

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

BUSTER BOOK CLUB

As members of Buster Book Club for the Maidstone area, our children were part of a group who successfully read for over 4 million minutes in 2018. What an amazing achievement that is! Now that 2019 is underway, we are no longer taking part in Buster but will be launching some new reading initiatives later this year. In the meantime, please keep reading with your child and sharing stories as often as you can. We know that great readers, who hear rich story language on a regular basis, also make great writers - and that is our aim for all children at Staplehurst School.

LOCAL NEWS

We've had some fantastic publicity in the Downs Mail that is currently being delivered to local households, and there are articles featuring our new library and the hedgehog house donated by David Wilson Homes. Look out for a copy in your letterbox!

Downs Mail
Maidstone Weald Edition
January 2019
No. 261
downsmail.co.uk
Maidstone & Malling's
No. 1 newspaper
FREE
News
Let there be light
NEW lighting has invigorated an ancient church ... and exposed its worn carpets. →5
Teacher's night life
AS FIRE chiefs recruit officers for Headcorn and Marden, meet Leonne – a teacher by day and a firefighter by night. →6
Play areas at risk
COUNCIL planners are to consider ways to build homes on parks and play areas. →8
Village fete appeal
PLEA to save popular village fete as volunteer numbers dry up. →20
Obituaries →24
Parish Councils →26-30
The Methodist Church in Headcorn has asked for a crash barrier to prevent its wall being damaged by vehicles; Parish councillors in Canewdon have been asked to nominate a new street name for a new development; the parish council and village hall committee in 'holding consider installing CCTV; Kent Highways to repaint white lines on Leeds Road, Langley.
Crime Reports →30
Caravan windows were smashed

Fly-tipping: just one conviction in a year
THE council's ability to tackle fly-tipping has come under fire after it admitted it has secured just ONE prosecution in 2018.
Maidstone Borough Council says it issued 34 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping and waste carrying, and seized six vehicles, two of which were crushed. Seven warnings were given. But the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) said the council must secure more convictions if a deterrent message is to be effective.
Borough councillor Eddie Powell said the use of mobile, covert cameras would help secure convictions and "will soon send a message out to offenders".
Robin Edwards, regional director of CLA South East, which represents farmers, landowners and rural businesses, said: "Fly-tipping is a considerable problem in Maidstone, with a total of 1,041 incidents reported in 2017/18, well up on the 973 reported in 2016/17 and 796 in 2015/16.
"The true figures will be even higher than these official statistics, as many incidents go unreported.
"While it is encouraging to see MBC taking direct action in some cases, it is vital that more prosecutions are brought forward to act as a deterrent. Councils must send a message to fly-tippers that they will face strict consequences. Imposing and enforcing stiffer penalties which better reflect the seriousness of the crime is crucial, along with seizing vehicles used to fly-tip."
Cllr Powell said covert cameras can be used for up to 28 days. Leeds borough councillor Gill Fort has been campaigning for cameras at the Burberry Lane hotspot for years. She said: "The trouble is that it is just not enforced."
An MBC spokesman said: "To

School opens new library
YOUNGSTERS at Staplehurst School have bucked a county-wide trend by expanding their library facilities.
Pupils at the community primary enlisted the help of children's author Nick Carter to open their converted classroom.
The school's literacy leader, Sally Seymour, said "We want all our children to read well, with confidence and pleasure. Now we can offer them a wide range of books to appeal to all tastes, develop a life-long love of reading and build a solid foundation for learning."
→20

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

We would like to hear from anyone who has a spare lunchtime during the week and would like to come in a help our Year 5 Library Monitors keep the library tidy. Please contact the lovely ladies in the office.

BIRD FEEDER COMPETITION

See the attached flyer for a whole school competition to design and make a feeding station for hungry small birds. Please send your entries in by 30 January and there will be one winner for each Key stage (EYFS, KS1 and KS2).



