



## Message from Mrs Housden:

This week, I had the pleasure of attending the induction of the new Reverend, Sam Perez as he joins the Shingay group of parishes. It was lovely to meet him in person and he is very much looking forward to coming into school soon and beginning to get to know the children.

We have also been busy preparing some songs for our Harvest Festival which will take place next Wednesday and some of the children have chosen to write some prayers of thanks as they have considered what we are thankful for in the world. For our Harvest Collection this year, we are asking those that are able to donate items which can be donated to a local food bank (non-perishables please). This could include; tins, rice, pasta, biscuits, cereal, rice cakes, crackers, nappies, baby wipes, long life milk or juice etc. From Monday, children will be able to bring their items in, these will be gathered together and following our Harvest Festival, they will be distributed between local food banks.



I am also thrilled to share with you that this week we have announced our House Captains. This is a new Year 6 role of responsibility being introduced this year, in which Year 6 children were invited to write a letter of application to become a House Captain. House Captains will represent the school in various ways throughout the year including parents evenings, new parent tours etc. House Captains for this year are; Ellie for Rosen, Thomas for Rashford, Olivia for Packham and Lawrence for Yousafzai.

Sports Captains have also been announced this week and they are: Poppy for Rosen, Yasmin for Rashford, Lucas for Packham and Freddie for Yousafzai. Congratulations to both groups and I look forward to working with you at various events throughout the coming year.

### Congratulations to this week's 'Stars of the Week'

**Miri, Johnny, Rex, Lexi and Olivia.**

Just a reminder that children are expected to be in full school uniform every day. This includes appropriate black school shoes and not trainers. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

There are a number of events coming up in the next few weeks which are mentioned in further detail in this edition of The Star.

Wishing you a restful weekend,

**Mrs Alex Housden,  
Headteacher**

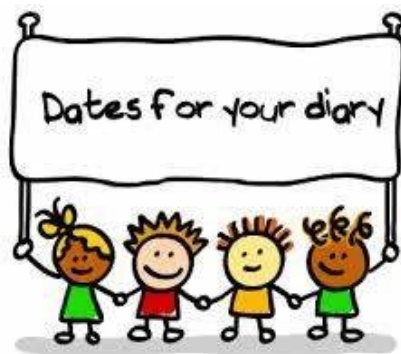
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### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Weds 9th October	Harvest Festival (school only, no parents on this occasion)
Thurs 10th October	Visit from Sean Rose, Paralympian
Mon 14th October	Year 5/6 Netball Competition (details to follow)
Tues 15th October	Parents Consultation Evening 3.30-6pm (info to follow via Parent Mail)
Weds 16th October	Parents Consultation Evening 4-7pm (info to follow via Parent Mail)
Fri 18th October	PTA Disco—see poster in The Star
Mon 28th October— Friday 1st November	HALF TERM
Saturday 2nd November	FIREWORKS Event (more information to follow)

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Autumn Term dates

**INSET:- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 & Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Half Term: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Holidays: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

### Spring Term dates

**INSET:- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Half Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Holidays: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

### Summer Term dates

**INSET:- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Summer Holiday: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July onwards



**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

## Paralympian Visit—Thursday 10th October

Our visitor will be arriving on site at approximately 8.45am. We will have reserved him a space in the car park to support his mobility requirements. We realise that children are arriving at school during this time (and have informed him), but please be aware and mindful that there may be a car entering the car park during drop off time.

## Guess the weight of the pumpkin!

You may have noticed that there is a rather large pumpkin growing in the garden at the front of the school. As a little competition at this time of Harvest celebrations, we are asking you to 'Guess the weight of the pumpkin', a grid will appear towards the end of next week for you to choose your weight. 20p a go and all proceeds will go towards buying vegetable seeds for our next planting.



<https://sites.google.com/site/gardeninginlouisianablog/home>

## Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?



**Beezee  
FAMILIES**

### We've got you covered!

Our free, Beezee Families healthy lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.



### Tuck into these healthy snacks:

- Two wholegrain crackers and tzatziki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs



- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Handful of dried fruit
- Dried apple slices (slice into 1/4 inch circles, bake at 200 degrees until dry)
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Apple slices with peanut butter.



