



## Message from Mrs How

Can you believe it is only three and a half weeks until the end of term? We have started on all things Christmas and the children are busy learning lines and songs for our Nativity and Christmas Services. We've heard that Santa will be visiting us before the end of term and it won't be long before the school is covered in a blanket of glitter. Please see our Diary Dates on page 2 to make sure you know when all our Christmas events are happening.

The Christmas Tree Festival is taking place in the church this weekend and all classes have decorated a tree to display. Please go along between 11.00 and 4.00 on any day from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to have a look.

Thank you so much to those parents who have already made a contribution to our general fund for school events. For those who haven't done that yet, SIMS Pay is available until 12th December for you to do so. Alternately if you wish to donate by cash or cheque we would be more than happy to receive this. We have suggested a payment range of between £7.50 and £25 per child but you are welcome to make any contribution that you feel able. Remember, if you let us have your donation by 12th December we are then able to plan school events for the remainder of the year.

Please remember to buy your tickets for the PTA Christmas raffle, all funds raised from this support the school, each school family was sent an envelope in book bags on 8th November containing tickets, and more are available from the school

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## Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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SG8 0PD

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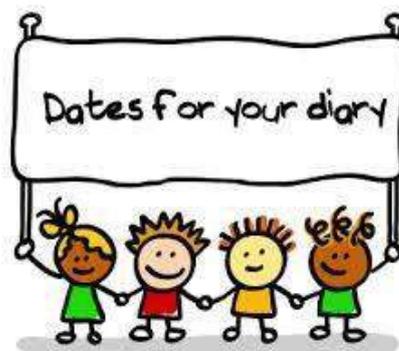
*"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."*

**Maya Angelou**

## School Meal Charges Autumn 2019

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 PAY. 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. **We will no longer accept 'loose' money, whether from a child or parent at the office.**



## November 2019

Fri 22nd - Mon 25th	Christmas Tree Festival in Church
Weds 27th	Prospective Parents Afternoon (1.30 - 2.30pm)
Thurs 28th	PTA Wreath-making evening

## December 2019

Tues 10th	EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance (2pm)
Weds 11th	EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance (2pm)
Thurs 12th	Church service (9.30am) (all years)
Thurs 12th	Church service (6.30pm) (KS2 only)
Weds 18th	Christmas Lunch
<b>Weds 18th</b>	<b>End of Autumn Term</b>

## Absence from School

If your child is absent on a day, please call the school office on 01763 852474, or email [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

Please avoid using Parentmail to report pupil absences.

## Annual Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme

A reminder that you need to ensure you have either given your consent or declined for your child to receive the nasal flu vaccination by 5th December. Please go to <https://tinyurl/yy8v45hn>

Please note this is run by Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and this is your only opportunity to register: School cannot see who has or hasn't given their permission and this process has to be completed online via the above link. For further advice and information, please contact the School Immunisation Team on 0300 555 5055 or [ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net)



# Steeple Morden Primary School

A school where everyone is valued and where pupils behave and do their best. (Ofsted 2016)

## OPEN AFTERNOON



Wednesday 27th November  
2019 1.30-2.30pm

For parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2020



Come and see the school in action and spend some time with the class teachers.

Please call or email if you plan to attend so that an information pack may be prepared for you.

**Steeple Morden Primary School**

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Nr. Royston, Herts, SG8 0PD

Tel: 01763 852474

## News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Reception!

This week the children started their week with a surprise visit from Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The children met two front line Police Officers who gave an in depth talk about their role, the equipment and vehicles they use. The children all had the opportunity to try on Police coats and a variety of different Police hats that are used for different occasions. They were lucky enough to speak to the Police control room who said “Hello Steeple Morden Primary School” much to the excitement of the children. The Police Officers discussed what the different numbers meant on their uniforms and why they are different to each other. The children loved experiencing sitting in the back cage of a Police van too! They finished the visit with a peel of sirens and flashing blue lights. What an exciting morning! Thank

you to Cambridgeshire Police for sharing your officers with us.





Also this week the children learnt the Phonemes y and z and their actions in addition to their graphemes! During their marvellous Maths sessions, this week the children have explored the eightness of eight! We have made a poster all about 8 as well as investigating octagons. During our carpet sessions this week we have talked about 'People Who Help Us' and signs of Winter as well as beginning to learn the songs and dances from the Nativity Play. We also visited the Church to view the Christmas Trees in the festival at the Church. The church will be open over the weekend if you wish to view these with your child.

