



**Staplehurst School Newsletter No.3 -
Autumn Term 2024**

A message from the Senior Team



Dear Parents and Carers

Children have been working hard this week and having great fun, too! Next week our outdoor learning programme begins in EYFS; over the year every class will have this enrichment opportunity in addition to our trips and visits programme.

Pupil Leadership: across our school children are responsible for leading and helping in a range of ways. Some of the older children have started in their whole school leadership roles as buddies and House Captains. Next week, I will introduce you to our Year 6 learning ambassadors who work closely with me to fulfil many roles, such as welcoming visitors, giving tours of the school, contributing to the website and speaking to visitors to our school about life at Staplehurst school. They will promote learning by helping our learners be the best learners they can be.

School Uniform: thank you to everyone who ensures that their child looks smart and ready for learning every day. Thank you to those parents who have responded to our polite reminders.

INSET Day: a reminder that next Friday 27th September is an INSET day and the school will be closed for children.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Davenport and the Senior Leadership Team

Curriculum



Our curriculum offer at Staplehurst is stronger than ever and its already well underway! We consider our curriculum to be knowledge-rich. We view the curriculum as the mastery of a body of subject-specific knowledge, the definition of which has been carefully considered and sequenced to offer children the best opportunities as successful 21st century citizens. We champion 'big ideas' and invaluable knowledge that children deserve – this informs how we grow our pupils, and how we ensure that when they leave, they have had a rich, culturally diverse experience and are ready to progress to secondary school as well-rounded, considerate individuals.

Our curriculum reflects our community and serves as both a window and mirror. A window so that children can see out of – new opportunities and knowledge; a mirror so that they can see themselves reflected in it. Our research-informed curriculum has been developed together with subject leaders to reflect the best practices and also continues to iterate as we reflect on the best opportunities and outcomes for children – they come first. ‘

Next week we will see the start of our outdoor learning programme. With the generous support of the PTA, we are in the process of developing a fantastic area - I'm sure lots of you have seen the big tent that has come into view opposite the year 2 classrooms! EYFS and Y1 will be kicking off the proceedings working with the wonderful Anna Bell from Anna Outdoors Education. All children will be given the opportunity of enrichment through outdoor learning this year; I know the children are very excited. A big thank you already to Mr Harding, the PTA volunteers and Mrs Hay who have helped the coordination of the project. Our launch day for outdoor learning will be celebrated with a special nature day menu next week too!

Attendance



Well done to 1U the KS1 weekly winners with 99.1% who will share Attendance Ted.

Well done to 4C the KS2 weekly winners with 98.4% who will receive the Attendance Cup.

Reception 2025 Open Events



Reception 2025 Open Events

Our open events for reception intake 2025, will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday 13th November 9:30am (a creche will be available for young children)

Monday 18th November 6:00pm

To book, and for more information, please click on the QR code.

