



Message from Mrs Daniels:

Welcome to the first summer term edition of 'The Star' and thank you to Mrs Taylor for compiling all of the information to go in this copy.

As you will see from the class pages it has been a week of varied learning across the school – fractions and percentages in Maths, writing newspaper reports, exploring underwater worlds, Rocksteady lessons, cricket, tennis, cooking, outdoor learning... the list goes on.

We will be adding information about your child's learning this term to our website class pages shortly with details of key skills being taught and also ways that you can help at home. Our Celebration Assembly this morning demonstrated how enthusiastically the children have begun the term. Please take a note of key dates in your diaries. It is a busy busy term! As you can see there will be lots of opportunities to welcome parents into school this term, including Sports Days and year group specific events. Year 6 parents may be particularly busy towards the end of term with a class performance, an assembly and a party!

Some children from Year 5 represented the school brilliantly last week at the Year 5 Maths Challenge at Milton Road School in Cambridge. Next week some of our Year 5 & 6 netball players are involved in a netball plate final at Impington College. We also have cricket and athletics competitions in the diary so we are looking forward to all of those extra-curricular events. As you will have seen on Parentmail, we have released information about our clubs and parents are able to sign up. If clubs are full we will place your name on a waiting list in case of any changes. Many thanks for your co-operation and support with regard to our parking challenges this week.

I am pleased to confirm that the Photographer will be in to take class photos on Tuesday 30th April.

Have a lovely weekend and fingers crossed the sun returns.

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474
E-mail: office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

"He has achieved success who has worked well, laughed often, and loved much."
Elbert Hubbard

DIARY DATES

Monday 29 th April (pm)	Year 5/6 Netball 'Team Plate Final,' Impington College
Tuesday 30 th April (am)	Class Photos
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 3 'History off the Page' - 'Life in Tudor England'
Mon 13 th - Thurs 16 th	KS2 SATs
Weds 15 th May	Safari Stu - visiting Reception Class & Year 1
Mon 27th - Fri 31st May - Half Term Holiday	
Monday 3 rd June	INSET Day
Thurs 6 th June	'Quadkids' Small Schools - Wilberforce Road Athletics Track, Cambridge
Mon 10 th June - Thurs 13 th June	Year 1 Phonic Screening Check
Wednesday 12 th June	Year 4 Visit - Ryemeads RSPB Centre
Weds 19 th June	Sports Day (Yousafzai/Packham)
Thurs 20 th June	Sports Day (Rashford/Rosen)
Wednesday 26 th June	New Reception Parents Meeting - timings tbc
Thursday 27 th June	Year 4 Cricket Competition
Mon 1 st July - Fri 5 th July	Bikeability
Fri 5 th July	Rocksteady Concert - tbc
Sat 6 th July	PTA Event - Outdoor Cinema Event
Weds 10 th July	Year 6 Performance (afternoon)
Thurs 11 th July	Year 6 Performance (evening)
Mon 15 th	Reports home to parents
Tues 16 th	Potential Year 6 Party - date and time tbc
Weds 17 th	Year 6 to BVC
Thurs 18 th	Year 6 to BVC Year 6 Parents Meeting (at BVC)
Fri 19 th	Leavers Assembly Final Day of Term!

School Meal Charges Summer 2024

Daily:	£2.40
Weekly:	£12.00
1st half term	£67.20
2nd half term	£81.60
Whole term	£148.80

Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail **in advance of meals taken.**

We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept cash or cheques.

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.cambs.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.



Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn term begins	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Autumn half term	Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
Autumn term ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Friday 1st September</i> <i>Monday 4th September</i>
Spring term begins	Thursday 4th January 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19th – Friday 23rd
February 2024	
Spring term ends	Thursday 28th March 2024
Summer term begins	Tuesday 16th April 2024
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
Summer half term	Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024
Summer term ends	Friday 19th July 2024
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Monday 15th April</i> <i>Monday 3rd June</i> <i>Monday 22nd July</i>

We are hoping to publish our dates for 2024/25 in the next few weeks. However we are currently awaiting confirmation from BVC so that we can align with them where possible to support parents with children in both schools.

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Notice Board

School uniform

Please, please ensure that your child's belongings (uniform, bags, water bottle etc) are all labelled with your child's name. We have a number of jumpers and other items which have been misplaced by their owners which we can't return as they don't have the child's name inside, or have the name of a 'previous owner'.