We had a fabulous Show and Tell Session from the Purple Grapes. Next Friday it's the turn of anyone who has forgotten their Show and Tell date from Autumn 2.

You may have noticed the children coming home with 'Starling Stickers'. The children receive a sticker if they have completed the daily challenge. Each day has a themed challenge, eg: Maths Monday, Try it Tuesday, Wordy Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Phonics Friday.

As the weather is turning the children are coming back into the classroom after lunch time play increasingly chilled as they do not have suitable outerwear. Please ensure your child has a NAMED Winter coat, hat and gloves to ensure they can keep themselves warm. These are in addition to tights or trousers as bare legs can be incredibly uncomfortable during the cold weather and inhibits learning.

Next week we will be learning one new phoneme as well as investigating the number nine. We will continue learning about how we celebrate Christmas and we will begin to make decorations for the classroom. Welly Walk will continue as normal next week. However the children will only need to bring wellies to school rather than arriving in full 'Welly Walk' attire.

You will have received a letter this week telling you what your child will be in this year's Nativity play. Some people will have been asked to provide a whole costume or part of a costume to compliment what we already have in school. We are one shepherd/towns person costume short... so if you happen to have one laying around at home or are a keen seamstress and fancy making one. We would be very grateful!

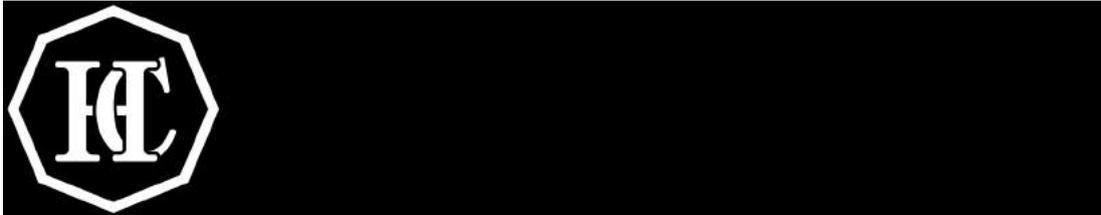
Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend!

**Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Reception Class Team**

## Christmas Tree Sponsors - THANK YOU!!!!!!

We are extremely grateful to the following local business for kindly sponsoring our Christmas Trees this year:



HC Jewellers

8 High Street  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 9AG

01763 244705



9 High Street  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 9AG

01763 246200



**JEWELLERS**

**Wish you a very**

*Merry  
Christmas*



Receive Your  
**Free Gift**

**Silver Bracelet worth £25**  
when you spend £100 or more.

**Silver Earrings worth £15**  
when you spend £50 or more.

On any Jewellery brought  
in store.



This offer is valid from 1/11/19 - 24/12/19. Whilst stocks last.  
Free gifts are non re-fundable or exchangeable.



**JEWELLERS**  
& GOLD BUYING CENTRE

**FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING**

**BEAUTIFUL GIFTS IN SILVER & GOLD  
MODERN & TRADITIONAL DESIGNS  
GREAT NEW BRANDS  
ENGAGEMENT & WEDDING RINGS  
PRE-OWNED PRESTIGE WATCHES  
JEWELLERY & WATCH ACCESORIES  
& MUCH MORE**



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Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 9AG  
01763 244705  
info@hcjewellers.co.uk  
www.hcjewellers.co.uk

**December Opening Times**

Sunday 22nd 10:00am - 04:00pm  
Monday 23rd 09:00am - 05:30pm  
Christmas Eve 09:00am - 04:00pm  
Re-open Friday 3rd January as usual.



## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

What a cold and busy week!

In English we have been looking at simple texts which told the reader some information in a simple sentence. In response to that we were going to write about some things we like to do. However, Tuesday morning arrived and it was beautifully frosty, so we all took time to go and investigate the icy formations in the playground. We wrapped up warm, picked up a magnifying glass each on the way and set off. The writing afterwards turned out to include the suffixes 'ed' and 'ing' so that we could say what we had enjoyed **looking** at.

We have been concentrating on finding out 'what is left?' in Maths – using word problems, showing the working out using a 'part-whole model' and completing number sentences. Although the actual numbers have been relatively easy for some, making sure we have all the sentences and background understanding has been trickier with everyone needing to look back at their work at some point!

