



Message from Mrs Housden:

Well there are two weeks left of the term and what a busy two weeks they are set to be! Nativity performances, carol services, Christmas dinner, Christmas Jumper Day and Rocksteady Concerts. I am looking forward to seeing so many of you at these upcoming events and can't wait for you to continue to see the children of SMPS shine!

This week, almost half of key stage two attended Milton Country Park to represent the school in the small schools cross-country competition. They all did exceptionally well and displayed our school values; resilience—keeping going and all determined to complete the race, compassion—for one another when someone was disappointed in their result, and excellence—for the way in which they represented the school and for some stand-out results. Please see more details about results on pages 6 and 7.

This week in collective worship we began talking about advent; both the modern day associations and the traditional Christian meaning. We were lucky enough to have the 'travelling nativity' from St Peter and St Paul's with us and on display in the hall for the week before it moves on to visit the next group of people.

Have a restful weekend,

**Mrs Alex Housden,
Headteacher**

Congratulations to this week's Stars of the Week and all of our Cross Country competitors.

Regular articles

Diary Dates	2
Noticeboard.....	3
Acorn	4-5
Ash.....	8
Birch	10
Hazel	11
Yew	12
Oak	14

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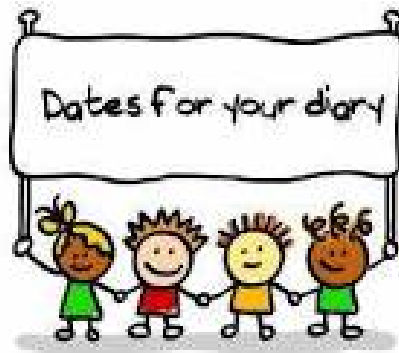
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Date	Event information
Tuesday 10 th December	Nativity Performances – 2.00pm and 5.15pm (Acorn & Ash classes) Look out for the parentmail about booking seats—2 available per family for each performance.
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Lunch Day & 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—doors open at 1.35pm. Parents/Carers of children who are in performing bands are invited to attend. A parentmail has been sent about booking seats.
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Carol Service - 9.15am and 5.30pm (by candlelight), Children need to be back to school by 5.00pm for the evening performance. Please look out for any readings in bookbags that children need to practise at home.
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term
Monday 6th January	INSET DAY—School closed to children
Tuesday 7th January	Spring Term begins

Notice Board

Christmas Post Box

The Christmas post box will be up and running from **Monday 9th December** for children to post their school-based Christmas cards in. Please make sure that names and classes are on the envelopes to ensure that our Year 6 delivery helpers get your cards to the right place!

Winter Greenhouse Project

Mrs Holley is still working on creating a greenhouse out of 2 litre plastic bottles. She needs your help in collecting enough 2L bottles, there is a red box on the walkway up to school for collection of these.
Thank you in advance

Christmas Raffle ~ FINAL CALL!

Final call for items for the Christmas Raffle—these could include items for a Christmas hamper e.g. biscuits, bottle of alcohol, chocolates, or individual raffle items such as a gift set, candle etc. If you have a link to a business who are able to provide a raffle prize, we would be happy to discuss including a mention/advert in a future Star. Raffle items can be brought in to the school office.
Raffle tickets (£2 a strip, cash only) will be on sale at each event and drawn (most likely) at the end of the event.

Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

Ahead of Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday, we have decided to hold a Christmas Jumper Swap Shop. If you have old children's Christmas jumpers that no longer fit, please bring them in to the school office from Monday 9th December, we will organise and have them ready to be 'swapped' from Tuesday 10th December.

Church Carol Services—can you help with refreshments?

KS2 Carol service - we would love to provide hot drinks and cakes at the two carol services. If you are able to help at the morning service please contact Simon Cox or the evening service Steph Barrett. Any cake donations can be dropped at the school the day before or the morning of the event. Many thanks for your support.

News from Acorn Class

Happy Advent from Acorn Class!

This week we have been Nativity focused... learning the actions to go alongside the song words, learning stage directions and how to behave when on and off the stage. The children have tried so hard with their performance etiquette and hopefully they shine next week for their performances.

In Phonics this week we have been reviewing our learning up to this point. The children have been assessed on their GPC knowledge and their blending skills. Next week we will also assess the 'Harder to Read and Spell' words and then we will send their gaps home for you to practise over the Christmas holidays.



We had a very exciting visitor this week, Jingle our Class Elf. Jingle has made us laugh at all of the different shenanigans he has gotten up to and each day we have looked forward to spotting him around the room.

Due to Nativity fever, we put a hold on our Library visit this week. The children will be able to choose a new Library book next week.

It is well and truly cough, cold and nit season! Please check your child's hair regularly and remember to keep long hair tied up.

News from Acorn Class

Also remember to read the guidance around treatment, one treatment usually needs to be followed up with another. Please remind your child about good hand washing hygiene and wiping their noses and covering their mouths when they cough.

