



Staplehurst School Newsletter No.21 - Spring Term 2024

[A message from the Senior Team](#)



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 4! We have had a busy and exciting first week full of new learning experiences and excellent enrichment opportunities.

Pride Values Assembly: We began the week launching our PRIDE value for this term - 'determination.' Our weekly pride value assembly this term will ensure our children understand the importance of demonstrating determination at school and in the world we live; as we know the value of determination instills a strong work ethic, vital for navigating life's challenges and achieving success.

Attendance: well done to all children who continually come to school every day and are always on time. As we know good attendance and punctuality ensure consistent learning, academic success and allow children to build strong friendships and social skills. This week we celebrated those children who have improved their attendance and those who have had 100% attendance in term 3 and in terms 1-3.

Curriculum: your child's curriculum overview will be uploaded to our website on Monday; if you have any questions or need any support please ask your child's class teacher.

Dare to be Different Day: thank you to our PTA for organising a fun experience for our children while raising money for the school - we really appreciate this!

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Davenport and the Senior Leadership Team

Pride Certificates 23/02/2024

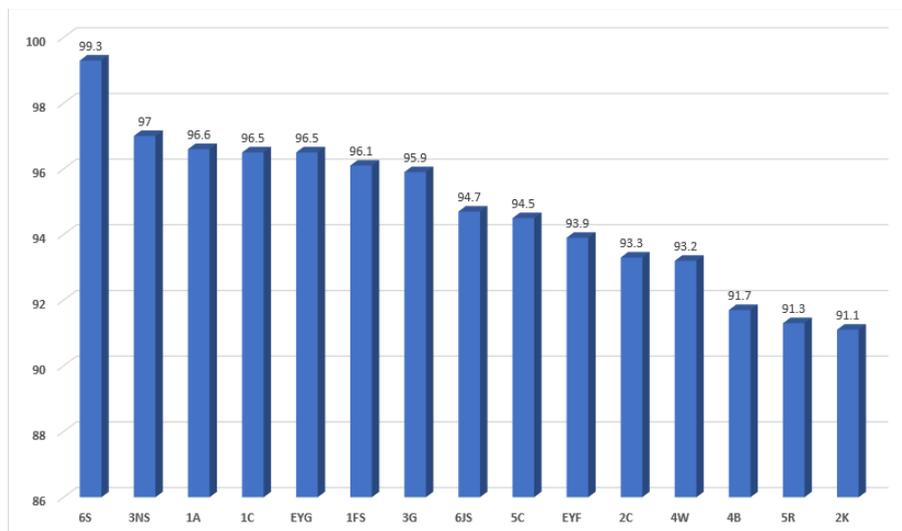
Name	Class	Reason
Leo Jarvis Smith	EYG	Leo has had a fantastic start to term 4 demonstrating our school PRIDE values throughout the week. He always comes into school with a smile and a 'good morning' for staff. It has been lovely to see Leo working collaboratively with other children, sharing equipment and ideas during child initiated learning. Well done Leo, keep up the good work!
Amelia Hurdle	EYF	This week Amelia had shown great determination when writing. She has produced excellent writing independently, carefully sounding words out and ensuring to check what she has written afterwards. Amelia has used a range of red words in her sentences and is remembering to have finger spaces in her writing. Well done Amelia!
Ayla Hussein	1A	Ayla has been determined to develop her knowledge across all subjects since joining our school. In maths, she has been determined to complete task independently and is already able to recognise the majority of her number bonds to 10, which she is using to help her learn her number bonds to 20. In phonics, she been determined to learn all her set 1 sounds. When Ayla arrived at our school, she did not recognise any of her set 1 sounds and after only being at Staplehurst School for four weeks, she is already able to confidently recognise 19 out of the 27 set 1 sounds. This is fantastic and her determined attitude towards all her learning has been a joy to see. Well done Ayla, keep up the hard work!
