

Friday 8th November 2024
steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



THE STAR

"Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be."



Message from Mrs Housden:

Welcome back, I hope that you all had a fantastic half term break and are ready for the coming weeks! This is set to be a very busy half term with lots to look forward to including some sporting events, Children in Need and, of course, preparations for Christmas celebrations!

Firstly, on behalf of the staff and children, I wanted to say a public "Thank you" to the amazing team of volunteers on our PTA who planned, organised, set up and ran our brilliant annual firework event last Saturday! The money the school community raise through PTA events is vital in enabling us to support the children in school. The PTA are thrilled to share that this year the profit from the fireworks event was approximately £3500! This will be going towards supporting the school with a project to improve our offer at break and lunch times (more information to follow).

Already this year, PTA have funded £3000 worth of books to support our new English curriculum, they have bought new class sets of atlases, funded sensory items introduced in our break-out space (The Canopy) and committed to paying for our class 'Achieve 100'. We have lots of other ideas too as to how you will see your fundraising used to positively impact the children.

This week we had a 'Festivals of Light Day' to enrich our RE curriculum in which each class across the school learnt about a different festival of light and created differing artwork to demonstrate their learning. Lots of this learning can be seen in the class entries this week.

On Monday, the children and staff will attend a short remembrance service led by Father Sam at the Church, followed by a moment of silence and a prayer at the memorial. I am really saddened that I am unable to attend on Monday as I am attending a training course. However, I know that the children will do a fantastic job of paying their respects.

Have a wonderful weekend,

**Mrs Alex Housden,
Headteacher**

Congratulations to this week's Stars of the Week:

Imogen, Mia, Isla, Holly & Iyla

and congratulations to our Year 5 Dancing Star Holly for her amazing dance competition results—1st, 1st & 2nd in one afternoon!

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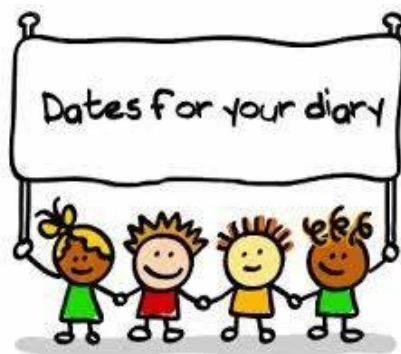
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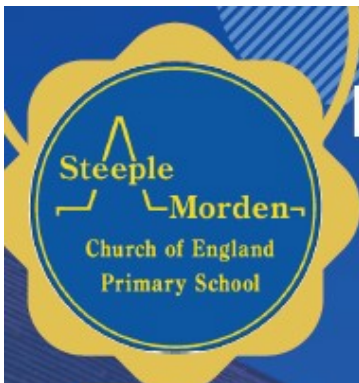
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Date	Event information
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Day – children will be attending a short service at the Church followed by a moment of silence at the memorial.
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need – <i>Children are invited to 'Show us their 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>
Tuesday 19 th November	Reception 2025 Tour – 2.00pm
Wednesday 20 th November	Reception 2025 Tour – 5.30pm
Friday 22 nd to Sunday 24 th November	Christmas Tree Festival at Steeple Morden Church – <i>children have all contributed to the decorating of a tree, these will be on display throughout the festival</i>
Wednesday 4 th December	KS2 Cross Country at Milton Country Park (information for children participating will be shared separately)
Tuesday 10 th December	Nativity Performances – 2.00pm and 5.15pm (Acorn & Ash classes) Specific information to follow
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Lunch Day & Christmas Jumper Day – we invite children to wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform. We will accept any voluntary donations to Save the Children UK as Christmas Jumper Day is a National event.
Friday 13 th December	Rocksteady Concert – 1.45pm Parents/Carers of children who are in performing bands are invited to attend.
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Carol Service - 9.15am and 5.30pm (by candlelight) Parents/carers are invited to attend, specific details to follow.
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term



**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

You should have received an email to explain that applications for our Parent Governor vacancy are now open. The application is attached to the email which was sent via Parent Mail. The closing date is Wednesday 20th November.

Winter Greenhouse Project

Mrs Holley is working on creating a small greenhouse out of 2 litre plastic bottles. If that is something you have at home, please send them into school to add to our building materials!

Asda Cashpot for Schools (see next page)

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who are making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage.

Christmas Raffle

We are planning to hold a Christmas Raffle at both of our nativity performances and Christmas Concerts in December. If you are able to donate something for the raffle, either personally or through a business, please get in touch via the school office. These could be individual items that could be included within a Christmas hamper or a standalone individual prize.

PTA Notice Board

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards
and we will donate **££s** to schools.

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



With
Parentkind

HERE'S HOW:

- 1** Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools.
- 2** Choose your primary school
- 3** Shop in-store across Asda & George, and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4** Shopping online?
Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5** We'll do the rest!
We donate ££s to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.



