



Dear Parents and Carers,

I type this having just returned from a trip to the church to view the beautiful Christmas trees with Reception and Year 1. As you can imagine the children were very excited to see all the different decorations and tried to spot ones that they had made.

Across the day, all classes have visited the church and been able to see the variety of trees produced by different community groups and families. There are 30 in all and if you have the chance this weekend I thoroughly recommend a visit. The church will be open on

Saturday 12 noon – 4.00pm

Sunday 12 noon – 3.00pm with a Tree Festival Service at 4.30pm

### Golden Ticket message

Now that the stage has gone up to help our younger children rehearse their Nativity the hall suddenly feels quite a small space. For this reason, there will be no more Golden Tickets available for the rest of this term.

*Mrs Tracey How*

Headteacher

### **SOUTH CAMBS SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY**

As part of our PE Curriculum, **all of Years 3, 4, 5, and 6** will be taking part in the County Cross Country Event being held at Wimpole Hall on **Thursday 29th November**. The children can run, run/walk or walk the mile-long course.

We will be travelling by coach; leaving school at 9.15am and returning in time for lunch.

**Please send your child to school in their PE kit, including tracksuit, coat and other warm clothing. They will also need a change of shoes and socks (in a carrier bag).**

**Don't forget to send their school uniform for them to change into when we get back to school.**

Thank you – Maureen Miller PE Leader

<b>Dates for Your Diary</b>	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	
<b>November 2018</b>	
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Wreath Making Evening
<b>December 2018</b>	
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 dress rehearsal to school and invited guests -1.45pm. Refreshments in Library from 1.30pm
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity Performance 2.00pm
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity Performance 2.00pm
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	Church Service 9.30am (all year groups) Church Service 6.30pm (KS2 only)
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Santa's Visit to KS1, & KS2 Christmas Disco
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	
<b>January 2019</b>	
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Term Begins</b>
<b>February 2019</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>March 2019</b>	
Mon-Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Residential trip to Derbyshire
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (times tbc)
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations (times tbc)
<b>April 2019</b>	
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Service 9.30am
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>

## **School Meal Charges**

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

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 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**

Please note that **drama** dates for the rest of the term are:-  
 Wednesday 28th November  
 Wednesday 5th December  
 Wednesday 12th December (postponed class from 14<sup>th</sup> November)

## **News from Starling Class (Reception)**

Hello from Starling Class,

This week we have been learning all about Superheroes and how we are all Super. We have learnt four new phonemes (ck, e, u, r) and have been practising blending and segmenting CVC words. We also continued our Numberblocks project in Maths learning about number bonds to 5. We began our Nativity practises, focusing on our dances, so that we will be performance ready in less than two weeks.

Next week we will continue our superheroes learning and think about our own super powers. We will be learning four new phonemes in phonics, continuing our Numberblocks project in Maths and finalising our Nativity rehearsals.

If you have not yet sent in your child's costume (if they need one), then remember the deadline is next Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November and it needs to be in a named plastic carrier bag.

This week the children happened upon a CRIME SCENE in the woods during their welly walk. They had to investigate the 'active' crime scene and decide what to do next. We then came back to the classroom to write a class story about the discovery in the wood. Please note there will NOT be any more welly walks this year, they will continue again in January.

A great Show and Tell from the Green Apples this week, we look forward to hearing from the Purple Grapes next FRIDAY.

We have been busy creating a class Christmas tree for the Christmas tree festival at the Church. The Church is open this weekend if you would like to visit and take a look at all of the wonderful creations.

We hope you have a great weekend!

**Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Starling Team**

## **News from Robin Class (Year 1)**

This week the children have heard a number of stories which feature letters written by different people. We have discussed some features of letters, including who it is written to and who it is from. Some of the letters we have seen have had addresses in various places and may have been asking questions or answering those posed in previous letters. We have come up with a lovely list of different reasons people might write or send letters and have thought about what might be on an envelope (name, address and stamp).

(cont .....)