We have started learning the words for all the songs we are going to sing as part of the Christmas Performance. Sorry to mention the 'C' word, but in 3 weeks the play will all be over! It was interesting to bring everyone's ideas together about the Christmas Story. Your child should have brought home a letter today detailing what is needed for their costume. We have kept these as simple as possible, and they will need to be brought into school by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, ready for our dress rehearsal. Please ensure they are **named** as there will be 12 identical costumes in the classroom!

We hope you will have time to go and see all the Christmas Trees at the festival in the Church this weekend – for ours we have added sign language decorations – flip the sign to see what it means. Try some signs – your children should be able to help you with lots of them!

We hope you have a restful weekend,

**Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Carter and the Year One Team**

## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

We have been busily writing stories this week continuing with the theme introduced last week, using the story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance.' We have been thinking of how to set the scene in our story, introduce the characters using some imaginative descriptive language and then develop the idea of a beginning, middle and ending to our story.

In Maths we have been using practical equipment to look at different methods of adding together two 2-digit numbers, partitioning the numbers into tens and ones, eg,

$$43 + 21 =$$

*4 tens plus 2 tens equals 6 tens*

*3 ones plus 1 one equals 4 ones*

$$40+20=60$$

$$3+1=4$$

$$60+4=64$$

This has enabled the children to visualise the numbers and really understand how to 'build' the number rather than just apply a formula!

Our Christmas tree has gone to church and so we hope you enjoy visiting the Tree Festival over the weekend.

Please see the separate note about all things Nativity related!

### Reminders:-

Please can you ensure your child has a full PE kit, coat, gloves and hat if needed and a water bottle – every day!

Please could we ask you to check labels in clothes to prevent clothes becoming lost. We have a classroom box but it is very difficult if items are not labelled.

Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

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

## Nativity News.....Tickets, Costumes, Filming and more.....



### ‘Lights, Camel, Action 2: The Sequin!’

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 2.00pm  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 2.00pm

You may be wondering if you have heard the title mentioned before. This is the ‘sequel’ to the very popular Nativity we performed two years ago.

The Nativity is told through dance and bears some resemblance to a quite popular television programme! This week we have begun to practise songs, acting and dances.

You will today have received a costume note in your child’s Reading Folder giving details of the costumes needed for our performance.

We do have some costumes in school but if there is anyone who has a costume they think might be useful hiding in a cupboard at home, we would love to borrow it!

You will also have received Parentmails this week giving you details of how to book tickets for the performances. We also need permission from all parents before we can organise filming of the performance and sales of DVDs and CDs of photos.



As you can appreciate there is an awful lot of organisation involved in the performances and so we would really appreciate your help in replying to Parentmails and adhering to deadlines.



We look forward to seeing you in school later this term to see your children perform.

If you would like to know any further information please contact your child’s class teacher in the first instance. Many thanks for your help and support with all of the above.

**The Teaching Teams in Reception Class and Years 1 and 2.**

PTA

# Christmas RAFFLE

Enter for chance to  
WIN an XBOX ONE X 1TB Console  
PLUS game worth over £350  
OR a luxury family hamper (2 available)

**Only £2 per ticket**

Books of raffle tickets will be sent out in your children's bags. Please return completed ticket stubs, money & any unsold tickets by 6th Dec

**Draw 9th December**

All money raised will be used to enhance your children's school experience.

Thank you

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

In English we have used all our work on descriptive writing to write a description of the outside of the chocolate factory, we have left Charlie longing and dreaming to go inside.... Next week we will transfer our skills in descriptive writing to describing the chocolate room. Charlie will at last get to see inside!

In Maths we have used our understanding of shape to investigate the properties of 3D shapes; we used this understanding to help make chocolate boxes. We have also been working on our understanding of addition and subtraction, developing written methods and solving simple problems. Next week we will continue using addition and subtraction to solve 'real life' word problems.

In Topic we used what we had found out last week in our work on packaging to design our own, we tested out our ideas in a proto type, before making our final product. We also found out a great deal about the history of chocolate during our Mayan day. Did you know that chocolate used to be used as a form of currency and that the Ancient Mayan's had a chocolate God that they would take offerings to in special chocolate ceremonies. We were also surprised to find out that chocolate was once used as a form of medicine. Next week we will continue our work on the history of chocolate and the role it played in the ancient civilisation of the Mayans.



Thank you for all the lovely costumes that the children wore on



Wednesday they helped us to have a special fun day.

On Thursday this week, we decorated our tree in the church with our special French slippers; we are very pleased with how our tree looks. It was also lovely to see all the other trees that have made up the Christmas Tree Festival this year. The church is open all weekend if you would like to go and see the display.

