfordshire SG8 OPD

Phone: 01763 852474

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

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

**Theodore Roosevelt** 

#### School Meal Charges Summer 2023

 Daily:
 £2.40

 Weekly:
 £12.00

 1st half term
 £64.80

 2nd half term
 £72.00

 Whole term
 £136.80

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

# **Absence Reporting**

If your child is absent please advise us on 01763 852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email office@steeplemorden.cam bs.sch.uk

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



**April** 

17th INSET day (children not in school)

18th Children return to school

21st Year 3 Celtic Day

May

1st Early May Bank Holiday

3rd Reception class trip to Standalone Farm

8th Coronation Bank Holiday

9th - 12th KS2 SATS week

10th Year 3 trip to Burghley House

29th - 2nd June Spring half term

**June** 

5th INSET day (children not in school)

**July** 

17th & 18th Year 6s at Bassingbourn Village College

19th Last day of Summer term

# 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.

# **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/

# School Pick-Up

Please note that the main and pedestrian gates to the school playground are opened at 3pm each day for parents/carers to go towards the playground to collect children. If you arrive earlier than this, please wait by the gates, rather than wandering around the car park and the parked cars. We would be grateful if you would pass this request onto others who may collect your child on your behalf.

#### Many thanks

# News from Starling Class (Reception)

#### Hello from Starling Class!

What a busy Spring Term we have had! Consolidating our learning of numbers to 10, practicing our Phase 2 and 3 graphemes in our reading and beginning to use it in our writing as well as learning all about spring festivals around the world! Phew we need a break just to recover!

This week we have been hopping mad with our learning all about Easter and getting egg-cited about all of the chick-late eggs we hope the Easter bunny will leave for us!



In Maths we built on our learning from last week on patterns, moving on to explore complex patterns and we blew Mrs Meridew away with how good we were at identifying, continuing and creating our very own AB, ABB and AAB patterns! In Phonics we made Mrs Meridew fall on the floor with our knowledge of the newest Harder To Read and Spell words and the confidence that is beginning to stir when applying our knowledge to our writing.

The words we have been learning this week are:

Forbidden	Something that is not allowed
Fortuitous	Something good that happens by chance
Passive	Said of someone who lets things happen and doesn't take action
Conscious	To be aware of what is happening around you
Moral	A set of principles of right and wrong behaviour

Once again we thank you all for supporting your children with Show and Tell and we have enjoyed seeing them so animated and passionate whilst hearing them speak clearly and thoughtfully about things which are important and meaningful to them.





After the Easter break, we would like you to remember to ensure your child has all of the items required in their book bags each day, plus their water bottle, cardigan or jumper (it can get draughty in the classroom even on hot days) and as the weather begins to warm up to ensure your child has appropriate sun protection in the form of hats and sun cream (this is being written as it is currently cold, damp and dreary!)

We look forward to all of next term's adventures and can't wait to see your children making all of the connections in their learning and building in confidence to apply them independently.





We hope you all have a relaxing and joy filled Hoppy Easter!

#### Easter Art

Thank you for all those who completed the Easter art task, the children's work is now displayed in the church, if you get chance to pop in and see it.





The school's art installations can be seen throughout the month of April as part of the Morden's art trail.

# News from Robin Class (Year 1)

Robin class have had a lovely Easter-themed week, in many ways. The children all enjoyed the Whole School Easter Assembly led by Fiona and Annie from the church on Tuesday afternoon, and the visit from GenR8 who came in on Thursday morning. They already knew about the Christian festival of Easter and were excited to find the answers to so many questions. When we got back to class on both days, it was really lovely to hear them talking about how they remembered this or that because we'd already been learning about what Christians believe in our RE lessons.

Hopefully everyone has come home today with their beautifully made (and written) Easter cards! We hope you appreciate the 'character-full' chick on the front. The whole brood together looked delightful on the side this week.

Our Egg Box Dragons have also come home this week. In the story, Egg Box Dragon could find 'just about anything', and in the stories the children wrote we read about them finding 'Mummy's X-Box, Dad's reading glasses and Barney's teddy, "which he really needs to sleep with". Some lovely language choices and great ideas coming out!

We hope the dragons are not too mischievous for you and that they can help find lots of lost things over the next couple of weeks!





In Maths this week we have been thinking about Numbers to 50. Please do check in with your child over the next couple of weeks about how they have found this. Some are finding it tricky to remember which 'tens number' comes next when counting forwards (27, 28, 29, ??/37, 38, 39, ??) and some are finding it tricky to count backwards (43, 42, 41, 40, ??/ 32, 31, 30, ??) There have also been some challenges with writing these number correctly (for forty-seven, writing 74, for example rather than 47). Not all of these difficulties affect everyone of course, but as we all know practise definitely helps!



