Resilience ~ Compassion ~ Excellence

NEWSLETTER

Half term is in sight!

I can't believe we are almost at half term - what a full and busy first half term it has been!

Earlier this week, a large proportion of our key stage two children attended Wimpole Hall for the South Cambridgeshire Big Schools **Cross Country Competition**. Despite being a small school, we always choose to compete in the larger schools competition due to our talented pool of runners. All of the runners showed great sportsmanship and we had some excellent results with lots of children finishing in top 20 positions (of over 100 runners in each race!) A special well done to Poppy in Year 3 who finished 9th in the Year 3 Girls race - a fantastic result especially for her first competition! Overall, our team competition results were brilliant. Our Year 5/6 team finished 13th and our Y3/4 team finished 11th (out of 22 schools). For a full breakdown of the results visit the Sports Partnership website here.



Thank you to those who voted in our recent **Parent Governor** election and to those who showed interest in the role. Following the vote, I am pleased to share with you that Clare Blaydon-Ellis is your new parent governor and will join the governing body from our next full governing body meeting in early December.

We have received a number of **term-time holiday requests** so far this half term. We fully appreciate the financial challenges that going away during school holidays brings, however there is significant detrimental effect to missing significant amounts of learning. All term-time holidays, as per our policy, will be unauthorised. Holidays where a child has missed 10 consecutive sessions (am and pm), may incur a referral to the local authority attendance team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Housden

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our recent Stars of the Week...

Friday 2nd October - Poppy, Reggie, George, Sian, Liam, Harvey

Friday 16th October - Phoebe, Sabrina, Olivia A, William, Annabel, Poppy

Programme Opal in progress

We need you! We need volunteers to come forward and become Class Reps. Your job as a Class Rep is to put messages into your class Whatsapp about the items we may be looking for or the help we might need in school. This helps be more organised and efficient in school. We currently only have Class Reps in Year One and Year Two. Please let the school office know if you are willing to become an OPAL Class Rep. Thank you.

PTA News



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CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

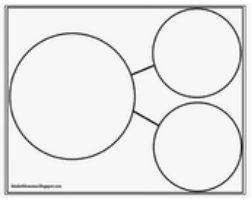
Ash Class

This week in Phonics we have been looking at the /ee/ sound and how we spell it. We found these ways to spell /ee/:

- e as in he
- ee as in seen
- ea as in beak
- ey as in key
- ie as in brief

In English, we have been looking at non-fiction texts about wolves. We have learnt that non-fiction means facts. We then wrote our own wolf fact files with all the facts we had gathered about wolves.

In Maths, we have been starting looking at parts and wholes. We used a part whole model to add two parts together to make a whole. We then wrote number sentence to match our part whole models. For example: 2 + 5 = 7





In Geography, we have been looking at maps. We used a compass to find North, East, South and West and remembered the directions using a saying: Naughty, Elephants, Squirt, Water. We also looked at the key on a map and matched symbols to their meaning.

In Computing, we have been thinking about Internet safety and what to do if they see something they do not like on the internet. We learnt the phrase STOP, CLOSE, TELL as well as a song to help us to remember what to do. Ask your child if they can remember the song.

In DT, we looked at healthy and unhealthy foods. We decided that fruits and vegetables were healthy but also spoke about other groups and noted that all foods are good for us in moderation. We learnt about tzatziki is a food from Greece. We followed a recipe and made a dairy free yoghurt dip similar to tzatziki that everyone could try.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Monks and the Year One Team.



We are looking for coffee tins like this to use as time capsules on our Key Stage One 'What is History' Day. If you have any at home, please bring to the office. Needed by Wednesday 21st October. Thank you.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Birch Class

We have had another very busy couple of weeks in Year 2, with lots of fantastic learning taking place across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have been applying our understanding of place value to addition and subtraction. We started by working with numbers where we did not need to cross a tens boundary and have now begun exploring calculations that do cross a ten. The children have also been investigating different ways of representing their thinking and explaining how they know their answers are correct.

In English, we have finished writing our wolf fact files. The children have worked hard to organise their information into paragraphs using subheadings, as well as including a list of interesting "Did you know?" facts that they discovered during their research. We have been really impressed with how much they have learnt about wolves and how confidently they have been able to share their knowledge.

