



## Message from Mrs Daniels:

It hardly seems possible that we have reached half term already but what an action packed six weeks it has been. One of the highlights this week involved Years 3 to 6 and a personal development challenge. The children were asked to choose from a range of activities but to make a choice based on something new that they might like to try to learn.

Choices included yoga, gardening, cookery, photography, papercraft and board games. A fun morning of new learning was enjoyed by everyone and the children particularly enjoyed working with children from different classes and developing their resilience in tackling new skills and challenges. The weather itself provided a challenge and so indoor gardening in Year 5 took quite a lot of organising!

Well done to all classes this week for their hard work doing half termly assessments, - spelling tests, phonics, reading, writing, tackling tables and sporting challenges.

The JTAs have enjoyed their week promoting 'Walk to School Week' and today delivered lots of 'bugs' and stickers to classes. Thank you for your support with this.

We said goodbye to Mrs Carter this week who has left us to start work on a new venture. The children wrote some thoughtful messages to her and remembered their time with her working in Year 1 over the past seven years. She will be missed.

I'd like to wish everyone a relaxing half term holiday. We will see everyone back in school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June ready for the final seven weeks in school of this academic year. The calendar is already looking very full, particularly for the children in Year 6. Many thanks for your kind messages and continued support to all of the teaching team.

Jo Daniels  
Acting Co-Headteacher

### Regular articles

Diary Dates .....	2-4
Noticeboard.....	5-7
Starlings (Reception) .....	8
Robins (Year 1).....	10-11
Owls (Year 2).....	12
Peacocks (Year 3).....	13-14
Swifts (Year 4).....	17
Hérons (Year 5).....	18
Puffins (Year 6).....	19
Assemblies & Collective Worship n/a .....	
Community News.....	21

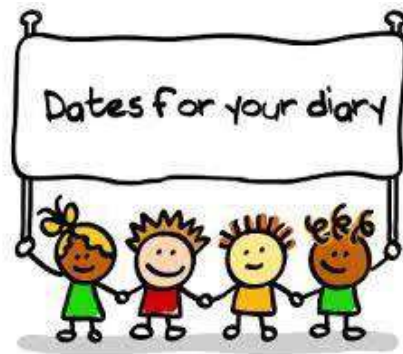
### Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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*"Believe you can and you're halfway there."*

*Theodore Roosevelt*



**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May - Half Term Holiday**

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	INSET Day
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> June	'Quadkids' Small Schools – Wilberforce Road Athletics Track, Cambridge
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June – Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonic Screening Check
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Visit – Ryemeads RSPB Centre
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (Yousafzai/Packham)
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (Rashford/Rosen)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception Parents Meeting – timings tbc
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Cricket Competition
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> July – Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Bikeability
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Rocksteady Concert - tbc
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> July	PTA Event – Outdoor Cinema Event
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Performance (afternoon)
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Performance (evening)
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Reports home to parents
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	Potential Year 6 Party – date and time tbc
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 to BVC
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 to BVC Year 6 Parents Meeting (at BVC)
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers Assembly Final Day of Term!

### School Meal Charges Summer 2024

Daily:	£2.40
Weekly:	£12.00
1st half term	£67.20
2nd half term	£81.60
Whole term	£148.80

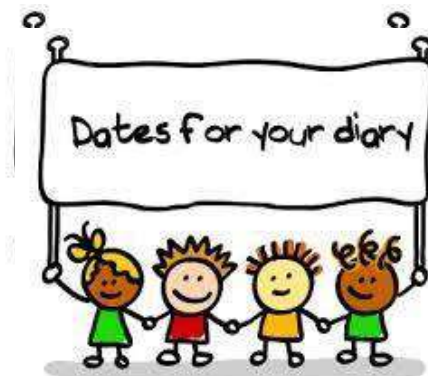
Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail **in advance of meals taken.**

**We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept cash or cheques.**

### Absence Reporting

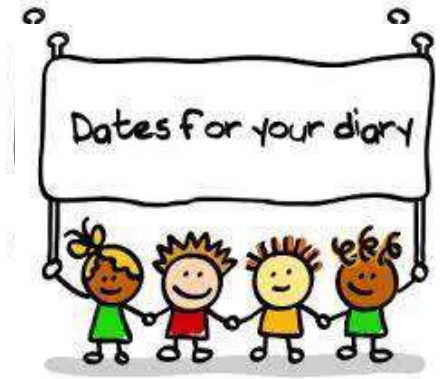
If your child is absent please advise us on 01763 852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