I'm really glad to be able to tell you that many children are really getting to know and manipulate their number bonds to 10. We have started thinking about the related subtraction facts ( $10 - 6 = ?$ , etc.) with some children able to answer these types of questions almost instantly, which is what we are aiming for.

The children have been great at creating 'peg doll shepherds' for our class tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at the church this weekend. Our tree has also been embellished with hand-made gates and a few sheep, so do look out for it if you are visiting the church this weekend.

Thank you so much to those of you who have responded to the letters sent out last Friday. If you still need to reply to any of these, please do so on Monday morning so we can get things sorted in time! There are only a few children who do need to provide a costume for our Nativity Play and we would be grateful for this to be in on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>, thank you.

Please do remember to continue to send in a water bottle with your child every day. Although the weather outside is getting cooler, this is the best way for your children to have access to water during the day in our lovely, warm classroom. Thank you!

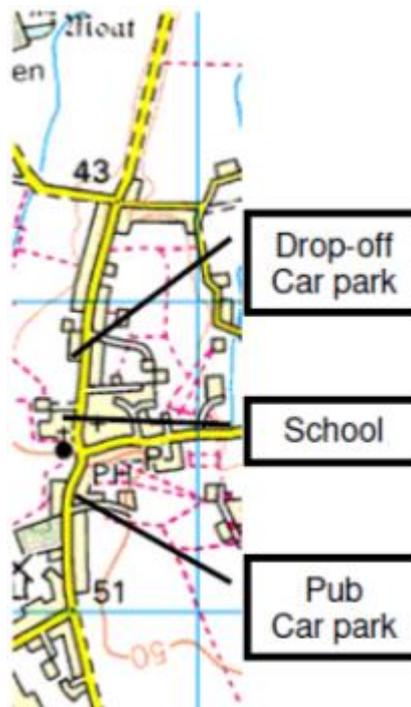
Have a good Weekend.

**Mrs Bowmer and the Year 1 Team**

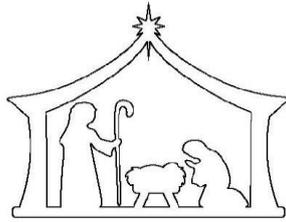
### ACCESS TO AND PARKING AT SCHOOL

We rely on your cooperation to help us reduce the risks presented to school users and members of the local community from the traffic outside school at the start and end of the school day and also when collecting pupils from After School Clubs.

If you are able to walk or cycle with your child to school and avoid using a car, we would be very grateful. If, however, you need to use your car, **please do not park on Hay Street, Cheyney Street or Church Street.** We urge you to use the drop-off car park just a few hundred metres down the road, adjacent to the village recreation ground, where you may park your car in safety and walk with your child to the school. From this car park you may also use the footpath at the rear of the recreation ground to gain access to the school via the rear gate, thus avoiding road traffic. In addition, we are grateful to the Landlord of the Waggon and Horses who has given permission for parents to use the pub car park as an additional drop-off car park for the start and end of the school day.



Access to the school site for parents and visitors is on foot. Whenever you come in to school, please enter and leave via the School Office. For safety reasons, it is important that we know who is on the premises at all times and we ask that you sign in and out when you visit.



St Peter & St Paul Church, Steeple Morden

# Children's Nativity

**Sunday 16 December**

**10 am**

A short half-hour service telling the  
Christmas story, with songs and  
refreshments

All children are welcome to dress up  
and join in the action

## Head Lice Reminder

There have been cases of head lice reported in school, so please help us to reduce their spread by following the advice outlined below.

It is important to recognise that there is no way to protect against re-infection and that a systematic routine of combing your child's hair, as detailed below, is the best way to control head lice.

At bath time, after your child's hair has been washed, apply conditioner. Do not rinse out. Comb through hair and conditioner, with a bevel-edged toothcomb, which are available at Pharmacies or from the 'Bug Busting' kit (see below). The teeth in the comb are spaced close enough to lift out newly hatched lice. Follow this up by using a nit comb, which will remove the empty eggshells (known as the nit).

