



Message from Mrs Housden:

What a fabulously festive week we have had! Acorn and Ash did three super performances of their nativity Angel Express at the start of the week, showing lots of talent for the stage. The rest of the school also thoroughly enjoyed watching their dress rehearsal performance.

It was all hands on deck for a fantastic Christmas lunch on Thursday. Huge thanks to our wonderful kitchen team for a delicious meal that the children thoroughly enjoyed! It was great to see such a wide range of Christmas jumpers in action too, along with some festive headwear (from staff as well as children). I would like to thank both the PTA and Tesco Extra Royston for providing the crackers between them.

Finally, what a brilliant display of talent again earlier today from our Rocksteady band members who performed both to the school and then parents. Lots of practice and hard work on display and the bands absolutely had Steeple Morden rocking!

One more week to go with our carol services to look forward to and then a well deserved rest for all!

Have an excellent weekend,

**Mrs Alex Housden,
Headteacher**

Congratulations to this week's Stars of the Week:

Poppy, Johnny, Millie, Bernie and Teddy

Regular articles

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Diary Dates | 2 |
| Noticeboard..... | 3 |
| Acorn | 5 |
| Ash..... | 6 |
| Birch..... | 8 |
| Hazel..... | 9 10 |
| Yew | 12 |
| Oak | 13 |

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD

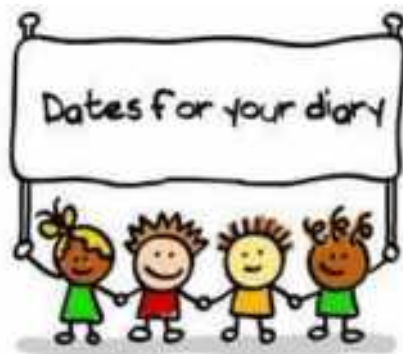
Phone: 01763 852474

E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



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



| Date | Event information |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 17 th December | KS2 Carol Service 9.15am and 5.30pm (by candlelight) Parents/carers are invited to attend. |
| Friday 20 th December | Last day of term |
| Monday 6th January | INSET DAY—School closed to children |
| Tuesday 7th January | Spring Term begins |

Christmas Raffle

We held our first two raffles this week at the Nativity performances and will have a raffle at each of the carol services on Tuesday. Raffle tickets will be on sale at each event for £2 a strip and drawn at the end of the event. Cash only please.

I would like to thank Tesco Extra Royston for donating a raffle prize, alongside Grey & Co who also donated a wax melt set. More of their wonderful gifts can be found at www.greyandcogift.co.uk

Also thank you to the parents who provided raffle items, these were vital in being able to create the raffle hampers!

PTA Christmas Gifts

Our fantastic PTA have given £40 to each class for teachers to purchase a Christmas present or two for the class. These will be delivered by our Year 6 Christmas 'Elves' and shared with classes at the end of next week. I'm sure the children will be excited to tell you what their class received and thank you for your continued support of the PTA to enable us to be able to do these things..

Notice Board

School Meal Prices

Please be aware that the cost of a school meal will be rising to £2.60 as from January 2024.

Thank you!

Thank You to all the children who have helped raise a total of £902.40. Your hard work undertaking fitness circuits, with Paralympian Sean Rose, who visited us last half term, means we will be able to buy some new sports equipment for you to use.

How can you help children with their body confidence?

We get asked that question a lot during our **free** healthy lifestyle programme, Beezee Families. And because we work with so many families like yours, we understand the challenges of body positivity. So, as a parent or carer, what can you do to help?

- **Become a role model** – look in the mirror with your child and say three positive things about your bodies.
- **Health matters** – promote nutrition, exercise and good sleep.
- **Celebrate diversity** – teach your children about different body types, abilities and cultures.
- **Personal qualities** – value kindness, intelligence and creativity.
- **Express themselves** – encourage your children to use art, music, sport or play for self-expression.
- **Misleading media** – help your children see beyond unrealistic images of body and beauty.