Show and Tell this week was the Grapes group and they were brilliant! Which brings our Autumn Term Show and Tell to a close, we look forward to next half term's offerings!

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Acorn Class Team



Milton Country Park Cross Country Competition



Cross-Country Competition

On Wednesday 48 students set off to Milton Country Park for the annual South Cambridgeshire Schools Partnership Cross Country competition. There were competitors from 16 schools in total and the conditions were perfect – cold and sunny above and not too wet underfoot. The children were excellent throughout and gave their very best in a competitive and fair field. They all did well but special congratulations must be given to Lucas for finishing second in the Year 5 Boys race, Johnny for finishing third in the Year 3 Boys race and Anabelle for her third place finish in the Year 3 Girls competition.

There was also a team event and we didn't receive the final confirmed results until Thursday. The Year 5/6 team finished third behind Haslingfield and Girton and the Year 3/4 team WON the overall competition ahead of Great Abington and Barrington. So well done to all runners – you did us proud.

A full break down of the team results were as follows:

Year 6 Boys = 2nd

Year 6 Girls = 12th

Year 5 Boys = 1st

Year 5 Girls = 2nd

Year 4 Boys = 6th

Year 4 Girls = 2nd

Year 3 Boys = 1st

Year 3 Girls = 3rd

Thanks to Mr Beavan, Mr Baker, Mrs Weddepohl and Mrs Holley and all the parent volunteers who came along to help, organise and cheer on Steeple's successful athletes.

Further information on the race can be found on the South Cambs School Sports Partnership website: <https://scssp.co.uk/runners-take-on-cross-country-at-milton-country-park/>

Leon Baker

PE Subject Leader



News from Ash Class

This week the children have been very busy rehearsing for the nativity performances and are very excited for you to see it next week. We have completed some in-class quizzes and enjoyed using the colourful booklets.

Towards the end of the week, we have made a Christmas wreath and accurately labelled the advent candles. Each day we have opened a window of our advent calendar made with the gospel of Luke in mind. So far, we have had an angel, a star and some scriptures.

We hope you have a restful weekend ahead of next week and look forward to seeing you at school on Monday for our nativity performance to the school!

The Ash Class Team

Steeple Morden Church

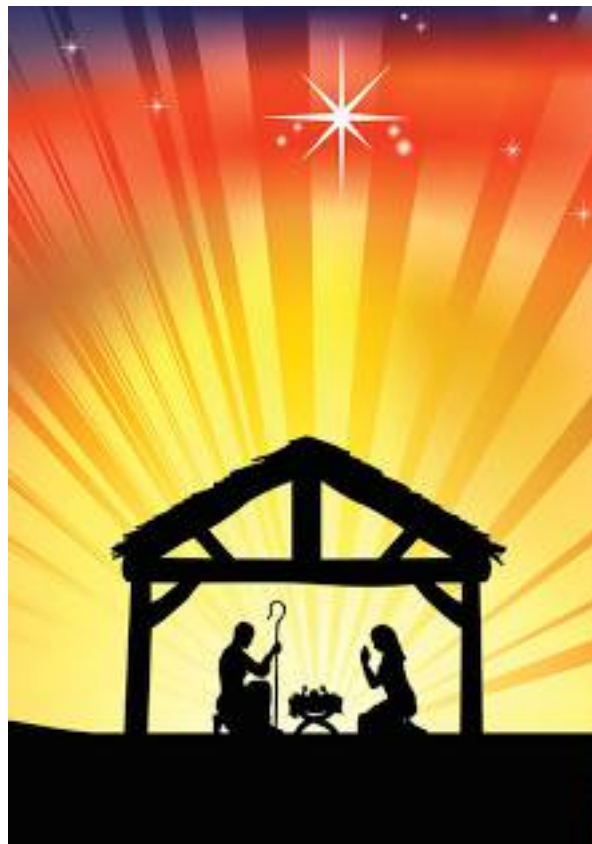
Walking Nativity

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 Birch Class

In our English work this week we have continued to develop our narratives based on the book 'The Bog Baby' and we are currently re-drafting our work, which involves some revision and re-organisation of the text. The children have enjoyed listening to the other children read their own work and have been inspired to make changes so their text is more interesting for the reader.

A number of children from the class took part in a competitive cross-country event against other local schools in Cambridgeshire. They showed great resilience and supported each other and this extended to supporting children from other schools. Thank you to the parents who were able to support us with the running of this event (no pun intended).

We have continued our exploration of rocks in our science lessons -finding out more about how sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks are formed and the role of the 'rock cycle.'

Next week we will be focusing on multiplication and division in our maths lessons and will be playing some mini-matches in our Tag rugby lessons.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Mr Beavan and the Birch Class Team

News from Hazel Class

In English and Maths, we have worked very hard on assessments applying all of our learning from Years three and four.