**Please don't message via Parentmail as we don't use this aspect of the system and so this won't be seen.**



### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Autumn term begins	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Autumn half term 2023	Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October
Autumn term ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Friday 1st September</i> <i>Monday 4th September</i>
Spring term begins	Thursday 4th January 2024
Spring half term February 2024	Monday 19th – Friday 23rd
Spring term ends	Thursday 28th March 2024
Summer term begins	Tuesday 16th April 2024
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
Summer half term	Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024
Summer term ends	Friday 19th July 2024
<i>INSET Days</i> <i>(pupils not in school)</i>	<i>Monday 15th April</i> <i>Monday 3rd June</i> <i>Monday 22nd July</i>



## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 and Monday 2<sup>nd</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

# Notice Board

## School uniform

Please, please ensure that your child's belongings (uniform, bags, water bottle etc) are all labelled with your child's name. We have a number of jumpers and other items which have been misplaced by their owners which we can't return as they don't have the child's name inside, or have the name of a 'previous owner'.

## Playground

Parents are asked to ensure that their children, whether those who attend school or younger siblings, do not play in the gazebo or on the play structure at school pick up time. This is to ensure everyone's safety and prevent any damage to these valuable structures. Please ensure that once on the school premises, bikes and scooters are walked, not ridden.

## Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk) by **12 noon** if your child's home time arrangement will be different from usual.

Please also remember that if your child is being collected with another child to let us know; we've had a number of occasions when the office has had to make a last-minute phone call at the end of the day.

# Notice Board

## Illness in School

If your child is absent from school, you must notify school by 9.30am of the reason for absence. If we haven't heard from you, we are obliged to investigate your child's absence.

Condition	Absent for
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash and all the lesions have crusted over
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
Measles	4 days from onset of rash and once# recovered
Scarlet Fever	Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotic treatment completed
*Sickness and/or diarrhoea	Until 48 hours after last episode of sickness/diarrhoea
Conjunctivitis	None
**Headlice	None
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling
Tonsillitis	None

Please see (left) a basic summary showing recommended times for children to be away from school when suffering from childhood diseases. A comprehensive list is available at [https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)

\* For sickness and/or diarrhea it is essential to keep your child away from school **until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea/vomiting**. These sorts of bugs can be transmitted very easily, particularly in school settings. We do encourage lots of hand-washing in school and would ask you to follow this at home, as well. Please remember if your child is unwell they will be much more comfortable at home with a parent or carer who can look after them much more closely than we can in school.

\*\*For advice on dealing with headlice please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

# Notice Board

**Covid-19** - Current advice is that this should be treated as any other respiratory infection. The following is from [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

## **Symptoms of respiratory infections, including COVID-19**

Respiratory infections can spread easily between people. It is important to be aware of symptoms so you can take action to reduce the risk of spreading your infection to other people.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are very similar. It is not possible to tell if you have COVID-19, flu or another respiratory infection based on symptoms alone. Most people with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections will have a relatively mild illness, especially if they have been vaccinated.

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Symptoms of COVID-19, flu and common respiratory infections include:

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class!

This week we have continued to learn about minibeasts and on Monday afternoon we were able to enjoy the sunshine and go on a bug hunt around the school grounds. The children loved looking under the leaf litter and amongst the trees. We have continued to read *Superworm* by Julia Donaldson and building on our work from last week the children have written their own super minibeast story. We have been really impressed with their writing and how they have used their imaginations to think of their story and their phonics knowledge to help them with their spelling.

This week the children have used their art and design skills to create their own minibeast using lollipop sticks and other craft resources. They have also enjoyed playing minibeast charades, where the children had to move like their chosen minibeast and the rest of the class had to try and guess what they were.

In Maths, we continued to learn about sharing and halving numbers and this has led to the children learning about odd and even numbers.

In PE we had a carousel of activities so that the children could consolidate their learning from this half term. They practised their balancing skills, throwing and catching, and their agility.

We continued our 'word collecting' work this week with the following words below to build on our ambitious vocabulary.

