



Dear Parents and Carers,

March seems to be the month for trips and visits! By the time you read this our Year 6s should have returned from Derbyshire after five days of outdoor learning and exploring the locality. Also this week, Starling class have visited Standalone farm and Heron class have been to the British Schools Museum in Hitchin. Next week Peacock class are off to Burleigh House and the rest of the school will be treated to a concert from the Cambridgeshire Music team. We do try very hard to provide a wide range of experiences and learning opportunities for the children but we couldn't do this without your financial support. Thank you for helping us to make this happen!

Easter Service

This year our Easter Service is going to be a more 'low key' event. For various reasons we have not been able prepare an event that showcases our singing and classroom learning as has happened in previous years. Instead we are working towards a static display in the church that will be open for parents, carers and the local community to visit and enjoy, while the Easter Service itself will be more of a Whole School Collective Worship in the church. Parents and carers are more than welcome to attend but please be aware that you will not see performances by the children. More news to follow about our annual Easter Bonnet Parade.

Golden Tickets – please cancel if you can't make it!

Thank you for taking on board the changes around Golden Tickets this term. With booking being made in advance this has really helped the kitchen staff to plan and prepare. If you have booked a lunch and, for whatever reason, are then unable to attend please let us know. This is even more important if you have any dietary requirements! All Golden Ticket meals incur additional costs and if they are not taken we will, in future, still require payment unless they are cancelled by 9.30am. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Goodbye to a dear friend of the school

At the great age of 102, Mrs Genesta Harris passed away peacefully at her home last month. Genesta has been part of the village for over 40 years and during this time she has been a very supportive friend to our school. Her love for children meant that she spent a lot of time both in class and assemblies and she was also a governor. Her last visit was to celebrate her 100th birthday! Those of us who knew her will remember her enthusiasm and for everything she brought to the school.

Genesta's funeral will be held at 2.30pm on Wednesday 13th March at Steeple Morden Church. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this time.

Mrs Tracey How

Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary	
Spring Term	
March 2019	
11 th -15 th	STEM week
Tues 12 th	Year 3 visit to Burghley House Parent Consultations (3.30-6.00pm)
Weds 13th	Class Photos
Thurs 14 th	Parent Consultations (3.30-7.00pm)
Fri 15 th	Red Nose Day (see page 8)
Weds 20 th	EYFS & KS1 Charity Fun Run
Fri 22 nd	Y6 World Book Day dress up.
April 2019	
Thurs 4 th	Easter Service 9.30am
Fri 5th	Last Day of Term
September 2019	
Sun 22 nd	The Steeple Chase run

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**

Year 6 will be celebrating
World Book Day 2019
On
Friday 22nd March

Children are welcome to come dressed as a book character and we will be following the theme of "Share a Story".

We are excited to announce that **Choir** will recommence on Monday 11th March.

We need your help!

Please can you help save the environment by saving your plastic bottle tops (of all colours) by bringing them in to school to give to Mrs Meridew and Miss Webb for a recycling project to help the children learn about keeping the World's oceans clean.

Many thanks!

Comic Relief / Red Nose Day **Friday 15th March 2019**

Children are welcome to come to school dressed in any Comic Relief Merchandise (t-shirts, noses, deeley boppers, glasses etc) or they could enhance or decorate their school uniform with red dotted 'noses'. Although we will not be collecting money in school, if you are able please donate to this worthwhile cause in whatever way you wish. Our assembly that day will focus on the work of this charity.

(Apologies - we know this is incredibly close to our World Book Day dressing up events, but we have no control over either of these dates and hope that by not asking for more money or having another non-uniform / dress up day we are not putting undue pressure on families.)

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class,

What a busy week! We have had a visit from Mr Hannah's tractor as well as a trip to the farm where we groomed a horse, stroked a donkey and fed the pigs! We also concluded our learning on money and learnt four new sounds: igh, ur, ow and oi.

Next week is STEM week. The children will be learning about colour through lots of hands on scientific experiments alongside all their usual learning in Phonics and Maths. Also, next week there is NO Welly Walk! Welly Walks will continue on 21st March.

We hope you received our invitation via parentmail for our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 27th March, please could you respond to let us know if you are able or unable to make it, so we know how much food and drink to provide. Many thanks.

Please remember that next week is parent's evening, we are looking forward to catching up with you and talking about your child's progress.

We hope you have a great weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Reception Class Team.

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

We have had another busy week in Robin class, welcoming a new friend and enjoying getting to know her, as well as listening to a few piano-playing individuals and trying out a new daily phonics activity.

In English the children have been using adjectives to describe an island they have designed, ultimately using their ideas to write a 'message in a bottle' so they could be rescued if necessary! They have also started to use exclamation marks.

To start the week, all the children put their knowledge of comparing weights to the test when we looked at some written or drawn questions. They were able to use some great vocabulary and thinking skills to talk about what they could see and understand. We have also been finding out about doubling and halving numbers. Although some of the children are already super at doubling single digit numbers, they have been using their knowledge and thinking about new strategies to have a go at some more tricky numbers, with some even using their partitioning skills! We have been impressed by all the different challenges the children have tried.

Lastly this week we have been exploring the trees in our school grounds as part of our activities for World Book Day. Sorry if you have to spend your weekend hugging, measuring and listening to the trees in your garden. Go with the flow and enjoy!

We are looking forward to the Cambridge Music Live event on Tuesday next week – your donation of £1 really will ensure we can continue to invite groups in to entertain us with live music.

Reminders –

Please continue to send your child to school with a water bottle every day!

Even as Spring (hopefully) progresses, please keep sending in a warm coat for now. The children are out for about 30 minutes at lunchtime and the wind can be chilly in our playground. We'd rather they were warm than too cold!

Thank you for your continued support, listening to children read, learn their phonics and recognise/spell their words.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Bowman and the Year 1 team.

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Friday 8th March – World Book Day Dress Up Day!

It was fantastic to see so many wonderful costumes in school today in celebration of World Book Day. Taking inspiration from our whole school book this year. “I love this tree!” we each made our very own tree sculpture – complete with treehouses, ladders, rope bridges and bunting! We will be bringing the sculptures home on Monday.

It will not be safe to send these home with children who travel home on the bus, so if an adult could come into school at another time to collect their child’s tree from the front desk that would be very helpful!

STEM Week – Monday 11th March – Friday 15th March

We are planning a week of Science, Maths and Technology activities and in Reception Class and Years 1 and 2 we will be using the theme of ‘colour’ as our inspiration. Lots of hands-on practical science investigations are planned.

EYFS & KS1 Charity Fundraiser – ‘Rainbow Fun Run’ – Wednesday 20th March.

You will have received a parentmail last week giving details of this fundraiser for our school charity ‘Cancer Research.’

Reminders:

Homework Folders - New activities have been added for this half term. Several children did not have their folder in school last week. Please send in books and folders on Wednesdays so we have time to mark them before sending them home again on Fridays.

Mathletics – set every Friday.

Tackling Tables – practise as often as possible at home.

Recorders – to school every Friday please (excepting this week when we had our lesson yesterday due to World Book Day!)

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.

If girls are wearing tights on PE days please make sure they have a pair of socks in their PE kits!

Water Bottles – please ensure your child brings in a water bottle to school every day. Thank you.

We look forward to meeting with you all soon at one of our Parent Consultation evenings. Please sign up for a time if you have not already done so.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Luebcke, Mrs Daniels & the Year 2 Team

News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

What a stormy, tempestuous, crashing, thundering week we have had in Year 3!!

We have spent a lot of time this week describing stormy seas to help us write descriptions of events in the Spanish Armada. The children have read descriptions to identify similes, metaphors and descriptive phrases before starting to write their own. We have had seas that are 'pounding like an exercised heart', 'waves that explode like bombs against the towering rocks', and 'monsters that will eat up any ship' so as you can imagine we are very pleased with our descriptive work so far.

Next week in English we will continue with our descriptive writing and use it to help us write poems.

In maths we have revisited methods for addition before using it to help us price a banquet to celebrate the success of the Spanish Armada; this work will continue next week. It would be helpful if the children could brush up on their mental recall of addition facts for numbers to 50 in preparation.

In topic work, we have looked at the events that led up to the Spanish Armada along with the attempted invasion itself, we have acted this out, created comic strips and created moving pictures to illustrate the event.

Next week we will investigate floating and sinking in order for us to design new ships for the fledgling British Navy.

On Friday we enjoyed an exciting book day. The class were mixed with years 4 and 5 to make three mixed class groups, they then rotated around 3 different activities all relating to our school book 'I love this tree'. Fun was had by all with lots of learning about how much we need and use trees. Please see our school web site for pictures.

Next week should be another fun packed week as we are off on our trip to Burghley house on Tuesday. The children should be dressed in their Tudor outfits and have a packed lunch with them. They may also bring a small snack and drink for mid-morning.

During the week we will also have a variety of activities for national STEM week. Please read next weeks' Star to see what we have been up to.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend

Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team

News from Swift Class (Year 4)

Year 4 have had a tree-mendous week leading up to World Book Day, and have been studying the book entitled, 'I Love This Tree'. We have looked at our favourite trees, learnt why rings are present in tree trunks and studied different types of wood and their uses, as well as looking at how non-fiction text is organised and presented.

In French we have been learning how to ask for directions to different places and learning how to give directions, reinforcing the words for left and right. Our discussions in PSHE have given us another opportunity to talk about the phrase 'growth mindset'. We have talked how we can view the difficulties we all meet from time to time in our work. With a growth mindset we look at these challenges as a springboard to develop our understanding further.

Next week, in Maths, we will be looking at how fractions and decimals are used to describe numbers that are not whole. We will be finding some common equivalents and also solving problems involving fractions of amounts. In English, we will be paying close attention to how dialogue can be used to show character in narratives and how authors use dialogue to move a story on. We will be looking at examples, in some of the books we are reading in class, to work out the rules for punctuating dialogue with a special focus on where inverted commas are placed within text.

Next week is STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) week. This is a national event where many schools celebrate all sciences and their importance in our everyday lives. We will be taking part in practical activities which will give a chance to see how all the science subjects are linked.

Thank you for response to the parentmail about our proposed visit to see the Mars Rover.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In English this week we have planned and begun to draft our persuasive letters to Mrs How. During this work we have spent time discussing modal verbs and are making sure that we include plenty of these in our writing. We are also using emotive language and concentrating on linking our paragraphs together with adverbials of time, place and number. Now we have learnt which techniques make our arguments most persuasive, we suggest you watch out at home as you may find yourself agreeing to more treats than you usually would!

In Maths we have been working on multiplying two-digit by two-digit numbers. We have made a good start and will continue with this work next week.

Some of us travelled to Comberton Village College this week to take part in a Year 5/6 hockey tournament. We were very proud of the sporting behaviour and determination which the children demonstrated, particularly as our year fives were up against teams which included many year six students.

In art this week we continued with our Pre-Raphaelite work and in science we completed our properties of materials topic.

We had our first Mindfulness session on Tuesday, where we looked at what it means to be in the present moment as oppose to our minds being in the past or the future. The children completed a little activity which had them all very much thinking about what was happening right there and then; perhaps you could ask them about it!

Our trip to The British Schools museum was a great success. The children really enjoyed being in a class with such strict teachers... We're sure they came home with lots of interesting stories about their visit.

Mrs Talbot, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Children's Tennis Coaching

Parenting Workshops

Steeple Morden Tennis Club

Smarties Jumble Sale 9th March

Are You Tuff Enough – Charity Obstacle Course 17th March.

Home Start Black Tie Ball 29th March 2019

Oxford & Cambridge Singing School 8-10th April

Pop-up Pub Guilden Morden 11th April

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