



Staplehurst School Newsletter No.15 - Autumn Term 2024

A message from our Governors

We are coming to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. Children and staff have been very busy with their learning, Christmas shows and other preparations for Christmas. The governors would like to take this opportunity to wish our whole school community a peaceful and joyful festive break.

As governors, we are particularly grateful to Mrs. Wall and all the staff of the school, teaching and non-teaching, for their commitment to keeping the school a happy and healthy place.

We continue to have vacancies on the Board of Governors from time to time. As a Governor, you will be well placed to understand parents' views and have first-hand knowledge of how the school is run. You will have the opportunity to work toward improving the school experience not only for your own child but for children in years to come. We are always happy for anyone who is interested to reach out to discuss more about the role and its benefits.

Lastly, thank you for all the support that you as Parents and Carers have shown to the school. The children will continue to achieve their best where school and home work in partnership together. Sometimes there can be challenges along the way but by working together we can ensure that the children continue to do as well as they possibly can.

Best wishes for 2025 and we hope you have a very merry Christmas.

A message from Mrs Wall



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous week we have had at Staplehurst; it has been full of fun and excitement as we have celebrated Christmas in style with performances, PRIDE afternoon and our extended Christmas lunch; it has been wonderful to see how much the children and staff have enjoyed themselves this week!

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our many performances - our children were superb and showcased their talents. It is always wonderful to see that every child has an opportunity to shine and how much children learn and develop as individuals from these opportunities.

A special mention goes to our incredible staff who worked tirelessly to make these events a success. Their dedication and passion have truly made a difference, and we are so grateful for their hard work.

Christmas is now upon us and as we head off into the break can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going support at all times; on behalf of the Staplehurst staff team I would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are excited about the opportunities and adventures that await us in 2025. We have many exciting plans and activities lined up, and we can't wait to share them with you and your children.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

A message from the Deputy Headteacher - Mr Williams-Jones



A wonderful year has passed us by and has been full of opportunity and hope for all of our community. It has been a pleasure this year to watch our children settle in and learn. So much achieved, and so much more to come in the new year. It is astonishing that we have reached the Christmas holidays already!

A highlight for me this year includes our class assemblies for Y4 and Y6 whereby we were able to showcase children's learning and celebrate some musical performances - a thank you to those year groups for sharing with the community. Another fantastic opportunity that has been afforded to us as a school has been the beginning of outdoor learning days. Anna, our wonderful outdoor practitioner has been in to work with year groups, exploring the outdoors and learning based on our Science and Geography curricula. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch the children so engaged in the enrichment opportunities with everything from bug hunts to wood rubbings and more, they have had a wonderful time. I often have children running up to me and asking when they will be going out next! A massive thank you again to the PTA for making this provision possible - even the storms won't stop our children learning and enjoying outside! The choir have also been in full voice this term with two trips out to local care homes. We have had lovely feedback and Mrs Seal does such a wonderful job organising these events for our children and community.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the concerts this final week - from KS1 and their rousing concert at the beginning of the week, to EYFS and their lovely rendition of the nativity, to the live band at our KS2 carol concert - if that doesn't make you feel festive, then nothing will! Well done to all involved in those performances; our children did us very proud

As we head into the Christmas holidays, I hope that you are feeling hopeful for the year ahead and planning to have a well-rested break. We look forwards to welcoming everyone back in the new year, fresh and ready to learn.

Nadolig Llawen

Mr Williams-Jones

Assistant Head Teacher - Inclusion



As we approach the festive period, the school is full of Christmas celebration, growth, learning and the magic that comes from a community committed to kindness and inclusion.

Throughout the year, our pupils have excelled academically but have also shown compassion and empathy toward one another. The spirit of inclusivity has shone within our school walls, reminding us that every child is a unique star in our constellation. The countless moments that I witness daily of support, friendship, and understanding have created a warm and nurturing environment that truly makes Staplehurst School a special place, and allows our children the safe space to grow and blossom.

At the end of this term, I want to emphasise the importance of looking after ourselves and each other. The holidays are a happy time for most, but they can also bring added stress. Please take a moment to prioritise your own wellbeing and that of those around you. Encourage open conversations about mental health, and let's continue to support one another as a united school community. Please see the message below from the Kent Emotional Wellbeing Team for some top tips for support this Christmas.

In the spirit of the season, I would like to express my gratitude to every member of our school community. Regardless of background and festive traditions, we all share a common bond - the care of the children of Staplehurst. Your unwavering support, collaboration, and commitment to inclusion have made this year a great one. As our pupils enjoy the Christmas celebrations in school, our dedicated staff team continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every child feels seen, heard, and valued. This commitment to fostering a positive atmosphere has been at the core of our efforts to create a safe space where children can be themselves, learn from one another, and build lasting friendships.

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, happiness, and continued growth. I hope the magic of the festive season fill your homes with joy, laughter, and the warmth of shared moments. Have a great break.