Word	Meaning
Distinguished	To look very noble and respectable.
Advance	To move forward.
Contribute	To help bring about a result.
Contented	The feeling of being happy or satisfied
Tranquil	To be calm and peaceful

PE will continue to be on a Tuesday so please ensure that PE kits are in school the first week back. As the weather is still very unpredictable, please make sure your child has a sun hat and a cardigan or jumper in school every day, a waterproof is also recommended.

We appreciate that we are nearing the end of the year, but we have no spare underwear in the classroom, if you have any school pairs, please can you return them.

We hope you all have a wonderful half-term break and fingers crossed we have some sunshine.



**The Reception Team**



## PTA UPDATE

Our **AGM** will be held on Wednesday 5th June 7:30pm at school. We will review the year and elect members for the key roles. These include **Chair, Treasurer** and **Secretary**. We are particularly keen to find an **Assistant Treasurer**. Candice does an amazing job but her children will be leaving the school in summer 2025 and it would be good for her to share her experience over the next year to ensure a smooth transition. If you would like to know more, please come along to the meeting or email us on **[pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)**

During the AGM we will also discuss the ways we have supported the school and spent the money we have raised.

After the AGM we will then discuss plans for the summer screening. This is booked for Saturday 6th July and we have a few stalls to arrange for this including bar, ice cream and cakes. Or any other ideas we haven't thought of yet. We will also need to arrange tickets and promotion. So, all help is greatly appreciated.

## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

What a lovely, exciting week we have had to end the half term! The 2 ducklings that hatched late last week (Shine and Midnight) returned to school on Monday, all ready for cuddles and learning how to swim – and making sure we all knew they were there with loud cheeping whenever they were left alone!

Unfortunately the other 3 eggs hadn't hatched and we knew they weren't going to, therefore on Monday lunchtime the company we used to get the eggs, 'Incredible Eggs,' delivered two more beautiful ducklings to us. These were quickly welcomed in by 'our' ducklings as well as all the children. They were named Maple and Stripe. Thankfully the addition of these two made the classroom a little quieter because they all liked snuggling up together when they didn't have human attention!



More swimming ensued that afternoon, more cuddles were had and the children all took a photo of their favourite duckling.

Throughout the week, the ducklings took part in 'waddle art' – painting using their feet! We all have a small piece of this art in our diaries, to remember what their footprints look like. The children also all enjoyed drawing their favourite duckling.



On Wednesday, we needed more photos for our diaries, so hand-feeding ducklings and watching them eat porridge was the order of the day.



The children have written their own diaries this week. They have used past tense verbs, and recorded all their memories about all that the ducklings have been up to, which they are very proud of and delighted to know they will be coming home in their English books when the time is right.

## News from Robin Class (Year 1)



We have taken in all reading books for the half term break to enable staff a short time to check books and sort them ready for next half term. Do enjoy reading with your child over the holiday – maybe visit the library to choose something different!

We hope you all have a restful half term and enjoy spending more time with your children. (We also hope the weather improves, but that's another story!)



## The Year 1 Team



## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

We have had a fantastic last week to this half term and are very proud of how hard Owls have worked. The children have really impressed us with their knowledge and confidence.

In the afternoons, we have been tying up some loose ends and completing some of our projects as well as having some well-deserved golden time. We have also been very lucky to go and visit the Year 1 ducklings, we watched them swimming around and observed their different mannerisms, they are adorable.

In our topic lessons, we have finished producing our own holiday brochure encouraging people to visit the Great Barrier Reef, we have used a range of skills to complete these and are extremely proud of how they have turned out.

Our Torahs have been completed and will be displayed in the classroom, we have worked really hard to create these and the finished products look incredible. (See photo)

The new spellings have been given out, the rule is: words ending 'il' and 'al'. The spelling quiz will be on the first day back after half term – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.



Now that the weather is getting warmer please can we remind you to send your children in with summer hats and water bottles. Please make sure that jumpers/cardigans are labelled in case they need to take these off, we have had a lot of unnamed lost property, thankyou.

Finally, we hope you have a fantastic half-term, use this time to recuperate, spend some time together enjoying the weather (hopefully we get some sunshine). We look forward to hearing all about it when the children return.

## The Year 2 Team



## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English, we wrote our descriptive poems about a story sea, from the same input, following the same 'rules' it is surprising how different they all are. The children have really enjoyed writing, sharing and acting out what they have created. These will be in topic books for you to enjoy later in the term.

In Maths, we continued our work on money by adding and subtracting amounts. This meant a lot of shopping! We also carried out a number of problem solving/open ended tasks to see how different amounts can be made with notes and coins.