Want more free health and wellbeing tips?
Check out our website to find out more.

Scan the code
...or click here to find out more

Sign up today!

Beezee FAMILIES | **WARRINGTON LOCAL AUTHORITY** | **WARRINGTON TRUST**

The image provided by Beezee Families Ltd.

Smarties Christmas Holiday Club 2024

To book please use the following link:

<http://forms.office.com/e/EcFTc6ZZdi>



Mon 23rd Dec

Christmas crafts, Santa plates, reindeer food and cookie in a jar mix, The Grinch stole Christmas

Fri 27th Dec

Smarties cozy PJ day
Ginger bread houses, mug decorating and coco sticks

Mon 30th Dec

Let it snow Snow globes, melted snowmen, fake snow and more..

Thurs 2nd Jan

Peterpan themed day and panto at the Gordon Craig (non HAF children all day booking is required plus £10 for panto)

Fri 3rd Jan

New year party and craft along side winter warming soup and bread challenge



Haf Places are available Along with 4 hour sessions for Haf Children

New to Smarties on a trial basis for christmas only need a few hours child care Smarties are now offering a new hourly rate of £5 (not include food)

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

10% Sibling discount except panto day



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

News from Acorn Class

Hello from Acorn Class!

Well didn't they do well?! Our Nativity performances brought laughter and tears from the audiences across all three performances! The Sheep were Shepherded expertly, the Donkey guided Mary and Joseph knowledgeably all the way to Bethlehem, the Innkeepers said their lines carefully and acted their



parts effectively, the Camels carried the Kings comfortably and the Angels spoke and sang songs confidently. We hope you enjoyed the performances as much as we did!

Next week, the children will enjoy a final Autumn Term week with a focus on CHRISTMAS! They will enjoy lots of festive themed activities across the week. Due to illnesses this week we have been slightly delayed in sending out assessment details. Please bear with us and the fo-

cus for homework will be sent home by the end of next week based on knowledge gaps from the children's' assessments. Thank you for your patience.

With our final week on the horizon, please prepare yourselves for tears and tantrums as the excitement of Christmas reaches fever pitch and tiredness takes over! Please ensure your child brings a cardigan/ jumper into school every day as well as warm coats, gloves and hats for outdoor play.

We hope you all have a restful weekend (we've almost made it)!

Each child has a photo of themselves in their nativity costume inside their blue reading records for you to keep. Also if you have any reading books at home, please bring them into school next week as we will be collecting them in before Christmas. Any you find, please bring them in as they cost lots of money to replace. Thank you.

The Acorn Class Team



News from Ash Class

Hello from Ash Class!

We hope that you all enjoyed our nativity performances. The children did so well learning their lines and remembering song words in addition to showcasing all of their acting skills. All of the adults in class were very proud of them. Thank you for your help in practising all of these things and providing costumes.

Ash Class will now be able to enjoy being part of the Church Carol Service on Tuesday next week where they will be able to join in with some of the whole school singing that they have been practising in our daily Collective Worship in the hall.

It was also lovely to see the children shine today in their two Rocksteady Concerts where they performed confidently in front of a very large audience.

Somehow we have also managed to complete a series of assessments this week which will give us a very clear picture of where your child is with their learning. It will enable us to plan ahead for next term. The children have tackled all the 'fun' tasks with enthusiasm and focus and it is great to see that they are all making lots of progress.

We think Ash class are ready for a well earned rest this weekend!

The Ash Class Teaching Team



Drawing comes naturally to young children. Drawing is fundamental to their learning, to remember concepts, to grow, and understand the world around them. It is a powerful tool that taps into visual, kinesthetic, and linguistic areas of the brain at the same time, and establishes more neural connections than writing or reading alone. Our art club helps children retain and develop their drawing abilities and sustain their enthusiasm for self-expression and creativity.