In Science, we have concluded our work on the senses. As part of this, we thought about sensory impairments and how people adapt when one or more of their senses are affected. We learnt about Helen Keller and also discovered the fascinating story of Louis Braille and how the Braille system was developed.

In Geography, the children have really enjoyed creating their own maps, putting into practice many of the mapping features and skills that we have been learning about. It was lovely to see them using their knowledge with increasing confidence and independence.

We have continued exploring colour in Art. The children used tints and shades of blue to create their own artwork inspired by David Hockney's A Bigger Splash. We have also painted seascapes inspired by Claude Monet, thinking carefully about colour, light and the different ways that artists can represent water.

A big thank you for sending in vegetables for our DT work. We all thoroughly enjoyed preparing and making our dips and then tasting them with our vegetable crudités. Our recipes were inspired by Greek food, and the children really enjoyed the opportunity to prepare, taste and evaluate what they had made.

We are now very excited about next week's "What is History?" Day. Please remember to send your child in with a small tin with a lid for one of our activities. The children are also invited to dress up as someone from history or as an archaeologist. We are looking forward to a fun day of investigating the past and discovering what historians and archaeologists can tell us.

A few reminders
Please continue to encourage your child to read in some way every day. This could be their school reading book, a book from home, a comic, magazine or even signs and instructions when you are out and about. Regular reading makes such a difference to children's confidence and fluency.
Please also make sure that all clothing and belongings are clearly named. As the weather becomes colder, there are lots more coats, jumpers and other items coming into school, and naming everything makes it much easier for us to return lost items.

Children should have their PE kit in school every day. As we move into the colder months, please make sure that their kit also includes suitable winter PE clothing for outdoor sessions.
Finally, please ensure that children have their full outdoor waterproofs in school. We make use of our outdoor areas throughout the year and do not want a little bit of wet weather to stop us!
Thank you, as always, for all your continued support.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend
Birch class team



We are looking for coffee tins like this to use as time capsules on our Key Stage One 'What is History' Day. If you have any at home, please bring to the office. Needed by Wednesday 21st October. Thank you.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Hazel Class

A busy couple of weeks in Hazel class with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum. The children have continued to impress us with their curiosity, effort, and positive attitudes.

In English, we have been exploring non-chronological reports. The children have been learning how to organise information using headings and subheadings, write factual sentences, and present information clearly for the reader.

In Maths, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills. The children have been using known number facts to solve calculations efficiently and have also been practising column addition and subtraction, focusing on accuracy and explaining their methods.

All of Hazel class should feel proud of their performances in Music. The children have enjoyed becoming composers by creating their own off-beat rhythms and pieces, experimenting with different sounds and patterns to develop their musical creativity.

This term, we have been enjoying learning about maps and how they help us understand the world around us. The children have explored a variety of maps, learning how to use map symbols and keys to find important information. The children have also been comparing the cities of London and San Francisco, looking at both their physical geography (natural features such as rivers, hills and coastlines) and human geography (features created by people, including landmarks, buildings and transport systems). The children have loved discovering the similarities and differences between these two famous locations and have developed their skills as young geographers by asking questions, making comparisons and interpreting geographical information.

Friendly Reminder:
Now the weather is becoming colder, please ensure your child brings a named coat to school every day. Additionally, reading folders should be brought into school daily so that we can continue to support the children's reading progress.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Tidey and the Hazel class team.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Yew Class

In Maths lessons we have started our new topic on addition and subtraction methods. The first lesson was on using a variety of different mental strategies. These could be used in real life situations. For example, ask your child estimate the cost of your weekly shop by adding up (using rounding) the cost of the items as you place them in the trolley. Then see how close they were at the end when you pay for the shopping. Alternatively, ask your child to calculate the difference between 2 places on a road sign or ask them to add or subtract (or if you really want to challenge them, multiply) the numbers on a car registration plate. All these keep their mental strategies fresh and makes maths a little more 'real'.

In English we are continuing to work on our book 'Pig Heart Boy'. The children are enjoying the book and each chapter ends with a cliff-hanger making the children want to read more. In the last week we have been learning about sentences, conjunctions, modal verbs and the subjunctive form, in preparation to plan, write and edit our balanced argument.

