

Staplehurst School



# NEWSLETTER

## PRIDE

Positivity

Respect

Independence

Determination

Excellence

Staplehurst School is an inclusive community. We do not tolerate bullying – race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or age.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### YEAR 5 FUN AT DRUSILLAS

On Wednesday, 52 very excited Year 5 pupils had an amazing day at Drusillas, as part of their learning about rainforests. Pupils had the opportunity to see a range of creatures, including snakes, numerous monkeys (including a 3-day old baby), lemurs, penguins, otters, beavers, flamingos and much more. Obviously, not all these animals are found in a rainforest, but many were! In addition, the children took part in an interactive workshop with an expert, who allowed them to touch alligator skin, snake skin, stroke a giant millipede, hissing cockroach and live snake. The children were very brave in doing this. Miss Cook and Mr Littleton were very proud of the Year 5 pupils, with their behaviour and attitude towards their learning. Everyone returned to school with huge smiles on their faces!



### SUNFLOWER SUCCESS

What a surprise! From such a tiny seed our Gardening Club have grown a giant! Their sunflower is now 266.7cm (8ft9in) tall. It grew 12.7cm (5in) in just one week; wow!





# Attention all parents!

## Download the ParentMail App for the best way to pick up school messages

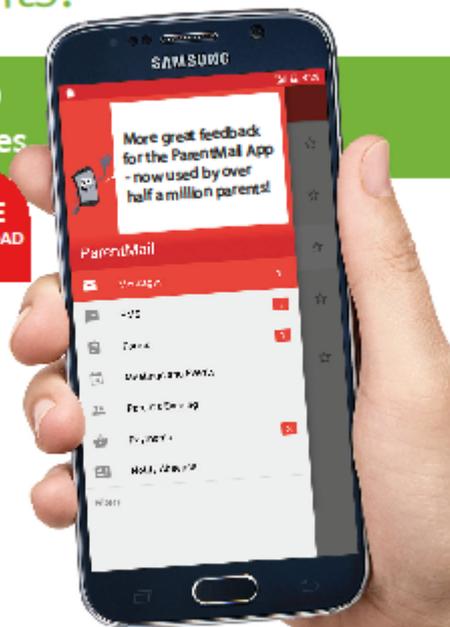
*"Great App to compliment the web!  
It's so convenient to have all the  
ParentMail services in my pocket!"*



*"Works perfectly! Texts, emails & newsletters all  
come through. I can even make appointments  
for parents' evening. Fantastic!"*



**FREE  
DOWNLOAD**



Please note: If you are not already registered, you will need to register online on the ParentMail website before trying to access the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message

### HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT

We are delighted that Miss Lucy Davenport will be joining us in February next year as the school's new Headteacher.

### HOLIDAYS DURING TERM-TERM

Please be aware that requests to take children out of school for holidays during term-time will not be approved and may incur a request for a penalty notice to be issued. The fine is £60 per parent, per child. The fine rises to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days.

### START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The first morning bell rings at 8.35am and children should arrive promptly in class ready to start work by 8.45am when the register is taken.

### SCHOOL PREMISES

For safeguarding reasons parents and carers must leave the school grounds as soon as they have collected their children at the end of the school day. Children should not be playing on the equipment in the playgrounds or the ramps outside the classrooms in the Early Years block.

### SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

In line with our school vision we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all members of our school community so that they can learn and work in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. **Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school.** If bullying does occur, everybody should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a **telling** school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell someone who can help.

However, we feel it is important that our parents understand that bullying is behaviour that is repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally. Not all behaviour in the playground should be interpreted as 'bullying' but you can be assured that we have a commitment to dealing with any instances promptly:

All reported instances are:

- Logged on our system
- Investigated thoroughly
- Dealt with appropriately

We at Staplehurst School understand our responsibility to respond promptly and effectively with any behaviour that is not in line with our expectations.

### KARATE ACHIEVEMENT

Well done to all our pupils who gained their next grading belt at karate yesterday. We are so proud of this achievement: well done!



