



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been week of Christmas and Sports.

On Monday, Claire McDonnell from the Cambridgeshire Sports Partnership came into assembly and presented our School Games Gold Award for 2017/2018. This recognises the school's ongoing commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive sport. This is the fourth year in a row that we have received this award which is quite an achievement! Huge thanks must go to Mrs Miller for all the time and commitment she puts into ensuring that we provide the very best opportunities possible for the children at Steeple and set the foundations for healthy lifestyles in the future.

Reception and KS1 provided three amazing performances this week. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along. We do realise that 'school day' events can sometimes be a challenge, so it was lovely to see so many of you there.

The Christmas and Sports theme continues next week with our Church Service on Wednesday at 9.30am and 6.30pm. **For the evening performance KS2 children only will need to back in school for 5.45 please.** Parents can go straight to the church.

We are planning to celebrate the end of term with a Christmas Jumper day on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. As always, this is entirely optional, and we are not asking for donations.

*Mrs Tracey How*

Headteacher

## Sports Clubs

All Sports Clubs have now finished and will re-start the week beginning Monday 14th January 2019.



Dates for Your Diary	
Autumn Term	
December 2018	
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	Church Service 9.30am (all year groups) Church Service 6.30pm (KS2 only)
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Santa's Visit to KS1, & KS2 Christmas Disco
<b>Weds 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last Day of Term / Christmas Jumpers</b>
Spring Term	
January 2019	
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Term Begins
February 2019	
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Half Term
March 2019	
Mon-Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Residential trip to Derbyshire
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (times tbc)
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (times tbc)
April 2019	
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Service 9.30am
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term

## School Meal Charges

Charges for the **Autumn Term** will be as follows:

Daily:	£2.30
Weekly:	£11.50
1 <sup>st</sup> half term	£75.90
2 <sup>nd</sup> half term	£87.40
Whole Term	£163.30

We appreciate payment through our online payment system: SIMS AGORA. Alternatively, cash or cheque (payable to Steeple Morden Primary School) **in advance of meals taken.** Please send your payment into School in a named envelope.

**Thank You**



St Peter & St Paul Church, Steeple Morden

## Children's Nativity

**Sunday 16 December**

**10 am**

A short half-hour service telling the Christmas story, with songs and refreshments

All children are welcome to dress up and join in the action

## **News from Starling Class (Reception)**

Hello from Starling Class,

What an 'Express' week we have had! We enjoyed seeing you all at the Nativity play this week. We are very proud of all of the children and we hope you loved seeing your children perform.

We have learnt the three final Phase 2 phonemes (l, ll, ss) and have been practising blending and segmenting CVC words. We have been thinking about teens numbers 11 to 15 in Maths sessions. We also had a visitor from the North Pole arrive, we had a vote and have called our newest classmate Christmas Star!

We enjoyed a great Show and Tell from the Red Cherries this week. Show and Tell will start up again in January.

Please can you ensure that all homework folders and related books are inside your child's orange plastic wallet? It is rather time consuming trying to locate 23 different children's folders, books, letters etc. which then takes members of staff away from their teaching and learning responsibilities.

Next week we will be participating in the Church Christmas Service on Wednesday morning, we hope to see you there! The children will be enjoying a festive feast on Christmas Dinner day which is Thursday. On Friday the children will have an exciting opportunity to meet the 'BIG MAN' himself, as Father Christmas will be in the building!

We hope you have a great weekend!

**Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Starling Team**

## **News from Robin Class (Year 1)**

This week's main event has been performing our Nativity play to you all. We are sure you will agree the children all did an amazing job, whichever day you came to watch them on! They fully deserved the class star they achieved and are very nearly at their whole class reward – hopefully we will get there by the end of term!

We have been working on telling the time this week – the children have impressed me with their knowledge of o'clock times and general knowledge about time – days of week, months of year and using language such as next, before, yesterday, tomorrow and after. We have focussed their learning of half past times when the minute hand is pointing at the 6 and watching which number the hour hand has actually passed. The children enjoyed estimating the length of a minute. They found out all the things they could do in 1 minute (and those things they thought they could do in 60 seconds, but really couldn't!). We have also discussed there being 60 minutes in an hour, counting in 5s around the clock and naming the 'long/big' hand as the minute hand and the 'short/little' hand as the hour hand.

