

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

SPORT NEWS

Basketball Tournament Champions!

On Tuesday evening, Mrs Stevenson and Mr Littleton took their two Year 6 Basketball teams to the Cranbrook Basketball Tournament held at Cranbrook School.

With a collection of very good teams attending and a place at the district Play-off final up for grabs, Team Staplehurst knew that they were in for a real challenge! However, this did not seem to faze our basketball heroes, as **Staplehurst B** finished in the silver medal position and **Staplehurst A** won the entire tournament, remaining unbeaten throughout!

As tournament champions, **Staplehurst A** now progress through to the Play-off Final to play for a place at the prestigious Kent Finals.



**WELL DONE TO BOTH OF OUR FANTASTIC TEAMS!
GO TEAM STAPLEHURST!**

Netball Heroes!

On Thursday evening, our school Netball team took part in their first game of the season against Boughton Monchelsea Primary School. Our Year 6 team took on Boughton Year 6 and our Year 5 team took on a mixed Year 5/6 Boughton team.

Clearly the weeks of intensive training from Mrs Seymour and Mrs Stevenson paid off as our Year 6 team won their match 16-0 and our Year 5 team bravely drew a very tricky game 1-1. It goes without saying that Mrs Seymour and Mrs Stevenson were incredibly proud of their teams and feel extremely satisfied to have won their first game of the season. **WELL DONE TEAM STAPLEHURST!**

TO LET – HEDGEHOG HOUSE

The Eco-Committee are extremely excited by the school's new hedgehog home. The children had fun out in the cold, planning the best location for the house and are looking forward to hopefully attracting a hedgehog or two to the school grounds after the winter. We will be keeping a close eye to see if any animals are eating our hedgehog food and would like to thank Barratt Homes for this generous donation that will help us to protect the local wildlife.



CHILDREN IN NEED UPDATE

We are thrilled to announce we beat last year's amount raised for Children in Need this year. The final figure was £446!!



THANKS TO STAPLEHURST COMMUNITY EVENTS GROUP

We are extremely grateful to the Staplehurst Community Events Group who have made a generous gift of £500 to the school this month. The money will be spent as part of the costs for purchasing an audio visual system to be used in the Junior Hall. This will enhance the learning experience of all children – especially in assemblies – and has been a piece of equipment we have been planning to buy for some time.

HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATION

We have received a lovely letter of thanks from the Maidstone Day Centre for our donations to Homeless Care. Your donations are vital in ensuring they are able to serve the local community to help those who need it most. Thank you.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Children arriving at Breakfast Club should be here no later than 8am to ensure they have time to eat their breakfast meal. Children arriving late may not have the opportunity to receive a meal but the minimum charge of £3.00 will still apply.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Here at Staplehurst School 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.

Next week our Year 6 cohort will be visiting Kent Life. Unfortunately we have not received payment for the trip from all parents so we had to decide whether the trip could go ahead. On this occasion, for the benefit of the children and to enhance their education, we have been able to fund the shortfall from the Year 6 resources budget. This may not be possible with future trips in other year groups and 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

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are well underway for the KS1 Christmas Performance. Don't forget to send your ticket requests in by **Tuesday 4 December**.

PUPIL PHOTOGRAPHS

The children brought home the proofs for their school photos last week. If you have not ordered them online, the deadline for you to return the proofs to school is **Friday, 30 November**.

LATE ARRIVALS

There are still a number of children arriving late in the mornings. This is not only unsettling for the children who arrive late but their late arrival also disrupts the class for the other children. The first bell goes at 8.35am and the second bell goes at 8.45am. Making sure you get your child to school on time instills a good work ethic in them from a very early age, helping them to continue this through to their secondary education and beyond into employment. After the second bell has rung all pupils should be brought into school via the office as they **must be signed in by an adult**.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

If your child is unable to attend an after school club please ensure that they tell the teacher concerned or the school office. This avoids raising concerns if a child is not accounted for when the club register is taken.

ABSENCE DUE TO SICKNESS

May we remind parents that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, PLEASE ensure they have been well for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Don't forget to return your child's Data Collection Sheet which details the general information we hold on our computer system. It is very important for us to ensure that our information is up to date, especially telephone numbers for the Emergency Contacts as **in an emergency we need to be able to get hold of someone within 5 minutes**. Please return the form even if there are no changes, as this will confirm that our details are correct.

Some of the information boxes are quite small, so if you need to provide additional information about your child please write it on the reverse of the Data Sheet. Thank you for your co-operation.

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 **94.66%**.