Pride Certificates 20th September 2024

1JS	Charlie Mayes	Charlie has demonstrated a very positive attitude towards his learning this week. He has been working hard to focus on the activities, joined in during carpet time and has even been choosing to spend longer on the tasks set for him. A great week Charlie with your behaviour showing our PRIDE values. Well done, keep it up!
1U	Teddy Brailey	Teddy is a brilliant role model to everyone in the class. He consistently tries really hard to show STAR behaviour and is always looking for ways to help others in the classroom. Teddy has such a positive attitude towards all of his learning, putting his hand up to answer questions and join in class discussions. Teddy has particularly impressed me this week with his focus in our science lesson, adding amazing detail to his Xray drawing of a vertebrate.
2W	Harveer Tutt	Harveer has had a great week, displaying our PRIDE values by showing a positive attitude to his work. In English he wrote a fantastic description of Paddington Bear using expanded noun phrases. He sets a great example by listening well and always showing respect. Well done!
2C	lylah-Mae Millbanks	lylah has impressed me with her positive attitude towards her learning this week. Within our writing lessons she has wrote sentences that are punctuated correctly and included a range of interesting adjectives to describe Paddington bear. Well done, lylah! Keep up the fantastic work.
2K	Belle-Heidi Winters	Belle always displays positivity in all of her learning each week. She is an amazing role model to her peers and enjoys always trying her best. I am so pleased with how quickly she has settled and shown she understands the expectations of Year 2 and STAR behaviour! Well done Belle, keep it up!
3C	Evie Bryant	This week Evie has been very positive in her English lessons. She has worked very hard accurately punctuating and writing sentences containing prepositions. Evie has also shown improvement in the quality of her handwriting. A good week. Well done!
3NS	Sophie Dyke	Sophie has impressed us with her positive attitude towards learning this week. She worked really hard in English and challenged herself by writing some fantastic sentences that used prepositions. Her handwriting was beautiful and she even got on to writing extra sentences of her own. Great work Sophie!
4A	Carmen Gorham	This week Carmen has again demonstrated a positive attitude towards her learning in all subjects. In particular, she worked hard in science to understand the names of the different teeth that can be found in the human mouth and explain the function of each tooth. Carmen constantly demonstrates a wonderful example of the STAR behaviours to her peers every day. Well done Carmen, keep it up!
4c	Ella Bashford	This week Ella has demonstrated a suburb positive attitude to learning. She is always ready to learn, listens to instructions carefully and carries them out to the best of her abilities. She worked incredibly hard in history this week. She made note of what the ancient buildings were called, were made from and were used for. Well done, Ella!
5B	Braxton Santer	Braxton has demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning this week. He has contributed a lot towards class discussions and displayed STAR behaviour, sitting patiently with his hand up. Braxton displayed excellence throughout the science lesson this week, with great listening skills when learning about the solar system. Well done Braxton!
5T	Sophie Beaumont Collins	Sophie has had a fantastic week and I have seen positivity pouring from her in so many lessons. Sophie has been engaged and worked hard, so has produced some amazing work. Her lovely smiling face has been wonderful to see especially as the beginning of the week was quite a challenge for her. Her writing is improving every day and she understood rounding, answering questions that foxed all of us. Such a great week well done Sophie.
6S	Elio Gaspri	This week Elio has demonstrated real positivity in writing. It has been wonderful to see Elio putting such thought into his word choices, considering how he can include each of the grammar objectives in his writing and making a conscious effort to ensure his handwriting is neat and his work is well presented. Fantastic effort this week Elio!
6JS	Iris Pritchard	This week Iris has shown a positive attitude towards writing, working hard to use adventurous vocabulary within her setting description. Iris as demonstrated the PRIDE values across the week and has been an excellent role model. Well done Iris!

EYFS



EYFS have enjoyed their first full week in school this week. Many of the children are now walking around to their classrooms independently and all are continuing to learn our classroom routines. This week we began our RWI phonics sessions. The children were excited to meet Fred the Frog who helps us when learning our sounds. During child-initiated learning, many children chose to practise writing the new sounds learnt.

Our key text has been The Colour Monster this week. We have been discussing the different emotions we might feel such as happiness, calmness and anger. We discussed that all feelings are okay to feel and what we could do to help ourselves when we feel these different emotions.

In maths this week, following our white rose learning we have been looking at matching and creating sets. We discovered that for objects to match they must be the same and that to copy a set



Year 1

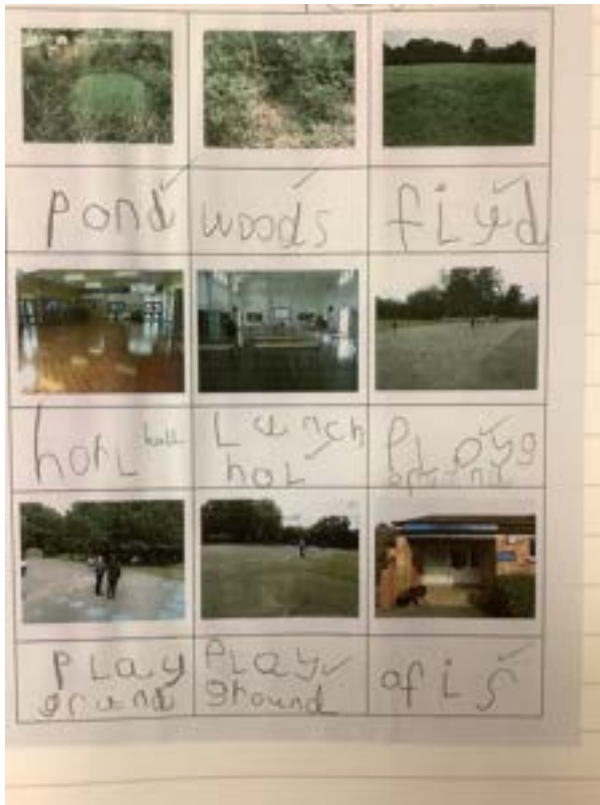


Year 1 have been answering the question 'What are our school grounds like?' in geography. We have undertaken a fieldwork study around the school to see what human and physical features we could identify. We labelled what we saw and also sorted them into a Venn diagram.