We are looking forward to our Christmas service in the church next week as well as making sure we are all feeling very Christmassy!

Have a super weekend,

**Mrs Bowmer and the Year 1 Team**

## **News from Owl Class (Year 2)**

What a busy and exciting week it has been in school! We hope that you enjoyed watching the children perform their 'Angel Express!' nativity play. They have worked very hard learning the song words, learning their lines and learning to listen to others so that they know when to sing or when to speak. They should be very proud of themselves! We often talk to the children about how it is good to challenge yourself and to try something new. Over the last few weeks they have done just that. Thank you to you all for helping the children to learn their lines, the song words and for providing costumes too.

In between rehearsing and performing our nativity play, we have also been working on our 'Bright Stanley' adventure stories. In our Maths work this week, we have been learning all about adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, choosing the most appropriate method to solve a problem, eg, counting on, counting back, jumping forwards or backwards on a number line or using the 'partition jot' method for addition calculations. Recorder playing and designing an underwater world in our shoeboxes has kept us busy today!

Just to remind you, we have now collected in the Homework and Spelling folders and will be giving those back out in the New Year. If you could continue to keep reading with your children over the coming weeks, then that would be very helpful. We will be testing the children on their reading and spelling of the tricky words we sent home last week so please keep practising those too.

'Tackling Tables' cards have been sent home this week – we will begin to use these on a weekly basis in Year 2 in January when we will start the term with a focus on multiplication and division and the link between the two.

### **Reminders:**

Reading Records Booklets – to school every day

Please can you also ensure that your child has a full P.E. kit, a water bottle and a coat in school all week.

Please can children bring their recorders to school every Friday.

We hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Daniels, Mrs Luebcke and the Year 2 Team**

Come and 'throw some  
shapes' at the  
KS2 Disco Friday 14  
December 5pm until 6 pm!

There will be a tuck shop if you wish to purchase any refreshments.



# WREATH MAKING PTA EVENING

Thank you to all those who came along to our fantastic event. There was a great mix of staff, parents and friends of the school and we all made a wonderful wreath for Christmas! Here are just a few

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





The Christmas post box can be used by the children until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Please make sure envelopes are clearly written with both the recipient's names and their class.

Thank you



### **News from Peacock Class (Year 3)**

Well there's another week gone!

In English we have been refining our abilities to write descriptively by writing expanded noun phrases to describe the chocolate room. We have also been thinking about the world of similes and coming up with some interesting ideas, 'the tunnel was as deep and dark as a coal mine', 'the river ran as fast as a cheetah', and my personal favourite 'the long tree leaves flapped in the breeze like banana skins'.

In maths we have been consolidating and extending our understanding of written methods for addition. We have been using our number bonds to 10 to help us add two and three-digit numbers on a number line.

For those of you who ordered your 'tackling tables' packs you should have by now received them. If you have not and were expecting them, please let me know or if you would like to order a set it is not too late, just let us know.

In our topic work this week we have been designing and making 'Oompa Loompa' "Guess Who", and making the squirrels from 'The nut room'.

We all enjoyed our morning at Wimpole running the cross country. I was very proud of everyone as they all tried their best and acted with great sportsmanship. Next week will see us bring a conclusion to our fun packed 'Dahlicious' topic drawing together and finishing all the work that we have been doing around Roald Dahl, his books and his characters.

You should by now have received your muddy, wet, sweaty PE kits (you lucky things) please can they come back into school (clean) for our PE lessons next week?

For the end of next week, the children will need a small grocery box with their name on please. An adult shoe box size would be perfect.

Thanks for your continued support

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend

**Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team**



### **News from Swift Class (Year 4)**

This week in our English lessons, we have been examining Viking stories, where many of the Viking characters re-appear in different tales, and we've explored the features that make these engaging.

We enjoyed seeing KS1 perform their nativity production, before it went live to parents – they have worked very hard over the last few weeks to pull it all together. We have also been practising KS2's Christmas Service in church; it has been a good opportunity to develop our 'speaking voices' in a space that is much bigger than our classroom.

On Thursday, we visited Wimpole Hall and took part in a cross-country race involving schools from all around South Cambridgeshire. We were able to watch different year groups finish and supported everyone taking part. This topped off a sporting week, which saw the school formally presented with our Gold award for sport.

