



## Message from Mrs Housden:

This week thoughts and preparations for the festive season have begun; with classes creating their Christmas trees for the festival at the Church this weekend and planning rehearsals for the carol service. I hope many of you will get a chance to visit St. Peter and St. Paul's Church over the weekend to see both the beautiful decorations our children have made, alongside a wonderful selection of trees by other community groups.

It was also fantastic to see so many parents at our open events for Reception 2025 children this week. It is always a joy to show off our school and I hope to welcome them back in the next school year!

### Attendance

New DfE guidance regarding how school's manage attendance was published in August 2024 called 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'. Following this, our attendance policy has been significantly updated to reflect the changes. The full attendance policy can be found on the school website via <https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/attendance>

Children of school age who are registered at a school must, by law, attend that school regularly. Regular attendance is the best way of ensuring that a child makes the most of the educational opportunities which are available to them. When a child is absent from school, they miss not only the teaching provided but are also less prepared for the lessons after their return. Term-time holidays will not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. Please see our attendance policy for what may be considered as exceptional circumstances.

**Timing reminders:** Classroom doors open at 8:40 am and the register is taken at 8:50 am. If your child arrives after 8:50 am (via the office) they will be marked as 'Late before the register closes' (L). If your child arrives after 9 am, they will be marked as 'Late after the register closes' (U). Codes will be included within your child's overall attendance figure.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or would like to discuss it in more detail, please contact the office to request a meeting.

Have a wonderful weekend,

**Mrs Alex Housden,  
Headteacher**

### Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:-

Aoibhin, Rosie, Lars, Elliott and Yasmin.

### Regular articles

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Diary Dates ..... | 2-3   |
| Noticeboard.....  | 4-5   |
| Acorn Class ..... | 7-8   |
| Ash Class.....    | 9     |
| Birch Class.....  | 10    |
| Hazel Clas.....   | 11-12 |
| Yew Class.....    | 15    |
| Oak Class.....    | 16    |

### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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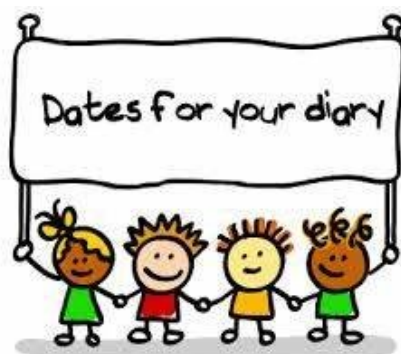
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Follow us on Instagram:  
[@steeplemordenprimary](https://www.instagram.com/steeplemordenprimary)



| Date  | Event information   |
|---|---|
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December                          | KS2 Cross Country at Milton Country Park (information for children participating has been sent via parentmail this morning)   |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December                           | Nativity Performances – 2.00pm and 5.15pm (Acorn & Ash class)<br>Specific information to follow   |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December                          | Christmas Lunch Day & Christmas Jumper Day – we invite children to wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform.<br>We will accept any voluntary donations to Save the Children UK as Christmas Jumper Day is a National event. |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Rocksteady Concert – 1.45pm<br>Parents/Carers of children who are in performing bands are invited to attend.  |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December                           | KS2 Carol Service - 9.15am and 5.30pm (by candlelight)<br>Parents/carers are invited to attend, specific details to follow  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Last day of term  |

## 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.

A Parentmail from the PTA will go out next week to let you know the deadline for drop-off and ideas for donations. Thank you.

# St Peter & St Paul Church, Steeple Morden



**11<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm***  
***(We are collecting good condition 2<sup>nd</sup> hand toys for a local***  
***Women's Refuge and Mary's Child charity)***

# Notice Board

## LOST PROPERTY

We went through our lost property bin this week. Only 2 items were labelled, the other 20 items in there had no label or name written on them!

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE LABEL OR WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON ALL THEIR BELONGINGS.**

Otherwise, we can't reunite them with your child.



# 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 £2+. 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](https://asda.com/cashpotforschools). Rewards T&Cs at [asda.com/rewards/terms](https://asda.com/rewards/terms). Ends 30/11/24

# Head Lice

Dear Parents/Carers

Please note that we are aware of a number of cases of head lice around the school. Please could we ask you to check and treat your child/children as required.