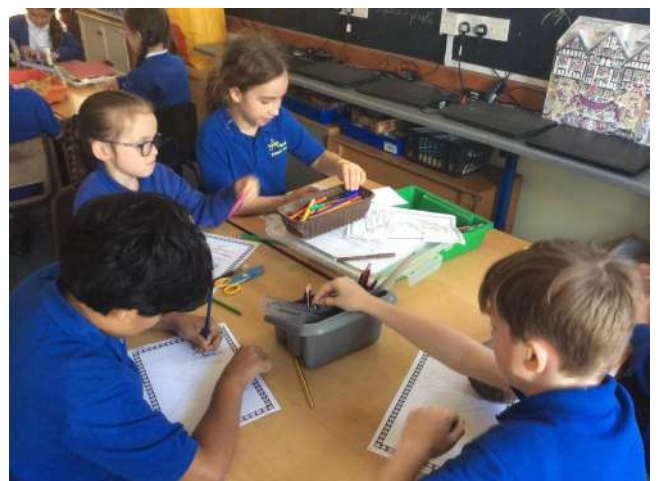
In topic work, we have found out a little more about Tudor Ashwell and the type of annual fayres that would have been held there. In the classroom we have been merchants preparing for the fayre by making; posy plates to serve our sugary treats, dried frogs to keep away the plague, Tudor roses to show our allegiance to the King, designed gloves, as everyone who was anyone in the Tudor period had gloves, made globes for the Elizabethan explorers, and had fruit kebabs using the fruits that had been brought back to England for the 'New World'.

So over all a busy and enjoyable week.



In reading this week, we have found out about priest holes, why and how Catholic supporters might have a secret room in their home to hide a hunted priest. We solved a puzzle to find where the priest was hiding in the house that we had a map for.

The children were very intrigued to find out about priest holes, if you fancy a trip out over half term Oxburgh Hall has a priest hole you can visit. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/norfolk/oxburgh-estate>.



## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

When we return after the half term break, we will be thinking about 1940's Ashwell. We will have a dress up day where the children are invited to dress in 1940's fashions. Again, please do not feel you need to buy outfits, things found at home are perfect.

Wishing you an enjoyable and relaxing half term

### The Year 3 Team

#### WEEKLY HOME ACTIVITIES

**Reading**, please aim for at least 4x weekly noting what has been read in reading diary. Books and diary must be in school daily please.

**Mathletics** and **Spelling Frame**, logins for both are in reading diaries.

Tackling tables practice.

#### REMINDERS

Please name all clothing.

Send books and diary into school each day.

Full PE kits needed in school everyday.



## Reporting Your Child's Absence

If your child is absent from school, you **MUST** notify school **EACH DAY** that they are absent by 9.30am and provide the reason for absence.

You can notify us in the following ways:

- Email us on [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)
- Telephone us on 01763 852474
- Leave a Voicemail on the telephone number above
- Tell us in person via our front desk

If we haven't heard from you each day that they are absent, we are obliged to investigate your child's absence.

**SMARTIES  
MAY HALF  
TERM**

50% off for HAF Children      10% Sibling Discount

**Tues 28th May**  
Decorate your own  
Mug then lets  
make  
mug cakes

**Weds 29th May**  
Make your own Garden  
Stepping stone,  
Suncatchers &  
Window art

**Thurs 30th  
May**  
Grass  
heads,  
Flower  
pressing &  
Tie-dye or  
Fabric Paint  
a T-Shirt

**Friday 31st May**  
pond dipping,  
camp fire  
cooking, create  
your own bug  
Hotel  
Clay afternoon

**Ages \*3 - 11**

To book please use this **Booking link**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/nVkpRxnvj>

**Session Prices**

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

For more information please email Smarties on  
[georgina@smartiesteeplemorden.co.uk](mailto:georgina@smartiesteeplemorden.co.uk) or give us a call on 01763 852888

Ofsted Number: EY434661

\*3 year olds dependent on  
staffing levels

Woodland walks  
& Trips to the park  
(Weather Permitting)

SMARTIES PRESCHOOL  
& OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB





## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our History lessons we have been further exploring the Viking way of life – learning about what Vikings wore, ate and what they did for jobs. We have also been examining what evidence we have to know this is true. In our Geography lessons, we have been looking at sources of renewable and non-renewable energy which ties into our work on climate change. In our Science lessons we have been looking at food chains; identifying, predators, pray and producers.