For our science topic, we have been grouping and classifying animals. This week we studied vertebrates and made excellent attempts to draw the skeletons of some animals. Can you guess what they are?

In maths we have been learning to compare numbers and numbers of objects. First we used the terms fewer, more and same to compare. Then we used the mathematical symbols $<$ $>$ and $=$.

For P.E we have been having lots of fun exploring ways to send and receive a ball.







Year 2



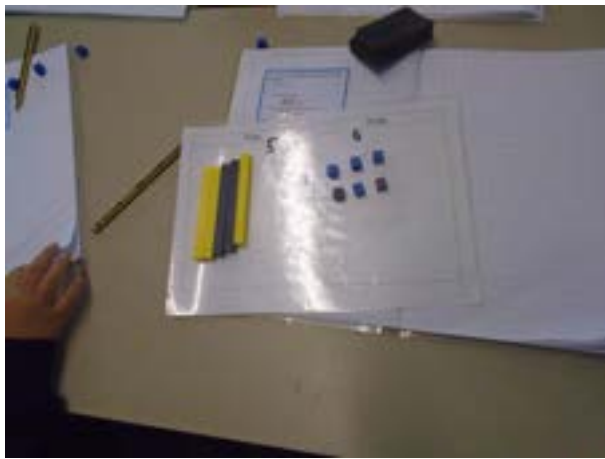
Year 2 have had another great week, packed with learning and fun. In English the children have impressed us with their writing about Paddington. They have used expanded noun phrases to describe his appearance and personality.

In maths we have continued to learn about place value looking at the values of numbers and putting them on a number line.

In DT we looked at parts of a vehicle and discussed how axles and wheels fit onto the chassis of a car, later this term the children will create their own wheeled

In science, we have been observing the growth of our cress and bean seeds and thinking about the conditions they need to grow. We have also learnt about the life cycle of plants and connected this to the seeds growing in our classroom. In geography we have used aerial maps to look at the difference between Staplehurst and London and learnt about some of the landmarks in London. They were excited to spot our school on the map! The children used their knowledge to find the human and physical features in central London.







1 - Staplehurst from above

Year 3



Year 3 have are learning about living things and their habitats, focusing on plants. This week children went on an scavenger hunt to look for leaves, buds, flowers and seeds on our school grounds. Children identified the species these belong to. Year 3 were very enthusiastic in finding the different things.

Within geography Year 3 have been identify physical and human features which can be found in Tonbridge and Staplehurst. They have also revised the difference between villages, towns and cities.

As part of our maths unit on place value, children have been using number lines to identify numbers from 0 to 1000. They have had to work out the value of the intervals to position numbers on the numberline.





Year 4



YEAR 3

Year 4 have had a superb week. Children are aware of the behaviour expectations in class and are quick to show they have remembered routines and know exactly what to do.

In English this week we have been learning about features of a newspaper article and how to write as a journalist, using formal conjunctions and journalistic phrases in preparation for writing their own newspaper article soon. They have had opportunities to read news articles from The Week Junior to find key features of journalistic writing.

We are well on the way to recapping time tables we have learnt in previous years. Ensuring we are quick to recall the 2, 5, 3, 10 and 4 times tables.