PE kits have come home during this week for a wash, size-check and name-label check! PLEASE do ensure all items are named with your child's name (rather than that of the person whose they were before!) and send them back in for the start of term. Next term, PE days will remain on Tuesday and Friday, but we are expecting both lessons to be held outside if the weather allows. The start of the summer term can still be chilly first thing in the morning, which is when we do PE on a Tuesday, so joggers and a sweatshirt are still needed as well as t-shirt and shorts for those warmer days, and trainers of course. If your child

cannot yet tie laces, please do think about Velcro trainers! Children with long hair also need this tied up, especially for PE days.

This week we have noticed a real decline in the number of children bringing a water bottle to school, so hopefully new term, new start with everyone remembering, please! We all hope you have a wonderful, restful and joy-filled time over the Easter break. We are already looking forward to welcoming your child back on Tuesday 18th April.

Take care of you all!

Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team



# News from Owl Class (Year 2)



We have had a fun filled week in Owl class with lots of Easter themed activities, craft and assemblies. We had our Easter service on Tuesday

and then GenR8 in on Thursday. The children have really enjoyed making Easter chicks and bunnies and using their beautiful handwriting to write Easter cards.

In our Maths lessons this week we have started to review and learn about time. Having the chance to show off their previous knowledge of



o'clock and half past on the hand held clocks, proved to be an exciting lesson. The children have also been looking at sequencing time

(morning, afternoon, evening or yesterday, today, tomorrow) thinking about everyday activities. We will continue with learning about time after the Easter holidays; learning about quarter past and quarter to, as well as 5 minute intervals of time. Any revision of adding, subtracting, multiplication, division, solving word problems or reviewing money and time over the Easter holidays will help your child retain their spring term learning.

In English this week, the children have completed comprehension activities and writing various sentence types (e.g. command, statement, question, exclamation.) The children are able to define each, record an example and use the correct punctuation, they could continue to show off these skills and perhaps write some sentences at home over the Easter holidays – for example: *Hide the eggs for the egg hunt. I love Easter time with my family. Where are you spending Easter? What a huge Easter egg!* 

Thank you for all your support this term, and we hope you all have a lovely Easter break.

Happy Easter!





## Steeple Morden Parish Council survey re potential 20mph zone

Steeple Morden Parish Council is considering applying for a grant to implement a 20mph zone in the centre of the village; the proposed zone would encompass the school entrance. They are running a survey to see if the zone would meet the needs of the village and will only proceed if there is strong support for the initiative from local residents. The proposed 20mph zone runs from just South of Craft Way to just North of Church Farm Lane and west of Russell Close. The zone **does not include** Craft Way, Church Farm Lane or Russell Close. More information is available on the Parish Council's webpage at https://steeplemordenpc.org.uk/survey-20mph-zone-live-until-7th-apr-2023/

The survey is available to complete online or in paper form and can be handed in or submitted electronically. The intention is to get the views of as many people in village community as possible, and this includes parents of children at school in the village, irrespective of whether you live in Steeple Morden.

The survey is available at https://survey.sogolytics.com/survey1.aspx?k=RQsRUPPVTsRsPsPsP&lang=0 or if you would prefer to complete a paper copy please download from https://steeplemordenpc.org.uk/documents/20mph-limit-proposal-survey-march-2023/ The survey closes on 7th April.



To the parents reading the Star.

My name is ffin from year 31 Beaucht class. We are making a cook book and We would like Itc know your favourite recipes

Thanks for reading the Stan and please send us your recipes.

From year year 3

Can you help Year 3 create a recipe book? See note from Ffion on behalf of the class asking for your favourite recipes. A big



# from the School Council!!!!!

Thank you everyone who baked delicious food for us to sell at our bake sale on Monday. Also a big thank you to everyone who came and brought a cake – we hope you enjoyed it! Thank you also to Mrs Brown and Ms Bacon who helped us with the set up.

We are delighted to have raised £143.50. This will be split equally between our school charity (Water Aid) and our school.

Thank you

**School Council** 



Hello Everyone,

We are a group of children from across the school who are interested in looking at ways we can help look after our environment. We meet regularly and we would like to help everyone else in our community to look after the environment - every so often, for anyone who is interested, we will give some environmental tips in The Star.

Our first tip is: turn off your lights when you are not using them. The Energy Saving Trust thinks this could potentially save £25 a year. If you want to save even more energy (and money), turning off devices that are on standby could save you £65.

We have been carrying out a review of how our school uses energy. As part of our 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign, we have helped everyone in school to reduce our energy use by placing small stickers on the light switches and devices in school so everyone is clear if they should be left on or turned off. We have noticed this is having an impact already.

