



Message from Mrs Daniels:

We are so proud of the way that all of the Year 6 children applied themselves to the KS2 SATs this week. They were determined and focussed and yesterday all sighed with relief as the sixth and final paper was completed. It has been an intense week of testing and revision but they have all impressed with their effort and concentration. They are all now in need of a fun and relaxing weekend.

'Safari Stu' paid a visit to Reception and Year 1 on Wednesday with a large collection of creatures which the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting. There are some wonderful photos enclosed which I am sure you will enjoy. It was a really valuable experience in terms of scientific learning from our extremely knowledgeable visitor but also in terms of how to care and nurture animals. So many children who began quite nervously were thrilled to hold some of the different animals.

Next week you will see our 'Junior Travel Ambassadors' outside school at various points during the week as it is national 'Walk to School Week.' As we know many of you are able to walk to school but for those of you who have to drive, please use the three car parks in the village and enjoy a walk through the village from there. A number of local residents on Hay Street and Cheyney Street have again spoken to us about some dangerous, inconsiderate parking in the morning and at school pick up time. Please help us to keep all the children safe by parking in one of the choice of three car parks. The JTAs are hopeful that they can help get this message across to all drivers next week!

In our Celebration assembly this morning we enjoyed listening to Harriet from Hertfordshire Music Service who spoke to us about all the different types of woodwind instruments and we heard performances from some of the children who play instruments in school.

Wishing everyone a relaxing weekend.

Jo Daniels
Acting Co-Headteacher

Regular articles

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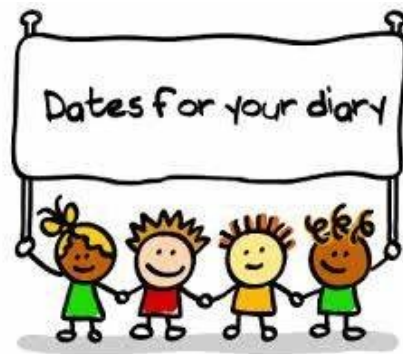
Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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E-mail: office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
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"We do not remember days, we remember moments."

Cesare Pavese



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

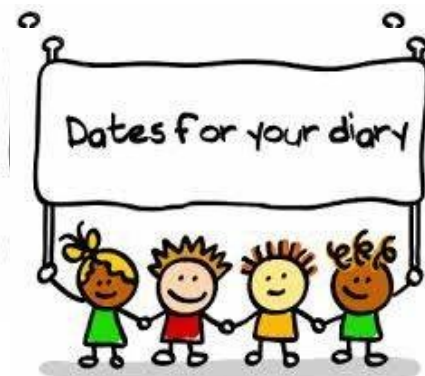
Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail **in advance of meals taken.**

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

Absence Reporting

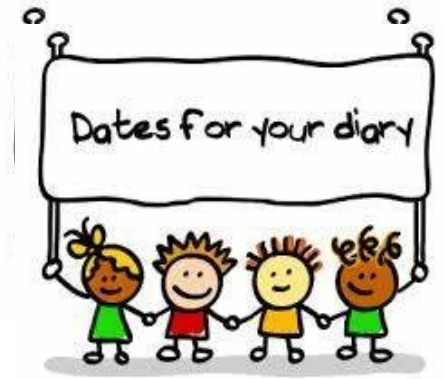
If your child is absent please advise us on 01763 852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

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 2023	Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October
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 February 2024	Monday 19th – Friday 23rd
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>



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 22nd April 2025 and Monday 2nd 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

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/news/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)

What an enjoyable week we had! We began learning about Minibeasts through listening to the story of Super Worm by Julia Donaldson. We described Super Worm and thought about what sort of super power we'd like to have.

Safari Stu came to visit us. He brought with him an array of creatures including a snake, chameleon, tarantula, giant stick insects plus much more. The children really impressed us with their care and consideration of the animals. They were all very brave and either held or stroked a creature. Safari Stu spoke to us about the animals' natural habitats, what they like to eat, how to tell if they are male or female and how he looks after them. The children had lots of questions and learnt so much!

Our cress finally began to grow so we wrote the next page in our Cress diary. In Maths, we learnt about halving and sharing. In RE we have continued our learning on how each of us are unique and why that is. We discussed finger prints and how they are all different.

