



Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing changes

For the Summer Term, **Mrs Bowmer** will be reducing her teaching hours in year 1 to four days a week, working Monday to Thursday. Fridays will be covered by Mrs Lorraine Carter who is a qualified and experienced teacher. (Year 1 parents received a message with further information via Parentmail yesterday).

We will be saying a sad “goodbye” to **Mrs Talbot** at the end of the Summer term as she leaves us to head for the sunny climes of Guernsey where her husband has taken a new job. Mrs Talbot has worked at the school in a number of different teaching roles and is currently job-sharing year 5 with Mrs Morris. Although Mrs Talbot will be with us until the end of July, we will be advertising for a replacement after Easter and I hope to have news of a successful appointment before the end of term.

This will be the last newsletter that **Kate Alsop**, our Webeditor, will be compiling on our behalf. After Easter, The Star will be produced ‘in-house’. Kate has done a fantastic job in recent years despite some staff being particularly poor with deadlines and we have appreciated her support and patience. I am sure you will join all of us at school in thanking her for all her hard work on this.

Payments

As you will have heard, school budgets are becoming increasingly tight and consequently we are making savings wherever possible. (When the government remind us that they are putting more money into schools than ever before, they often neglect to mention that nationally there are more pupils in schools and some of the money is so tightly ‘ring-fenced’ that schools cannot actually make best use of it). This means that over the coming months we will be making some changes to the way that we collect money from parents and how we organise trips and events. It is now more important than ever that contributions are received from parents in good time as we simply do not have the funds to ‘top up’ when this does not happen. We desperately want to continue to offer these experiences to the children because we know how beneficial they are. Please help us to do this by making payments on time or talking to us if you are having difficulties.

And finally ...

Thank you to those parents who were able to join us in the church yesterday for an Easter assembly led by Canon Williams. Although it is still two weeks away, we have had various Easter activities going on in school and we all feel ready for a break. As always, keep encouraging your child to read regularly over the holiday, and use those ‘tackling tables’ cards wherever possible. If anyone would like an additional challenge, there is the Starry Night Sky writing task (see page 6) which will help prepare them for the first few days back.

On behalf of everyone here, I wish you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable Easter.

Mrs Tracey How
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary	
April 2019	
Weds 24th	Summer Term Begins
May 2019	
Mon 6 th	Bank Holiday
w/c Mon 13 th	Year 6 / KS2 SATs week
Mon 27 th - Fri 31 st	Half Term
June 2019	
Mon 3 rd	Teacher training day, school closed
July 2019	
Sat 6 th	School Fete
Fri 19 th	Y6 Leavers Party on the school field
Weds 24 th	End of Term
September 2019	
Wed 4 th	Autumn Term Begins
Sun 22 nd	The Steeple Chase run

School Meal Charges

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

Daily:	£2.30
Weekly:	£11.50
1 st half term	£50.60
2 nd half term	£85.10
Whole Term	£135.70

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**

Year 6 Leavers' Party & Hoodies

Please look out for a letter in Year 6 book bags about this, as there is a deadline for orders!

On Mondays, for the first half of the spring term, Mr Beavan will be running a small **photography club** after school for children in Year 5 and 6 until 4.15. If you are interested, please speak to Mr Beavan.

PTA NEWS - EASTER BINGO

A HUGE thank you to all the parents and friends who joined us last Friday for a fantastic bingo event. Special thanks to the staff and parent (and grandparent!) volunteers and the gorgeous cake donations. The event raised a profit of **£522** which is a fantastic start to our fundraising this year.

There will be an update via Parentmail after the Easter break giving you information on how money raised last year was spent, sorry for the delay with this. We are now focussing on raising money for our school outdoor areas.

After Easter we will be preparing for the Steeple Summer Fete on Sat 6th July. We would love you to get involved and will let you know how.