Next week we will be thinking about instruction writing and continuing with multiplication and division.

In some other lessons:-

In Geography we took on the role of town planners and in groups designed and built our own towns. In order to create a successful town we needed to think about housing, schools, health care, job opportunities, leisure and entertainment, transport, open spaces... the list went on. It took far more planning and thought than we initially imagined.

In Art we looked carefully at the work of Paul Cézanne, focussing on his still life of fruit. He created many pieces of art work using apples and oranges, he was very interested in their shape and form. He said 'with an apple I will astonish Paris ...' (he did manage to do this, but unfortunately not in his own lifetime.)

We have also found out the meaning behind advent, some of the traditions behind this time and how it is celebrated. Mrs Holley (with some helpers) made an advent wreath for the whole school to share.

This week's table facts to learn

$$12 \times 12 = 144$$

$$6 \times 9 = 54$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$3 \times 7 = 21$$

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 work set 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.

Mrs Seward the the Year 4 Teaching Team

News from Yew Class

This week, in Maths, we have looked at multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000. We have almost finished this unit and our next unit, which we will start before the Christmas break will be fractions.

In English, we are continuing with our unit of work based on the Australian book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea.' We read and listened to a poem called 'There's a 'Rang-Tan' in my bedroom' and discussed all of the emotions that it made us feel (which were very varied) and looked at evidence to back this up.

This week the class started to work through some of the Year 5 assessments. The tests will focus on Reading, Maths and SPAG (spellings, punctuation and grammar). These will continue into next week as well.

Well done to all those in the class who competed in the cross country event on Wednesday at Milton Country Park—look out for the full results on page 7.

Homework will be set this Friday and should be completed by Friday 13th December. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

Thank you.

The Year 5 Team

Sing, Make, Play presents.....



Music Explorers (KS2)

at

Stevenage Music Centre



Fun, 1 hour sessions, where members build on their general music skills, creativity and understanding, through singing, musical activities and games.

Suitable for pupils in years 3 to 6

Saturdays

10.15am - 11.15am



Location :

Stevenage Music Centre
Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage
SG2 0HS

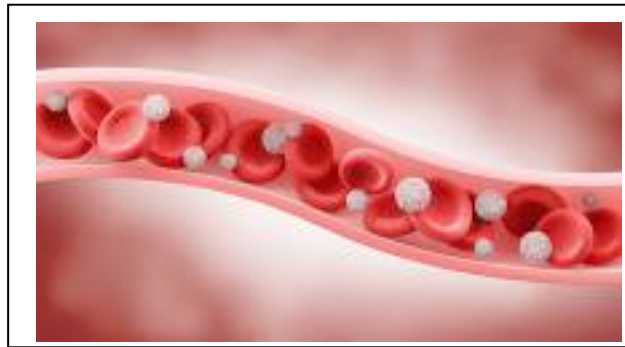
To sign up please scan the QR code

News from Oak Class

In Maths this week, we have continued our work on fractions; ordering and comparing fractions firstly using the denominators, then the numerators. We then moved onto adding and subtracting fractions using a variety of methods.

It is now time in English to bring together all that we have been learning this half term about creating atmosphere, suspense and tension in our own extended piece of writing. We spent the early part of the week carefully deciding on a suitable setting and then generating and gathering words, phrases and examples of figurative language that would help us when writing. As the week progressed, we then began to carefully write, edit and refine a piece of work that would demonstrate our understanding of all that we had learnt.

In Science, we have continued to deepen our understanding of the human circulatory system by looking at the structure and function of blood and blood vessels. We have started to research where blood is made, what it is made of, what it carries around the body and blood groups. The children are working hard to present their findings clearly to the rest of the class using a PowerPoint presentation that will be shared with the class next week.



In Geography we have been travelling around the world studying different mountain ranges, from the Andes to the Appalachians, from the Himalayas to the Ethiopian Highlands. We now have a much clearer understanding of what we mean when we read that mountains are 'young' or 'old' and how their age affects their elevation about sea level. We found out that Mount Kilimanjaro is not part of a mountain range at all – it stands alone.

We have been hearing the younger children in school rehearsing for their Nativity next week and we too have been discussing preparations for our Church Carol Concert on Tuesday 17th December. There are two concerts – one at 9.15am and one at 5.30pm. We would like all children to return to school to walk to church for the evening candlelit service and would be very grateful if you could let us know if this will not be possible for any reason for your child. Children need to be back in school by 5.00pm. Year 6 will be singing carols and some children have readings that they will bring home to practise. Have a lovely weekend.

Thanks for your continued support.

The Year 6 Team

All money raised for The Children's Society...

A CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

which also tells the Christmas story -
but YOU must help us do it!



Come and help us fill the gaps!

**AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH ON
SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER
AT 4.30PM**

(Tea, squash,
mince pies and
biscuits after the
service too!)