



Dear Parents and Carers,

I spoke to the children in assembly today about the number of '**Fitbits**' and similar pieces of technology that are appearing in school. While I realise that not all of them are the "real thing", I am sure you can appreciate that it is very difficult to tell them apart.

These Fitbits are quite expensive items to have in school and as we expect all jewellery to be removed for PE there is a danger that they could become lost or damaged. As they are not worn for PE, they also lose their prime purpose as a fitness monitor. We have noticed that some of the children are becoming quite distracted by their Fitbits and there seems to be a lot of talk and comparison going on.

For these reasons I have asked all children not wear Fitbits (or Fitbit style watches) in school. There are clocks in all classroom and shared areas of the building which provide an opportunity to read both digital and analogue times. I would appreciate your support in this by checking that these items are left safely at home each day.

As the weather forecasters have been predicting for a while now, it would seem that a particularly cold snap is heading our way. Thank you for making sure that the children come to school with coats, gloves, hats and other warm clothing. Although a short car or bus journey in the morning may not need that many layers, being outside for **playtime and lunchtimes can be very cold**. I am sure you have all heard the saying "There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothes".

At various point of the day some of the classrooms can also become chilly, especially those near the outside doors that are regularly opened to access the playground. I have noticed a number of children without jumpers this week who, when challenged, tell me they have left them at home. I have been both a teacher and parent long enough to know this is probably not the complete truth, so if you could reinforce to your children the importance of **keeping warm inside** as well (and knowing where their jumpers are at all times) that would really help.

Mrs Tracey How

Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary	
Spring Term	
January 2019	
Weds 23 rd	Year 4 Class Assembly 10.10am
February 2019	
Tues 12 th	Year 6 Residential trip meeting 3.30
18th – 22nd	Half Term
March 2019	
Mon-Fri 4 th – 8 th	Y6 Residential trip to Derbyshire
Tues 12 th	Year 3 visit to Burghley House Parent Consultations (3.30-6.00pm)
Thurs 14 th	Parent Consultations (3.30-7.00pm)
Fri 15 th	Year 3 charity coffee morning.
April 2019	
Thurs 4 th	Easter Service 9.30am
Fri 5th	Last Day of Term

Term dates for the academic year 2019-2020 will be available next week.

Please do not rely on the dates published on the Cambridgeshire County Council website, as they do not take into account our Teacher Training (INSET) days.

School Meal Charges

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

Daily:	£2.30
Weekly:	£11.50
1 st half term	£69.00
2 nd half term	£69.00
Whole Term	£138.00

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

'Tackling Tables' Together – Home Packs!

If you have not yet ordered 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

Spring Term 2019 - Clubs Information

Day	Time	Club	Start Date	End Date this term	Staff Member
Monday	3.10-4.15pm	Choir (Years 3-6)	As per the message sent this week. There will be no choir this half term.		
Tuesday	3.10-4.15pm	Year 5/6 Netball	Tues 22 nd Jan	Mon 25 th March	Mrs Targett
Wednesday	3.10-4.15pm	Year 3/4 Winter Sports	Weds 23 rd Jan	Weds 27 th March	Mrs Miller
Thursday	8.25am- 8.45am (Doors open 8.20am)	Running Club (Years 1-6)	Thurs 24 th Jan	Thurs 28 th March	Mrs Miller
Thursday	3.10-4.15pm	Year 5/6 Winter Sports	Thurs 24 th Jan	Thurs 28 th March	Mrs Miller

- All clubs will meet in the hall and the adult in charge will complete an attendance register.
- Children need to be collected from the **playground** by a parent/carer when all clubs end at 4.15pm.
- If your child is in school, we will assume that they are attending the club. If for any reason they cannot attend the club, please notify the adult taking the club.
- **All email messages need to be sent to school by lunchtime please.**
office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

DRAMA Classes with Mrs Myerscough will be on Wednesdays, meeting in Reception Class. These will begin on Wednesday 9th January and will run until Wednesday 27th January (excluding half term).

Timings will be as follows: -

Years 1 & 2 - 3.10-3.40pm
Years 5 & 6 - 3.40-4.20pm
Years 3 & 4 - 4.20-4.50pm

Parents/Carers will find contact details for Mrs Myerscough in the 'Clubs' section of the School Website.

Mrs Myerscough will contact parents if any other changes occur during the term.

Lunchtime Clubs

Chess Club (Years 3-6) – will run on Friday lunchtimes.

Needlework Club (Years 5&6) – will run on Monday lunchtimes with Mrs Brown.