Have a great Easter, the PTA team

Clubs –Summer Term 2019

Day	Time	Club	Start Date	End Date	Staff Member
Monday	3.10-4.15pm	Choir (Years 3-6)	To be Confirmed		Mrs Palmer
Monday	3.10-4.15pm	Photography (Years 5 & 6)	Mon 29 th April	Mon 1 st July	Mr Beavan
Monday	3.10-4.15pm	Years 1 & 2 Summer Sports	Mon 29 th April	Mon 1 st July	Mrs Miller
Tuesday	3.10-4.15pm	Years 5 & 6 Athletics	Tues 30 th April	Tues 2 nd July	Mrs Miller
Wednesday	3.10-4.15pm	Years 3 & 4 Summer Sports	Weds 1 st May	Weds 3 rd July	Mrs Miller
Thursday	8.25am-8.45am (Doors open 8.20am)	Running Club (Years 1-6)	Thurs 2 nd May	Thurs 4 th July	Mrs Miller
Thursday	3.10-4.15pm	Years 5 & 6 Cricket	Thurs 2 nd May	Thurs 4 th July	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@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Many thanks to Mrs Targett who has helped with our year 5/6 Netball Club which has now finished for the year.

LAMDA Drama Classes with Mrs Myerscough will be on Wednesdays, meeting in the Reception classroom. These will begin on Wednesday 24th April. This term there will be 10 sessions: Apr 24th, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd/ Half Term/ Jun 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, Jul 3rd.

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 can contact Mrs Myerscough by phone (07801940433) or email:

sinead.dramaticgrowth@gmail.com/ SineadMyerscough@aol.com

Lunchtime Clubs

Chess Club (Years 3-6) – will run on Friday lunchtimes with Mrs Nutley and Mrs Brown

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

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class,

This week we have been reviewing our knowledge of Phase 3 Phonics, sharing our knowledge of Mathematical concepts and finalising our learning about Easter.

The children have all made great strides with their learning this half term and we are extremely proud of their attitude to learning which has definitely impacted on their successes this term. Thank you for your continued support at home with regards to homework; it really does boost the children's confidence.

Next half term we will begin our 'Turrets and Tiaras' topic and we look forward to enhancing our storytelling and story writing with the aid of Helicopter Stories and our very own Starling puppet theatre!

Please remember to bring back PE kits after half term. Many thanks.

We hope you have a relaxing Easter Holidays!

Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Reception Class Team.

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have been thinking about using our skills in a number of areas using the knowledge we have acquired this term.

In maths, we have tried a challenge investigating 2-digit numbers which used our systematic thinking to make sure we had all possible answers. We have also completed a short assessment of maths skills and looked at some problem-solving questions.

This week we looked at our first reading comprehension. The children were all very excited about using the highlighter pens to show where the answers were in the text and completed the task well in their reading groups.

We had a lovely time today with our Easter crafts and Easter Egg Hunt.

I have taken in homework folders, so if you still have yours lurking at home, I will be asking for it in the first week back so I can stick in a homework grid for the next half term.

Over the holiday, do keep practicing counting in 2s, 5s, 10s; quick recall of number bonds to 10 (or 20); spelling words in the front of reading record books and of course reading, reading, reading. Children could also try the Starry Night Sky writing task on page 6 of this newsletter.

On the first day back, please remember: book bags; water bottles; PE kits. Thank you!

Have an egg-cellent Easter holiday – we hope the weather is kind and you all stay safe. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 24th April back in good health and eager for more fun and learning.

Mrs Bowmer and the Year 1 team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

This half term seems to have flown by and this week has been particularly busy - writing more poems, gathering information and recording it on tally charts, pictograms and bar charts, playing our recorders and making Easter cards to name but a few of our activities.

Friday began with a Rocksteady concert and a special assembly to say goodbye to Fiona in the kitchen. We then enjoyed an Easter themed morning of activities where children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 worked together to make Easter baskets, Easter nests and hats. An Easter egg hunt was then planned for the afternoon!