### Want more healthy lifestyle support?

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.\*

Scan here

or

Click the link



[cap.maximusuk.co.uk](http://cap.maximusuk.co.uk)

 Healthy You

24-2314

\*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5 and up.

# PTA Notice Board

**DISCO**

**FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**DJ HAYLEY**

**£3 PER CHILD INCLUDING ENTRANCE, SNACK AND A DRINK**

**5PM – 6PM ACORN\*, ASH, AND BIRCH**  
**6:15PM – 7:15PM HAZEL, YEW, AND OAK**

Don't forget to add your child's name and home time arrangements to the message to merchant box.  
\*Acorn parents must stay.

**BOOK NOW**

Steeple Morden Church of England Primary School

[steeple-morden-pta.sumupstore.com/products](https://steeple-morden-pta.sumupstore.com/products)

## News from Acorn Class

Hello everyone,

Firstly, you should be very proud of your children. They have been amazing; settling into school life, listening and learning new rules and routines, meeting new people and learning people's names as well as lots of learning!

We have drawn a self-portrait, written our names, decorated a circle and created acorns and oak leaves for our class tree as well as joining in with singing, story time and continuous provision which you may have heard called 'COOL Time'. This means 'choose our own learning' time, which means the children are playing in the classroom demonstrating their understanding and learning new things. This week we have been completing jigsaw puzzles, playing with puppets, building using Mobilo, colouring in pictures of different people, using babies and family clothes in the Role Play Area and sharing books in the Reading Area, plus much more!



So far, we have learnt the following sounds: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k. These have all been sent home in your child's homework folder for you to practise at home. This practice is vital in helping your child remember each grapheme. We have also been learning harder to read and spell words such as a, the, put and no. These are in a separate folder inside your child's homework folder. As we mentioned at the Year Ahead Meeting and Phonics Workshop, you cannot sound out these words. The children just have to know them so practising these is a must! Every Friday we will change your child's reading book and add in the graphemes and harder to read and spell words we have learnt during the week.



In Maths, we have made it to 5! The children have been practising ordering numbers to five. If you have any games at home involving a dice, such as 'Snakes and Ladders' or 'Frustration,' have a go playing with your child to see if they recognise the numbers. Another fun game to play together is dominoes.

You may have heard your child talking about 'gold coins.' These are house points. The children can earn gold coins for a range of things from sitting ready on the carpet, to a

## News from Acorn Class

fantastic answer or a great piece of work. At the end of the week we add up all the house points and see which house has earned the most.

We are making a family book in school for the children to see each other's families. If you could send in a photo of your child's family - either a hard copy or an email, that would be great. Thank you to those families that have done so already.

Please can we make sure that every child has a coat and jumper or cardigan in school every day. Thank you.

Have a great weekend  
and see you on Monday.

**Acorn Class Team**



## News from Ash Class

It has been a very busy week of learning of Ash Class this week.

In Maths we have extended our knowledge of shape properties and solved riddles by playing the game 'Who am I?' when describing different shapes.

The children have also been working on a new traditional tale style text 'The Last Wolf' by Mini Grey. The text touches on how humans can damage the earth's forests and the children have been thinking about what they would wish their environment to look like.

In Geography the children have developed their map knowledge and, referring to our walk last week, started to compare human physical geography in the local area.

The highlight of the week for all has to have been the building of a Jenga style tower taller than Miss Blesic. We then used the blocks to continue with our number work looking at 2-digit numbers and recognising one more and one less.

As the weather is getting much colder, please can we remind all parents to ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day along with their reading folder and water bottle.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Ash Class Team**



## News from Birch Class

Welcome to Birch Class, we have an exciting term to look forward to, with lots of varied opportunities to try our best!

We have begun to learn about a period of history from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. In our Science lessons we are delving into practical work to learn about how to plan experiments through investigating how nutrition, skeletons and muscles work.

We have been finding out about Chinese culture, which is linked to our study of the mandarin language, which is spoken by so many people around the world. To begin with, we will be practising greetings and counting using the appropriate intonation. Our cooks have kindly made some Chinese food this week which we all tried.