Selected stores. Minimum spend £24. Exclusions apply including Asda Express & George.com. Subject to availability. UK 16+. App & Opt In required.
0.9% of the value of a customer's eligible shop is donated. Publicly funded primary schools, must register with Parentkind charity 1072633.
Full T&Cs at asda.com/cashpotforschools. Rewards T&Cs at asda.com/rewards/terms. Ends 30.11.24

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Next Friday November 15th

The School Council would like us to take part in Children in Need day next Friday to raise money for charities that help children. You do not have to dress up or donate to do so, but any donations are welcome and can be made on line here:

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/donate/>

Do you have spotty socks, a polka dot dress – Pudsey ears? We will have some stick on spots in school, which we can give your child on the day, if you do not have easy access to any. Please avoid football kits.

Thank you

School Council

News from Acorn Class

Welcome back everyone!

This week we started our new topic of 'transport'. The children amazed us with their prior knowledge of transport, being able to name lots of modes of transport they already knew. Also this week we had our 'festival of light day' where we looked at Hanukkah. The children heard how this is a special festival for Jewish people. They learnt how Jewish people attend Synagogues to worship God and enjoyed making their own Hanukkiah/Menorahs and Hanukkah cards.

This week we have learnt the following sounds: j, v, w and x as well as the 'harder to read and spell words' he, she and buses. In Maths, we have been looking at 2D shapes and their properties. Also this week we visited the library for the first time. This will now be a weekly occurrence on a Monday so if books are returned on a Monday, children are welcome to choose a new book.

We took in reading books before half term. You should now all have a new one. Please continue to read these daily.



Please can we make sure that every child has a coat and jumper or cardigan in school every day. Thank you. We would like to use the outside area everyday no matter the weather, so if you would like to send in wellington boots and a waterproof coat (and even trousers if you wish!) they would be welcomed.



Show and Tell this week was the Cherries group and they were brilliant! Next week it is the turn of the Bananas group. The theme is: Transport; so anything that goes!

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 like to do some junk modelling with the children but are low on supplies. If you have any cardboard boxes, clean yoghurt pots, plastic lids, egg boxes, pipe cleaners or anything else that lends itself to creating models please could we have them. Thank you.

News from Acorn Class

Have a great weekend and see you on Monday!

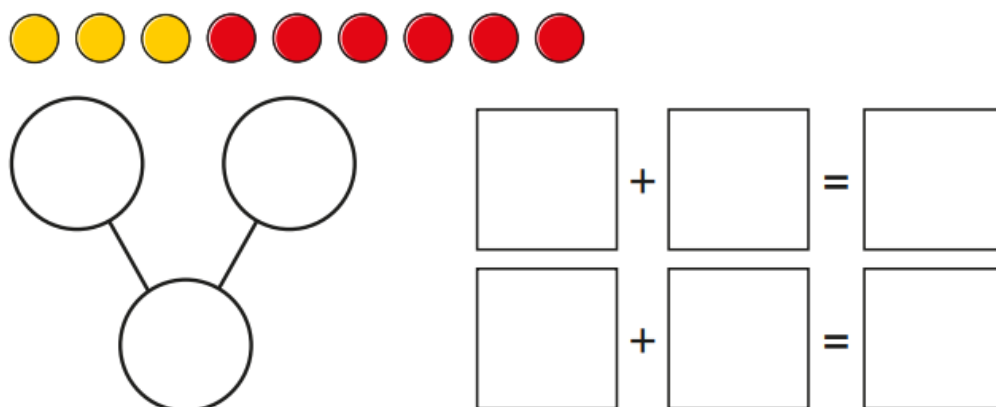
The Acorn Class Team



News from Ash Class

A very busy first week back after half term in Ash class complete with a 'Festivals of Light' day, starting a new Maths unit, learning a new song in music and starting History lessons.

In Maths your child is learning about addition and subtraction for numbers up to 20. To support your child's learning at home rehearse number bonds to and within 10, number bonds to 20 and simple 2 number addition and subtraction sentences. This week we have used part-part-whole models, calculation walls and bead strings to visually support our learning.



In English we have started our new text 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra. To start our text off we needed to solve a crime – the evil pea had created a ketchup mess with our snack time fruit.*
**This was not really the children's fruit but some I brought in from home.*

We then used our speaking and listening skills to act out scenes as different characters. We took this enthusiasm to then record questions remembering to correctly record a question mark.

*Who did this?
What is the red sticky sauce?
Who will we call for help?
Where is Supertato?*

In phonics this week, we have learnt the following sounds please rehearse them at home:

wh – whip the whisk
ph – photo on the phone
ew – flew the crew
oe – tiptoe past the doe

Please continue to read at home nightly and ensure reading folders are in school every day.