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Once a year, parents and carers of each Class are invited to attend their child's Celebration Assembly. It is a great opportunity for you to hear about the wonderful work being done in their key stage and see the children receive certificates for their efforts. The children really enjoy parents attending their celebration assemblies and it's a great opportunity for them to share their successes with family members. We thought it would be useful for you to have a timetable so you can plan ahead and we hope you will be able to come along.

Date	Class	Time/Location
16 Jan	1RS5	2.30pm Junior Hall
18 Jan	5L18	2.30pm Junior Hall
25 Jan	5C17	2.30pm Junior Hall
1 Feb	1/S6	9.00am Infant Hall
8 Feb	4H13	2.30pm Junior Hall
15 Mar	4S14	2.30pm Junior Hall
29 March	Early Years	9.00am Infant Hall
3 May	3T12	2.30pm Junior Hall
10 May	3G11	2.30pm Junior Hall
7 June	2O9	9.00am Infant Hall
14 June	2KS8	9.00am Infant Hall

SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 14.01.19 Year 4, 6, 5

w/c 21.01.19 Year 6, 5, 4

MENU CHANGE – PIZZA PARTY DAY

Thursday 17 January is School **Census Day** when the Government counts the number of school meals taken and determines how much funding to send to schools for the year. **With school budgets being continually squeezed, it would really help us if your child could try a school meal on this day please.** Our catering company will be providing a different menu from that advertised:

Margherita Pizza
Meat Feast Pizza
Veggie Pizza
Homemade Potato Wedges
Sweetcorn & Peas
Coleslaw
Salad Cart
Chocolate Cake
Fruit Pots/Yoghurts

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. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/ola and you must apply by 31 January 2019.

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE

The DfE (Department for Education) states that "schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather" and we recognise that it is important for Staplehurst School to remain **open** so that parents are able to work and children can continue to learn. Our fundamental principle is that every effort will be made to ensure that Staplehurst School remains open even if only limited numbers of children can attend.

In each instance the school will determine:

- whether the school site is safe
- how many staff are likely to be in

then make a decision based on the safety of children.

If the school is CLOSED we will notify you via ParentMail and also publish a message on our website and Facebook page.

PTA NEWS

300 CLUB

It's not too late to join in the fun so if you fancy a chance to win please complete the 300 club form (available from the office) and return to school with £9 per number for membership for the next 9 draws.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Staplehurst United Reformed Church
TN12 0AS

Friday 11th January, 18.30

A film for all ages.....3 clues about which it is:

- 1) P T Barnum
- 2) Song: This is Me!
- 3) Circus

Big screen (not quite cinematic sized, but still big!)

Sing if you must!

FREE ENTRY AND REFRESHMENTS, INCLUDING
POPCORN

STAPLEHURST MONARCHS

Weather permitting, the boys teams aim to start again on 19 January.

STAPLEHURST GIRLS FOOTBALL

Staplehurst Monarchs are looking for more girls to come and play football with the Monarchs & If you are in year 2 or 3 we have spaces in the Under 8 team.

If you are interested in giving football a try please contact Staplehurst Monarchs Youth via the Facebook page or email ghaywood@tiscali.co.uk.

CORRECTION – ALL STARS CRICKET CLUB

The article in last week's Newsletter regarding the ALL STARS cricket club at Staplehurst Cricket & Tennis Club was incorrect and has been withdrawn. We apologise for any inconvenience.

STAPLEHURST UNDER 5 PLAYGROUP

On Wednesday 23 January 2019 between 9.30am and 11am, Staplehurst Under 5 Playgroup are holding an Open Morning. This is an opportunity to meet the children, staff and committee members and experience all the wonderful activities they have to offer! Refreshments will be available.

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.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 16 January

Class 1RS5 Celebration Assembly (2.30pm)

Friday 18 January

Class 5L18 Celebration Assembly (2.30pm)

Friday 25 January

Class 5C17 Celebration Assembly (2.30pm)

Friday 1 February

Class 1/26 Celebration Assembly (9.00am)

Friday 8 February

Class 4H13 Celebration Assembly (2.30pm)

Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

Half Term

ADMIN

Online payments - This is the preferred method. Please pay online for School Dinners, Trips, 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.