Dear parents and carers,

Please find below the **SPRING TERM 2025** Art Program.

Booking essential: [Booking Steeple Morden art project](#)

Steeple Morden CoE Controlled Primary School, Royston

Thursdays 3.15 - 4.30

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 are welcome.

SPRING TERM 2025

For details about the project and learning objectives please click on the pictures.



January - February 2025

Animal Farm

Inspiration: Renaissance German painter Albrecht Dürer

Content: Drawing farm animals

Medium: Dry pastels

Young Hare, 1502, watercolour and gouache, 25 x 22.5 cm, Albrecht Dürer



March 2025

London calling

Inspiration: Venetian Italian artist Canaletto

Content: Drawing scenes London imagery

(a black cab, a double-decker bus, the wheel, a telephone booth)

Medium: Oil pastels

'The River Thames with St. Paul's Cathedral On Lord Mayor's Day' c. 1740 by Canaletto in Venetian style.

Spring 1 - 6 weeks (£66): January 9, 16, 23, 30 February 6, 13

Spring 2 - 6 weeks (£66): February 27 March 6, 13, 20, 27 April 3

For more detailed information about the club, visit the website

www.myafterschoolartclub.com

Do not hesitate to contact me by email at welcome@myafterschoolartclub.com or by phone on **07 581 185 965** should you have any questions. *Nathalie*

News from Birch Class

This week, our history lessons have been centered around the life of the Ancient Egyptians. We examined images of ancient artefacts, which provided intriguing insights into the daily lives, beliefs, and cultural practices. In our Geography lessons we have been exploring the nature of different sized settlements.

We have carried out a number of assessments this week and children have worked hard to show me what they know and also help us to plan future lessons around what your children need to know.

Thank you for your work at home with your child to rehearse their lines, if they have them, for our KS2 Christmas Service next Tuesday. We are dealing with any costumes in class so there is no need to rush out and buy fancy dress! Children are to come in their school uniform please to both the morning and evening service.

Next week we will be focusing on multiplication and division in our Maths lessons and in our English lessons we are concentrating on factual writing. Reading Dorling Kindersley style non-fiction books can help children become familiar with this style of writing.

The Birch Class Team

News from Hazel Class

In English we have started looking at instructions and creating a guide to make a roman soldier as Davey did in the Roman Beanfeast.

So far we have thought carefully about what features need to be in an instructional text and had a practice at writing instructions that use imperative verbs, adverbs and fronted adverbials.

Next week we will continue with instruction writing.

In Maths we have still been thinking about multiplication and division; how known facts can help us solve what at first would seem challenging calculations, but with a bit of thinking and application of known facts, turns out to be not so tricky after all, eg, $36 \times 5 =$

In Science we have had another think about electricity and electrical circuits. We have learnt some of the standardised symbols used to draw a diagram of an electrical circuit, created circuits with a switch to light a bulb and started a design for a simple electrical lamp.

In some other lessons:-

We have assessed our learning of this half term's topics. We were all pleased with how much we had learnt and enjoyed talking about all the fun learning we have done.



Next week we will be applying some of our developed skills to Christmas activities.

Please over the weekend practise any lines that are needed for the church service on Tuesday. Rehearsals have gone very well so far.

News from Hazel Class

This week's table facts to learn

$$8 \times 5 = 40$$

$$5 \times 6 = 30$$

$$9 \times 8 = 72$$

$$7 \times 8 = 56$$

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 diary into school each day.

No earrings on Monday or Friday

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

The Hazel Team



Steeple Morden Church

Walking Nativity

Sunday 22 December 10 am

Meet at 68 Hay Street

Journey with Mary and Joseph to discover the Christmas Story! All children are welcome to dress up and join in the action.

**If you would like to be a narrator please contact Rosemary
07729 856128**



News from Yew Class

This week, in Maths, we have finished our unit on multiplication and division. Our next unit will be working on fractions.