For children who are not yet fluent with their times tables up to 12x12, we continue to focus on reinforcing their knowledge of the times table they are currently learning. It is essential for children to have a strong foundation in multiplication, as it serves as a fundamental building block for future mathematical concepts. Again, any assistance you can provide at home, such as practising times tables together or using online resources mentioned in the Star last week, will help your child with their future maths work. The government's multiplication tables check will take place shortly after half term.

Our class panda has learnt to write 'I am a panda' from memory in mandarin!

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all a restful and enjoyable break!

**The Year 4 Team**



## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

We have had another busy week in Year 5 and have done our best to seize on any new opportunities for learning, often despite the weather!

In Maths, we have been working on angles. We have discussed understanding and using degrees, classifying angles (as obtuse, acute or right angles), estimating angles and using a protractor. Although using a protractor can be tricky to begin with, it is a useful skill required for maths in Year 6 and beyond and so we will persevere and practise until we are all feeling a little more confident.

In English, we have now finished assessing progress with the statutory spelling lists. We have had a huge range of levels of progress - ranging from none to scores increasing by more than thirty words since the last test. We are able to match those who have progressed clearly with those who have been undertaking their weekly Spelling Frame homework. Scores will be shared with the children early next week.

In Science, we have rounded up our experiment into asexual reproduction in plants by collecting our results and trying to interpret what they mean. We measured any growth in the plants that had been grown in sunlight, darkness and filtered light and looked for any patterns.

Finally, in P.E. this week we had a visitor from The South Cambridgeshire School Sports Partnership who trained those children who have volunteered to become our Play Leaders for next year when they are in Year 6. This is one of the responsibilities that Year 6 take on - supporting the younger children during lunchtimes to have happy and successful free-time by organising and running games that they can join in with.

We wish you a restful half term break.

With thanks for your continued support,

**The Year 5 Team**



## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week we have been continuing to focus on our writing. The children have now finished writing their own autobiographies. We should have started on our last piece of writing by the time you are reading this – adventure stories.

As well as English, we have been focussing on other areas of the curriculum. In RE we are finishing our work on the gospel. In History, we are tying up all the loose ends concerning our work on ancient Greece. In PE, we are focussing on outdoor problem solving activities as well as concentrating on the summer sports.

Next term, the final half term at primary school for the children, will be a busy one – more details to follow. Have a peaceful and enjoyable week off, next week, and the children will need to rest and have some ‘me’ time after their exertions during the revision for and the SATs exams. Homework will be just the spellings from spelling frame.

Thank you for your continued support.

### The Year 6 Team

#### **LEAVERS HOODIES**

The leavers hoodies are now live online, please see below link to send to parents to order through.

<https://www.totalclothingshop.co.uk/smp/leavers-hoodies>

This will be open until the deadline of **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of May.**





## Cleaners / Home Helpers needed now in Royston

£11.10 per hour PLUS holiday pay

Work involves cleaning, shopping and other domestic duties such as changing bed linen and laundry. You always see the same regular clients, helping them to stay independent and living in their own home.

- | We're really flexible, work at times to suit your day
- | Extremely satisfying, see the difference you make just doing the cleaning and being a regular friendly face
- | Office support and backup always available whilst you work.

For more information contact:

recruitsouth@ageukherts.org.uk  
01923 627055

Age UK Hertfordshire, a name you can trust.

Cleaning and helping at home for 1000's of clients across Hertfordshire



Café Church is back!

This friendly café runs every Friday morning 9-11 during term time in Steeple Morden Church

Tea, coffee, home-made cake

Toys and lots of space for little ones

Do join us after school drop-off



# Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool  
Litlington Preschool  
Bonfitness Pilates  
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes  
MF Tennis Coaching  
Modern Foreign Languages Tuition  
Netball & Athletics Half Term Holiday Clubs  
Biggleswade Swimming Club  
Relax & Unwind Sessions— Steeple Morden & Royston Sessions  
Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section  
NCT Nearly New Sale  
Castle Coaching Football and Rugby training sessions  
First aid course—for adults, juniors and teens  
Summer Choral Courses at St Catherine's College

**To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: <https://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/community>**

“I say luck is when an opportunity comes along and you're prepared for it”

*Denzel Washington*

Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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