Playground

Parents are asked to ensure that their children, whether those who attend school or younger siblings, do not play in the gazebo or on the play structure at school pick up time. This is to ensure everyone's safety and prevent any damage to these valuable structures. Please ensure that once on the school premises, bikes and scooters are walked, not ridden.

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 a last-minute phone call at the end of the day.

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 diar-	Until 48 hours after last episode of sick-ness/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/>

Notice Board

Covid-19 - Current advice is that this should be treated as any other respiratory infection. The following is from [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

Symptoms of respiratory infections, including COVID-19

Respiratory infections can spread easily between people. It is important to be aware of symptoms so you can take action to reduce the risk of spreading your infection to other people.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are very similar. It is not possible to tell if you have COVID-19, flu or another respiratory infection based on symptoms alone. Most people with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections will have a relatively mild illness, especially if they have been vaccinated.

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

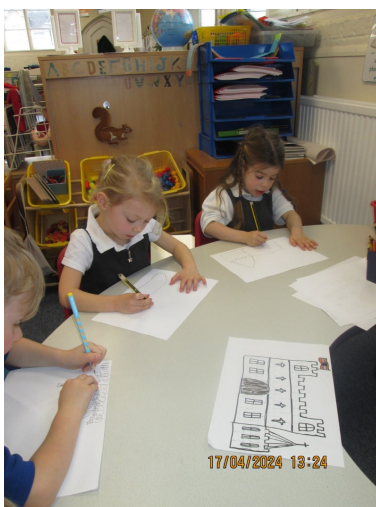
News from Starling Class (Reception)

Welcome back from Starling Class. We can't believe it's the Summer Term already! In the past couple of weeks we have welcomed back Mrs Monks. She will be in class Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Clare is continuing to work Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Brown will continue to teach us on Wednesday afternoons and we are very lucky to have Mrs Keech with us all week as well as Mrs Crooks at lunchtimes.

For the past two weeks we have been learning about castles, princesses and knights. We began by listening to the story of 'Zog and the Flying Doctors' by Julia Donaldson. We thought about our favourite part of the story and then decided what we would do if we were a princess, knight or dragon and we wrote our ideas down, these ranged from helping animals to flying to the moon! Our focus at the moment is to try and use finger spaces between each word. We looked at pictures of castles and learnt the names of parts of castles, for example: moat, bailey and turret. We then designed and made our own castles using junk modelling. We then celebrated St George's Day by learning all about St George, looking at the flag of England and we even designed our own flags!

We continued our 'word collecting' work this week with the following words below to build on our ambitious vocabulary.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Passion	A strong liking and interest for doing something, like a hobby or activity
Accomplish	To achieve or complete something
Choreographer	A person that puts together the moves for a dance performance
Ensemble	A group of musicians, actors or dancers who perform together
Pressure	The force that is produced when someone pushes on something



Next week we are going to start learning about plants and growing, followed by mini-beasts. To support this learning we have arranged for some animals, including mini-beasts, to come and visit us at school. Look out for a separate letter via ParentMail about this.

Have a lovely weekend.

The Reception Team



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have had a great start to the Summer term (even though it has felt a little more like Winter at times!) thinking about our new topic – It's a Bug's Life. Everyone was very enthusiastic while looking at the tadpoles, which not only changed a lot over the holiday, but have now even got front legs as well as the back legs we observed last week. We are keeping an eye out for their tails shortening and them being able to start jumping, next! (please be assured that once they are froglets, they will be returned to their original pond to continue their growth!)

We have covered the potato plant leaves to keep them developing, and have also started some sunflower seeds to see how they start. Hopefully everyone will have a small plant to bring home by half term!

In Maths we have started to look at Multiplication and Division. In Year 1, we have begun by looking at how to count in 2s 10s and 5s. We paired and counted socks to start last week's 'counting in twos' lesson– which was lots of fun. Counting forwards in 10s has been the easiest so far (but some children do need practice!) We move on to counting backwards in these divisions, too. Please try this at home – counting backwards quickly is trickier than it might sound – especially when moving through the 10s numbers – from 22, 20 to 18, or 32, 30 to 28. If you can practise, do start with counting forward in 2s to at least 50, then backwards from 20, 30, 40, then 50. Thank you!

We have starting our English unit looking at poems – firstly, learning that they do NOT need to rhyme, which came as a surprise to everyone! All the children had a good go at arranging sentences about their Easter holiday into a 'free verse poem' and next week will try their hand at writing a poem about 'My Perfect Weekend'.

Phonics:

Thank you so much for your support with phonics and reading. Please do keep up the great work! This week some children have been looking at alternative ways of writing the 'ia' sound (a, as in acorn, ey and in grey/they; ea as in great and eigh as in sleigh) Some of the children have been reviewing the 'oo' sound written, ew as in grew; ue as in blue; u-e as in flute.

Spellings:

This week we have completed assessment of reading and writing the 'Harder to Read and Spell Words' they have been introduced to. We have seen a great improvement for many children in reading these words, and the time has come to ensure these can also be spelled. Which this in mind, most children have an individual spelling practise sheet which should be in their book bag this weekend.

Have a lovely weekend,



The Year 1 Team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

In Year 2 this week we have been busy researching on the chrome books, learning a new text in English and continuing with our fraction work in maths.

In English we have read the descriptive text 'Bright Stanley' by Matt Buckingham. We have used the text to review adjectives, adverbs and even created some similes. We then collected our grammar learning together to write super descriptive sentences. To finish the week, we looked at our senses and how they can be used to help with description.

In Maths we have been wrapping our heads around fractions, half, quarter, three quarters; finding and recognising them. We have learnt key vocabulary of equal and unequal and know how to differentiate the two. We will extend this learning further next week.

In our other subjects we have started our sewing project, tennis skills, a new music block of learning and started to learn about the Torah in RE.

The Year 2 Team



News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

What busy little bees we are!

Monday, was of course our Celtic day and what a day it turned out to be! In our imaginary Iron Age village, the children worked through a variety of Celtic tasks and activities. The Celts were great craftsmen using metalwork to create brooches to decorate their clothes, clay for pots and smelting vessels, weaving for clothes, Celtic knots to symbolise the cycle of life.

In each round house, we had a different craft: in one, the children designed their own brooch, considering what the design would represent. For the Celts, the brooches represented the wearer's place in society; the more ornate they were the higher they were in society. Brooches were also often in the shape of animals, the more highly regarded the animal the higher the status of the wearer would be. In another, natural materials were collected and used for weaving. The Celts were some of the first early farmers, changing from hunter-gatherers to growing their own crops and looking after their own animals. Wool was used to weave into cloth for clothing and use in the home. In a third, we used papers to create Celtic knot designs. For the designs the children needed to think about the colours and shapes used, explaining what they represented in their design. eg. green circles showed the changing of the season, yellow circles the life cycle of man etc. In the next, clay was used to create round houses; these will be put together in the classroom to create our own miniature Iron Age village.

In the open land of our settlement, the children invented their own target games, in order to refine their hunting skills (no animals or birds were hurt in the process, in fact I'm sure I heard muffled sniggering from on-looking rabbits and pigeons!).

Thank you for your efforts with Celtic costumes, we really did have a super day.

Our next dress up day will be for the Tudors when History Off the Page visit, again please do not feel you need to go out buying costumes, as with the Celts most of you have things at home that make perfect costumes.

In other work; for English we started our work on a traditional tale set in Celtic England called 'The Man and the Forest'; this will form the basis of our work for the next few weeks.



In maths, we continued work on measure, last week we looked at measuring mass/weight, this week we focussed on capacity.

Our geography knowledge was developed by considering the question, why settle here? We thought carefully about what early settlers would have looked for when choosing a place to settle. We will come back to this when we visit Ashwell later in the term.

Ashwell will form the focus of our 'Pathways through the Past' topic. Just for interest 'Ashwell at Home' day is on 12th of May. <https://www.ashwellathome.org.uk/>

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

The Year Three team

Dates for the diary

Tue 7th May History Off The Page/Tudor dress up day

Weekly home activities

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

Mathletics and **Spelling Frame**, logins for both are in reading diaries

Tackling tables practise.

Reminders

Please name all clothing

Send books and diary into school each day.

Full PE kits needed in school everyday



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

News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week (through some rather messy practical activities!) we have been enjoying learning about the function of the different parts of the digestive system and the scientific vocabulary associated with this.

In our Maths lessons, we have been building on our fraction work by adding fractions when they are part of mixed numbers. All children have had a go with the government's 'Try it out area' for the Multiplication Tables Check for instant recall of times tables up to 12x12, which will take place at the start of June. Please help reinforce the latter half of the 12,9,8,7 especially and help your child to recall these out of sequence. Some children will also have their red, amber, green sheet had home to refer to their particular areas of focus.