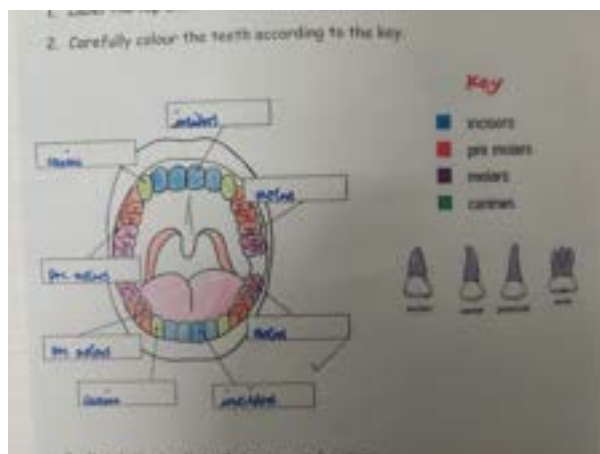
Everyone was thoroughly enthused for our Science lesson on teeth - as the first part of the digestive system. We used mirrors to look at our own teeth, count how many we had and look at the different shapes and sizes. Once we had learnt the names and function of each of the different teeth types we were given a piece of apple, a grape and a sweet to eat. We had to think about what teeth we are using to eat each one and what our teeth are doing.

The children have been fascinated by our History lesson on buildings from Ancient Civilizations. We learnt what different buildings are made from and what their purpose was. We enjoyed thinking about what type of house we would like to live in and why.



Which teeth has which role?
Try eating the food to work out what role each teeth plays

Food	Teeth used	Teeth Action
Chewy Sweet	incisors and canines	biting and cutting
Apple	incisors and premolars	biting and chewing
Grape	incisors and canines	holding and crushing





This building is pyramid

It is made from yellow limestone

Its purpose was to bury the dead kings



This building is Ziggurat

It is made from mud - bricks

Its purpose was worship to god

Year 5



YEAR 5

This week has been such a great one - school is really going well.

We completed and edited our first writing which was all about Elysium. Using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to make it more interesting.

In maths, we have continued with place value and started rounding numbers.

We learnt about the Olympian Gods in History and what they represented in the Ancient Greece. How they were celebrated and what they still impact today (the Olympics for one).

In science we looked at the sizes of the planets in comparison to each other, the order in which they are, in our solar system and how far away they all are from each other too!



Year 6



This week Year 6 have been writing a setting description based on our current class text, 'Holes'. In their writing the children have focused on their use of fronted adverbials, figurative language and ambitious vocabulary. They have begun to proof read and edit their work, checking for mistakes and looking for opportunities to better their work.



Music



**PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL**

2023 - 2024

Once again this year, we have been invited to become a Music Mark School by Kent Music , recognising the value that we place on Music here at Staplehurst and thanking us for the hard work we all do to ensure that our pupils are able to access a high quality music education.

If your child would like to learn to play an instrument, please contact Kelly at andrewparrymusic@gmail.com for details of individual lessons.

FSM - Win a £100 Sainsbury's Voucher!

Check Your Free School Meals Eligibility and Win a £100 Sainsbury's Voucher!



We are running an exciting competition for **all current Staplehurst School families** to check their eligibility for Free School Meals. Simply follow the steps below, and you could be in with a chance to **win a £100 Sainsbury's voucher!**

How to Enter:

1. Visit the [Kent County Council \(KCC\)](#) website to check your eligibility for Free School Meals (search 'KCC FSM Check')
2. Take a screenshot showing you've checked your eligibility (regardless of the outcome).
3. Email the screenshot to your child's year group email address (one entry per family).
4. All entries must be received by Friday 27th September.

Note: Families already in receipt of Pupil Premium will be automatically entered into the competition.



Terms and conditions: 1. The competition is open to all current Staplehurst School families, regardless of their Free School Meals eligibility outcome. 2. One entry per family. 3. Entries must be submitted via the relevant year group email address no later than Friday 27th September. 4. Families currently receiving Free School Meals will be automatically entered into the competition. 5. The prize is one (£100 Sainsbury's) voucher, which will be awarded to our primary school carrier. 6. The winner will be notified via email after the competition closes. 7. The prize is non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. 8. By entering the competition, participants agree to these terms and conditions.

Key Dates

Dates to Remember

April

May

June

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Parents in to read - KS1 - Every Friday - 8:35 - 9:00

24th September - Theme Day Menu - Nature Day

27th September - Staff Professional development day - no children

3rd October - Theme Day Menu - Pirate Day

4th October - PTA Disco

15th October - Sibling and Individual Photographs

23rd October - Parents' Evening

Please see all key dates: [School Calendar](#)