## VOMITING OR DIARRHOEA

If your child suffers a bout of sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school until after a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode of illness.

## SCHOOL TRIPS

Here at Staplehurst we aim to offer the children a range of school trips to enhance their learning which are predominantly based on the topics they are covering in class. We always aim to keep the costs as low as possible.

By law we have to state that payment for these trips are by way of a "voluntary contribution". However, in reality we do not have the funding to subsidise trips if payment is not received from all parents. We also require payment promptly in order to finalise arrangements.

We recognise that some of our families may have financial difficulties of their own. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to come in and discuss this with either the class teacher or a member of our office staff. Where possible, we will give you as much notice as we can for forthcoming trips to enable you to plan ahead.

We are only going to be offering one trip per year, per year group. It would be extremely disappointing if, for financial reasons, we cannot continue to provide these exciting and enjoyable opportunities for your children.

Mrs Stevenson  
Acting Headteacher

## SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 08.10.18 Year 4, 5, 6, 3

w/c 15.10.18 Year 5, 6, 3, 4

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

We held our Harvest Festival assembly this week and the response to our appeal for the children to bring in produce to support the Maidstone Day Care Centre was greatly appreciated.

## CHANGE OF DESSERTS NEXT WEEK

Due to an equipment failure in the kitchen there will be a change to the puddings on offer next week:

Monday – variety on offer  
Tuesday – jam doughnut  
Wednesday – jelly as usual  
Thursday – sweet biscuit

A new mixer is on order and the menu will return to normal after Half Term.

## ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education's target for attendance is 95%. We always strive for 100%.

### Whole school attendance

Attendance for the whole school for the week is **93.98%**.

### Class attendance

Special congratulations to **5L18** who achieved the highest attendance this week with a fantastic **99.15%**.

## MOBILE PHONES

Only those children in Year 5 and 6 who walk to and from school may bring mobile phones into school.

Phones must be switched off at all times while on the school premises and in the grounds. Phones must be handed into the Class Teacher on arrival for safekeeping. After school, phones may not be switched on until the child leaves the school gates. Thank you for your co-operation

## BREAKFAST

We have noticed a number of children are arriving at school saying they are hungry and have not eaten breakfast. Please ensure your child has a full and satisfying breakfast before they come to school – it really does help them to concentrate with learning. If providing breakfast is difficult or time consuming, we do have an excellent Breakfast Club on site which starts at 7.30, 7.45 or 8am with a price sliding scale.

## YR6 – KINGSWOOD TRIP 2019

Please note that the deadline to pay the deposit for Kingswood next year is **20 October**. The method of payment is by credit/debit card through ParentMail. If you are experiencing any payment difficulties please speak to the office in confidence.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN SESSIONS FOR YR 6

Look out for open events being offered at the secondary schools in the area as they are now being promoted on school websites.

Please note that attendance at the sessions offered during school hours will only be authorised for pupils in Year 6.

## YR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

You can apply for a place online at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places> or paper application forms are available from the school office.

The closing date is **Wednesday 31 October 2018** (parents of children who took the Kent Test (11+) will be notified of the results on **Thursday 11 October**).

## FOR SALE

### Pianos

We still have one piano for sale so please speak to the office. We are willing to take offers and Mrs Seal is happy to show the piano to anyone interested. Buyer must be able to collect.

### Table Tennis Tables

We also have two table tennis tables for sale - brand new in packaging. If anyone would like to buy one we are willing to sell them for £150 each. Buyer must be able to collect.

## HARLEQUIN AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

All children from Reception up to the Year 6 are welcome to attend. Places must be booked in advance and you can book 1 – 5 afternoons per week.

If you would like more information please email [alison@hosc.co.uk](mailto:alison@hosc.co.uk)

## HARLEQUIN HOLIDAY CLUB

Harlequin's holiday club will be open in the October holiday at Coxheath Primary School.

