

17TH OCTOBER 2025

Resilience ~ Compassion ~ Excellence

NEWSLETTER

A fun-filled couple of weeks!

It has been a very busy couple of weeks as this half term begins to draw to a close. We have welcomed new staff who have settled in brilliantly and it has also been lovely to welcome new pupils to our school this half term too!

I had the pleasure of joining Year 6 for their Astra Zeneca visit earlier this week and it was wonderful to see and hear how inspired they were with a number of them coming away considering careers in science! They have also asked me for a set of lab coats to wear for science lessons in school - a great idea and something to add to the wishlist!

Our outdoor provision and OPAL journey has come a long way this half term too and its fantastic to see the children's imagination coming to life! Thank you for the donations received so far.

We really need some more dressing up clothes of all sizes and toy cars/diggers/vehicles.

Just a reminder, we are moving to **reporting any absence via the ParentMail app** as communicated via the office team. If you have any questions, please do ask.

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Mrs Housden

Parent help needed

Are you free for a couple of hours to help with some practical work to help develop the playground? There are a number of jobs that need doing such as helping build a mud kitchen, clearing areas and moving tyre bundles.

We're planning to meet on the playground on Saturday 15th November, between 10 and 12 if you think you would be able to help, please email the office and we will get back to you.

Check out the OPAL page on our website!



Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our recent Stars of the Week...

Friday 10th October – Ollie, Olivia W, Mia SS, Poppy, Elijah

Friday 17th October – Olivia B, Bow, Harry W, Alex, Lydia

DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Additional information
Weds 22nd October	Festivals of Light Day	<i>RE based curriculum day in school</i>
Mon 27th - Fri 31st October	HALF TERM	
Saturday 1st November	FIREWORKS Event – Gates open at 5.30pm, Fireworks at 6.30pm	
Mon 3rd November	Year 3/4 Chiltern Open Air Museum Trip	<i>Information and payment info all via Parentmail</i>
Weds 5th November	Passions & Interests afternoon	
Mon 10th November	Reception 2026 Tour	<i>2pm</i>
Tues 11th November	Remembrance Day	<i>Children will be attending a short service at the Church followed by a moment of silence at the war memorial for 11am. If you would like to join for the 2 minutes silence, please do.</i>
Tues 11th November	Parents Consultation Evening	<i>4.30-7pm</i>
Weds 12th November	Parents Consultation Evening	<i>3.30-6pm</i>
Weds 12th November	Scholastic Book Fair in school	<i>Here until Tues 18th Nov, details of opening times to follow</i>
Weds 12th November	Cross Country Competition	<i>Wimpole Hall, more info to follow</i>
Fri 14th November	Children in Need	<i>Children are invited to 'Show us their Spots!' and wear spots however they feel most comfortable, this could be spots on your uniform, a spotty hairband or socks or spotty non-uniform. (No football kits please.) There will be a donation link available for any contributions.</i>
Thurs 20th November	Reception 2026 Tours	<i>1.30pm & 6pm</i>

Fri 21st November	Photograph retakes	
Fri 21st to Sun 23rd November	Christmas Tree Festival at Steeple Morden Church	<i>All children will have contributed to the decorating of a tree, these will be on display throughout the festival</i>
Mon 24th November	Year 3 Bikeability (Level 1) begins	<i>Information to follow</i>
Weds 26th November	Year 5 & 6 Duxford Trip	<i>Information and payment via Parentmail</i>
Week of 1st December	Assessment week	<i>All within usual lessons</i>
Weds 3rd December	Y6 Community Tree Planting	<i>Local walk to support The Woodlands Trust planting trees at Tween Towns Wood</i>
Tues 9th December	KS2 Carol Service at 9.15am and 5.30pm by Candlelight	<i>Parents are welcome to attend either service, only KS2 children are involved but all are welcome</i>
Thurs 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Dash, Christmas Lunch	<i>Please book Christmas lunch in advance. We invite children to wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform. We will welcome any voluntary donations to Save the Children UK as Christmas Jumper Day is a National event</i>
Fri 12th December	Rock Steady Concert	<i>2pm - Parents/Carers of children who are in performing bands are invited to attend.</i>
Weds 17th December	Nativity Performances 2.15pm and 5.15pm	Acorn, Ash and Birch Class
Fri 19th December	Last day of term	
Tues 6th January	Children return to school	

School Choir

School Choir is running every Friday lunchtime for children in Key Stage Two, please email the office if your child would like to attend.



