



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I have dealt with a couple of instances in school where some unintentional "Chinese Whispers" have caused a lot of unnecessary upset.

In both cases the incident was thoroughly investigated and dealt with by appropriate staff but other children (who were not involved) have chatted to friends and parents about their perceptions of the events. This has led to all sorts of misunderstandings with various people believing they know all about the incidents and sharing this with other people, when actually the 'playground' version is far from the truth.

Unless you hear about something that has happened from a key member of staff (the class teacher, one of the Assistant Heads or myself), please don't assume that the version of events that have come to your attention are completely accurate. We do follow up on everything that comes to our attention and do our very best to unpick what has actually happened. We also put in place appropriate sanctions and help children to rebuild relationships. Half stories and suppositions do not help and only cause unnecessary worry.

If in doubt ... please come and ask us rather than other children or parents. Thank you.

Parents evening

You will soon receive Parentmail information about signing up for this term's Parents' Evenings. Once again, we are offering slightly later sessions on the Thursday, but looking at the take up from the Autumn term we will be finishing at 7.00pm this time.

We want to make the appointments as purposeful and honest as possible for everyone concerned. As you can imagine this can be a challenge with 'small ears' in the room; whether they belong to the child being discussed or other siblings. There are some things that we would not want to discuss in front of children, or things that you may want to share with us. For this reason, we ask please that children do not attend the appointments with you. We appreciate that some things do need to be shared with the children, but this could take place in another, mutually agreed meeting where there is not the same time pressure.

We will be offering a supervised area where the children can watch a DVD, read a book or do some quiet drawing. Please make use of this rather than leaving children sitting in corridors outside the classroom. That way we can be sure that the children are safe, supervised and where we all expect them to be. To enable us to provide this facility we do ask for a voluntary donation, the suggested amount is £1 per child.

Mrs Tracey How

Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary	
Spring Term	
February 2019	
Tues 12th	Year 6 Residential trip meeting 3.30
Fri 15 th	Year 3 Charity Coffee Morning
18th – 22nd	Half Term
March 2019	
Mon-Fri 4 th – 8 th	Y6 Residential trip to Derbyshire
Thurs 7th	Y5 trip to British Schools Museum
Tues 12 th	Year 3 visit to Burghley House Parent Consultations (3.30-6.00pm)
Weds 13 th	Class Photos
Thurs 14 th	Parent Consultations (3.30-7.00pm)
April 2019	
Thurs 4 th	Easter Service 9.30am
Fri 5th	Last Day of Term
September 2019	
Sun 22nd	The Steeple Chase run

Sunday 22 September at Steeple Morden School
- Fun for all the Family -

Steeple Chase off road 10k Run
3k Fun Run (recreation ground/woodland)
1k Walk run (school field)

More details to follow

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

Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn 2019

Term starts	Wednesday 4 th September
Half Term	Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th October
Term finishes (Training days)	Wednesday 18 th December Monday 2 nd & Tuesday 3 rd September

Spring 2020

Term starts	Monday 6 th January
Half Term	Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February
Term finishes (Training day)	Wednesday 1 st April Friday 3 rd January

Summer 2020

Term starts	Monday 20 th April
Half Term	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May
Term finishes (Training days)	Wednesday 22 nd July Friday 17 th April & Monday 1 st June

News from Starling Class (Reception)

Hello from Starling Class,

This the week we have continued our '3, 2, 1... Blast Off!' topic where we have been thinking about Space travel; we have watched videos of moon buggies and rockets as well as trying to make these modes of transport through junk modelling. We have learnt two new sounds in phonics 'ng' and 'nk' as well as continuing our learning of the alphabet. We have been thinking about weight in Maths this week and have been using words like 'heavy' and 'light'.

We have also been thinking about Internet Safety. We read a story about Ben and his dog Buddy who helped him to be safe online when using a tablet. The rules and magic song that we learnt are on display in our cloakroom window.

Next week the children will be consolidating their learning on Space and showcasing to the grownups their knowledge and understanding about this topic.