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class,

This the week we have continued our '3, 2, 1... Blast Off!' topic where we have been thinking about planets – what they are, what they look like and how big they are! We have learnt two new sounds in phonics 'y' and 'z' as well as starting to learn the letter names and order of the alphabet. We have looked at 3D shapes in more detail, thinking about faces and whether shapes can roll or not.

Next week the children will be focussing on the Moon and Stars; thinking about sizes, shapes and constellations. We will also be learning new sounds in phonics and finishing our work on 3D shapes.

Please remember Welly Walks will take place every Thursday this half term; please remember to send your child to school in their **NAMED** Welly Walk clothes which should now include hats, gloves and scarves! Please be reminded that the children will be going out whatever the weather.

We hope you have a great weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Reception Class Team.

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

This week we dived headfirst into creating an enchanted isle! The children planned their part of the island, which we have displayed in the library, and then we spend nearly 2 mornings where they painted and collaged the 'ground' (and some made mountains and cliffs) then added 3D details such as trees, houses, animals and hills and 2D cars, houses, castles and other imaginative features. We are all very pleased with the outcome – we just need to add some geographical vocabulary and it will be complete!

We have continued learning the names of the continents though games in PE and have started to add instruments to our song in music this week.

Please continue to send in water bottles with fresh water each day. There are many opportunities to have a drink throughout the day so it is much more convenient with a bottle to hand.

A little reminder that we would like to do a little sewing project this term (nothing too tricky!) and a regular pair of helping hands (or 2) would be much appreciated. Please speak to me after school if you or an auntie, uncle or grandparent could spare some time.

Thank you for supporting your children in doing some homework this week – we have had some lovely bits coming in!

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Bowmer and the Year One Team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Our Tourist Information Office in the classroom is up and running. If you think you might have any books, maps, posters or leaflets at home that may be helpful, we would be very grateful if you could send them into school. Thank you for those that we have already received.

This week in our Topic work, we have been drawing our own maps of the classroom complete with a simple key and we have looked at a map of the school and written on the names of the classes, rooms and different areas around the school and its grounds. We will later go on to compare life in a village with life in a large city.

Our English work has continued to be based upon the story of 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew. We have written sentences in the first person, past tense and we have even completed our own diary entries as if we were Katie or Jack visiting London with their granny for the first time. Using a diary format, the children have recounted all the exciting places they visited with the help of one of the lions from Trafalgar Square who comes to life in the story!

In Maths this week we have been continuing to work with money. This week we counted both notes and coins and the children were reminded how much easier it is to start with the highest values first when attempting to find a total. Perhaps at home they could count and find the total value of some coins in a purse, wallet or piggy bank. We have also set the children problem solving challenges where they have been asked to consider how you could make a given total using the fewest number of coins e.g $\pounds 1.57 = \pounds 1 + 50\text{p} + 5\text{p} + 2\text{p}$.

Reminders:

Reading Records Booklets – to school every day.

Yellow Spelling Folders – to school on Mondays.

Homework Folders – given out on Fridays, bring back to school on Wednesdays.

Mathletics – set every Friday. Tackling Tables – practise as often as possible at home.

P.E. – Wednesdays with Mrs Miller & Mrs Barbour and Fridays with Mrs Daniels.

Please can you also ensure that your child has a **full P.E. kit in school all week** as follows:-

shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms, sweatshirt (no hoods please), trainers suitable to wear outside and socks.

Thank you for your continued support with everything. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Luebcke, Mrs Daniels & the Year 2 Team!

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

What a wonderful week!!

Thank you for all the lovely costumes that the children wore on Monday, they had a wonderful day finding out about just some of the aspects of Elizabethan life.

They retold the story of Romeo and Juliet as if they were Shakespeare's theatre visiting the royal court, located all the palaces and places that Elizabeth stayed in in England, found out about how to read a portrait by looking for the symbols and hidden messages in the image, looked at the world to locate the countries that food from 'the New World' came from, and made and enjoyed fruit kebabs using some of the new found foods. They wrote in secret code as Mary Queen of Scots (hoping that their codes were too difficult for Elizabeth's advisors to break, otherwise who knows what may happen.....), built mansion houses with secret priest holes to hide the Catholic priests, and created family coats of arms so that they could be identified when dressed in full armour.

We ran out of paper at the end of the day when we were listing all the things we had found out! Please see the class page on the website for photos.

Once we had recovered from all that learning on Monday, we found out about Roman numerals in maths as well as finding out the difference between numbers. In English we wrote information texts about the life of Elizabeth I. In topic work we continued working on all the activities introduced on Monday.