The NHS advice is as follows:

## **Wet combing**

**Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first.**

**You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. (The Nitty Gritty comb gets particularly good reviews)**

**There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:**

**wash hair with ordinary shampoo**

**apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)**

**comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends**

**It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.**

**Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.**

See also <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> for further information.

## News from Acorn Class

Hello everyone!

This week we have been looking at transport from the past and comparing it to transport from the present day. The children enjoyed looking at the photos of the transport from the past and learnt that the pictures were in black and white because the cameras could only take black and white photographs then – even though some of us were convinced everything was black and white in ‘the olden days.’

In Phonics this week we have learnt the following sounds: sh, th, ng and nk. We have been learning that the ‘th’ sound can make a soft sound like in the word thing and a hard sound like in the word this. In Maths, we have been looking at ‘one less’ with numbers up to 5. The children have been telling number stories where they have five objects, one breaks and now they have four. Some children even recorded number sentences to show their understanding!

Please remember to bring book bags into school every day. Inside your child’s book bag should be their homework folder with their school reading book, library book, graphemes (sounds) and harder to read and spell words. We use these homework folders at different points throughout the week so they do need to be in school all week. Thank you for your help with this.



The children are enjoying visiting the library each week. They will need to bring their library book into school on a MONDAY if they would like to swap it for another book. This book is for parents to read to children.

As the weather is getting colder, it is a good idea for children to be wearing layers. We go outside A LOT and if the children do not choose to go outside the door is still open so tights under dresses and skirts, vests under polo shirts are all welcomed. Please can we make sure that every child has a coat and jumper or cardigan in school every day. A perfect example of this is this week where the children had great fun exploring the

## News from Acorn Class

frozen water (ice) outside and making predictions about what might happen when it melts.

Show and Tell this week was the Oranges and they were brilliant! Next week it is the turn of the Apples. 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.

Have a great weekend and see you on Monday!

### The Acorn Class Team







## News from Ash Class

What a busy week it has been in Ash class.

We have enjoyed practising our mental maths skills by doubling numbers at speed and seeing doubles represented in all sorts of different ways.

The children have continued with some wonderful writing based on the story 'Supertato' which they are thoroughly enjoying.

It was lovely to visit the Church this morning to see all of the sparkling Christmas trees. Some Year 6 children came along to help us and we enjoyed spotting all of the different decorations which make the church look so magical.

We created some marvellous artwork this afternoon and we were very proud of the finished results.

Have a lovely weekend.

The Ash Class Team

## News from Birch Class

This week in Birch class in our English lessons we have been mapping the structure of a story and mapping character's feelings – this helps our writing to be more interesting so it is not just a list of events.

In Maths we have been working on efficient mental subtraction and addition strategies. For example to calculate  $28-9$  (nine steps), rather than counting backwards one by one we can subtract 10 and add 1 (two steps).

In our Geography lessons, we have been exploring different types of settlements, ranging from hamlets to mega cities. We have also begun to use computers to document some of our work.

We have enjoyed creating our class Christmas tree for the church, where we have used birch to make Christmas themed scenes on different levels – do pay a visit to the church over the weekend if you can (our tree is number 26 at the end of the isle). Thank you to parents who have helped with this.

### The Birch Class Team



## News from Hazel Class

In English, we started our work based on the book called 'The Roman Bean feast'; a rather entertaining tale of a boy called Davey, who wants to win the Roman prize in a school competition, however his 'know it all' neighbour, and peer, wishes to win the prize herself. Not only does Davey have to cope with Molly the neighbour, but his Dad is away and Mum is left at home juggling toddler twins whilst trying to help Davey with his Roman project.

We will be using this story to help us write diary entries; so far we have thought about how Davey feels, ordered the events in the story and listed useful fronted adverbials.

In Maths, we have started our new unit based on multiplication and division, already we are seeing the importance of knowing our times tables. We have tried using them to solve simple problems and calculations involving a multiplication between a two digit number and a one digit number eg,  $19 \times 3$ . Work on this will continue again next week.

In other lessons;

In Science, we have started work on electricity, we have investigated making a simple circuit to light a bulb along with materials that are insulators and conductors of electricity, we will develop our understanding next week.

In this half term's Art work we will be looking at still life, this week we found out what a still life is and a little about how long it has formed a discipline within art.

In Geography we are looking at settlements, so far we have compared hamlets, villages and cities.

In History we have been finding out about life in Ancient Rome, we have considered how large an empire Rome had and how the Romans managed to create it.