Penny-May Seal	1C	This week Penny-May has shown incredible determination with her writing. She produced lots of accurate sentences during SDI and chose to continue practising during wet play. Penny-May is now remembering capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in her sentences. Well done, Penny!
Calvin Cook	1FS	Calvin has settled well after the half term break. This week he has worked really hard on listening carefully to the sounds in each word. During phonics, he produced some beautiful writing of words containing the oy phoneme. Great work Calvin, keep it up!
Sahil Hakimzai	2C	Sahil has come back from the half term ready to learn. He has been getting more involved in his learning which can be seen especially in art and maths. He has been determined to complete tasks and has listened well to instructions which has allowed for him to practice a range of different pencil techniques by listening carefully to the music. Well done Sahil!
Sophie Dyke	2K	Sophie consistently shows all of our PRIDE values and has demonstrated her determination to get tasks completed to the best standard she can do. This has been seen especially in maths this week, where Sophie tackled some 2-step word problems about comparing different measurements. Sophie is a great role model for her peers and it's lovely to see her enthusiasm for learning! Well done Sophie!
Phoebe JermyBrampton	3NS	Phoebe has come back from half term ready to learn. Her attitude has been amazing, she has been really focused in class and her presentation has been beautiful. Well done Phoebe and keep up the fantastic attitude!
Kairi Edmonds	3G	Kairi consistently demonstrated all of our PRIDE values but this week in particular she has been incredibly determined with her writing. She is thinking carefully about her sentence choices and the vocabulary. Well done Kairi, another fantastic week!
Margo White	4W	Margo has had a fantastic first week of the term. She is so enthusiastic about all her learning and has shown particular interest in our geography topic of the rainforest, sharing her knowledge and completing her work to a high standard. Well done!
Ryan Throssel	4B	Ryan has been demonstrating our school values this week, and been working hard to make good choices. Ryan has been working independently, quietly and working hard to complete his work. He also worked really well as a team during the science experiment, on sound vibrations. Great improvement Ryan!
Terry Wenham	5C	This week Terry has demonstrated determination and motivation when learning how to divide numbers using short division in mathematics. In reading he has with confidence, taking care to follow the text during extended read. A good week, well done!
Riley Cook	5R	This week Riley has demonstrated determination and eagerness to partake in maths this week he is always asking questions and working through his questions. He has been pushing himself to learn the new concept. Riley has been engaged in many lessons this week. Well done!
Ben Heasman	6JS	This week, Ben has demonstrated an eagerness to achieve. He has shown excellent determination when completing all tasks, thinking carefully about appropriate language for building suspense within a suspense story. Well done Ben!