Please can you support your children in the learning of their lines for the Christmas services, everyone has a small part so this should not be too onerous. Narrators

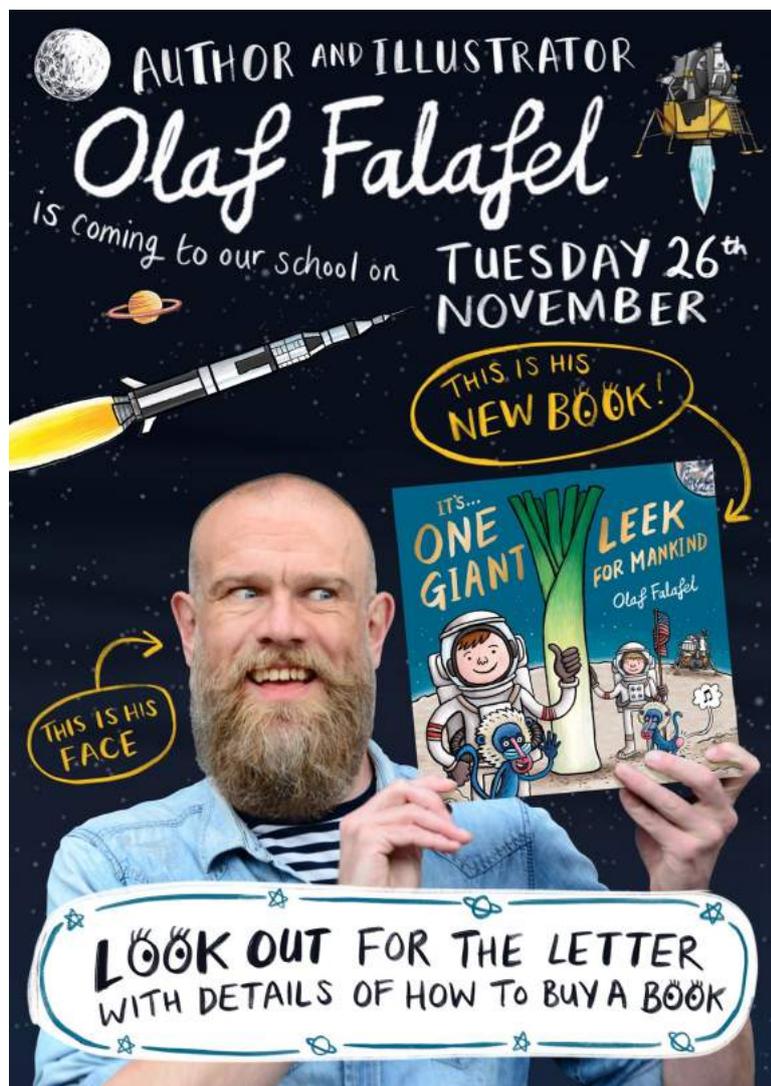
will have a card to read from, but it is helpful if they are familiar with their lines.

Many thanks for your continued work and support at home, wishing you a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Seward & Year Three Team**

## Look what Year 3 did on their Mayan day





On **Tuesday 26th November**, we are looking forward to a visit from author and comedian Olaf Falafel, who will share his love of illustration and story writing with the children. He will be signing books.

**If you would like to purchase a copy of his new book “One Giant Leek for Mankind”**, a fantastic, adventure filled story celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landings. Please ensure that the correct money is placed in an envelope and clearly marked with **your child’s name, class and book order** and hand to the school office or your child’s teacher by **Monday 25th November 2019** along with the £10 payment. The 32 page hardback book cleverly combines historical fact with hilariously creative fiction and is retailing at £12.99, but being offered to children at Steeple Morden Primary for a reduced price of **£10**. The session will finish with book signing of those books that have been purchased.

## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

Hopefully, by the time you read this, our plan to create a Christmas tree with a difference has come to fruition and is ready for the Christmas Tree Festival to be held in Church over this weekend. Earlier this week the children had great fun as we prepared our decorations and I would like to say big thank you to Mrs Hannah for envisioning just how we could decorate our class tree in line with the language we are studying. I thought, as our language is Mandarin, that it was quite a tall order! In the course of the work we also found out that it is estimated that just over 2% of China's population are Christian. This translates to about 30 million people - which is about half the population of the UK!