Kindest regards,

Mr Tate



EYFS Phase Leader



As we come to the end of term 2, I would like to say well done to the children in EYFS who continue to impress us with how much progress they have made since starting school back in September. This was very much evident this week when we welcomed our families into school to share our first school Nativity performance. Despite various illnesses, the children managed to learn lines and songs, as well as remembering when to enter the stage. We hope parents enjoyed the performance as much as we did.

The Christmas performance was just one of the highlights of this past term. Throughout the term, we have been learning about people who help us, both in school and in the community. A visit from Maidstone fire service was a particular highlight for the children. They enjoyed learning about the various equipment, and how it was used. We couldn't believe how heavy the many hoses were! Of course nothing could beat the children having

the opportunity to sit in a real fire appliance, switching on the flashing lights! Thankfully we did not manage to switch on the sirens!

Our STEM days were another highlight of the term and it was wonderful to see the children working together to design, build and test bridges for the 3 Billy Goats Gruff. Many of our bridges were a success, meeting the design brief, while others were not quite as successful, however we managed to suggest reasons for this and suggest how we could improve them.

Our love of reading has continued to grow. Throughout the term we have enjoyed our weekly parents into read sessions, sharing a variety of books, often in groups with a parent. We have also visited the school library on a regular basis and it has been wonderful to see children sharing books they have enjoyed with each other.

There are many firsts for the children in EYFS and Christmas provides many of these. In addition to the performance, the children enjoyed their first Santa shop, carefully choosing gifts for family members. Christmas lunch was very popular, the children loved pulling their crackers with their friends. There was a wonderful festive atmosphere in the lunch hall.

We are so proud of how well the children have continued to grow in confidence and independence this term. They have worked hard and it is wonderful to see them developing their learning. We have seen some fantastic home learning this term, including engagement in home reading. I would like to thank parents for their continued engagement and support throughout the term.

On behalf of the EYFS team, I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and send our very best wishes for the the new year. We look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Mrs Golding

EYFS Phase Leader





KS1 Phase Leader



Wow, Key Stage One are at the end of the Autumn Term! It is only right that I start our update off with mentioning our Christmas Performance of 'Penguin Pete'. It was a delightful celebration of talent, teamwork, and festive spirit. The children captivated the audience with their charming performances, telling the heartwarming story of a little penguin's adventures with confidence and enthusiasm. From beautifully sung songs to expressive acting, each child played their part brilliantly, showcasing their creativity and dedication during weeks of rehearsals.

Penguin Pete was not only a fantastic way to mark the holiday season but also a wonderful opportunity for the children to build confidence and share their hard work with the school community.

Year 1 have had a fantastic Autumn Term, with pupils settling into the routines of Key Stage 1 and making excellent progress in their learning. The children have shown great enthusiasm for reading and phonics, demonstrating good development in their literacy skills. Their growing confidence in writing is evident, with many starting to construct simple sentences and spell common words accurately. In mathematics, Year 1 pupils have made strides in number recognition, addition, and subtraction, applying their knowledge through engaging practical activities. They have also embraced creative subjects such as art and music, showing enthusiasm and creativity in their work. The children's social skills and ability to collaborate have flourished, laying a strong foundation for the rest of the school year.

Year 2 have had an impressive Autumn Term, with pupils stepping up as role models for the younger years and embracing the challenges of their final year in Key Stage 1. Their reading comprehension and fluency have significantly improved, and their written work is becoming more structured and expressive, with a focus on punctuation and varied vocabulary. In maths, Year 2 children have shown impressive problem-solving skills, particularly in addition and subtraction, as well as an understanding of place value and shapes. The term also brought exciting projects in science, history, and geography, which the children approached with curiosity and enthusiasm. Beyond academics, the pupils have shown resilience, teamwork, and kindness in their day-to-day interactions, reflecting the PRIDE values of the school.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back, ready to start 2025 and the Spring Term!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Mrs Knight

KS1 Phase Leader





KS2 Phase Leader



As we continue our academic journey, I am delighted to share with you the incredible learning experiences our Key Stage 2 students have been immersed in. Here's a snapshot of the enriching curriculum that has unfolded in each year group:

Year 3: Our students have been exploring the dynamic history of industry in Kent, witnessing its evolution over time. From the early days of manufacturing to the present, their knowledge has expanded as they delve into the fascinating changes that have shaped our local community.

Year 4: Investigating the Properties of Materials - Year 4 has been captivated by the world of materials. Through engaging experiments and hands-on activities, our young scientists have discovered the properties that make materials unique. From solids to liquids and beyond, their curiosity has been sparked in this exciting exploration of the physical world.

Year 5: Transporting our Year 5 students into the imaginative world of 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Bryce has been a highlight of the term. The novel has sparked discussions, ignited creativity, and fostered a love for literature as the students embark on a cosmic journey filled with wonder and excitement. Not all learning took place in the classroom -Get ready for an adventure!

Year 6: Year 6 has been time-traveling, delving into the rich history of the Kingdom of Benin. Through immersive lessons, our students have gained a deeper understanding of historical events, cultures, and civilizations, enriching their knowledge of the past. They also stepped themselves into their learning about Alma, where they retold the story using figurative devices and attempted to create suspense.