We have had to spend a considerable amount of time looking for keyrings and other small toys that children are bringing in to school; this is taking time away from learning. Please **do not** let children bring precious items into school in case they go missing.

Please continue to read daily with your child and practise their sounds and high frequency words as well as the numbers and shapes. Thank you also to children who have been learning the alphabet, it is very noticeable.

On Friday, we had a great 'Show and Tell' from the Red Cherries! There will be no more 'Show and Tell' until after half term.

We hope you have a great weekend!

Mrs Meridew, Miss Webb and the Reception Class Team.

News from Robin Class (Year 1)

In maths, we have been thinking about how we can use our knowledge of number bonds and doubles to add 3 numbers together. We played games with 3 or 5 dice to find groups of dice which add together to make 10 to help with calculating quickly.

The children all enjoyed reading 'How to Lose a Lemur' and using actions to learn to retell the story. We then drew a story map (thankfully, all the children's attempts were better than mine!) to help us remember the order of events. We have planned our own version of the story, thinking which verbs we could use to say how we might lose the lemur ourselves.

In RE this term we have been looking at what Christians think God is like. We have explored the story 'The Lost Son' in the Bible, using artwork; used 'I wonder why...' questions (i.e. 'I wonder why the man was sad', 'I wonder why Jesus told this story') and created 'hidden meaning boxes'. The children have all responded respectfully and have given very thoughtful reasons for their ideas. **Cont'd.....**

News from Year 1 (Continued)

This week in the Reading Record books, the children have a slip on the front cover showing Year One Common Exception Words. These are words which can't be decoded, but just need to be learnt as a sight word. If the word has been highlighted (in yellow) your child read this word to us correctly on sight. Please practise reading all these words with your child and help them to recognise all the words on the sheet. We will check again in a few weeks and we will highlight again if new words have been learned.

Once enough words can be read, we think about the children spelling them correctly. These have been highlighted (orange) in some books and we would appreciate your help getting them to practise this (it is an end of Year 1 target). We will then be expecting the words to be spelt correctly in their written work.

Thank you for your continued support by reading and practising sounds and words.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Bowmer and the Year One Team

News from Owl Class (Year 2)

Our map reading skills have again been in evidence this week. We have compared maps of London with a local map of Steeple Morden, spotting similarities and differences. We have used co-ordinates to find our way around London, spotting well-known landmarks along the way.

In our Artwork this week, we have used pastels and paint to re-create our own interpretations of these landmarks.

In Maths this week we have continued our work on multiplication and division – making equal groups, using repeated addition calculations and working out number sentences using the multiplication symbol.

$$5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 20 \quad 4 \times 5 = 20 \quad 5 \times 4 = 20$$

Next week we will relate this to our division facts:-

$$20 \div 4 = 5 \quad 20 \div 5 = 4$$

Our tasks on Mathletics will continue to practise the links between multiplication and division.

Please keep practising the 'Tackling Tables' cards at home. Some children are already ready for their weekly 'quiz' to see if they can answer lots of questions at speed!

Mathletics

Thank you for highlighting a couple of issues with the issuing of certificates and accessing certain activities. We are trying to sort out these as soon as possible.

Cont'd.....

News from Year 2 (Continued)

Reminders:

Recorders: - please remember to send these into school for our lessons on Friday mornings.

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.

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)

Well, where did that week go?! You know what they say about time and fun.

The week zoomed by with a mixture of cat story writing, measuring in maths and crown designing in topic work.

This week the children have continued to look at the story of 'The Whisperer' (Romeo and Juliet in cat land). We have used the text to help with inverted commas (speech marks) in text and to plan endings to a story. We have some very adventurous cats! I look forward to reading the children's completed stories next week.

In maths we have looked at a variety of problems involving weight and length. The children have investigated the theories of Da Vinci's Vitruvian man, found out if the tallest person in the class is also the heaviest, tried to find out if there is any pattern in weight of the different types of rock, e.g. are all igneous rocks lighter than the same sized metamorphic rock? Our investigations would suggest not.