We will not be setting any homework during the holidays (although children are welcome to tackle the Starry Night Sky task on page 6), and we are sure the children will continue to read their reading books. As mentioned at Parent Consultation, the children will be bringing home a list of the remaining words that they need to be able to read and spell by the end of Year 2. Any help that you can give with practising these would be very much appreciated. Looking at any of the Mathematics activities that we have worked on over the year will also be beneficial and continue to reinforce all of the skills taught so far. Practising 'Tackling Tables' will also be great to keep going during the holidays as we are proving that doing this 'little an often' is having an impact on the children's speed of recall of multiplication and division facts.

As you are no doubt aware from discussions at Parent Consultations, the children will be completing their SATs tests in the final week of the next half term – week beginning Monday 20th May. The children will have two Maths tests and two reading tests which we will complete as part of our usual morning lessons. We will send more details of this process after Easter.

We are sending home all PE kits for washing during the holidays. Please make sure that a full PE kit is returned to school on the first day back as we will have PE on Wednesday 24th April.

Have a lovely holiday and we will see everyone back in school on Wednesday 24th April.

Mrs Luebcke, Mrs Daniels & the Year 2 Team

Starry Night Sky

When the children return from their Easter holidays, the whole school will be looking at the painting 'Starry Night Sky' by Van Gogh. This will form the focus of their work for the first three days of the new term. During this time part of the focus will enable the children to produce a variety of art work that will be displayed in the village church and then later in Ely Cathedral (more details on this exhibition will follow)

Over the holidays the children can prepare for this learning by producing a piece of writing that has been inspired by the picture. This may be a creative piece about being in space, an adventure that happens in the village overnight, an imaginary explanation about how the stars got to be in the sky, maybe even a horoscope page! This could take the form of a story, poem, song, whatever the children fancy.

If the children would prefer, they could write a factual piece about Van Gogh, the picture itself, facts about the stars, space exploration etc.

The above are all only suggestions; the children may come up with their own ideas about the writing that they could do, 'the sky is the limit', as long as the stimulus is the painting.

The children will need to bring their work into school on their first day back so that it can be shared in school before forming part of the display in the church.

The image is available to see on the school web site under pupils' activities or it is easy to find in a google image search.

Thank you for your support, wishing you an enjoyable Easter break, keep your eyes on the stars and your pen on the page.



News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

Well what a term it has been!

Our Golden Voyage has reached its destination. On the way we have; met Elizabeth I, Frances Drake, Walter Raleigh, Mary Queen of Scots and William Shakespeare, we have used their lives and exploits to write biographies, plays, diaries, poems and comic strips, discovered how rocks, fossils and soils are formed, designed crowns for the queen, danced following Tudor banquets, located Elizabethan palaces up and down the country, composed music to tell the story of the Spanish Armada which you can listen to via our podcast (search for Steeple Morden Primary News via your podcasting app. such as Apple Podcasts on iPhone or Google Podcasts for android). We have learnt how to 'read' a portrait and created our own with messages about ourselves and much **MUCH** more. We now understand a little about how important the events and actions of the Elizabethan era have shaped our country and what a powerful Queen Elizabeth I was.

We have all enjoyed the voyage enormously and hope you have enjoyed it as a passenger with us.

Next term we will begin our topic 'Into The Woods' which will be full of many exciting things. Early on in the term I am planning to walk the children to Ashwell to spend the day by the springs. I would like to take beach wind breaks and toy bows and arrows, so if you have any that we could use that would be wonderful.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter and relaxing break (let's hope the sun shines).

Many thanks for all your support,

Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team

News from Swift Class (Year 4)

This week we had a very exciting time heading to Mars to see the modern-day innovators behind the Mars Rover, which is being built at Discovery Space in Stevenage and is due to land (hopefully!) by the time Year 4 are in Year 6, in 2021.



Continued.....

News from Year 4 (Continued)

If you want to know more, see this link from the European Space Agency:

https://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Human_and_Robotic_Exploration/Exploration/ExoMars/ESA_s_Mars_rover_has_a_name_Rosalind_Franklin

On Thursday we visited church for an Easter Service, singing a song that we have been practising in school. Keep an ear out for our podcast, hosted by Year 4, by searching for 'Steeple Morden Primary News' in your podcast app - this term, it is all about listening to some of the musicians we have in school.

I hope you and your children enjoy the Easter holidays and take time to relax (and maybe get lost in a good book!)

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Firstly, a huge thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our class assembly on Wednesday morning. We hope that you will all agree that the children did themselves proud and produced an entertaining and informative performance. Also, thank you for all your support at home with learning lines and sourcing costumes, the children really did look amazing. We hope that you enjoyed the cakes which the children baked to share with you. There was certainly very little left by the end of the day!

In science this week we have been continuing with our forces topic. We have been learning about water resistance and how to label diagrams using arrows to show the type, size and direction of force.

In D.T., we have made our Punch and Judy style puppets which has been lots fun.

The children have also taken the opportunity to share their topic homework which has meant that we have learned an awful lot about important Victorian figures!

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing Easter break.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Morris, Mrs Talbot and the Year 5 Team

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

In English, the children have finished writing their fables. They have put a lot of effort into planning, writing and editing these. The fables have all included a moral and dialogue in them; ask your children about their own example.

I am planning to introduce some mini-topics in English after Easter, in order to increase our opportunities to produce a variety of writing. These will be in areas that the children are already familiar with and ones that they have studied previously in other years. We will be focussing on instructional writing and auto-biographies over the next few sessions.

This week, in Maths, we have looked at volume and how to calculate the volume of shapes using a formula. We have also been working on SATs questions and techniques and have tried to remind ourselves of as many different aspects of Maths as possible.

With the SATs taking place four weeks after we return from the Easter break, we will be setting homework over the holiday in preparation for these tests. The children should have received a 'Ten for Ten' Maths booklet. They will also be completing two of the SPAG tests and two of the reading tests from their 10-minute 'SAT Buster' booklet.

For the Maths homework they should complete the 10-minute tests for ten days over the holiday. The reading comprehensions and the SPAG tests are the usual ten minutes each. The answers for the Maths are included and the SPAG and reading answers are at the back of the booklets as usual. Please let your children complete the tests then go over the answer with them afterwards – thank you. The homework should be returned by Wednesday 24th April.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Junior Tennis Coaching, Steeple Morden

Stage Coach Royston – new school opening.

Children's Art Competition

Pop-up Pub – The Tree Tuns Guilden Morden, Saturday 6th April.

Mad Science Easter Camp at Melbourn Primary School 8-12th April

Oxford & Cambridge Singing School 8-10th April

Junior & Youth Athletics Camp – 8-10th April

Junior & Youth Netball Camp 10-11th April

Adult Learning Skills – Fast Track Qualifications

Church Spring Fair 27th April

Pamper Evening, Litlington, Friday 10th May.

Parenting Courses

Get into Teaching Information Event, Thursday 23rd May

Elevation Youth Dance Company at Bassingbourn Mayhem 24th May.

Smarties Easter Holiday Club – Activities & Booking form

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

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Royston, SG8 0PD

Tel: 01763 852474 Fax: 01763 853112

Email: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey How

Kitchen Manager Vacancy

25 hours per week (term time plus 3 days),

Level 5 point 12, £17,173 pa (pro rata), £8.90 per hour

Steeple Morden Primary School is a friendly and welcoming village school with approximately 190 pupils on roll. We are at the heart of a thriving village community.

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Kitchen Manager who will work alongside our small team of kitchen staff. The hours will be 9.00 am to 2.00 pm Monday to Friday, term time only with 3 additional kitchen cleaning days per year.

The post holder will be responsible for preparing menus and cooking school meals to a high standard ensuring H&S standards are maintained at all times. You will also be expected to assist in setting up each day and clearing away alongside two other staff members. The successful candidate will have experience of cooking meals/assisting with meal preparation in a school or other catering environment.

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: Monday, 15 April

Interviews: Week commencing, Monday 29 April