Attendance



1 - Well done to 6S, the weekly and KS2 winners with 99.3% who will receive Attendance Cup.

Well done to 1A, the KS2 winners with 96.6% who will receive the Attendance Ted.



EYFS



When arriving back at school the children found a mystery book with a letter on the desk. After reading the book the children had lots of ideas about what this term's topic could be. Some thought we could be learning about astronauts or stars. After a class discussion we revealed that this term's topic was space!

This week the children have particularly enjoyed launching into space in our very own space shuttle in the role play and undertaking different experiments to find out where the different rocks have come from.

In the early years garden the children have been able to combine their space knowledge and this week's math's knowledge to build towers of differing heights and then comparing them to one another. "I am building a tower tall enough to reach the moon".

In science we have started to explore light. We did experiments to see what materials light could travel through. We then created shadows on the board using light.

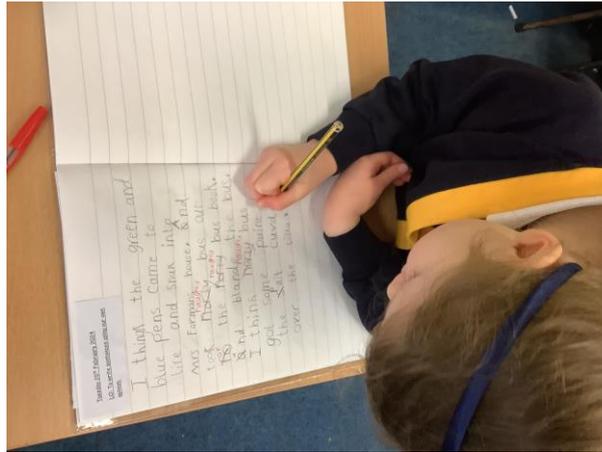




Year 1



2 - Year 1 arrived at school on Tuesday to a complete mess! There was rubbish everywhere and a toy bus.



3 - We talked about what could have caused the mess. Some of us thought a child could have snuck in and left their toy bus behind, other children thought perhaps a teacher had been causing mischief!



4 - We wrote our predictions down remembering to use our capital letters and full stops. Finally the mystery was answered when we read our new class text 'Naughty Bus'.

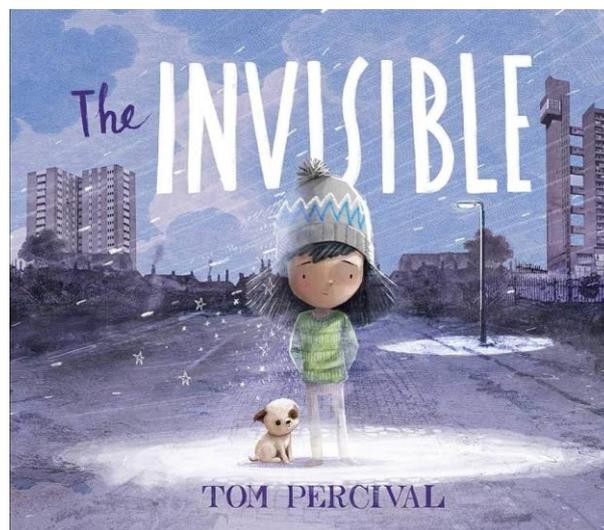
Year 2



Year 2 have had a great first week back! We have introduced our new text 'The Invisible' to the children. They found it really interesting and it caused a lot of good discussions. We will be using the text to create descriptive sentences, including expanded noun phrases and commas to ensure our writing is interesting for the reader.

We have started our new history topic (What impact did Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale have on modern medicine?) and the children are already so excited to find out more about both of these important, famous nurses!

In maths we have begun our new unit on measurement by looking at length and height - we used centimeters and meters to measure and compare the height and length of different objects around the classroom.



5 - [Storytime: The Invisible with Tom Percival \(youtube.com\)](#) - click here to listen to our story at home



6 - Mary Seacole



7 - Florence Nightingale

Year 3



Year 3 have had a busy and exciting start to term. They started to read the book 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' in English and wrote expanded noun phrases and rhetorical questions about the themes from the story. The children are looking forward to writing a persuasive letter as the character 'Lila'.

In science, Year 3 have started learning about rocks and fossils and this week they discovered the layers of the earth and their features.

This term, in history we are studying the stone age and this week we ordered a timeline of events that have happened. They used their understanding of BC and AD to help them to do this.





Year 4



YEAR 3

Year 4 have been learning about sound vibrations. They carried out various experiments to see how sound travels through liquids, solids and air, to our ears. They used various objects to prove that sounds are vibrations that travel through the air. The children worked in groups to answer the question, How is sound generated?

In PE the children moved across the hall in different ways and then made shapes with their bodies- they balanced carefully and thought about the ways they could improve their shapes.







8 - They pinged the ruler, and listened carefully and watched it closely to see what happens to the sound when they moved the ruler.