This week in our art lessons we have been looking at lines, line weight and shading and have been drawing shells to practise these skills.

We are currently reading 'Run Wild' by Jill Lewis, which is a touching story all about a group of children finding a wolf. In our maths lessons we are becoming more secure with place value comparing numbers up to 1000 and focusing on our mathematical reasoning skills.

**Birch Class Team**

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2024  
St Peter & St Paul Church, Steeple Morden

Have you started planning your tree?  
If so get together with friends, family, clubs or organisations.  
We just bet you are 'pining' to show your talents.  
Help us to beat last year's 36 trees and make this year  
TREE-mendous.

Registration forms and festival details can be obtained from Anne Hassall,  
853490 – so what are you waiting for – give her a call now.

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 or Annie on 853829



## News from Hazel Class

In English, our work has been based on Ted Hugh's *The Iron Man*. So far, we have enjoyed the first few chapters of the story, enjoying the adventure and suspense created. We have spent some time describing the appearance of the iron man and the setting of the story. We are working towards writing a news script to report the events.

The Iron Man will be our main text for the half term, so work will continue on this next week.

In Maths, we have further developed our understanding of place value, by working with numbers to 10, 000. We have used different representations, exploring the relationships 'both ways' eg. 100 is 10 times the size of 10, and 1000 is 10 times the size of 100.



Place value work will continue again next week.

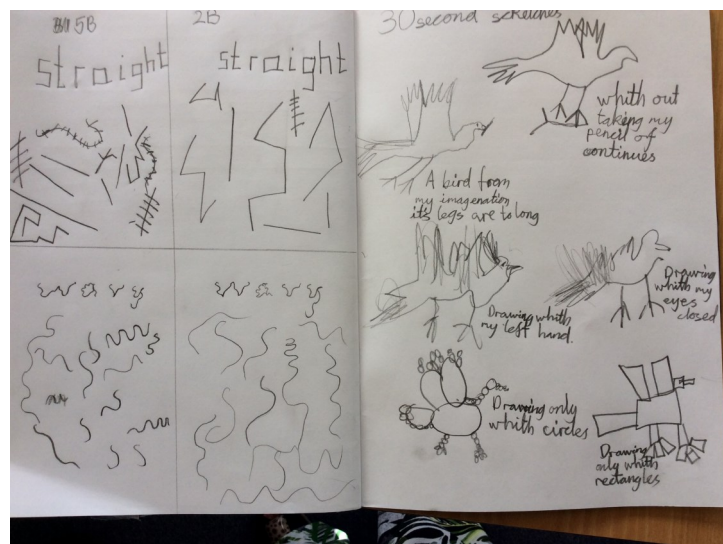
In other lessons...

In Science, we have started our unit of work on 'animals including humans' by finding out how our digestive system works and the importance of our teeth. Some of us have found the practical explanation a little revolting, but enjoyed it all the same.

In Art, we have been thinking about line and how it can be used to show pattern, shape and form, along with how artists use sketchbooks to record their ideas.

History has seen us thinking what life was like in the early Stone Age and mid Stone Age; what evidence is there of this and what does it tell us?

Geography this half term is entitled 'Spatial Sense.' We have looked at a compass and how this helps us with direction and location, along with how maps use symbols to show what is in our local location.



Thank you for those who attended the year ahead meetings, for those that could not make it, I hope you found the written information helpful, but if you have any questions please catch me briefly at the end of the day or email through the school office.

## News from Hazel Class

### This week's table facts to learn

$$6 \times 6 = 36$$

$$7 \times 6 = 42$$

$$8 \times 6 = 48$$

$$12 \times 6 = 72$$

### Weekly home activities

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

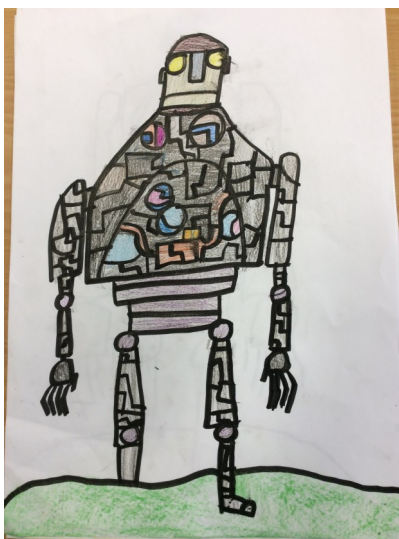
Send books and diaries into school each day.