Firework tickets available!



Advanced family and single tickets are now available to purchase at either Sarah's Farm Shop or Litlington Post Office, alongside online via the QR code on all posters.

NOTICES

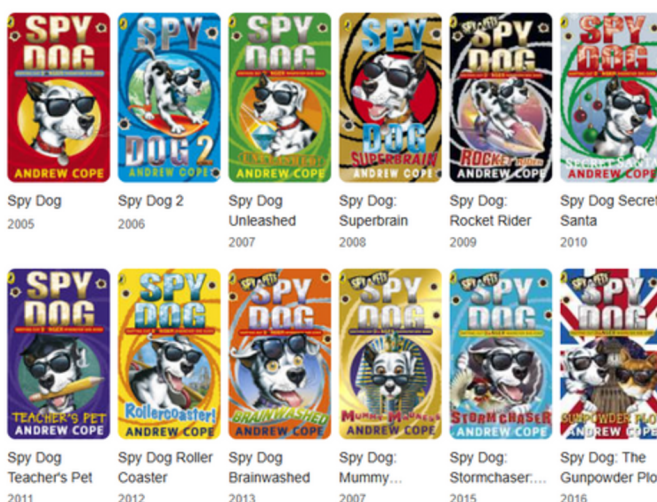
Play structure

Just a reminder that children (of any age) should not play on the play structure at the end of the day/collection time.

Thank you for your support with this

Spy Dog books

We have been made aware by the safeguarding team at the local authority that the website in the back of the Spy Dog series of books has been compromised and is not suitable for children. We have taken these books out of circulation but wanted to bring this to your attention in case you have them at home.



Pumpkin Raffle

Win the School Pumpkin

Grown By Brayden



50p a Ticket

Tickets available at Front Desk

Draw to Take Place on 24th Oct, All Money Going Towards OPAL

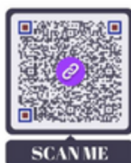
Apply now



for a Secondary school place for September 2026

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

If your child will be aged 11 by 31st August 2026



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You need to apply
NOW
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www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions
or contact your local School

Apply by
31st October
2025

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or email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



RUN FOR FUN WEEK 2025

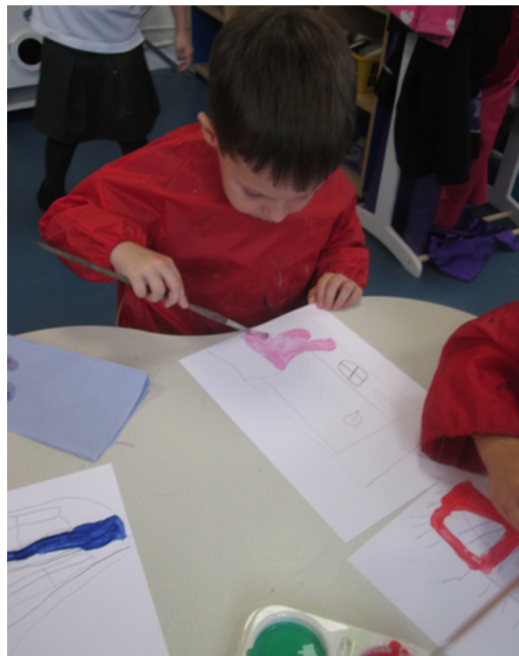
MONDAY 20TH – FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Acorn Class

In Acorn Class we have been developing our phonic skills; learning to listen for the sounds and match those sounds to symbols (words). In maths we have been comparing things by size and weight. We explored different containers in the water and estimated if they would hold more or less water than each other. We have been using the scales to see what natural materials weigh more or less than each other. This week has been all about pattern, and noticing when there are mistakes in patterns.

Last week we were exploring our local area on Google Earth and thinking about where we live and comparing our rural environment with that of an urban one, such as London. We also thought about the materials our homes are made of and made our own homes out of junk modelling materials. This week we are exploring the artist Hundertwasser an Austrian visual artist and architect, and his colourful houses. Then we designed and painted our own! We have also been considering the changes of seasons, listening and considering Vivaldi's 4 Seasons and thinking how it makes us feel and want to move.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Ash Class

This long half term is nearing its end. We have some very tired children but lots has been learnt. Next Friday your child will receive some sounds they need to work on over half term before we move onto Phase 5 Phonics, which is much trickier. Please keep reading every day with your child – the progress they are making is great!

In Phonics, we have been recapping previously taught sounds. We have covered: 'ure', 'er', 'ow' and then thought about all previously learnt sounds and how we can use them in our writing, especially in sentence writing. The children are becoming more confident using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in the correct places.

In Maths, we have been learning about part-whole and bar models. We have looked at these in lots of different contexts and begun using them ourselves, always making sure our whole is the largest number in the model.

In Science, we have moved on from the human body and circulatory systems to now be learning about things that can harm us like germs. We completed an experiment to see how far our germs can travel and another experiment to show how washing our hands prevents germs from spreading and entering our bodies.

After half term, PE will be changing to a Wednesday afternoon. Changing will continue in the same way. The children will have their PE kits in school on a Monday for PE with Mr Goddard and the kits will stay in school. On Wednesday the children will take their kits home to be washed and checked ready for the following Monday.

Have a great weekend!
The Year One Team



Birch Class

In English Lessons we have been developing our instruction writing skills linked to the Arabian Nights stories, focusing on starting instructions with 'bossy' verbs which sound commanding such as 'put' 'lift' and 'shut'.

This week we have been creating our own 3D sculptures by folding and interlocking coloured paper, based on Alexander Calder's artwork using metal to create organic shapes.

In Geography we have been learning about the information a globe can tell us, such as time zones and the size and location of countries. In Computing lessons we have been learning about Information Technology use outside of school such as in shops and transport networks. Children have been using this knowledge creating simple slides, learning how to change font and background colour.

Next week we are continuing to increase our efficiency with calculation and learning about how to find missing numbers in mathematical problems.

Mr Beavan and the Year 2 Team.

Hazel Class

Another couple of busy weeks; work has continued on Oliver where we have been thinking about retelling the events of the first pickpocketing. In our retelling we needed to think about the use of adjectives, adverbs and adverbials for time. These helped us create sentences such as these...

Before the boys woke, Oliver watched Fagin gently open a dirty box of sparkling jewels.

As dawn broke, Oliver hesitantly watched Fagin secretly open a delapidated box of gorgeous glimmering jewels. – Thank you Harrison and Johnny

In maths, we have applied our understanding of place value to addition and subtraction and the relationship between them. When working on our calculations we have tried hard to explain why the digits do what they do by considering statements like those below.

In history we have learnt about the ancient battles of Marathon and Thermopylae and how these affected ancient Greece and their relevance today. It is from the events of the battle of Marathon that we get the term 'marathon' along with the name for the long distance race, and the distance of the race itself.

In science we have concluded our work on the human digestive system by finding out what happened in our bodies at each stage, and how our bodies use different nutrients from different types of food. If you would like to consolidate this learning at home you are welcome to try the demonstration in the video on this link.

Do try this at home!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSEYPO30AN0>

Thank you for the resources that you have been sending in, they will be transformed next week across a range of subject areas and learning.



Write **always**, **sometimes** or **never** to complete the sentences.

When I subtract a multiple of 10 from a 3-digit number, the ones column ____ changes.

When I subtract a multiple of 10 from a 3-digit number, the tens column ____ changes.

When I subtract a multiple of 10 from a 4-digit number, the thousands and hundreds columns ____ change.

When I subtract a multiple of 100 from a 4-digit number, the tens column ____ changes.

never
always
sometimes
never

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Yew Class

In Maths lessons we have started our new topic on addition and subtraction methods. The first lesson was on using a variety of different mental strategies. These could be used in real life situations. For example, ask your child estimate the cost of your weekly shop by adding up (using rounding) the cost of the items as you place them in the trolley. Then see how close they were at the end when you pay for the shopping. Alternatively, ask your child to calculate the difference between 2 places on a road sign or ask them to add or subtract (or if you really want to challenge them, multiply) the numbers on a car registration plate. All these keep their mental strategies fresh and makes maths a little more 'real'.

In English we are continuing to work on our book 'The 1000 Year Old Boy'. The children are enjoying the book and each chapter ends with a cliff-hanger making the children want to read more. In the last week we have been learning a lot about words, phrases, clauses and sentences. For example, ask your child what are relative pronouns, relative clauses, embedded clauses or relative embedded clauses. Hopefully you would have seen on the school's Twitter account some of the trenches that we have made as a class as part of our History unit on World War One. The children have really enjoyed planning, designing and creating these and they have been very imaginative with what materials they could use. Thank you for the copious amounts of shoe boxes and cardboard in general that the children have brought in – we had plenty.

Last week you should have received a parentmail and a hard paper copy about the Bikeability course we will be participating in in the middle of March next year. Thank you for all the replies received... Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday.

Have a good half term break, when it comes at the end of next week.
Thank you.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Oak Class

This newsletter has to be about 2 things for Year 6 – trips and trenches!

We have really loved our history topic of World War 1 and the children have been lively and engaged in discussions about how the war started, life on the western front and the technology on land, in sea and in air. However the most popular lessons by far have been when we have learnt about life in the trench and how the trenches were made. Taking this learning further the children have made their own shoe box trenches with great details.

On Wednesday 15th October we went on a class trip to AstraZeneca Discovery Centre in Cambridge. The children were blown away with the experience, seeing the labs in use, watching the robot arms sorting out tiny doses of medicine and finding a cure of unicorn-itous! We also got to take part in a lab session (white coats and safety glasses on), where the children used scientific pipets – a serious upgrade from the squeezezy plastic tubes we've used before. The children learnt how to gather and release different amounts and used these skills to practice precision dropping to make different patterns. It is fair to say this has been an absolute highlight and the children not only enjoyed seeing science in a real-life context but also have broadened their horizons and inspired future careers.



If you want to continue supporting your child at home, in maths we are beginning to look at long division – this is a tricky method and therefore any extra practice at home will support our learning in school over the next few weeks.

Quick note:

In English we will be changing the book we are studying – this is a change to the topics shared initially at the start of the year – we will be looking at Skellig by David Almond.



Miss Barrett and Oak Class.

OTHER NEWS/NOTICES

Steeple Morden
FIREWORKS

Steeple Morden Village Green Meadow

Saturday 1 November 2025
Gates Open: 5:00pm
Bonfire: 6:00pm
Fireworks Display: 6:30pm

Advance tickets:
Family £20 (2 adults up to 3 children)
Advance individual ticket £7

On the gate:
Adult £12
Children £6

Sweats and Treats
Hot Chocolate and Mulled Wine



No personal fireworks or sparklers allowed.
Only the professional pyrotechnic team is permitted to use fireworks.
As we are a charity, in the event of a cancellation we will only be able to refund on request.



**THANK
YOU**

Thank you to our
firework sponsors
displayed here!

OTHER NEWS/NOTICES



We need your help

Smarties is a charitable organisation which is managed by a Committee.

We have been through a lot of change as a setting this year which we are very excited about. Our Committee will be changing also.

As the circumstances of individual Committee members change or when they have been in post for a long time and want to move on, the make-up of the Committee changes. This is a useful process to go through to get different perspectives recognising that different people bring different things.

We have come to the point where we need additional Committee members. In accordance with the Constitution of Smarties, these have to come from within the Parent/Carer group who use the setting.

Being a Committee member is a valued role because it is the Committee that makes decisions in respect of Smarties. It is also your opportunity to keep Smarties going.

The time commitment is not high. You need to be available for termly meetings. And you need to pitch in everyone so often to help Cloe make Smarties go from strength to strength.

For more information, please email adam@smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk or call me on 07398 371748.

Best wishes

Adam Downing

Chair of Smarties Pre-School and After School Club

OTHER NEWS/NOTICES

SUPPORTING YOUNG MINDS 5KM & 10KM CHARITY **SANTA FUN RUN** MEDAL + CAKE

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025 10.30AM
THREE TUNS, GILDEN MORDEN, SG8 0JP

£10 ENTRY FEE; EMAIL
STEEPLECHASERSRCC@GMAIL.COM
OR SCAN QR TO ENTER



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or go to roystonmuseum.org.uk
for more information

Wednesday 22
October

2 - 4.30pm
or
6 - 8.30pm

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at Royston
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October Half Term

**HOLIDAY
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EPIC BUILDS | STEM LEARNING | FREE PLAY

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

MELDRETH PRIMARY SCHOOL

High St, Meldreth, Cambridge SG8 6LB

9.00 A.M. - 3.30 P.M.

AGES 5-12 | £45/CHILD

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www.kaplaclubs.co.uk

Apprendre en s'amusant!

October Half Term

**FRENCH
CLUB**

27th, 28th, 29th and 30th October

MELDRETH PRIMARY SCHOOL

High St, Meldreth, Cambridge SG8 6LB

9.30 A.M. - 4.00 P.M.

AGES 4-12 | £42/CHILD

Fun French Learning ☀ Creative Crafts
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For more information visit:
THEFRENCH-CLUB.COM