Lice cannot become resistant to the combing method, which fits in with weekly hair washing and is a safe no-pesticides way to cope with lice routinely and in a crisis.

Bug Busting kits may be purchased from [www.nits.net](http://www.nits.net). For live cases of head lice, you may acquire a prescription from your Doctor to cover its cost.

**Please ensure long hair is always tied back in school**



## 'Tackling Tables' Together – Home Packs!

Our 'Tackling Tables' initiative is now up and running in Years 2 to 6. As demonstrated during last week's Maths Open Morning, we are particularly focussing on the important link between our multiplication and division facts and the speed of recall!

If you were unable to attend the Open Morning last week and see how this new idea is going to work in practice, you might like to visit the following website for more information:-

[www.tacklingtables.co.uk](http://www.tacklingtables.co.uk)

Here you will find an explanation of the principles behind the scheme and you will also see some children demonstrating how it can be used.

To support our work in school, we would like to invite parents to purchase a 'Home Pack' which will reinforce what we are doing in school.

Packs are priced at £8.50 if orders are placed through school. Please remember that this is a one-off payment per family and the pack can be used by all your children as they move through the school from Year 2 to Year 6. An alternative method of payment is SIMs Agora. Information was sent out last week with an electronic copy of the order form.

As so many of you are keen to start as soon as possible I will be aiming to place our first school order by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and so would be grateful if you could send the form and payment into school as soon as possible.

The most beneficial thing you can do at home is to **play the card game** with your child.

The 'Beat your Best' sheets that many of you enjoyed having a go at last week will be used in school and we think the scheme will work best if you do not use these at home. This will waste valuable time when you could be playing the card games. This is the fun part and the part that will have the biggest impact on your child's ability to remember their tables. Please leave any testing to us to do in school.

This is a new scheme and if we feel we need to modify things as we go along, we will let you know with regular updates.

The children are enthused about the new scheme and very keen to get started. We would welcome any feedback when you have begun to use the cards.

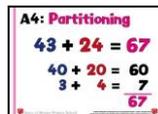
If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or me.  
Many thanks again for your support with this new initiative.

*Jo Daniels (Maths Subject Leader)*

## News from Year 2!

Our 'Bright Stanley' stories are taking shape and we have been enjoying our story writing time interspersed with nativity rehearsals in the hall and making angels for our class contribution to the Christmas Tree festival in Church this weekend.

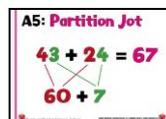
In our Maths work this week, we have been testing out different ways of adding two 2-digit numbers. We have looked at the partition method:-



A4: Partitioning

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 + 24 = 67 \\ 40 + 20 = 60 \\ 3 + 4 = 7 \\ \hline 67 \end{array}$$

When we were confident with this method, some children moved onto the slightly quicker 'partition jot' method:-



A5: Partition Jot

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 + 24 = 67 \\ 60 + 7 \end{array}$$

Some children were pleased that they were able to calculate some of their number sentences mentally too.

### Nativity Play – 'Angel Express'

We would be really grateful if costumes can be brought in to school as soon as possible and by Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November at the latest (in a named bag or on a labelled hanger please!). Now that the children have been given their roles in the performance, we have sent words home to learn. Some children have more words than others but everyone has at least one line to say! We would be very grateful if these scripts could come back to school every day in your child's Reading Folder so that we can use them for our rehearsals.

### Nativity Tickets

We would be grateful if reply slips could be returned as soon as possible so that we can allocate tickets and organise the production of a DVD and photos.

### Homework Reminders:-

Reading Wallets – to school every day

Spelling Folders – to school on Monday only

Homework Folders – sent home on Friday, brought back on Wednesday please

Please can you also ensure that your child has a full P.E. kit, a water bottle and a coat in school all week. It is very cold and some children are coming to school without coats! Thank you for your help with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

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

*Christmas Wreath Making Evening*



**2 places remaining**

*Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November*

*Steeple Morden Primary School hall 7pm.*

*PTA fund raiser.*

*Limited places so book early.*

*Tickets £35 all materials provided.*

*Light refreshments included.*

*Please bring own secateurs.*

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

## **News from Peacock Class (Year 3)**

Another week has flown by.