I would like to congratulate the class as a whole in their improvement in times tables recall for both multiplication and division; this will help build strong mathematical foundations for the years to come.

Next week, the Christmas Service is at 9.30am and 6.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> in church followed by the school disco on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. We will also be continuing or work on division.

**Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team**

### **'Tackling Tables' Together – Home Packs!**

These have now arrived in school and were sent home on Wednesday.

If you would still like to order your pack to practise at home, this can still be done by filling in the order form that you were emailed or collecting one from the front desk. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or through SIMs Agora. Packs are priced at £8.50. A new order will be placed in January.

Teachers have already noticed improvements in the children's speed of recall and their understanding of the link between multiplication and division through using the cards in school, so we are very hopeful that more practice at home with the cards will help even more.

Jo Daniels

Maths Subject Leader

## **News from Heron Class (Year 5)**

Firstly, we would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who was able to join us in class on Monday morning to listen to our French song, look at the photographs from Grafham Water and hear our recounts. The children were delighted that so many of you were able to attend and spoke really positively afterwards about how proud they were to share their work with you.

Work has continued this week in Year 5 on our science fiction stories. The children have each drawn up a plan for their own story and some of the ideas do look really promising. We have also spent some time learning how to link sentences together within paragraphs using connecting adverbs and will be working hard to demonstrate our understanding of this in our own stories.

In Maths this week we have been looking at different ways of representing data, with a particular focus on line graphs. We have had a go at drawing our own line graphs and spent some time learning how to interpret the data which they represent.

With 2018 marking 100 years since the end of the First World War, Upper Key Stage 2 are learning about some aspects of the conflict and Year 5 have started this week.

We have been evaluating this term's Chinese art work and have been considering the skills and techniques that we have learned throughout. Your children have all produced some amazing artwork; they are very keen artists!

Our projects have included:

- Examining and sketching a range of traditional Chinese images.
- Learning about the symbolism of the Chinese dragon in Chinese culture, using pastels to produce drawings of dragons and salt dough to model them.
- Learning about the 4 Gentlemen (the seasons) and how we use different sized brushes and varying levels of pressure to reproduce the characteristic linear brushstrokes of the style.
- Practicing Chinese calligraphy which builds on the techniques learned through the 4 Gentlemen paintings.
- Building on the modelling techniques practised when creating the salt dough dragons and transferring and developing those skills to produce our Terracotta Army soldiers using clay.
- Exploring the themes and patterns in Ming porcelain and creating our own Ming vase designs.

**Mrs Talbot, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team**

Year 6 have been studying some of the poetry from the Great War and have started to write their own. We thought you would like to see an example.

## It's not like home ww1

Dear mum,  
It's not the same as home,  
The bombs are dropping low,  
In trenches it's not warm,  
It's not like home.

In the seas the submarines are going down,  
It's the loneliness I ponder,  
And that's why it's not like home.

Up in the sky  
I see angels up high,  
Calling me,  
But I refuse.  
It's yucky and mucky,  
And it's not like home.

I hear the shots and the shells fire off,  
But one day a miracle came,  
And we played football all day,  
But it's not like home.

**(Raff G. Year 6)**

## **News from Puffin Class (Year 6)**

This week, in Maths, we have started to look at the answers and methods to working out the questions for the SATs papers that the children worked on last week. This involved both the arithmetic and reasoning papers.

We have also started our new topic on worded problems. We looked at how these problems can be approached and what the question actually means. As well as looking for the relevant information in the questions, we, also, examined any 'red herrings' that the question could throw up.

In English, we have also looked at the answers from the last week's SATs papers and how to answer the questions in the allotted time.

Puffins have also started their new topic studying poems from the Great War and the impact they had on both individuals and society as a whole. The ultimate aim is to write their own poem based on some of the poems that they have read and to look at the language and different poetic features that they could use to impact on the reader.

A reminder that the Christmas service, at the church, is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Children should have brought in their costumes to school in a named plastic bag by now.

Homework should be returned by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

Thank you.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website [Community Page](#)

Steeple Morden Girlguides Notice

Smarties: Super Squirrels, Christmas Holiday Club & Tesco Bags for Help

Smarties Film Night 14<sup>th</sup> December

Please follow this link if you are interested:

[https://steeple-morden.eschools.co.uk/website/community\\_news/365736](https://steeple-morden.eschools.co.uk/website/community_news/365736)