Class attendance

Special congratulations to **6W16** who achieved the highest attendance this week with a fantastic **97.85%**.

SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 26.11.18 Year 6, 5, 4, 3

w/c 03.12.18 Year 5, 4, 3, 6

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS 2019

If you have a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, you need to apply for their place at a primary school. You must submit one application per child, even if you already have a sibling at school. Applying online is quick, simple and convenient. The application process opens on Monday 5 November at www.kent.gov.uk/ola and you must apply by 31 January 2019.

Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The deadline has now passed to apply for a place online. However, it's not too late to apply by post; paper applications are available from the school office.

DOGS ON SCHOOL SITE

This is a reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site at any time.

PTA NEWS

SECRET SANTA COLLECTION

Today the children wore non-school uniform in return for a donation to the PTA's Secret Santa and we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated. The quantity and quality of the gifts has been fantastic. During the first week of December the children will be able to visit the Secret Santa room to buy gifts for parents and carers. The gifts are priced at £2 each and the children can buy up to two gifts, which will be wrapped by Santa's helpers!

SCHOOL DISCOS

Tickets for the school discos will be on sale at the school gates morning and afternoons from week commencing Monday, 3 December.

300 CLUB

November's draw will take place next week and we will announce the winners as soon as we can. Entries for this draw are closed but if you fancy a chance to win you will be able to join in December. To be in with a chance of winning please complete the 300 club form (available from the office) and return to school with £10 per number for membership for the next 10 draws.

LUCKY DIP BAGS

Don't forget to encourage your child to decorate their lucky dip bag any way they wish, then fill with goodies. e.g sweets, small toys, stationary or craft items. (new

items only please). Mark on the bag if gifts are suitable for "girl", "boy" or "unisex" and seal. Once filled, bring to school by 30 November for collection in class. Bags will be sold at the Christmas Fair. We have some extra bags in the office if anyone has lost their bag or would like to make a further donation.

SELLOTAPE AND WRAPPING PAPER

The PTA would love donations of unwanted rolls of Sellotape or Christmas wrapping paper (new or part used) to use for wrapping gifts at Secret Santa in a few weeks. Please bring any donations to the school office.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



All the Christmas drawings have now been uploaded onto the www.mychildsart.co.uk website. To view the

artwork log in with the following unique codes shown below:

Username: **Staplehurst**
Password: **HvasfmrA**

We hope lots of you will wish to order Christmas cards and other Christmas gifts with your child's design on which will help support the school.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Tomorrow, Saturday 24 November, Staplehurst United Reformed Church is holding a Christmas Coffee Morning from 10.00am until 12.30pm.

Do pop along to this event and support the Church in raising some money for the Weald Family Hub, a new and local organisation raising money to support those working with local young people with mental health issues.

There will be:

- Oodles of cakes and goodies for immediate use and to save for Christmas!
- A chance to find out more about the work of the Weald Family Hub.
- Teas, coffees, mince pies and plenty of seats for a good natter.
- Handmade crafts, gifts and presents to get your Christmas preparations underway.
- Tombolas and competitions for an extra bit of fun.

STAPLEHURST MESSY CHURCH

On Saturday, 1 December at Staplehurst United Reformed Church, there will be a Christmas themed Messy Church to make lots of lovely decorations for you to take home including: a Christmas candle; hanging angels; a manger for your tree and; nativity lanterns for your windows. Also Christmas food craft and a Christmas quiz, all followed by the Christmas story and some familiar carols before a yummy tea together.... Doors open at 3.30pm; the Messy Church Team look forward to seeing you there!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Calling all budding young singers! All Saints Staplehurst has started a new children's choir *Sing!* running on Friday evenings from 6.00pm until 6.50pm. They sing a wide selection of music and look to find opportunities to perform. The choir meets weekly and new members are always welcome, just come along and see if it's for you – best suited to children age 7 and up. No need to be a congregation member. Find them at the back of the church on the right – see you there! Any questions please call Jacqui on 07796 487538.

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) and they send you more details.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 29 November

Year 6 Trip to Kent Life

Saturday 1 December

PTA Christmas Fair (12-3pm)

Monday 3, Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 December

Secret Santa

Friday 7 December

Christmas Discos

Tuesday 11 December

KS1 Christmas Performance (1.45pm)

Wednesday 12 December

KS1 Christmas Performance (9.30am)

Wednesday 13 December

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 19 December

KS2 Christmas Performance (9.30am)

Class Parties (pm)

End of Term 2

Thursday 3 January 2019

Start of Term 3

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.