**Please remember to remove earrings on Mondays for PE and swimming!**

Many thanks for your support and input for a positive start to the academic year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

### Hazel Class Team



## News from Yew Class

Welcome to Year 5.

The typical day, in Year 5, runs as follows:

After morning collective worship the class partake in reading activities. This also gives me the chance to hear some children read and discuss their book.

Next, we complete our maths activities. Over the last two weeks, we have started looking at place value in Maths and numbers up to 1,000,000 before going onto rounding numbers. Also, on the majority of days, when the children arrive in class in the morning, they will be given a maths activity that I call '5-a-day Maths', which does contain differentiated questions, for them to work on at the beginning of the day.

In English (usually after break and before lunch) we are currently studying the book 'Boy in the Tower'. We are reading the book and are discussing different aspects and all the features and punctuation associated with it. When we have completed this the children will write a text linked to the book. Spellings will also be looked at up to three times a week too. This will be the pattern of our English lessons throughout the year.

In the afternoons we focus on the other curriculum subjects. For example, we have started looking at the creation story in RE, forces in Science and we have also looked at the geography of Germany in preparation for our German lessons. In PE lessons (Monday and Friday), we are working on developing our gymnastics and tennis skills.

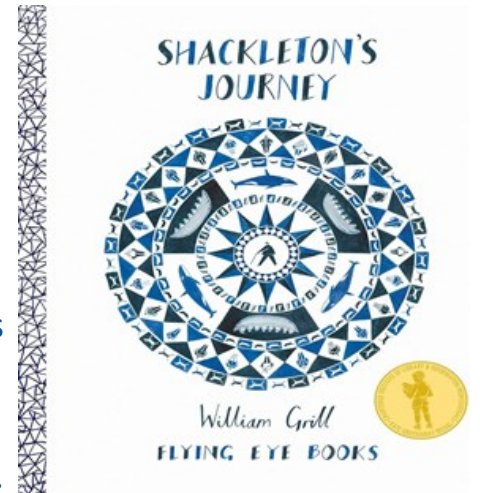
Homework is set on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. This term the children will be working on Mathematics and spellings. This week they should be completed by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – thank you. They should also continue to read from their reading book as well as learning their times tables – these are crucial to their development mathematically.

Thank you.

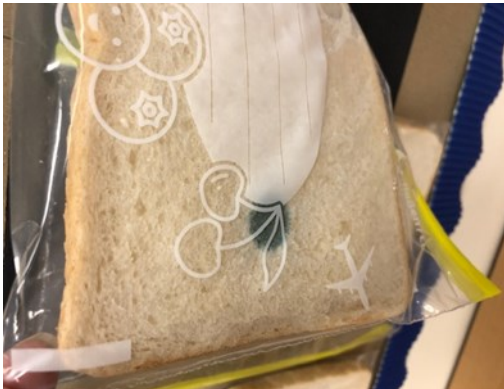
**Yew Class Team**

## News from Oak Class

In English this week, we have used the time that we have spent studying Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition in 1914 to inform our writing. We have gathered a lot of information by reading and thoroughly enjoying the book 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill over the past few weeks. We are now working on writing setting descriptions of the uninhabited side of Elephant Island, focusing on incorporating plenty of figurative language and experimenting with using semi-colons to join main clauses.



In Maths, we have continued our work on place value by comparing and ordering numbers to 1,000,000 and have learnt how to round up to this number. The highlight of the week was an extremely competitive set of 'rounding games' that took place on Wednesday in our maths lesson!



In Science, we are concentrating this half term on the study of microorganisms. We have set up an experiment to explore microbial growth; you may already have heard about the various stages of bacterial growth that we have been observing in class over the past few weeks.

Have a lovely weekend,

**Oak Class Team**