In our English lessons we have been working on vocabulary building. Our focus has been on improving our descriptive language. We agreed that the words that initially pop into our head when we are trying to write may not always be the best, or may even be a bit over-used. Sometimes just thinking a little more carefully can help us use a more varied vocabulary but we are now also using both thesaurus and dictionaries to help us in selecting more powerful adjectives and adverbs to describe scenes.

In our class we have been looking at how to think critically about the information we see online and the ways we can judge the reliability/trustworthiness of information that has been found online:

- Checking different websites – Check at least three different websites; does the information match across those sites?
- Check in a book – Books are still used to check information on many topics! As books go through rigorous publishing processes, they may be deemed as more reliable than information online that can be published and shared in seconds.
- Talk to someone – Ask a trusted adult to look at the information you found, or see if a best friend found the same sorts of facts for the same homework task.

Next week in Mathematics we will be looking at multiplication. Our focus will be on what happens to a number when we multiply by 10 (or 100). Hopefully, by Friday, everyone in class will be able to explain why we are not 'just adding a zero (or two)!

Our work in Science will be based on a practical investigation; we will be using thermometers and learning about taking accurate readings. This will also give us the opportunity to learn more about the words 'prediction' and 'observation' and how they can add extra meaning if we are able to apply these in our experiments. Lastly, we will be looking at how we plan and create an accurate diagram to represent our findings.

Next week we also look forward to a visit from author and comedian Olaf Falafel, who will share his love of illustration and story writing with the children.

**Mr Beaven & Year Four Team**

## *Christmas Wreath Making Evening*



**NEWSFLASH**  
Last 2 tickets left—please see  
school office as soon as possible!

*Steeple Morden Church of England Primary School  
Thursday 28th November - School hall 7pm  
PTA fund raiser.*

*Tickets: £30 all materials provided.  
Light refreshments included. Limited places so book early!  
Please bring own secateurs.*

*Tickets available from school office,  
non-refundable full payment on booking.*

## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

This week we have spent time during our maths lessons discussing the range of practical equipment which is available to help us during our lessons. We are concentrating on five key pieces of equipment at this stage and exploring how they can help us with a range of mathematical operations. If you have the time please see how many of these your child can remember and name. This emphasis on the repeated use of equipment is all part of a whole school drive towards 'Maths Mastery', a particular approach towards teaching and learning in maths which has proved very effective as a way of raising attainment in maths.

We have continued to think about our Christmas performance, as you will know parts have been allocated and words should have come home to be learnt, including some in Italian! Hopefully you will have received a letter from Mr Beavan concerning costumes and the dates and times of the performances. Please let us know if these did not quite manage to reach you at home or if you are unable to attend the evening performance.

There have been lots of opportunities to be creative this week. In Art the children have created some beautiful Chinese blossom pictures which we are now lucky enough to have on display in the classroom. They have also completed their decorations for the Year Five Christmas tree for display at the Christmas Tree Festival which will be held this weekend in Steeple Morden Church. You are most welcome to attend and see the trees on display there prepared by various groups from within the village, including one prepared by each class in school. To support our continued study of Buddhism in R.E. we have also made Wesak lanterns.

We visited the tree festival this morning and have all identified our favourite tree. Please ask your child which they preferred and why.

With thanks for your continued support,

**The Year Five Team**

## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing to look at division. The children now know how to work out calculations using both short and long division. Ask them about the methods at home. Next, we will work on examining these formal methods, and developing on our reasoning skills when studying worded problems involving division. For example, division is also about multiplication, addition, place value and fractions.

In English, we have continued to study 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. After looking at some of the main characters from the play and focussing on improving a descriptive paragraph about one of them, we have planned and will now write and edit a critical evaluation of an animated film of the play. The children very much enjoyed the play and are beginning to understand the humour and language used by Shakespeare.

This week, we have been working through old SATs papers. The children have been working hard and are becoming familiar with the types of questions that appear, as well as their sense of timing. We aim to finish these early next week

Homework should be returned by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please – these are crucial to their mathematical development.

Thank you.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**

# Community News

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Cambridge Christmas Singing School

Cressida Cowell event, 2 for 1 ticket offer - Saturday, 30th November

LJ's: Litlington Youth Club

Litlington Pre-school

Litlington Pre-school Pamper Evening – Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Litlington Pre-school Christmas Fayre – Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

Ashwell Stage School Christmas Concert – Saturday, 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)

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*"If you judge people, you have no time to love them"*

**Mother Theresa**

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

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