We noticed sometimes rubbish from the bins in the playground can blow out of the bins if it is especially windy. To solve this problem, we asked for bins that have lids on them; these bins arrived last week and our playground is already looking better!

Jessica, Skyla, Jackson, Louis, William and Sophie.





# March Lottery Club winners are:

1st: 30 Victoria Hutter £15 2nd: 40 Anna Radchuk £10

#### CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!

Thanks to Mrs Luebcke who made sure Mrs How did the draw fairly.

Thanks again for your support.

#### Your PTA



# News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

We have made it through another enjoyable and hardworking term.

In maths, we have read scales and ordered amounts relating to capacity. We have also solved word problems relating to this area of measure. After Easter we will return to fractions.

Our open-ended maths investigations and problem solving skills are coming on a treat. The children all enjoy solving these problems with the help and support of Mrs Ogilvie and Mrs McGuire, who both regularly help us with our learning. We would all like to say a huge thank you to them both.

In English, we have finished editing and improving our Isis and Osiris myths and completed our final copies to go into our topic books. We had the opportunity to read our myths for our friends to enjoy. At the beginning of our Egyptian topic, we sorted statements into what we believe to be true, could be true or were false. We revisited these to see how much we had learnt. We were surprised at how much we had learnt and what other related facts we could add. For most of us this has been our favourite topic so far, some of us wish we could continue with this after Easter.

In topic work, we have had to finish all things Egyptian! For most of us, this was focussed on finishing the Egyptian's creation story by making small watercolour booklets telling the story.



It was lovely to see so many of you on Wednesday, and thank you for the cake donations. The children really enjoyed sharing their topic books with you. They work very hard on them each term, and feel rightly proud of what they have produced.

Zooming with our school in Geneva was enjoyed by all involved. I am surprised each week by how well the children retain their French phrases and the confidence in which they use them. The Zoom call gave them a 'real' opportunity to test out the French they have learnt so far.

It also gives the Swiss students a chance to practise their English. All being well we will Zoom again next term. This learning and lovely opportunity is due to the generosity of Mrs Mevillot, so we would all like to

say a huge thank you to her, for the time, encouragement and expertise she gives.

I have deliberately not set Spelling Frame or Mathletics homework, but



please, please keep up with home reading. If the children finish their schoolbook, just read one from your home selection and record it in the reading diaries in the same way. It would also be helpful if you could keep up with 'Tackling Tables' and learn some of the year 3/4 statutory spellings that can be found in the centre pages of the reading diaries.

As a little task over Easter, it would be lovely if the children could make a small Tudor building to form part of one of the class displays. These will be displayed on the wall, so please do not make them too heavy or too large, nothing larger than A6 (postcard) would be ideal. Light 3D models can be accommodated.

Thank you for your continued support during this term, we hope you have enjoyed learning about the Egyptians alongside us. After Easter, we will be embarking on our journey along 'Pathways Through the Past'. This will



involve three dress up days, as explained in September. The first will be Celtic day on April  $21^{st}$ . followed by Tudors on  $10^{th}$  May for our visit to Burghley. This is just the heads up in case you fancy being creative over the Easter holiday.

For the Celts, trousers in long socks with an oversize t-shirt and belt would be quite sufficient, or Mayan costumes could probably be adapted.

By request I am now including a couple of jokes, it was suggested it would make the year three page of the

Star more fun. hold me

hold me how funny they

WHAT KIND OF BOOK

DOES A RABBIT LIKE

AT BEDTIME?

One with a

Hoppy



#### Weekly home activities

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

ending!

- Mathletics and Spelling Frame
- Tackling table practise.

#### **Dates for the diary**

- Friday 21st April Celtic dress up day
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May Burghley House visit.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Easter.

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

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our English lessons we have been looking at how a writer can decide to place information about how, when or where an action has been performed at the front of a sentence. This changes the emphasis of the sentence. The technical term for this is 'fronted adverbial'. For example:

The man stood waiting by the clock. (In the reader's mind the emphasis is on the man).

By the clock, the man stood waiting. (The emphasis is on the clock).

In our Maths lessons we have started work on fractions. There's a great deal of language involved in this exploration. To help, we have been using lots of visual methods as the concept of the value of the denominator increasing when representing a smaller amount is a tricky one for children to get their heads around (eg  $\frac{1}{2}$  is larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

We have continued to learn about Scandinavian countries in our Geography lessons, finding out more about their physical features. 'Fjord' was a new spelling for many!

Have a happy Easter and whatever you have planned, I hope everyone manages to find time to relax!

#### Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team



# News from Heron Class (Year 5)

#### **Monday and Tuesday**

Well what an action packed two days we had in school, trying to pack in all the learning we could before our adventure to Grafham. Somehow we manage to learn some new spelling patterns, solve a very problematic Easter Maths Mystery and complete our non-chronological reports on a whole range of topics with Italy as our common theme. We are now much more knowledgeable about Italian food and drink, Italian cars, the geography of the country, Italian architecture, fashion and of course Italian football. We were creative making some Easter cards and baskets and took part in a singing practice and an Easter Service in Church. We might have also answered the odd question or two about Grafham...

#### Wednesday, Thursday and Friday









At the time of writing this Star entry (Tuesday evening), we are hoping for sunshine, blue skies and lots of fun over the next three days as we take part in a whole range of different adventurous activities. What a fantastic opportunity for the children to challenge themselves in a whole range of different ways and make some special memories with their friends.

Whilst we are away, we will contact school with regular updates to keep you informed about our adventures. We are aiming to take lots of photos too that we will be able to share with you on our return.

After what we are sure will be an exhausting three days, we hope that all of the children enjoy a lovely relaxing Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing them back in school ready for a busy summer term on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Year 5 Team.



## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

In English, we have continued to look at fables, based on Aesop. We examined a number of Aesop's fables and discussed the themes and morals that they were trying to depict. We will be continuing with this genre after the Easter holiday.

This week, in Maths, we have looked at geometry. We have focussed on looking at nets from 3D shapes and which nets match which shape. In this topic, we will examine irregular and regular shapes, the names and properties of various 2D shapes, and parallel and perpendicular lines. After the Easter break we will finish off the curriculum, focussing on area, perimeter and volume, position and direction and data and statistics; as well as rounding off our work on geometry. Our focus will also be on revision in preparation for the SATs exams, which start on 9th May.

A big part of this week has been on SATS – we have finished our last block of practise papers. We have also started to analyse our answers and discussed how we could answer the various questions. Leading on from this, and from what I mentioned last week, I will be setting homework over the Easter break. Your child should have come home with a 'Ten for Ten' Easter practice booklet and answer sheet. As I mentioned to the class, please could you set aside ten days

# Transition to Bassingbourn Village College

Children will be at BVC on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, then back here at Steeple for their last day on Weds 19<sup>th</sup>.

of the 18 days of the holiday to work through the questions (and answers) from the booklet. It is important that the children keep on reminding themselves of the areas of the Maths curriculum and not to come back after the break forgetting how to solve different mathematical operations. The 'drip, drip, drip' of learning is crucial. I have also set some SPAG and reading homework for the children to complete as well. Please could your child bring the homework back to school by Thursday 20th April. Thank you in your cooperation for all of this.

Attached are please see more photos from our residential trip.



Have a great couple-of-weeksplus off.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

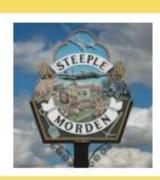
Pasta sauces

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** 



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For more information or to arrange a visit please contact:

Georgina Dowley (Manager)

01763 852888

office@smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk



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

Registered Charity Number: 1031476



would your child like to attend a fully funded holiday scheme this Easter where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are included?

Children in receipt of income-related free schools meals are eligible to attend a participating holiday scheme for 16 hours.

Other children may also be eligible, visit the County Council webpage for details.

Further information:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf (or scan the QR Code)

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk











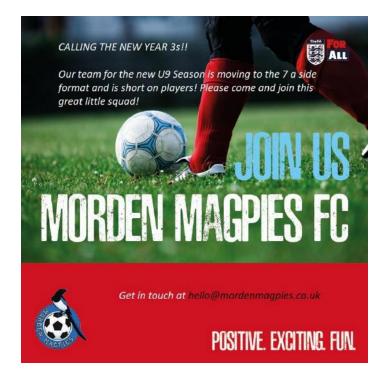
Smarties are trialling a new way for parents/carers to book on the holiday club.

Go to https://forms.office.com/e/eyaYY3QRV9









# **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

Modern Foreign Languages Tuition

Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section

**Biggleswade Swimming Club** 

Oxford & Cambridge Singing School - Easter course

Easter Singing Course—St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Hertfordshire Performing Arts Easter Stage School

Anglesey Abbey—Spring/Summer 2023

Perse Summer School 2023

Therfield Heath Easter Egg Hunt - 2nd April 2023

Theatretrain Royston

Easter Holiday Athletics and Sports Camps

Cambridge Literary Festival - 19th - 23rd April 2023

Steeple Morden Tennis Club

To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: https://

"The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do."

**Kobe Bryant** 

#### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street Steeple Morden Royston Hertfordshire SG8 OPD

Phone: 01763 852474

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