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



News from Starling Class (Reception)

Next week we are going to continue learning about minibeasts and their habitats. Just a reminder that Mrs Clare will be teaching on Wednesday next week.



Thank you to everyone that sent in sunhats – they have been needed. Please could we make sure that children have a jumper or cardigan in school every day, thank you. We would recommend a waterproof coat to be in school every day also as we never know which weather we may experience!

Have a great weekend.

The Reception Team



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have had a very exciting week!

Safari Stu's visit on Wednesday was brilliant. The children were all very keen to see and touch at least some of the animals, and the vast majority changed their minds about holding or touching animals they thought they wouldn't want to get near! From a cute and cuddly tenrec, to a furry, but not so cuddly tarantula, from cockroaches to a chameleon, and from different species of stick insects to a tortoise, all were enjoyed by someone! Please enjoy the photos...



We also have had 5 duckling eggs delivered. These arrived on Tuesday evening, and we waited all day on Wednesday to see any movement. The children were all very patient, but still nothing had changed by home-time on Wednesday. Thursday morning arrived and there was a small crack in one of the light blue eggs – a hatching had started. Throughout the first session in the morning, children noticed further cracks and even some eggshell falling off, then just before play-time we were all able to watch the first duckling hatch from its egg; slightly soggy and rather exhausted-looking. It was able to stay in the incubator for the rest of Thursday, drying out and fluffing up. By home time it had been named, 'Shine'. At the time of writing, we are waiting for the second duckling to hatch, hopefully in time for the children to see on Friday morning.



This week in Maths, we have used our knowledge of multiplication – especially our skills in counting in 2, 5 and 10, to think about related facts when considering sharing and grouping. The children also used their understanding of arrays to talk about related facts – knowing that a 'row' or 'column' of objects could be used rather than needing to physically share out objects.



News from Robin Class (Year 1)

For English this week, we have been putting into practice all the knowledge we have gained about diaries to write a diary about the duckling eggs. The children also used their knowledge of verbs in the past tense to help them write about Safari Stu's visit.

In Phonics this week, most children have been consolidating their knowledge and trying to add rhythm to their reading when reading rhyming books. Please check if your child's reading book is a rhyming one and encourage them to read it with appropriate rhythm.

Thank you for all your support,

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

The Year 1 Team



News from Owl Class (Year 2)

We have enjoyed doing lots of different topics this week while being very flexible around the KS2 SATs. We have enjoyed play times with the whole school and have continued learning our new song in the whole school singing assembly.

In English, we have started looking at explanation texts, focusing on 'Plastic Pollution' in our oceans. We have been looking for the different features and using these in our own writing.

In Maths, we have been covering a range of topics this week with a reasoning focus. We have covered time (o' clock, quarter-past, half-past and quarter-to), data (creating block graphs), shape (2D and 3D) and finally, general reasoning problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In our topic lessons, we have begun creating our own holiday brochure encouraging people to visit the Great Barrier Reef, this will include everything we have learnt this half term in this topic across the curriculum.

This week in spelling we have focused on the year two statutory spelling words, the children were testing each other in the lesson and highlighting some of the ones that they knew.

In PSHE, we have continued talking about change with a focus on friendship and how they can change over time and how this can sometimes be a positive change.

Our Torahs are really starting to take shape, we have added our writing all about the things that bring us joy, we are nearly ready to assemble these and complete the final product.

Next week we will be doing some in-class assessments to help us plan to support your children in the following weeks. The main focus will be on Reading, Writing and Maths and we look forward to seeing the progress your children have made.

Now that the weather is getting warmer please can we remind you to send your children in with summer hats and water bottles. Please make sure that jumpers/cardigans are labelled in case they need to take these off, as we have had a lot of unnamed lost property. Thank you.



The Year 2 Team

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Another busy week in Peacock class.

In English, we started looking at descriptive, narrative poems on the topic of storms. Expressing views and feelings about a range of poems before acting out our favourites. In groups, we pooled our ideas to gather a range of descriptive words and phrases to make our vocabulary bank. Next week we will select from these word banks to write our own poems.