This is a link from the government to information about the Multiplications Check:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

In English lessons we have been analysing non-chronological reports and how the tone changes based on who the audience is. Our particular area of focus this week is in on using a wider range of conjunctions.

Next week I will be sending information about a new visit the school has not done before, which will take place in June and complement out science work. Please also keep an eye out for a letter, which will share with you the Year 4 coverage of relationship education that will take place this half term.

The Year 4 Team



News from Heron Class (Year 5)



As you may have already heard from your children, in English this week we have been working on producing our own newspapers. The idea is that the children, in groups, bring their articles together to produce a finished newspaper that is available for

them to read during independent reading time in class. This works links to the genre that we are currently studying - recounts.


In Maths this week, we have finished our work on percentages, decimals and fractions and we are pleased to report that our end-of-unit assessment shows good progress with this topic over the last few weeks. We have moved on quickly to another area of maths and begun to study perimeter and area, starting with calculating the perimeter of rectangles.

Science has been very hands-on this week. Everyone has been involved in setting up experiments to investigate asexual reproduction in plants. We are exploring asexual reproduction by regeneration and by artificial vegetative propagation using hormone-rooting powder. Around the classroom on every possible flat surface, there are pots containing onion, ginger, potato, spring onion, roses, buddleia, bay and willow. We will be observing and measuring the growth in these pots over the rest of this half term, recording our results and seeing what conclusions we can draw from them.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Year 5 Team





***Midday Supervisory Assistant
(Thursday and Friday, term time only)
12.00-1.30 pm each day
(£11.59 per hour)***

Steeple Morden Primary School is a friendly and welcoming village school with approximately 165 pupils on roll. We are at the heart of a thriving village community.

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Midday Supervisory Assistant, working alongside our existing midday team, for Thursdays and Fridays term time only. The post holder will be responsible for supervising and assisting the children in the dining hall and during lunchtime play.

If you are interested in this position, please see our website for a copy of the Job Description and an application form. If you would like more information, or are unable to access the documents on the website please email office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

We are committed to stringent safeguarding procedures and applicants will be subject to a full enhanced DBS check. In addition, references will be undertaken prior to interview. As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all members of the community.

Start date: as soon as possible

We reserve the right to close this vacancy if we receive sufficient applications for the role. Therefore, please submit your application early

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

Firstly, a big thank you to all the children, with help from their parents, who completed the homework over the Easter break in preparation for the SATs exams next month. I hope it was worthwhile.

In class, we will be working towards the exams with a focus on Maths, SPAG and reading over the next few weeks. Homework will continue to be set in the lead up to the exams. As well as the usual spellings, SPAG and Maths tasks, please could your child work through any areas that they feel they need to revise from the Mathletics website. I will also be setting up some tasks on Maths.co.uk (your child knows their username and password).

We will do the majority of the tasks in school but please feel free to complete any tasks and corrections at home. Homework should be completed by Thursday 2nd May.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 6 Team





Cleaners / Home Helpers needed now in Royston

£11.10 per hour PLUS holiday pay

Work involves cleaning, shopping and other domestic duties such as changing bed linen and laundry. You always see the same regular clients, helping them to stay independent and living in their own home.

- | We're really flexible, work at times to suit your day
- | Extremely satisfying, see the difference you make just doing the cleaning and being a regular friendly face
- | Office support and backup always available whilst you work.

For more information contact:

recruitsouth@ageukherts.org.uk
01923 627055

Age UK Hertfordshire, a name you can trust.

Cleaning and helping at home for 1000's of clients across Hertfordshire



Café Church is back!

This friendly café runs every Friday morning 9-11 during term time in Steeple Morden Church

Tea, coffee, home-made cake

Toys and lots of space for little ones

Do join us after school drop-off



Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool
Litlington Preschool
Bonfitness Pilates
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes
MF Tennis Coaching
Modern Foreign Languages Tuition
Biggleswade Swimming Club
Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section
NCT Nearly New Sale
Castle Coaching Football and Rugby training sessions
First aid course—for adults, juniors and teens

To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: <https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/community>

“We don't need to share the same opinions as others, but we need to be respectful.”
Taylor Swift

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

Phone: 01763 852474
E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