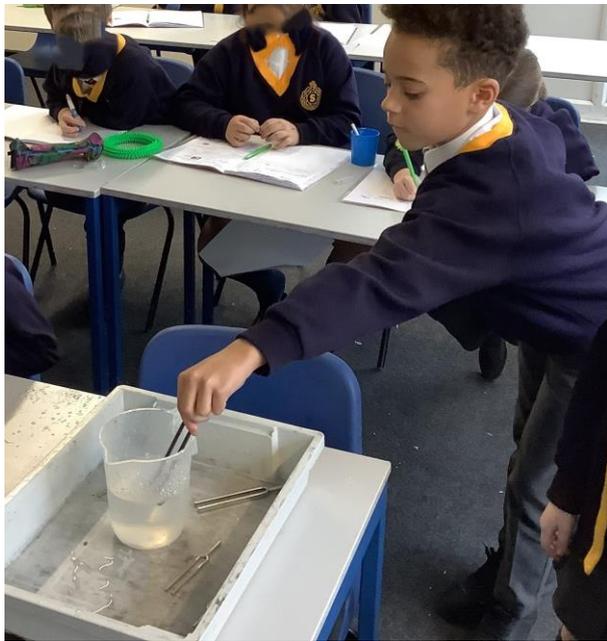
9 - The used a tuning fork, banged it on the table, and put it into a jug of water to see what happens to the water, and to identify what is vibrating.



10 - They sprinkled some rice onto a drum and hit it gently to see what happens to the rice.



11 - They wrapped an elastic band around a cup and watched the elastic band closely, to see what was vibrating, and to hear what happens to the sound when they change the thickness of the band.



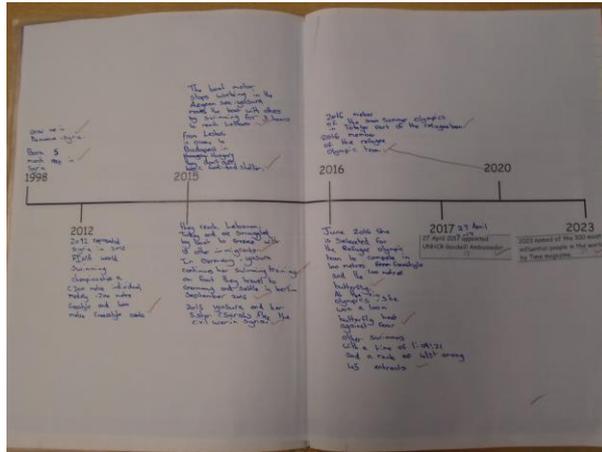
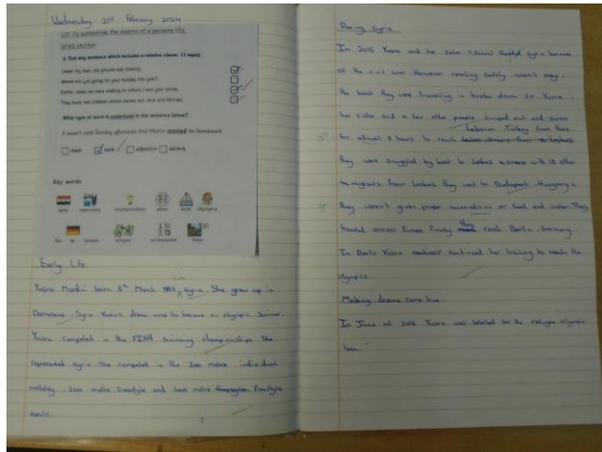
Year 5



YEAR 5

Year 5 have started the term by being introduced to their new text *Yusra Swims* by Julie Abery. This is an illustrated poem about the Yusra Mardini who is a girl from Damascus, whose dream was to swim for her country in the Olympics. Unfortunately, war in Syria begins and with her family she flees to Germany, where she continues to swim. She would go on to compete in the 2016 and 2020 Summer Olympics. Children this week, have begun to learn about her life and her achievements, writing a short biography about her life.

In geography, pupils have started the unit on 'How does land use differ across the UK?' This week they begun by identifying key places around the UK, including capital cities, seas, oceans, counties and regions.