In maths the children have been thinking carefully about place value, adding 1s, 10s or 100s to a given number along with taking 1s, 10s or 100s away from a start number. We then applied this thinking to solving problems using money. We will continue with this work next week along with solving 'real life word problems'. We have seen an enormous improvement in the 'beat your best' times table quiz again this week, so thank you for your continued support at home with tables.

In English we have revised and applied our understanding and use of pronouns, along with expanded noun phrases. These have helped with our descriptive writing about The Chocolate Factory, again we will continue with this next week and start to think about how we can use our senses to help us describe inside the 'Chocolate room'.

The children have had a lot of reminders about when to use capital letters (again) any reinforcement of this at home would be welcome. (Along with this week's homework)

We have also started our DT work by evaluating and designing chocolate packaging and creating new chocolates or sweets and names for them. This has involved us considering nets of shapes, and how boxes are constructed. We have also considered the design, colouring and orientation of lettering, pictures and information that needs to be included on packaging along with the protection that the box provided for the product.

On Thursday we took our class tree to the church ready for the Christmas tree festival. All trees from Key Stage Two have been decorated with items relating to this year's church service, we therefore made Christmas puddings. The church is open over the weekend for visitors to enjoy the tree display. They do look wonderful, it is well worth a visit.

After all this hard work, and the fact that the class had collected 10 reward stars we treated ourselves to a Friday afternoon film, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (This, of course was to consolidate learning, support ideas for description and provide a stimulus for next week's work!)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

**Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team**

### **News from Swift Class (Year 4)**

We have been continuing our work on Vikings; writing detailed accounts about aspects of their lives including their trade with other countries. We have also been focusing on the different role of the contractive and possessive apostrophe. Next week, we will be looking at Viking story telling.

We have revisited the maths reasoning problems you saw on the open morning last week and have worked on developing the children's explanations. We have also been exploring how square numbers are formed and written.

Do pay a visit to church this coming week to see the Christmas Tree Festival – Swift Class have worked as a team to create their Christmas tree out of paper.

**Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team**

### **News from Heron Class (Year 5)**

This week in science we learned how ideas about the solar system developed from the geocentric model of the solar system to the heliocentric model with elliptical orbits by considering the work of scientists such as Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler and Newton. We also revisited our space missions homework and are creating a 3D space rocket on which to position each of the missions on a timeline.

We are also continuing our China topic by exploring the Terracotta Army.

In maths this week we have revisited and consolidated our knowledge of column addition and subtraction with numbers larger than four digits. Everyone has made good progress with this across the week. We also continue to do well with both Mathletics and 'Tackling Tables', thank you very much for all your support with this at home. We are really pleased that at least one member of the class has received a certificate for passing a green or blue phase test every week in Friday's whole school celebration assembly since this new resource was introduced. In addition to this, one member of the class is also currently the only holder in school of a highly-prized Gold Mathletics certificate. We are very proud of all the children for the hard work and effort they have put into achieving these amazing accomplishments. Keep up the good work!

With best wishes and thanks for your continued support.

**The Year 5 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. As well as examining these formal methods, we have developed our reasoning skills when studying worded problems involving division. For example, division is also about multiplication, addition, place value, fractions etc. Thank you, once again, to all parents who attended our Open Morning last Thursday – Puffins very much enjoyed demonstrating their problems and the ways to approach these.

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, written and edited 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.

Next week will be test week, where we will work through another batch of practice SATs papers in Reading, Maths and SPAG to help get used to the format.

Homework should be returned by Wednesday 28th November – thank you. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please – these are crucial to their development mathematically.

Thank you.

**Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Littlington Pre-School Christmas Fair 1<sup>st</sup> December

Smarties: Super Squirrels, Christmas Holiday Club & Tesco Bags for Help

Smarties Film Night 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)