



3RD OCTOBER 2025

Resilience ~ Compassion ~ Excellence

NEWSLETTER

October already!

I am not quite sure where September has gone – these past few weeks have flown by!

Firstly, thank you to everyone who attended our Year Ahead meetings last week. We hope you found these useful and I know that the teachers enjoyed being able to either introduce or reintroduce themselves to you, along with talking about your children's upcoming learning in that class/year group.

We had our first **swimming** lessons in Year 4 this week and it was lovely to be able to walk through the village to Stollie's Swim School. All of the children had a great time and gave 100% effort.

We have **Harvest celebration** coming up next week and are taking food bank donations to share between local food banks. If you are able to make a donation of dried foods, long life products, nappies, wipes etc. they will be greatly received and be put to good use. A list of possible donations can be seen below.



food donations

What food & household items do we regularly need?

cereal	gravy
porridge	biscuits
tinned fish	rice pudding
spaghetti	custard
pasta sauce	savoury crackers
tinned light meals	hot chocolate
tinned main meals	coffee
curry sauce	tea
rice	milk
noodles	sugar
couscous	toilet rolls
cuppa soup	washing tabs
tinned potatoes	soap
sweetcorn	toothpaste
tinned vegetables	
pulses / kidney beans	
tomatoes	
hotdogs	
tinned meatballs	
tinned meat	
jam / spread	
tinned fruit	



I appreciate you have been awaiting dates for this term, thank you for your patience and they are on the next two pages. These will be added to the website calendar at the start of next week. I am aware from a number of families that the individual photographs this year were not their usual standard, I have contacted the photographer and we are trying to arrange a re-take opportunity.

Enjoy your weekend,

Mrs Housden

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our recent Stars of the Week..

Friday 26th September – Ivy, Aoibhín, Saoirse, Isla F, Erin

Friday 3rd October – Rose, Pippa, Oscar N, Charlie, Leif

Date	Event	Additional information
Mon 6th October	Harvest Festival	<i>Children and staff only, food bank donations please</i>
Weds 8th October	Flu Vaccinations	<i>Information has been emailed out</i>
Fri 10th October	Hello Yellow!	<i>Wear something yellow to show support for Mental Health – no football kits</i>
Weds 15th October	Year 6 AstraZeneca Trip	<i>Letter and payment info via Parentmail</i>
Fri 17th October	PTA Discos	<i>See poster, tickets purchased through Parentmail</i>
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	1.30pm & 6pm
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>PROVISIONAL DATE – we are awaiting confirmation with the Church, parents 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.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Ash Class

It was great seeing so many of you at the year ahead meeting last Thursday. If you were unable to be at the meeting, I have sent home your child's data sheet with emergency contacts etc on in. You need to check it is correct and then return it to school. Thank you. The main message from the Year Ahead meeting was how important reading is. Reading holds so much value and is the key to success in almost all curriculum subjects so please read with your child EVERY day and record this in their reading records.

In Phonics, we have been recapping previously taught sounds. We have covered: 'oo', 'ar', 'ur', 'or', 'ow', 'oi', 'ear' and 'air' over the past couple of weeks. The reading book your child brings home will have these sounds in. They should be able to read every word so do not worry if it seems too easy. They are practising using these sounds so they are confident in reading words containing them.

In Maths, we have been learning about greater than, less than and equal too whilst using those symbols too ($>$, $<$, $=$). The children have astounded us with how quickly they have learnt these symbols and what they mean.

In Art, we have recreated Kandinsky's Square Circles picture collaboratively by each painting one square of circles and putting them together. They are on display in our classroom and we are very proud of what we have achieved together. In Computing, we have been looking at e-safety and how to stay safe if we are using the internet. The children have been taught to 'stop', 'close', 'tell', if they see something they do not like. If you could reiterate this message at home, we would be very grateful.

The children still receive free fruit and free school dinners but if your child would like milk at break time, you need to sign up with Cool Milk. All details can be found at the school office.

Have a great weekend!
The Year One Team



Birch Class



We have moved on from Aladdin and are now studying a different story from Arabian nights, Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves. Using this story we have been learning about 'doing' and 'being' verbs in English, which is helping us to understand sentence construction. In Maths lessons we are learning to use bar modelling to help understand addition and subtraction in the context of word problems. We have been plotting our own routes on maps in geography lessons. We tested out our directions by walking in the local area. In science we have been learning about how Edward Jenner work on vaccination led to small pox no longer existing in humans. We have been experimenting with tints, tones and geometric shapes, with the work of Paul Klee as our inspiration for art.

Next week we are learning about how to write effective instructions and will be continuing to work on addition and subtraction across boundaries of 10.

Mr Beavan and the Year 2 Team.

Hazel Class

Another couple of busy weeks; work has continued on Oliver initially some thought his life sounded quite nice; no school, a few jobs to do with friends and all sleeping together in one room. It was not long until we changed our minds and began to imagine what a miserable life it was!



We have focused our work around the "Please sir, can I have some more?" as this has given us the opportunity to think about what grammar we need to use for written speech.

In maths we have developed our understanding of place value, being able to compare numbers, place numbers on a number line and apply our understanding to problem solving.

What could the missing digits be?

