



Message from Mrs Housden:

We have reached the half term point, and what a busy half term it has been! Firstly, I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the children, staff and parents who have given me such a warm welcome over these last few weeks. It really has been lovely, and it has been wonderful to see the children settle into their new classes and get stuck in to their learning for this year!

I am sure you'll join me in congratulating Miss Blesic, who got married last weekend! It looked like her and the family had a fabulous day and we wish them continued love and happiness for the future! After half term, she will be using her married name of Mrs Tidey.

Sadly, today we say "goodbye" to Mrs Ivey as she moves onto a new role. She has been a long-standing member of the staff team at Steeple Morden and has had such a positive impact on all those she has worked with. She will be missed, but again, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her well for the future!

I wish you all a safe and restful half term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4th November.

Have a peaceful weekend,

**Mrs Alex Housden,
Headteacher**

Congratulations to this week's Stars of the Week:

Henry, Theo, Isla, Lydia and Bella-Rose

A special congratulations to Leif who is the winner of the Pumpkin Competition with a correct estimate of 9.4kg! Thank you to Mrs Holley and Brayden for organising this fun competition.

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Follow us on Instagram:
[@steeplemordenprimary](https://www.instagram.com/steeplemordenprimary)



Mon 28th October— Friday 1st November	HALF TERM—Happy Holiday!
Saturday 2nd November	FIREWORKS Event—see poster in The Star
Tuesday 5th November	Festivals of Light RE Enrichment Day in school
Tuesday 12th November	Bee League Netball Tournament (rearranged fixture)
Wednesday 13th Nov	More Able Maths Competition at St. Francis College
Friday 22nd November	Christmas Tree Festival at Steeple Morden Church

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term dates

INSET:- Tuesday 3rd September 2024 & Wednesday 4th September 2024

Thursday 5th September to Friday 25th October

Half Term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December

Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January

Spring Term dates

INSET:- Monday 6th January 2025

Tuesday 7th January to Friday 14th February

Half Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Easter Holidays: Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April

Summer Term dates

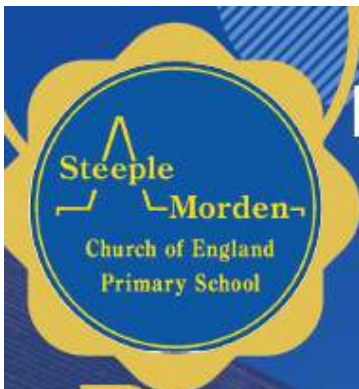
INSET:- Monday 21st April 2025 and Monday 1st June 2025

Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May

Half Term: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Tuesday 2nd June to Wednesday 23rd July

Summer Holiday: Thursday 24th July onwards



**Do you have a child
starting school in
September 2025?**

Reception Tours

Come and visit us...

**Tuesday 19th November at
2pm**

**Wednesday 20th November at
5.30pm**



**Get in touch to book
your place**

**office@steeplemorden.
camb.sch.uk**

01763 852 474



Notice Board

Parent Governor

We are looking for a parent to join our Governing Body and are planning on holding elections after half term. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor and in turn, being part of the strategic development of the school; please email Ann Lynn our Chair of Governors at chair@smpsgovernor.co.uk to raise your interest in the role.

I will be available throughout parents evenings too if anyone would like a conversation about what is involved.

Common Sense Media



As a parent, it can be tricky to navigate the apps, films, games etc. that children are accessing and to know what is appropriate for which age group. There is a really useful website called Common Sense Media in which you can search the name of any game/app/film etc. and will be given the suggested age that it is appropriate for, alongside a number of reviews from parents and children.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

If you would like further information about keeping your children safe online you can visit www.nspcc.org.uk

Uniform Reminder—School Shoes

Please ensure your child has black school shoes in school every day. Trainers are not part of our uniform and should not be worn outside of our PE lessons.

PTA Notice Board

**STEEPLE
MORDEN
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**FIRE
WORKS**

**SATURDAY NOV 2ND
GATES OPEN 5.30PM**

ADVANCE TICKET PRICES

- FAMILY: £20 (2 adults + up to 3 children)
- INDIVIDUAL: £7

ON THE GATE TICKET PRICES

- £10 adult, £6 child (No family tickets on the gate)

**BAR AND
HOT FOOD**

PLEASE don't bring sparklers or personal fireworks
Children must be supervised by an adult at all times

Scan to buy advance tickets now **OR** Click [here](#) if online tickets now

**Paper tickets available
soon**

News from Acorn Class

What an exciting and busy first half term at school we have all had! We have made new friends, learnt new routines, learnt 23 phonemes (a few digraphs thrown in) and 12 Harder To Read and Spell words, discovered the wonder of numbers to 5 and learnt about the properties of everyday 3D shapes, explored our indoor and outdoor environments and participated in a few new playground games. No wonder we are all exhausted and need an autumn half term break!