Next week in English we will be finding out about Shakespeare and writing fact files about his life. In topic work we will be thinking about the story of Romeo and Juliet and in Maths we will be looking at subtraction.

The family tree homework that the children have been set can come into school as soon as it has been completed (no later than Thursday please) the children will then create their best copy for their topic books.

Dates for the diary

By now you should have received information about our visit to Burghley House on **Tuesday 12th March**, if you have not already done so could you please make the payment in plenty of time so that the trip can go ahead.

I have also set the date for the next charity coffee morning, this will be on **Friday 15th February** (the last day before half term).

Many thanks for your continued support

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team

News from Swift Class (Year 4)

On Wednesday 23rd January the children will be taking part in our class assembly. All parents of children in Swift class are invited to this event which will begin at 10.10am; we aim to finish by 10.30am.

Our topic 'Innovation Nation' is now underway. In art we have begun to look at the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, an innovator in art, architecture and design. His style is unmistakable, and the children could readily identify common themes in the examples of his work we looked at. Children have been experimenting with water colour and wax to produce designs based on his ideas. We will also be continuing our work in Science by looking at the development and innovation that has taken place, with a focus on electricity. Practical tasks will involve constructing electrical circuits and, if they do not work, trying to develop problem solving skills for ourselves.

The annual '500 Word Story Challenge', which is organised by the BBC, opens this month and we will be giving the children the chance to take part. Although there is some time before the closing date, we will be speaking in more detail about this in class over the next week or two. We will be looking at the elements of what makes a good story, as well as listening to some of the entries from previous years. As part of the Challenge, there will be a task which is set across the whole school. This task can be adapted so that it is appropriate for different ages of children. Look out for further details in the next few weeks.

In our English lessons we will be looking at how paragraphs are used to structure writing. Using text from both fiction and non-fiction materials we will draw up a list of guidelines to help in our own writing. In Maths we will be continuing our work on word problems with a special look at those involving money.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week we have begun to strengthen the links between our topic and English work by starting to explore Victorian narrative poetry. We have looked in detail at the poem 'The Wreck of the Hesperus' by Longfellow and tried to identify what makes it such a successful and memorable poem. We have also continued with our study of the novel 'Street Child' and used drama to help us think about what we can infer about the thoughts and feelings of the main characters at key points in the story.

In Maths we have continued to explore the perimeter and area of a variety of regular and irregular 2D shapes and have enjoyed playing with our 'Tackling Tables' cards to help learn or consolidate our times tables facts at speed.

Mrs Talbot, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

In English we are continuing to look at non-chronological reports. We researched about the Titanic and put all our research onto the working wall to share. We looked at how we can split our work up into paragraphs and have now planned our reports. We looked at some of the technical vocabulary that we might find and we used dictionaries and thesauruses to do this. We will continue to examine the features into next week.

This week, in Maths, we are continuing to study algebra and linear number sequences. The children worked really hard on this, as they have faced some difficult challenges here – well done. Ask them about it at home. Next week we shall be starting our section on fractions by examining equivalent fractions and also on how to simplify them.

In Science we are studying the human body. Puffins looked at the different organs and their function in the body. We also made a structure that would best resemble the human skeleton and the shape that would be the best design to support the human head.

Homework will be due in on 23rd January.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Positive Parenting Courses

Steeple Morden Quiz Night 2nd February 2019

Home Start Black Tie Ball 29th March 2019

Mental Health Drop Ins

Litlington Preschool

Smarties

Please follow this link if you are interested:

https://steeple-morden.eschools.co.uk/website/community_news/365736



Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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Email: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey How

Cleaner Vacancy

***10 hours per week (term time plus two weeks),
Level 2, point 6, £16,394 pa (pro rata), £8.50 per hour***

Steeple Morden Primary School is a friendly and welcoming village school with approximately 200 pupils on roll. We are at the heart of a thriving village community.

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated part time Cleaner who will work alongside our existing site staff. The hours will either be directly before or after school, negotiable, two hours per day.

The post holder will be responsible for ensuring the buildings are cleaned to a safe, high standard at all times.

If you are interested in this position, or would like more information, please email ATaylor@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk. Please note, as an environmentally friendly school, application packs will be emailed to applicants where possible.

We are committed to stringent safeguarding procedures and applicants will be subject to a full enhanced DBS check. In addition, references will be undertaken prior to interview. As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all members of the community.

Closing date: Thursday, 24 January 2019

Interviews: Week commencing 28 January 2019