Have a lovely weekend,
The Ash Class Team

St Peter & St Paul Church, Steeple Morden



11TH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th November, 2024

We'd love for you to join us

Friday 9-4 / Saturday 11-4 / Sunday 11-4

Refreshments will be available

Bacon butties Friday am and Soup on Saturday

Christmas Tree with Toy Service on Sunday 24th at 4pm
(We are collecting good condition 2nd hand toys for a local
Women's Refuge and Mary's Child charity)

**We'd love to hear from you if you have a little free time and would
like to help over the weekend please contact Gilly on 852380**

News from Birch Class



This week in Birch Class we took part in our whole school 'Festival of Light' day. We learnt about Diwali and some of the traditions around it. We especially enjoyed making rangoli patterns.

We enjoyed our time playing the new maths game 'Number Quash' just before half term. We have been spending time

in recent maths lessons learning how to work systematically when problem solving. This can help us to organise our working and know that we all have the possible solutions to a problem we are investigating.

In Science we have been investigating how the muscles work and the scientific names for some of the major ones. In Geography lessons we are learning about what defines a hamlet, village, town and a city and have been looking at examples from around the world.



the major ones. In we are learning about hamlet, village, town and a city and have been looking at examples from around the world.

The Birch Class Team

Wear something spotty for Children in Need

News from Hazel Class

The children have returned refreshed after their half term break and have had an extremely hard working week.

The highlight of the week was our 'Festival of Light' day where we focussed on the light festivals of Thailand.

The history books of Thailand tell us that at the time of the twelfth full moon, when the moon will appear at its fullest and brightest, this is the perfect time to 'make merit' and make a wish for good fortune in the New Year. During this time two festivals take place, Yi Ping and Loi Krathang.

The festival of Yi Ping is usually held at the end of November where paper lanterns are lit and released in to the sky to say goodbye to any misfortune and negative energy from the previous year. The release of the lanterns can be seen as an act of releasing your bad luck and mistakes into oblivion.

It is believed if you make a wish when you release your lantern it will come true in the New Year provided you do good deeds.

If your lantern disappears into the night sky before the candle burns out, it is said that you will have good luck, but if it crashes and burns your luck will be bad.

To help us make wishes, promise to do good deeds and for good luck in the coming year we made, glass jar lanterns, paper lanterns and a 'stained glass' picture of floating lanterns in the night sky.



The tradition of Loi Krathang, translates to floating boats. Small boats made from banana leaves and filled with flowers have a lit candle placed in them and are floated down the river as a way of saying thank you for all the good fortune in the previous year.

News from Hazel Class

We made and decorated little origami boats, before lighting and releasing them down our own river.

This week's table facts to learn

$$9 \times 9 = 81$$

$$7 \times 6 = 42$$

$$9 \times 6 = 54$$

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

Weekly home activities

Spellings, you should have found a weekly spelling job 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 weekend.

The Hazel Team



News from Yew Class

I hope that you all had a restful holiday last week and are gearing up for the lead up to Christmas now!

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing to look at addition and subtraction calculations as well as word problems associated with them. Ask your child how the below example is solved.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2754 \\ - 1562 \\ \hline 1192 \end{array}$$

In English, we have almost finished our topic on the Boy in the Tower. Next week we will write our final piece linked to our work on the book.

In PE, this term, we will be playing rugby on the field in Friday's lessons. Please, therefore, could your child bring in a PE kit that they do not mind getting dirty if the weather deteriorates over the next few weeks. Thank you.

On Wednesday we, as a school, had our 'Festivals of Light' Enrichment Day. In Year 5 we focussed on the Jesse Tree where we discussed some of the stories from the Old Testament and the messages that they convey. We then interpreted the messages through pictures, designed our own symbols to put on our own Jesse Tree and tried to show the stories through drama too. I've included a selection of photos of the class working hard on the day.

Homework will be set this Friday and should be completed by Friday 15th November. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 5 Team



News from Yew Class



News from Oak Class

Welcome back after half term, we hope you all had a restful break.

We have started back this half term with a special R.E. day on Wednesday with the title 'Festivals of Light'. Each class took a different festival involving light from a variety of religions and investigated the way that these festivals are celebrated. In Year 6, we were allocated the study of Bible scripture focused on the word 'Light'. We took this opportunity to produce some artwork demonstrating our learning using stencilling and paint.

In Science, we have started a new topic 'Animals Including Humans'. This week we have set up another experiment that will run over the half term (exactly as our microorganism growth experiment did last half term) to investigate the impact of exercise on the functioning of the human body. If you have a moment, please ask your children to describe this experiment to you and perhaps share their predictions.

We have also been lucky enough to have a visit from Mr Sinden this week. He is a local Shackleton expert who came in to share details about his visit to the Antarctic with us. He was very knowledgeable and spent a great deal of time answering the questions that we had prepared for him.



In Geography we began our unit of learning on mountains. We located mountain ranges around the world and used geographical vocabulary to label the different features, eg, peak, summit, slope, base, valley etc We are looking forward to learning more about Mount Everest and Kilimanjaro in particular.



Year 6 have been helpful in plans for our Remembrance Day service next week where they will have a special role. They have enjoyed gathering donations for the Royal British Legion this week in the sale of poppies.

Thanks for your continued support.

The Year 6 Team