Last week your child should have received a paper copy about the Bikeability course we will be participating in in the middle of March next year. This is a consent form asking your permission for your child to attend. I know it seems early but the people who run the Bikeability course – Outspoken Training – require this information in early November. I have asked for a deadline of next Wednesday (21st October) so it gives me time to put all the information together, ready to send to Outspoken. Thank you for all the replies I have already received.

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday. Have a good half term break, when it comes at the end of next week.

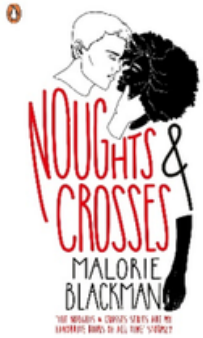
Thank you.

Mr Baker and the Year 5 Team

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Oak Class

It's hard to believe the first half term is nearly done! Where has the time gone?!



The children have continued their study of Pig Heart Boy – they have studies, diaries, narrative, biographies and we are currently working on a balanced argument. During this time we have refreshed and visited some past SPaG skills such as fronted adverbials and conjunctions. We have also begun to look at organising paragraphs and using cause and effect clauses. There are been so many cliff hanger moments with this book where the children gasp out loud. Malorie Blackman is a superb author and I would recommend reading some other of her books such as Hacker and Boys don't cry. Also for our children who can handle more mature content the young adult series of books noughts and crosses is fantastic.

In maths we have begun to look at our final methods for solving multiplication and division calculations. We have looked at multiplying by a 2 digit number as shown below. Also this week we have begun to explore long division, this is always a topic children find challenging and we have been taking it slow, step by step. If you to support your child with this, please facilitate some practice at home as the more confident the children get, the better!

TTH	TH	H	T	O	
	1	5	2	1	
×			2	4	
	6	0	8	4	2
+		4	2	0	

1 - 24
2 - 48
3 - 72
4 - 96
5 - 120
6 - 144
7 - 168
8 - 192
9 - 216

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      543
24 | 13032
   -120↓
     103
     -96
      72
     -72
      00
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We are coming to the end of our topics and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different things we have focused on. We will be moving on to our DT project next week and we could really do with some shoe boxes, if you have any at home that you would happily donate to our project – please send them in!

As always, if there are any questions please don't hesitate to get in tough using the class email address.

Miss Barrett and Oak Class

YOUNGMINDS

Hello Yellow
FRIDAY 9 OCT

You're inspiring!

This is to certify that

Steeple Morden Primary School

has helped show young people they're not alone with their mental health by raising:

£ £154.61

Date:

19th October 2026

Celebrating 10 YEARS

Nas Morley, Director of Income Generation

YoungMinds, registered charity in England (1016968) and Scotland (SCO39700).

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

Christmas Fayre

at Bassingbourn Primary School

Friday 20th November

4:30pm – 7:00pm

A magical evening for all the family!

Christmas Games — Fun for all ages!

External Stalls — Great gifts and more!

Refreshments Available — Hot drinks, treats and more!

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!

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Hertfordshire Music Service

NORTH HERTS & STEVENAGE

PRIMARY WOODWIND & BRASS DAY

A fun-filled day of music-making for young brass and woodwind players!

Thursday 12th November 2026

Stevenage Music Centre
Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, SG2 0HS

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Pupils in **Years 3–6** who play a woodwind or brass instrument, whether they learn in school or privately.

A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Develop your musical skills
- Play alongside other young musicians
- Build confidence and teamwork
- Learn new music with experienced HMS tutors
- Enjoy a fantastic day of music-making!

EVENT TIMINGS

- Registration: **8.45am**
- Rehearsals and workshops throughout the day
- Informal Concert: **2.00pm**

Parents, carers and teachers are warmly invited to attend the performance.

HOW TO BOOK

Places are limited and expected to fill quickly.

REGISTRATION CLOSES: Saturday 7th November 2026

Scan the QR code or visit:

£35 per person

https://UKHERTFORDSHIRE.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=11294#/Course/178/0/5519/1129

Registration is now open!

Bring your instrument, make new friends and be part of something special!

Hertfordshire Music Service

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