The key points are:

- Open 7.30am – 6.30pm
- Half days are available.
- Childcare vouchers are accepted
- As an Ofsted registered setting, parents can claim tax credits if using Harlequin.
- As many or as few days as needed can be booked.
- High staff:child ratios
- Outings
- Different activities planned each day

Please contact [enquiries@hosc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hosc.co.uk) for further information or go to the website [www.hosc.co.uk](http://www.hosc.co.uk)

## PTA NEWS

### FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Unfortunately, due to a lack of support we have decided to cancel this event. We really hope to put on a Bingo event in some way so if you have any feedback as to what we could have done differently please inform us via the school office.

Thank you to those people that did show support. We are really grateful.

If you have purchased a ticket from the gate please take your tickets to the office for a refund. If you bought your tickets online, you will be refunded online today.

### 300 CLUB

Lots of numbers already have been 'bought' for the year which is fantastic. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 17 October, with the first draw taking place after half term. The office will be happy to supply you with another letter if you need. The more people that enter...the bigger the prizes!

### OUR PTA SHED

Our PTA shed which we use to store lots of our resources in, is in a very poor condition. Water gets in through the roof and this can ruin our equipment. We would love a company to donate a shed to us in return for promotion on the shed and on the school's Facebook page. If you are someone who can help (or know someone) please get in touch with us via the school office. Thank you.

### DONATIONS PLEASE

The PTA is preparing a new library and want to make it a welcoming place that's cosy for the children. If anyone has any clean cushions or beanbags they would be willing to donate they would be very gratefully received.

### NEXT MEETING

Our next PTA meeting is on **Tuesday 9 October at 8pm** in the Kings Head. Please come along if you would like to get involved. Or do contact us first via the school office if you would prefer

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### STAPLEHURST MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church restarts for the year tomorrow, Saturday, 6 October at Staplehurst United Reformed Church. Doors open at 3.30pm for board games and welcome for crafts and activities from 4pm, this month all on the theme of how we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (a verse in the Psalms). From 4.45pm there is a very short service with a story, singing and prayer before everyone shares a tea provided by the Messy Team from around 5 until 6pm. The Messy Team look forward to seeing you there and giving you a very warm welcome!

### STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Friday 12 October is Quiz and Chips Night at Staplehurst School from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Entrance is £6 per person at the door with an optional fish and chips supper for £6 per person. Alternatively call 01580 892665 before 5 October and you can get a 6 person table package including food for £60! Maximum tables of 6 and all proceeds to Staplehurst Horticultural Society.

### FOOTIE MAD GIRLS!

Staplehurst Monarchs Youth FC are looking to get more players (Years 2 and 3) for their new U8 Girls team. They train at the school on Saturday mornings and will soon start to play matches against other teams. If your daughter would like to give it a go, please email them ([smufc1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smufc1@yahoo.co.uk)) and they send you more details.

### HOLIDAY FOOTBALL COURSE

Football Five Star will be holding their next holiday courses at Jubilee Sports Field on the 24 and 25 October. You can book your child's place at the following link:

[www.footballfivestarr.co.uk/enrol.php](http://www.footballfivestarr.co.uk/enrol.php)

These courses have proved to be very popular so please book early to avoid disappointment!

## DIARY DATES

### Monday 8 October

Year R Meet the Teacher (2.30pm)

### Tuesday 9 October

PTA Meeting (8pm, King's Head)

### Friday 19 October

INSET Day

### Thursday 29 November

Year 6 Trip to Kent Life

### ADMIN

**Online payments** - This is the preferred method. Please pay online for School Dinners, Trips, Swimming, Uniform and Equipment (via ParentMail) and Breakfast Club (via Scopay).

**Dinner Money queries and payments** - Please contact Maxine on 07501 007835.

**School Uniform** - Uniform can be ordered and paid for online (via ParentMail) (orders will be sent home with your child). The Uniform Shop is open anytime, but **please avoid Monday mornings and Friday afternoons**. Thank you.