



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Welcome back!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' for such a warm welcome over these first few days, it has been lovely to chat with some of you on the school gates and I am enjoying getting to know the children and beginning to learn names! We had two positive and productive INSET days as a staff team at the beginning of the week and I am really excited for what is to come in the year ahead. There a few things to share with you initially and I will write to you again next week with further updates etc.

### Rewards & Incentives

This week the phrase 'Let me see you shine' has been introduced to the children alongside the poster here in all classrooms and around the school. This sets out our expectations for our learning in and around the school.

The children have responded really well to this initially and this will be the focus of our new 'Star of the Week' award in celebration assembly over the coming weeks.

A whole school celebration assembly will continue on a Friday morning with merit certificates as they have been done previously. There will be an addition of a 'Star of the Week' from each class who will be awarded this for a specific whole-school focus. Those children will then eat lunch with me the following Monday lunchtime at a special table. Your children may also talk to you about their class' 'Achieve 100'. This is a whole-class reward system in which the class can earn 'Achieve 100' points and once they reach 100 points, they will receive a class reward of their choice.



### Arrival & Collections

There is a slight change to the timings of morning gates. To confirm, gates will open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am to allow the time needed to get the children into classes and complete the register for 8.55am.

End of day timings remain the same with Reception collection at 3.10pm and the rest of the school at 3.15pm. Please be aware that moving forward the back gate and side gate (on the field) will no longer be in use so all parents/carers and children should access the school via the front gate only. All children arriving by bicycle or scooter must be wearing a helmet. Thank you for your support with this.

### Accessing the School Office

Moving forward the external door to the school office will be open between 8.30 and 9.00am and again between 3.00 and 3.30pm. Outside of these times, if you need to visit the office, please use the buzzer system and a member of the team will buzz you through.

Alongside this, the telephones will not be manned between 11.30am and 1.30pm to enable the office team to focus on specific tasks. However, the answerphone system will continue to be in place and will be checked and actioned at 1.30pm each day.

If there were to be an emergency requiring you to visit the school during this time, there will be someone at the desk to help you.

## Instagram & Website

You can now follow us as a school on Instagram! Follow the handle @steplemordenprimary. The use of Instagram will be developed over the coming weeks and will give you opportunities to see the exciting things going on in school. Please be reassured that there will be minimal photos of children's faces and in incidences where there are children, we will only use children who have social media permission. Names of children will never be used in posts.



Our website is going to be undergoing changes over the coming weeks so please bear with us on this. More updates will follow!

## Clubs

We are in the process of finalising the offer of after-school clubs for this term and plan for this information to be with you early next week. Clubs will start week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September.

## Autumn Term Dates

Initial dates for the first half of autumn term are listed below, information for individual events and further dates will follow.

Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Hazel Class weekly swimming begins – more information to follow
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> September	3.30-5.00pm Reception Year Ahead meeting & Phonics Workshop
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> September	3.30-4.00pm & repeated 4.00-4.30pm Year Ahead Meetings (Ash/Birch/Hazel/Yew/Oak classes)
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Individual & Sibling Photographs
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> September	School vaccinations (details TBC)
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Visit from Shaun Rose Paralympian
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA Discos (Times and info to follow)
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parents Evening 3.30-6.00pm
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents Evening 4.00-7.00pm
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Half Term
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	PTA Firework Event

Once again, thank you for a lovely welcome. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Alex Housden

*Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be!*



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely