



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to another busy term of learning here at Steeple. I hope you had a peaceful and pleasant break.

As is often the case there are a number of messages and reminders to pass on so please take the time to read through this week's Star especially carefully. With regards to school meals, there is a note for all parents regarding our **adult 'Golden Ticket' arrangements** on page 7 and a special message for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 on page 2.

Please remember that any **changes to home time arrangements** should ideally be passed to the school office by 12.00pm. This gives us ample time to get the message to everyone who needs to know. If there are any last-minute changes after this time, then please telephone rather than email to be sure that we have the message.

Next month we will be saying **goodbye to Anthony Powers**, who has been a cleaner at the school for the last four years. He has been given an opportunity to expand his own business and simply can't juggle the two jobs. We will be sad to see him go and wish him the very best with his new ventures. This does now mean that we have a **vacancy** for a cleaner. Please see the advert on page 11 for more information.

Mrs Tracey How
Headteacher

'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

Dates for Your Diary	
Spring Term	
January 2019	
Mon 7 th	Term Begins
Mon 14 th	Year 3 Elizabethan Day
Weds 23 rd	Year 4 Class Assembly 10.10am
February 2019	
Tues 12 th	Year 6 Residential trip meeting 3.30
18 th – 22 nd	Half Term
March 2019	
Mon-Fri 4 th – 8 th	Y6 Residential trip to Derbyshire
Tues 12 th	Parent Consultations (times tbc)
Thurs 14 th	Parent Consultations (times tbc)
April 2019	
Thurs 4 th	Easter Service 9.30am
Fri 5 th	Last Day of Term

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

IMPORTANT LUNCHTIME INFORMATION CHILDREN IN STARLING, ROBIN AND OWL CLASSES

As many of you know, all children in reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals under the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals programme.

We realise than some children can be a little wary of the 'school dinner' lunchtime routine of walking to the hatch to choose food that has been cooked by someone that isn't their parent or family member. For this reason, every so often we try something different to encourage children to 'have a go' with school dinners.

Next week (Thursday 17th) we will be doing just that. There will be a change to the usual menu with 'treat day' happening on the Thursday. In addition, **all children in Starling, Robin and Owl class will be offered a milkshake and cookie to have alongside their packed lunch if they wish.** (Children with dietary requirements will be offered a suitable alternative).

This will be completely **FREE OF CHARGE**. Please let us know if you do not want us to offer this to your child.

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)	Mon 7 th Jan	Mon 1 st Apr	Mrs Palmer
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 resume on Friday lunchtimes.

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

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a delightful festive season and are full of energy for the New Year! We had a wonderful time with our families and would like to thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts we have received; we are very grateful.

This the week we have begun our '3, 2, 1... Blast Off!' topic where we have been thinking about aliens – who they are, what they look like, where they live and what they do! We have started Phase 3 Phonics learning the new sounds 'j', 'v', 'w' and 'x' as well as looking at the names and properties of 3D shapes.

Next week the children will be 'discovering' the planets in our Solar System – learning their names, putting them in order, painting their own planets as well as learning new sounds in phonics and continuing their work on 3D shapes.

Thank you for sending your child's PE bag back in to school for PE, the children have been looking at different styles of jumping as part of their Gymnastics. We also had lots of fun on our Welly Walk looking at the seasonal changes in the wood. **Welly Walks will take place every Thursday this half term**, please remember to send your child to school in their Welly Walk clothes which should now include hats, gloves and scarves! Many thanks.

We hope you have a great weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Reception Class Team.

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

Happy New Year!

The children have returned to school eager to learn and enthusiastic about our new topic, An Enchanted Isle. We have begun by thinking about the continents the children know already - the hall is now known as Antarctica (due to location rather than temperature!)

In English we enjoyed writing a letter home early in the week and have discovered that giving instructions and listening carefully are skills we need to work on. We have started thinking about adding to a 2-digit number in Maths and talking about the tens number and the ones number in more detail.

We are starting to plan a small sewing project. If there are any sewing enthusiasts out there, do let me know if you are interested in helping with this. We are hoping to start working on this after half term.

We all hope you have a great weekend!

Mrs Bowmer and the Year One Team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

The class were very excited to learn that our new topic 'All the way to Buckingham Palace....' is going to begin with a focus on London. We received a postcard and some photographs from Lola the Leopard who has been doing some sightseeing! The children had lots of knowledge to share about our capital city and are looking forward to setting up a Tourist Information Office in the classroom. If you have any books, maps, posters or leaflets at home that you think may be helpful, we would be very grateful if you could send them into school. We will be looking at maps of our classroom, our school, Steeple Morden and London and comparing life in a village with life in a large city!

Our English work this week has been based around the story 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew. We will be writing diary entries in the first person about the adventure. We looked out for nouns and verbs in the text and also talked about the present and past tense. We discussed that when we add the suffix 'ed' to the end of a word to change from present to past tense, if words end in 'e' we take off the e and add 'ed.' We spotted that there are obviously many exceptions to this rule! The children may be able to point out some of these grammar examples to you when they are reading.

Phonics and Spellings– children brought home their new spellings this week in their yellow folders. We would be really grateful if you could spend a few minutes practising with them using 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check'. The focus this week is on words that sound the same but are spelt differently depending on their meaning (homophones) – e.g., sea/see, weather/whether and our favourite there/their/they're!

Our focus in Maths for the next 3 weeks will be money and then we will be moving on to a unit on multiplication and division. We will be looking at coins, notes, finding totals, giving change and solving 2-step problems. This week we talked to the children about how much easier it is if you start with the higher value coins and count on from there to find your total. Any practical help at home using coins and working out totals and change would be very useful.

We are going to begin using our Tackling Tables cards on Fridays in small groups. We will be working with the blue cards and focussing to begin with on multiples of 10. We will gradually add in multiples of 2 and 5 so that we are able to use the whole blue pack. Any help you are able to give at home with your home packs of cards would be fantastic. If you haven't yet bought your home pack, please see the note on page 1 giving details again of how this can be done.

The children are bringing home a new set of homework activities which we have introduced in class. As usual, there are a range of activities in different subject areas which can take as short or as long a time as you have.

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.

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for the lovely cards, messages and gifts we received for Christmas. They were very much appreciated by all of the teaching team in Year 2.

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)

Happy New Year to you all!

In class we have had an interesting and exciting start to 2019. We started the week with thinking about New Year's resolutions for home and school. You will be pleased to know that the 3 most popular home resolutions were to wash up, make their own beds and keep their rooms tidy, all without being reminded!! Our in-school resolutions, I feel, were a little more realistic and have been stuck to for most of the week.

Our French days with Year 4 were very successful, the children were enthusiastic about learning a new language and could be heard greeting each other in the playground practising their new vocabulary. In the classroom they found out about colours and numbers in French to help them complete work about Monet. They played bingo with French numbers and other vocabulary, found famous land marks across France, and discovered what France is renowned for. On Wednesday they visited a 'French café' where they could order bread with cheese and pate, orange or apple juice or sparkling water. All ordering had to be done in French! Payment had to be made in Euros, so a visit to the 'Bureau de change' was necessary.

On Friday we were lucky enough to enjoy another visit from Widdershins puppet theatre, the children had requested their return and were not disappointed.

Next week in English we will be refining our skills in note taking and writing non-fiction texts. These will be about Elizabeth I. In maths we will be solving word problems relating to the Kings and Queens of the Tudor/Elizabethan era. Our Topic work will follow on from the dress-up day on Monday 14th January.

Please remember that we have had a change of date for our dress up day. The children can dress as Elizabethans on **Monday 14th January. On that day could the children please also bring in a piece of tropical fruit suitable to make fruit kebabs?** Thank you.

Please make sure full PE kits are in school every day (our planned PE slots remain the same)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team

Changes to adult Golden Ticket arrangements (January 2019)

Since starting at Steeple, I have been monitoring the arrangements for adult 'Golden Tickets' where parents and carers can come in and have lunch with their children.

I can clearly see the benefits. There is the opportunity for parents to sample school dinners, the chance for children to share another part of their school day with family, and kitchen staff being able to demonstrate the quality of their lunches. With the school as an integral part of the community the sharing of mealtimes is always very special.

However, the current arrangements do raise some security and safeguarding issues.

- We don't always know who the visitors are. They are able to chat quite freely to children who, because these are adults in school, often share all sorts of information and news.
- As well as having relatively unrestricted access to children, some visitors also go into classrooms where there may be confidential information or other children's work visible. This could inadvertently lead to a data breach under the latest regulations.
- As Headteacher, I need to know who is in the school and when. I may have information about particular children or families where unsupervised access is not appropriate and I need to be able to take any necessary steps to safeguard all children.

In order to continue to offer the opportunity for Golden Ticket meals while still keeping everyone safe, **the following changes will be trialled**. We will run the new arrangements from now until Easter and then review. At that time, I would be grateful for any comments.

- Adult 'Golden Ticket' meals will be available on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. This will allow us to have additional staff available to support with general supervision and signing in and out.
- Requests to be made at least **24 hours in advance** please. This gives the kitchen staff time to plan and prepare and for us to secure staffing.
- When **signing in**, visitors will be reminded not to walk round the school and asked to read our Safeguarding summary.
- Visitors will be **signed out** by a member of staff while the children re-join their friends on the playground.

We will still provide 'something special' for Mothers' and Fathers' Days. More information to follow!

News from Swift Class (Year 4)

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and New Year.

This week, we have been immersing ourselves in the French language which involved the children taking part in activities that included revising numbers, identifying buildings in a village, ordering food and conversational starters. Thank you for helping the children appreciate that children in French schools do not wear uniforms. Children coming to school in their own attire added to the authenticity of the day.

The children's first podcast about some of the events that have happened at school has now been released. To hear this, it can be accessed via a podcasting app such as Apple Podcasts for iPhone and Google Podcast for Android phones. You will need to search for 'Steeple Morden Primary News'

Next week, we will be starting work on our topic, 'Innovation Nation', where we will be studying the lives of some of the great inventors and finding out what made them successful.

The children are building on their mathematical strengths in calculation and will be revisiting 'word problems'. Although these ultimately need skills and accuracy in calculations to reach an answer, it is often understanding the written problem and deciding which calculations (there may be more than one) are needed that the children can find challenging. We always base these on real life scenarios so that the children will already be familiar with much of the language, but they need to decide which calculations they need to use in order to solve the problem.

Example questions:

Tom has to pay for a guitar lesson that costs £15, he also has to buy a music book which costs £7.50. He has been given £30 and has been told that he can spend the change on a magazine, how much will he be able to spend on a magazine?

The Smith family want to meet their friends at the cinema at 3pm. To drive to the town where the cinema is, takes 25 mins and after they have parked the car, they will need to walk for another 10 mins. What time do they need to leave to arrive on time?

Any real-life problems you can set will help the children to widen their experience of this type of problem.

We would like to invite you to attend our Class Assembly, which is on Wednesday 23rd January from 10:10 – 10:30.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

IS YOUR CHILD DUE TO START RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2019?

**Do you know someone with a child born between
1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015?**

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Applications for school places close on Tuesday 15th January
You can apply online via Cambridgeshire County Council's website

[https://ems.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=
%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE%2f/br](https://ems.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE%2f/br)

Offer of places will be made on 16th April.

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday. The children have certainly returned to school full of renewed energy and ready to learn. Thank you very much for the many generous Christmas gifts and cards, we really did feel very lucky and extremely spoilt.

In English this term we have started to read our whole class set of the book 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. This book is based on the true story of an orphan in Victorian London and so ties in very well with our topic work in the afternoons. We have begun our study of this book by thinking about the difference between the facts that the author gives directly to us as readers and what we can infer about the story and the characters by reading between the lines. The children have proved to be quite expert at this and have shared some really insightful ideas so far this week.

In Maths we have begun to explore the perimeter and area of a variety of 2D shapes and will be continuing with this topic next week. You might like to see if your child can remember the definitions of a rectilinear shape or a compound shape!

We have started our new topic this week; the Victorian era with particular focus on social reform and industrial advancements. This week we have been learning about the countries of the British Empire and the current Commonwealth Nations. We have also been planning our 19th century art projects and starting to compose a class song!

Mrs Talbot, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I hope everyone had a restful festive period and are raring to go for the new term and year ahead.

In English we have started to look at non-chronological reports. We wrote our cold text about a strange looking animal then we looked at the features of the genre. We began to research information about the Titanic and are looking at the planning of non-chronological reports.

This week, in Maths, we have studied algebra. Some found this challenging but with a lot of perseverance many were happy when they achieved success in the lessons. We will look at linear number sequences next before starting work on fractions.

Homework will be set this Friday and should be returned on Wednesday 16th January. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

You should have received a letter, earlier in the week, about a meeting scheduled to take place on 12th February at 3.30pm in the Year 6 classroom about the forthcoming residential trip to the Peak District in March. Please could you return the slip indicating if you are able to attend or not. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Steeple Morden Quiz Night 2nd February 2019

Parenting Course: Stepping Stones

Smarties: Super Squirrels

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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Tel: 01763 852474 Fax: 01763 853112

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