This week in Phonics the children learnt the graphemes h, b, f, l and the digraphs ff and ll. The children tried hard with learning their new Harder To Read and Spell words 'as' and 'his.' We have been really impressed with how well the children are doing with their oral blending and using their segmenting skills for spelling. Next half term are looking forward to increasing their phonic knowledge and providing opportunities for the children to demonstrate their understanding with the wonder of writing. In Maths this week the children have been building their awareness of the properties of shape, particularly 3D shapes. They

have been amazing at using clear mathematical vocabulary such as roll, stack, curved, round, flat, faces to describe features of shapes and we have even had shape experts naming 3D shapes such as cube, cylinder, pyramid and cone!

Acorn Class have been incredibly busy going on an autumn walk to collect items to create an autumnal collage, reviewing their learning about autumn with Miss Smith, thinking about how they welcome people into the class in PSHE and reviewing their learning about why the word God is important to Christians in RE. 'Show and Tell' this week was the Grapes group and they completed the All about me topic with a flourish! Please see your Year Ahead Booklet for your child's next Show and Tell date.



News from Acorn Class



We have received lots of family photos for our family book. Thank you. If you are yet to send yours in, we would love to have it. You could send in a hard copy in your child's book bag or email a digital copy to the school office. We would also like all children to bring in a pair of wellington boots which can stay in school if possible. This is to ensure that the children have suitable footwear

whatever the weather, as the saying goes, "there is no bad weather, just bad clothes!" With that in mind, please remember to provide your child with a named jumper/ cardigan and a weather appropriate coat (warm and waterproof).

We have our engines ready to begin our next topic all about Transport after half term. On your half term break, you could create a poster of all of the different types of transport that you have seen during your time away from school. You could even send a photograph into the Office of any unusual transport you have stumbled across!

We hope you have a relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing you at the PTA Bonfire night (Mrs Monks and Mrs Meridew will have all of your glow stick needs catered for!)

The Acorn Class Team

News from Ash Class

What a busy half term it has been and this week has seen the class tackling lots of new activities and challenges with their usual enthusiasm.

We are very proud of the work that the children have produced based on the story 'The Villains.' Their fact files are brilliant and we are sure you will enjoy reading them.

Our Maths work has involved recognising 2-digit numbers and partitioning these into tens and ones and we have concluded our unit on 2D and 3D shape.

Ash Class really enjoy singing and they impressed us all with their performance of the song we have been practising in our Music lessons—'Hey You!'

One of the highlights of the week was the arrival of glitter ... not in Art but in our Science learning this week.

Thank you for all of your help and support this half term and we hope you all have a relaxing half term holiday and we will see everyone back in school on 4th November.

Mrs Monks will be teaching us on the first day back and then Mrs Tidey will teach the class Tuesday-Friday as you will have seen in the parentmail which was sent out this morning.

The Year One Team



Bringing Children's Creativity to Life

Please remember to place orders for your child's Christmas cards or Christmas gifts, **by Oct 30th**



News from Birch Class

This week in Birch Class we have been keeping busy learning what life is like as a school child in China and saw many similarities and also many differences. The school we looked at had 4000 students!

Your children's spellings have been sent home in preparation for a check on 8th November. We have been revising features of instruction writing and focused on writing instructions to plant a seed with appropriate detail so that it could be passed to another child in school and they would know what to do.

In PE we became even better at passing with accuracy and have been adding movement and introducing the concept of passing backwards in Rugby.

After half term I will share a photo with you taken by a pupil in Year 6 which shows us playing the newly invented game 'Number Quash.' We played this with the inventors, who came to visit us on Wednesday; the game helped us to be more efficient with our addition.

I hope you have a restful break.

The Birch Class Team

News from Hazel Class

In English, we have performed our 'news reports.' Oak class enjoyed watching our dramatization of the news scripts that we had been working on. They said they were interesting to listen to because we have used the different role of news reporters as well as bringing the story to life through the language and actions we had used.

We have then used the skills and understanding from our English lesson to write a news report about an iron age, archaeological dig; combining skills from both English and history.

In Maths, we have continued working on addition and subtraction, solving calculations and problems that have been presented and or worded in a variety of ways. We have also thought carefully about what makes the 'best' method, to solve the calculations.

In other lessons;

In Science, we have considered reasons for animal extinction and how we can protect endangered species.

After half term, we will be looking at electricity, conductors and insulators.