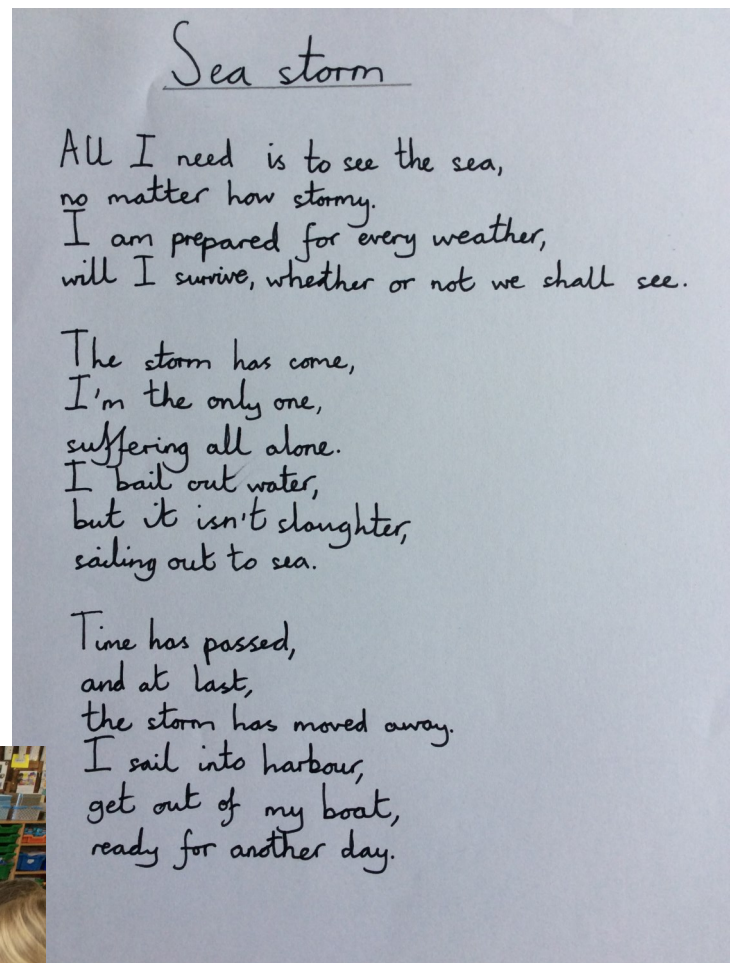
In Maths, we have started to look at money, so far we have worked out the total of coins given and converted this between pounds and pence. Along with adding amounts. If you get a chance over the weekend, please have a go at a money scavenger hunt. Send the children off around the house to look in drawers, pots, the side of the sofa, etc. to



see how much change they can find. Add this up, convert it to pounds, then ask what other coins could be used to make the same amount.



In science, we have revisited the three investigations that we set up; to see what happens when plants do not have one of the elements that we identified they need to grow well; light, nutrients and water. What soil type will a pea grow best in? There have been some very careful observations and interesting reasoning to explain what has happened. We will have another look at these so that we can see what happens over time.



News from Peacock Class (Year 3)



In history we looked at the events of the Spanish Armada, creating a comic strip to show what happened. We then 'read' the Spanish Armada portrait, decoding the symbols and clues in the picture.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

The Year 3 Team

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



Reporting Your Child's Absence

If your child is absent from school, you **MUST** notify school **EACH DAY** that they are absent by 9.30am and provide the reason for absence.

You can notify us in the following ways:

- Email us on office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk
- Telephone us on 01763 852474
- Leave a Voicemail on the telephone number above
- Tell us in person via our front desk

If we haven't heard from you each day that they are absent, we are obliged to investigate your child's absence.