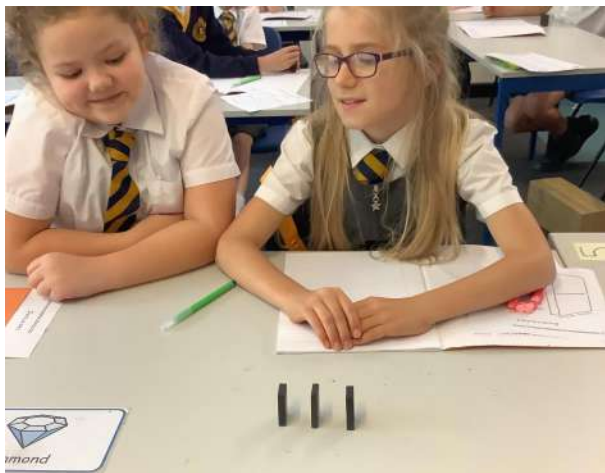
Another particular highlight, has been having the opportunity to see our children competing in extra-curricular activities this term, including football and netball matches against other schools. I can't wait to see more of this as we move into the new year.

And last but certainly not least, the wonderful KS2 Christmas Concert where all our KS2 performed phenomenally, displaying their talents once again. A fantastic team effort with some outstanding performances. Well done everybody!

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and dedication our students bring to their learning each day. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing their curiosity and fostering a love for education. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful break: Rest, Relax and Refresh! I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Mr. Smith

KS2 Phase Leader



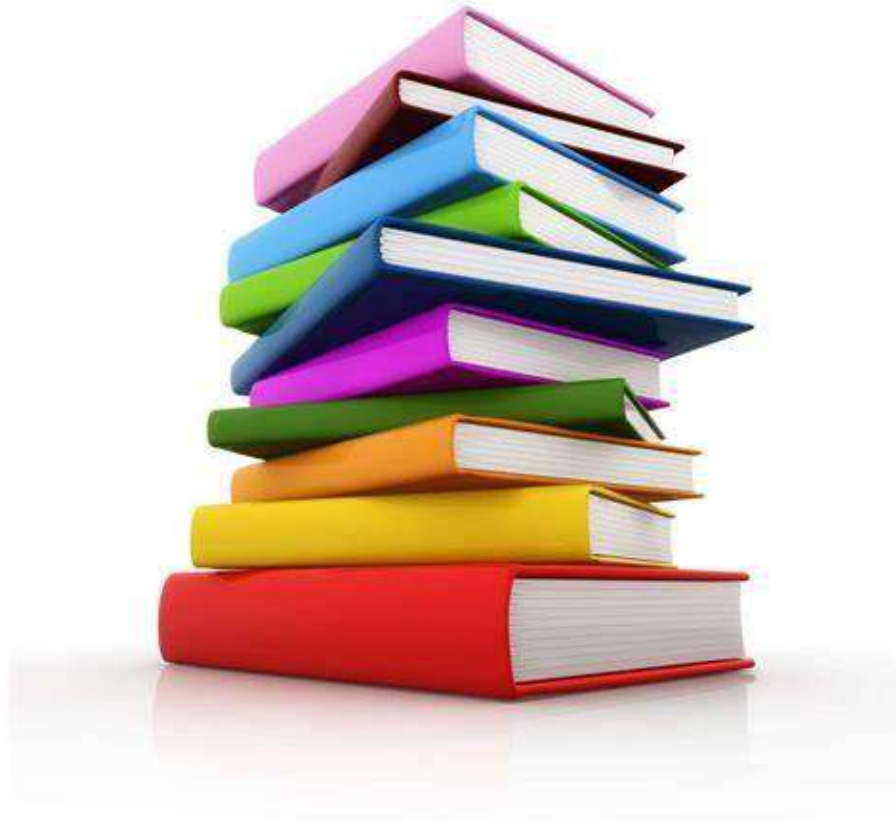
Attendance



Well done to 1JS the KS1 weekly winners with 98.2% who will share Attendance Ted.

Well done to 5B the KS2 weekly winners with 96.0% who will receive the Attendance Cup.

30 Reads at Staplehurst -Winners



We are so proud to share the 30 Reads for Term 1 winners.

So many children completed their 30 reads this term which is such a fabulous achievement, it is wonderful to share the amazing reading journeys the children have made. Each child that reads at least 30 reads over a long term is placed into the raffle to win a prize. The winners from each year group:

Early Years - Tireni

Year 1 - Amaya

Year 2 - Harveer

Year 3 - Athena

Year 4 - Tom

Year 5- Seb

Year 6 - Neel

Most reads - special mentions

Aspen Year 3

Lincoln - Year 3

Hez - Year 3

Don't forget to log Christmas reading over the holidays so you can get a head start on your 30 reads for term 2!

Important Dates Term 3

Please refer to the school website for forthcoming events [Staplehurst School - School calendar at Staplehurst School](#)