Now that we no longer swim on Monday, our second PE lesson is on a Friday, so no earrings Monday or Friday please.



## News from Hazel Class

### This week's table facts to learn

$$10 \times 12 = 120$$

$$0 \times 6 = 0$$

$$11 \times 11 = 121$$

$$9 \times 12 = 108$$

### 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 diary into school each day.

### No earrings on Monday or Friday

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

### The Hazel Team



# 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 T.B.C (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**

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

10% Sibling discount except panto day



New to Smarties only need a few hours child care  
Smarties are now offering a new hourly rate of £4



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

**SMARTIES PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL  
CLUB EVENT**



# CHRISTMAS

## Breakfast with Santa

10-12pm  
15th December 2024

- Gifts for children
- Breakfast included
- Biscuit decorating
- Making Reindeer food
- Christmas story with Santa (BSL translation available)

£10 per child with 1 accompanying adult.  
Extra adults £5 each

Please make us aware of any allergies



## News from Yew Class

This week, in Maths, we have been looking at factors, multiples and common multiples. This was an excellent chance for the class to work on some investigative mathematical work. For example, the class looked at factors, how many factors numbers had and the reasons why certain numbers had more factors than other numbers. We will be continuing to look at different types of number next week by studying square numbers and prime numbers.

In English, we have started our next unit of work based on the Australian book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea.' We studied the front cover and the blurb to see if they would give us any clues to what the book was about and if the language used was effective or could be improved. We also worked on a reading comprehension about the Daintree Rainforest in Queensland, Australia – the children enjoyed this activity.

Other topics we are studying this term include Incarnation in RE, the British Empire in History, mountains in Geography and air and water resistance in Science. Below are some pictures of some Celtic trinity knots which we made in RE lessons whilst discussing the Holy Trinity. Ask your child why we smashed an egg and cut up an apple in this lesson to explain the Holy Trinity.



Homework will be set this Friday and should be completed by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

Thank you.

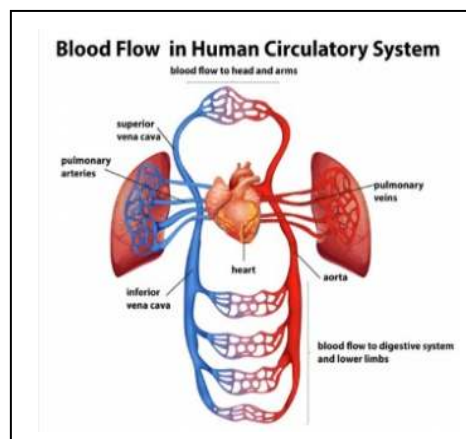
**Mr Baker and the Year 5 Team**

## News from Oak Class

In Maths this week, we have continued our work on division by looking at solving word problems involving division including multi-step problems. We have also spent some time learning about the order of operations, mental calculations and estimations. We also welcomed some visitors into school on Wednesday who demonstrated a mental maths game for us which have us the opportunity to not only demonstrate our subtraction skills but also to demonstrate that Year 6 do like competition!

In English, we have continued our work on 'Skellig' using the first few chapters of the book to practise our fact retrieval and then as a model text demonstrating how to create suspense and tension in our writing. We explored the techniques that David Almond uses to create this atmosphere in the book and then it was our turn to have a go! Taking a sentence that was completely lacking in atmosphere the children rose to the challenge of up levelling it until it was a paragraph full of apprehension and suspense.

In Science this week, we have started some work on the human circulatory system. The children were challenged to identify and name the main parts of the circulatory system and then we explored the function of each part.



In our Geography work this week we 'travelled' to the Himalayas and in particular to Mount Everest. We discovered that for a mountaineer, the challenge of reaching the summit is made so extreme by a number of factors including the high altitude and low oxygen levels, the risk of blizzards and avalanches, the extreme temperatures, the rough terrain to name but a few. We looked at some footage of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay and their successful ascent to the summit in 1953. One of the more surprising facts we discovered is that Mount Everest (in mountain terms) is 50 million years old but this is considered to be quite a 'young' mountain. There are much older mountains around the world, including in the UK, which were just as tall but these have been eroded over time. Well done to Poppy and Sophie who took on the roles of Mount Everest and Scafell Pike in our practical demonstration of this!

Thanks for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

The Year 6 Team.