**SMARTIES
MAY HALF
TERM**

50% off for HAF Children | 10% Sibling Discount

Ages *3 - 11

Tues 28th May
Decorate your own Mug then lets make mug cakes

Weds 29th May
Make your own Garden Stepping stone, Suncatchers & Window art

Thurs 30th May
Grass heads, Flower pressing & Tie-dye or Fabric Paint a T-Shirt

Friday 31st May
pond dipping, camp fire cooking, create your own bug Hotel Clay afternoon

Session Prices

7.45-9 am	£6
9-1.30pm	£18
9-3pm	£25
9-6pm	£35

For more information please email Smarties on georgina@smartiessteeplemorden.co.uk or give us a call on 01763 852888

Ofsted Number: EY434661

*3 year olds dependent on staffing levels

Woodland walks & Trips to the park (Weather Permitting)

SMARTIES PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

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, we have been learning about the work of Greta Thunberg and her role in drawing attention to the actions we can take to reduce global warming. Our focus has been on sentence variety and furthering paragraph structure. using different sentence structures to create more engaging and effective writing. Children have also continued to work on structuring their paragraphs in a clear and logical manner, using topic sentences, supporting details, and concluding sentences to create a cohesive piece of writing.

We have continued to get to grips with decimals in our Maths lessons and we are relating this to physical money. All children should know which timetables they are working on recalling - if your child says they are not sure, please get in contact.

Here are some different online programs that can help with identification and recall:

Pinpoint Times tables can simulate the six second Multiplication Tables Check that's taking place at the beginning of June, and importantly show which times tables you may not be able to instantly recall...yet so these can be focused on.

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

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/> is great for concentrating on a specific times table and will 'jumble it up' to help with efficient recall. So often children get to the latter half of their times tables and are not as secure in their recall as they've been used to starting again at the beginning so have had more practice with these earlier facts.

<https://ttrockstars.com/> helps develop recall and fluency of time tables facts.

The complete maths app helps build a deep *understanding* of multiplication and division facts by showing multiple representations of multiplication facts, to make meaningful connections in pupils' minds and gives a greater chance of the facts becoming embedded in the long-term memory.

<https://completemaths.com/more/teaching-tools/timestables>

In mandarin lessons, children are learning to have conversations about their pets and are drawing on prior learning from earlier in the year, to include who owns the pet and what colour it is. Next week we are looking forward to progressing our work with physical computing to help make devices move and will be learning more about teeth in our science lessons.

The Year 4 Team



News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In Maths this week, we have completed our work on statistics. We have studied two-way tables, timetables and line graphs and we are very pleased to say that everyone has made good progress with this topic.

In English, we have spent most of the week checking everyone's progress with the statutory spelling list words. These are list of words that it is expected that children are able to spell correctly by the end of certain year groups in school. Even though we appreciate that spelling is harder for some of us than others, we still need to be sure that everyone is making progress from their individual starting points and have used these tests to check this.

In P.S.H.E. this week, we spent a very productive day learning about puberty. We discussed the scientific names for internal and external male and female body parts and we talked about the changes that take place during puberty. The idea of this teaching is to make your feel informed and prepared, rather than anxious, about this important time in their lives. We are delighted to share with



you how impressed we were with your children during these lessons - they responded with maturity, asking relevant and interesting questions that made sure they got the most out of this learning opportunity.

In Design Technology, we have started a unit of work looking at the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. The children looked at some images of his most famous structures and identified the key features. The class favourite was the house pictured below. It is called Fallingwater and was designed in 1935 for the owners of a large North American department store.

The Year 5 Team



News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

The SATs exams are finally over; the students have worked really hard this week. They have managed to get into the routine of the daily tests well, and some have actually quite enjoyed it! It has been a tough few days and many of the children are tired and will be looking forward to a relaxing weekend. However, the focus now will be on writing and the opportunities to write more will increase. The students will be writing their own autobiographies next. Afterwards, we will be studying a book – Kensuke’s Kingdom - and developing on different types of writing here.

Homework, this week, will only be the usual spellings, which are due back next Thursday – 23rd May.

Thank you for your continued support and all your help at home over recent weeks, in supporting your child in revising for the SATs exams.

The Year 6 Team

LEAVERS HOODIES

The leavers hoodies are now live online, please see below link to send to parents to order through.

<https://www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/smp/leavers-hoodies>

This will be open until the deadline of Tuesday 28th of May.





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
Netball & Athletics Half Term Holiday Clubs
Biggleswade Swimming Club
Relax & Unwind Sessions— Steeple Morden & Royston Sessions
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>

“Life is what happens whilst you are busy making other plans”
John Lennon

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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