Topic work has enabled the children to further research rock types and discover where precious stones are found; identify the precious rocks and gems that were used in Tudor crowns and jewellery; the meanings and messages the rocks have and why they were chosen for the royals. Following this research, the children have started to design their own crowns for Elizabeth.

Next week we will be looking at division in maths, continuing our story writing in English and finishing our crowns and rock work in topic.

Please remember your 500 word stories need to be handed in on Monday 11th February.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Mrs Seward and the Year Three Team

News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our Maths lessons, we have been measuring the perimeter of shapes and using our knowledge of the properties of shape to calculate measurements that are not explicitly stated.

In our class we have been looking at how to use the internet safely, how to report anything that may make us feel uncomfortable and to think critically about the information we see online. Some ways we can judge the reliability/trustworthiness of information we have found online include:

- Checking different websites – Check at least three different websites; does the information match across those sites?
- Check in a book – Books can still be 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.

Information for parents on internet safety can be found here:

<http://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/website/e-safety/272023>

I was at a computing conference recently where news readers from ITN were encouraging children to be critical consumer of the news. They explained the term 'fake news' is new... but it is not a new thing. If any child wished to bring in an article which they have found that they think may be 'fake news', we can examine this as a class and look at other sources to help hone the children's critical skills.

Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team

News from Heron Class (Year 5)

In the mornings work has continued this week on our narrative poems based on the work of Tennyson and Longfellow. We have been working hard to structure our work into verses and create rhyming patterns to tell the story of 'Street Child' so far. We have also enjoyed performing our own Victorian play scripts in front of an audience which included Mrs How. The children worked hard to ensure that their lines were clearly spoken and expressive.

In Maths this week we have been looking at prime and composite numbers and investigating ways to find out if numbers larger than twenty are prime or not. We have also begun to learn about square numbers and solve problems involving all of the above.

This week in topic work we have been learning about the Social Reformers of the 19th century and how they changed the lives of children. We looked at how a debate takes place in the House of Commons and, after inventing fictitious Victorian MPs, we held our own debate. Half of the house were against passing the acts (each giving their own reasons for opposing) and the other half were for. There were some strong performances on both sides. Amy had her work cut out as Speaker and called order (she did a great job), and the ayes to the right had it!

In art we have been exploring the work of the Arts and Crafts movement. The children examined some William Morris designs, identified the colours, themes and patterns that are present across his work, and have begun to create their own.

For our properties of materials topic in science we have been advising the Bestival Festival committee on which brand of kitchen roll to source. After planning their own method for fair testing, the children carried out their investigations comparing sheets from 6 different brands. We will take into account the cost per 100 sheets before submitting our final recommendation.

We have progressed to playing a few chords on the ukulele and have started to learn some of the popular Victorian Music Hall songs (including Daisy Bell). In French we are continuing to memorise greetings so that we can construct simple conversations.

Mrs Talbot, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team

News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

This week has been a 'Test Week' where we have used previous SATs tests as practice for the SATs in the middle of May. The pupils have worked very hard and are becoming familiar with what to expect in three months from now.

Next week, in English, we will be starting our next topic on fables, based on Aesop and others.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions, then converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We shall look at multiplying and dividing fractions and converting between decimals and percentages afterwards.

In Science we have been looking at different organs of the human body. Our teeth have been our focus this week. After studying the different types of teeth we have, and the role that they play, the pupils put together a short play based on how to care for their teeth and the dangers of not looking after them properly.

The next homework will be due in on 13th February.

A reminder that the meeting for parents about the residential trip takes place, for those who have signed up, on 12th February at 3.30pm. As space is rather limited, we ask that children do not attend this session (we will hold a meeting for them later in the week). We will organise supervision for those children who need to wait on site until the meeting has ended; we expect this to be around 4.00pm.

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 Tennis Club

Are you Tuff Enuff Family Obstacle Course Challenge 17th March 2019

Home Start Black Tie Ball 29th March 2019

Mental Health Drop Ins

Family Dog Workshops

Litlington Preschool

Smarties

Please follow this link if you are interested:

https://steeple-morden.eschools.co.uk/website/community_news/365736