Year 6



This week, year 6 have been developing their writing skills, by deconstructing and reconstructing suspense stories. The children used 'The Screaming Children' by Oein DeBhairduin, an author who recorded traditional tales of the Traveller community into his book 'Why the moon travels', as a stimulus to create their own stories. They used imagery and a range of sentence types to build suspense, thinking carefully about the setting and effective vocabulary to have the greatest impact.

Imam Visit





We were delighted to welcome Dr Usmani, the Imam from Maidstone Mosque for a whole school talk on Monday. The children demonstrated fantastic knowledge of Islam from their RE lessons and Dr Usmani commented on how knowledgeable they were including being able to tell him all the Five Pillars of Islam and explain the Holy Scriptures. He showed us a selection of prayer mats, Islamic texts and stands. He demonstrated the call to prayer and answered many questions from the children including: How old is the Quran? Why do Muslims pray five times a day? Why are you dressed in that way? How old is God and does God have a family?

Dr Usmani has really helped bring the religion of Islam alive for the children.

Invicta STEM Challenge

This week we were fortunate to have been invited to participate in a Primary STEM challenge, hosted by Invicta Grammar School. Our Year 6 team of Archie, James, Paige and Sophie were joined by Mrs Slow as they worked their way through a series of challenges including code breaking, bridge building and protecting an egg from a 20ft drop. Whilst our team were not the winners, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the activities and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship in congratulating the winning team. We look forward to participating in future challenges!

Thinking Day



On Thursday, we marked 'World Thinking Day' which is an initiative set up by the Girl Guides and Scouts worldwide. Each year, on the birthday of the founders Robert and Olave Baden-Powell, the Girl Guides and Scouts worldwide raise money for a just cause. This year it was chosen by them and focused on the environment and poverty. To celebrate the excellent work, we asked children involved to come in wearing their uniform. It was wonderful to see children so proud around school and then at the front of assembly, a real embodiment of our school PRIDE values.



Communication Update

Thank you to every parent/ carer who contributed to our communication survey.

The responses have been analysed, and as a result, we will be focusing on these key areas going forward:

- Highlighting key dates for the forthcoming week to parents in the body of the Scopay communication with the weekly newsletter.
- Increase usage of our website by linking key information back to our website.

- Ensuring enough time is given to parents for up coming events.

Your thoughts and contributions are important to us to help us improve communication and we appreciate your comments.

Thank you to Mrs Pritchard for supporting us with this piece of work.

Class Assemblies

We will be starting our class assembly programme for the year in term two this year. We would like to invite parents/carers in to share in the wonderful learning that has been taking place. The assembly schedule is as follows:

Term 4 – KS2 - Year 3 (Stone-Age) - **Friday 22nd March** at 9.00 am in the junior hall [Year 3 Assembly](#)

KS1 - Year 2 (Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole) **Friday 15th March** at 9.00 am in the junior hall [Year 2 Assembly](#)

EYFS: Thursday March 28th [EYFS Assembly](#)

We look forward to welcoming you in to school.

Many Thanks

Mr Williams-Jones

Key Dates

Dates to Remember

April

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Every Friday: Parents into Read - KS1 and EYFS

29th February 2024 - 2.30pm Infant Hall - SEND parent drop-in - Mr Tate will be holding a SEND information and support session. [SEND Parent Drop-in](#)

29th February 2024 - BLUE HOUSE NON SCHOOL UNIFORM - All pupils in Blue House [Blue House - Non School Uniform](#)

1st March 2024 - World Book Day - All pupils - Click link for further details [World Book Day](#)

7th March 2024 - 2.30pm Junior Hall - P.E Parent drop-in - Mr Smith will be holding an information session about the teaching of PE across the school. [Staplehurst School - P. E Drop in](#)

8th March and 11th/12th and 13th March 2024 - Book Fair 3:15-3:45 [Book Fair](#)

12th March 2024 - Class Photos

14th March 2024 - PTA Pre-Loved Uniform