In English, we are continuing with our unit of work based on the Australian book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea.' We analysed a persuasive text about deforestation, worked on adverbs of possibility and looked at converting nouns and adjectives into verbs by using suffixes. We are now at the point of writing a persuasive text based on deforestation and the cutting down of rainforests.

We have also finished our six Year 5 assessments in Reading, Maths and SPAG (spellings, punctuation and grammar) this week. The children worked well and some even enjoyed doing these tests with the Maths papers coming out as the favourite for the class.

Earlier in the week the class had a run through, with the rest of Key Stage 2, of the Christmas Service. Another one is scheduled for Monday with the two services taking place next Tuesday at 9.15am and 5.30pm. For the evening service the children will need to be back at school at 5.00pm please.

There will be no spelling homework set this week but there will be 3 Mathematics tests to complete. There will be a test on the 3 areas that we have completed this term (place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division). Also keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

Thank you.

The Year 5 Team

News from Oak Class

As you may have already heard this has been Assessment Week in Year 6. We have asked your children to do their best answering a full set of SATs test papers (three Maths papers and three English papers) under test conditions. The children have responded brilliantly and approached this work with focus and determination. We are in the process of marking these papers now and, when we have finished, the results will naturally be shared with your children and compared against their September scores. We are aiming to offer your children some reassurance that they are making clear progress towards their personal test goals in May.

Luckily, to give the children a well-deserved break from working in this way we have also been able to watch the KS1 Nativity performance dress rehearsal on Monday and enjoy the Rocksteady concert on Friday. It really has been a week of extremes! On Thursday, the whole school enjoyed a Christmas dinner together. Your children decided, as this will be their last Christmas dinner with us, to make a special card for the staff in the kitchen to show their appreciation for all their efforts with this special meal over the years. The card, along with three cheers was presented at the end of the meal and the kitchen staff were genuinely touched and grateful. Well done Year 6, we are very proud of you for the kindness that you are showing to others.

Thanks for your continued support.
Have a lovely weekend

The Year 6 Team.



XMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS

"Childcare during the holidays they want to go to"
 Fresh air. Fresh activities. Fresh attitude.

STUDLANDS RISE FIRST SCHOOL, ROYSTON

MONDAY 30 DEC
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
 A day of crazy imagination, storytelling & tasty treats! Build the chocolate factory of your dreams, build a marshmallow castle, toast frosted almonds around a fire & create yummy jewellery to take home. Plus, will you find one of the Golden Tickets?...

THURSDAY 2 JAN
XMAS CAMPFIRE COOKOUT & FIRELIGHTING
 Gather around the campfire for some winter treats! The kids will be cooking pancakes, brewing pine needle tea & toasting oranges over the campfire, plus having their firelighting skills with a range of different bushcraft techniques.

FRIDAY 3 JAN
BUSHCRAFT VS MINECRAFT
 Welcome to our popular day based around Minecraft & den making. The kids will work in a team & creatively problem-solve through building dens, earning reward tokens, playing the creeper game, & using our crafting table to build things with 'waxen' tablets around the overworld!

MONDAY 6 JAN
MEGA GAMES, SNOW MAKING, S'MORES & ART ATTACK
 A magical mix of mega field games, outdoors adventures & seasonal fun - it's what we're famous for! Toast oranges around the campfire to recharge between mega play time, make 'snow' balls to take home, & paint using water colours!

For more info & to book: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk/cambridge-royston



CREATIVE COURAGE FOR LIFE!

ENROLLING FOR THE NEW TERM

STAGECOACH ROYSTON AND BALDOCK

Singing, dancing and acting classes for 4 - 18 year-olds

Giving children and young people the Creative Courage to stand up on stage for over 35 years.

BOOK NOW

🌐 stagecoach.co.uk/royston
 ☎ 07743 356 219
 ✉ royston@stagecoach.co.uk