In Art, we have combined our prints inspired by the 'Great Wave', to create one large artwork. This artwork will be based on still life after half term, looking at the works of Morandi.



have combined inspired by the 'Wave', to create class print. This artwork will be based on still term, looking at Cézanne and

This term's all about looking at a cities and

French has been 'around town,' number of French learning words to

describe what is located in them. After half term we will be 'on the move' learning language related to transport and journeys. Our French lessons have continued to be supported by Mrs Mevillot. We are all very grateful for her help and still especially enjoy the stories in French at the end of the day.

News from Hazel Class

At the end of this week, we said a sad farewell to Mrs Ivey, as she leaves us for pastures new. We wish her all the best in her new ventures and hope she will find chances to pop in and see us.

This week's table facts to learn

$$8 \times 8 = 64$$

$$10 \times 10 = 100$$

$$9 \times 12 = 108$$

$$12 \times 11 = 134$$

Weekly home activities

Spellings, you should have found a weekly spelling task in your children's book bags. Please spend a few minutes each day working on these. They will come home on a Monday and need to be returned the following Monday.

Reading:- please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in the reading diary. Books and diary must be in school daily please.

Mathletics is up and ready with set work for the children, logins are in reading diaries

Times table checker

<https://www.themathsfactor.com/times-tables-check/pinpoint/#/levels>

Reminders

Please name all clothing.

Send books and diaries into school each day.

No earrings on Monday

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term.

The Hazel Team



News from Yew Class

In Maths lessons we have continued working on addition and subtraction methods. The first lesson was on using a variety of different mental strategies. Look at the examples of column addition and column subtraction below and ask your child how these are calculated.

	2	6	5	7	4	
+	1	6	2	3	1	
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	
	1		1			

	2			1		
	2	10	7	2	13	
-	1	4	4	1	6	
	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	

In English the class are on the brink of finishing reading 'Boy in the Tower' and most have really enjoyed it. In lessons we have been working on inverted commas (speech marks) and on how to advance the action by using dialogue. We aim to finish our work on this unit at the beginning of the next half term.

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and should be completed by the first Friday back after the half term break.

Have a great week off everybody.

Thank you.

The Yew Team

Smarties Oct Half Term Holiday Club

Please book by following this link
<https://forms.office.com/e/QxZVbtrx5A>

Monday 28th Oct
Halloween Gnomes and jewellery making

Tuesday 29th Oct
Glowing lantern jam jars, juice potions and cup decorating

Wednesday 30th Oct
Trick or treat bucket, spooky masks and hat making
Pumpkin carving

Thursday 31st Oct
Spooky games and party morning
face painting & film afternoon

Friday 1st Nov
Glow in the dark science and potion station, Fireworks in a jar & Pinwheel cookies

7.45-9am
£6

9-1.30pm £18
9-3pm £25
9-6pm £35

10% Sibling Discount
25% Haf children Discount

For more information please email smarties on
georgina@smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk or give us a call on 01763852888
Ofsted Number : Ey434661

News from Oak Class

In Maths this week, we have moved onto calculating square and cube numbers and multiplying numbers up to four digits by two digit numbers. Lots of us can now confidently talk about the rules of divisibility for different numbers and the difference between prime and composite numbers. We have also tested our knowledge with problem solving and reasoning questions.

Divisibility Rules		
A number is divisible if it can be divided evenly with no remainder.		
10	if	The number ends in a 0.
9	if	When you add all the digits this number can be divided by 9.
8	if	The last 3 digits form a number that can be divided by 8.
7	if	For 3 digit numbers, double the last digit and subtract it from the first two digits. The total can be divided by 7.
6	if	The last number can be divided by 2 and the total of the digits can be divided by 3.
5	if	The last digit is a 5 or a 0.
4	if	The last two digits are a number that is divisible by 4.
3	if	The sum of the digits can be divided by 3.
2	if	The final digit is an even number.

In English, we have finished writing and editing our diary entries in role as a member of Shackleton's crew and have been sharing our work with one another. There are a growing number of children saying how proud they are of their writing this year, which is always a pleasure to hear. We are looking forward to a talk by a member of the staff team who has followed in Shackleton's footsteps and is coming into Year 6 to share his experiences in the first week back after half term. We are sure he will enjoy reading some of our writing too.

And finally, a huge pat on the back for us all, we made it to half term! Your children have certainly made an excellent start to Year 6. We are delighted to reinforce what we said at parents evening, that they are taking their responsibilities seriously and showing real commitment to their learning. Every one of them (and you!) deserves a well-earned rest.

Have a lovely half-term break,

The Oak Class Team

Come and try!

An opportunity for you and your child to come along and try a variety of orchestral instruments

Brass: Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tenor Horn

Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

Please register your interest in attending by using the following link or scanning the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/eC9UwzVMzJ>

North Herts Music School - 16th November @ 1pm - 2.30pm

Stevenage Music Centre 23rd November @ 1pm - 2.30pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