- a) 5,693 is greater than 5,6__8
- b) 6,000 < __,428
- c) 2,586 > 2,58__
- d) 4,683 > 3,__9__

In history we have compared the ethos behind the Athenians way of life and the Spartans. Athenians were academics and Spartans warriors, with very hard training régimes for both boys and girls. We were much divided as to where we would rather have lived.

In art we have been using tone, to show light on objects, discussing the work of Vermeer and Caravaggio.



Also, a reminder to send in your fabrics for our upcoming cushion creating.



DISCO

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER
DJ HAYLEY

£4 PER CHILD INCLUDING ENTRANCE, SNACK AND A DRINK

5PM – 6PM ACORN*, ASH, AND BIRCH
6:15PM – 7:15PM HAZEL, YEW, AND OAK

*Acorn children need to be accompanied by an adult.

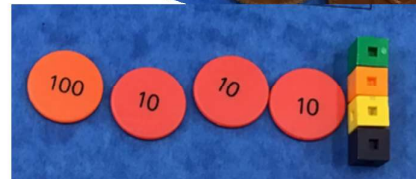
BOOK NOW
TICKETS AVAILABLE
THROUGH PARENTMAIL

Steeple Morden
Church of England
Primary School

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Yew Class

By the time you have read this we should have finished our first unit on place value in Maths lessons. We use different ways to learn about the topics. This includes using 'Steeple's Big 5' - ask your child what this means. Another strategy we use is 'Draw it/Write it/Say it/Build it'. These are some examples of the 'Build it' section when we looked at the number 1.34. Next week we will look at different addition and subtraction strategies.



In English the class are enjoying working through the book 'The 1000 year old Boy' and we have just finished writing a biography of the author, Ross Welford. The class put a lot of work into the research, planning, structure, writing and editing of the piece - so, well done to all.

As part of our History work based on the Great War we are designing our own trenches in a shoe box. Therefore if you have any spare shoe boxes hanging about at home or cardboard in general please bring these into school with your child. Thank you.

Thank you to all the parents that came to the Year Ahead meeting last Thursday. I hope you found this informative. An update regarding the Year 5 Graffham trip will follow next week from Mrs Housden as she has been waiting to hear back from them on a few details this week.

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday. Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 5 Team

Oak Class

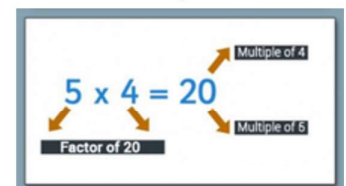
It's hard to believe that September has gone already! We have been working so hard in Year 6.

In English we have begun to look at a narrative model text based on the characters from the 1000 Year Old Boy, we had a brilliant lesson adding actions and noises to the punctuation, to make us truly appreciate how much there is in a 1 page text!

In maths we have begun to look at multiple and factors and have used different techniques to find common ones.

In other lessons we have had several highlights including:

- Asking and answering 'how are you?' in Spanish
- A brilliant, detailed lesson on the technology of WW1 (on land, sea and air)
- Some fabulous hand sketching based on Leonardo Da Vinci
- A fantastic discussion about human rights, children's rights and if following school rules takes away from your rights.



If you're looking for ways to support at home this week, focusing on embedding multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 1000 (ask the children to think about their place value columns) as well as looking at the use of apostrophes (possession and contraction) would really support the learning in class.

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.

OTHER NEWS/NOTICES

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter October 2025

A Bit About Me

Hi, my name is Clare Merrington. I'm your school's link EIFA. As an EIFA I offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a Primary School aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, challenging behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, just contact me on the details below.

Top Tip Parenting Top Tip

October brings half term and Halloween fun, which can bring its own challenges for us as parents due to the change in routine, and expectations from children!

Things to try and remember:

- Try to remain calm and step away from the situation when it is safe to do so.
- Before you begin the activity or before going out, clearly explain the behaviour expectations and possible consequences for your child/ren if those behaviours are not followed. For example: 'I can't wait to go trick or treating with you, just remember it will feel really exciting, but I want you to stay with me to be safe'.
- If your child struggles with those boundaries in place, remember to gently remind and follow through with any consequences that you have previously explained.

Remember consistency is key!

(Incredible Years programme-click the book for more)



Activity Idea

Autumn is finally here, and amongst the fallen leaves are plenty of opportunities for crafting and having fun with nature. Try out this spooky fun idea for Halloween or any other time!

1. On your next autumn walk, have a look around for fallen leaves.
2. Place the leaves under a heavy item for a couple of days to flatten them out. (This makes it easier to paint them)
3. Paint the leaves white and let them dry.
4. Draw funny faces on them.
5. You could even stick them on your windows to scare the neighbours!

Check out these other incredible Halloween nature craft activities with the Woodland Trust:

[13 Halloween Nature Activities and Crafts - Woodland Trust](#)



Another Resource

We know that parenting during the holidays can be stressful on the parents. Try to remember to find time to relax and breathe to try and stay calm. Here is a video from Place2Be that explains why it is important to stay calm when children push your buttons.

[My child pushes my buttons | Place2Be's Parenting Smart](#)

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? **Pinpoint** (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For **Cambridgeshire's Local Offer** go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer

Contact me directly on

Clare.merrington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk