



**Staplehurst School Newsletter No.17 -
Spring Term 2025**

A message from the Senior Team



Dear Parents and Carers,

Such a busy and fun-packed week for all year groups with great enrichment opportunities for all: from the Year 6 science workshop to the Year 4 outdoor learning and the wonderful ukulele demonstrations from Graham Ryder and his friend Shirley.

This week you will have received your child's learning overview for this term; as always, if you have any concerns, please share them with your child's class teacher. Let's remember the importance of daily reading, as evidence and research have demonstrated that this significantly improves your child's learning and progress across the curriculum.

Mid-year Reports:

Your child's interim report will be sent to you today; this report offers an important snapshot of their attainment so far this year. It provides valuable insights into areas of strength as well as areas for improvement, helping to set the stage for the rest of the term and year. It's a great opportunity to reflect on your child's development, celebrate their achievements, and identify any support they might need moving forward. In addition, remember that learning is a journey, and consistent effort—whether through daily reading, completing homework, or participating in school activities—makes all the difference. Together, we can ensure your child is supported in achieving their best. Thank you for your continued support!

Have a lovely weekend and remember that **Friday 24th January** is an **INSET** day.

Mrs. Wall and the Senior Leadership Team

Attendance



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

Well done to 4A the KS2 weekly winners with 97.3% who will receive the Attendance Cup.

Pride Certificates 17.01.25

Name	Class	Reason
Maggie	EYG	Maggie has shown fantastic independence in her writing this week, writing sentences to describe birds and feathers. She independently thought of her ideas and sounded out the words to write. Maggie was proud to show her work to others. Well done Maggie, keep up the good work!
Remi	EYF	Remi continues to grow in independence. She settles well into class in the morning, completing her morning tasks and is more confident during child initiated time to explore new activities. During maths activities Remi works well with her partner and is able to use resources to help show her understanding. Remi has had a fantastic week. Keep up the good work!
Oliver	1JS	During our Science workshop, Oliver demonstrated our PRIDE values really well. He was fully engaged in what the visitor had to say and was very respectful. Oliver showed a real enthusiasm for the topic and independently thought of his own, thoughtful questions to further his own knowledge. Oliver was also keen to share his own facts and ideas about camouflage too. Well done Oliver, keep it up!
Leo	1U	Leo has put in an outstanding effort to become more independent in his learning this week. I've been really impressed with his focus and attention to detail in our English lessons, particularly with recognising questions and statements and using his phonics skills to write words on his own. Leo has also demonstrated excellent STAR behaviours, showing good listening, sitting sensibly on the carpet, and taking part by asking and answering questions in every lesson. I'm incredibly proud of Leo's progress this week and look forward to seeing this continue. Well done Leo on a fantastic week!
Mia	2W	This week, Mia has shown great independence across all subjects. In science she joined in the class discussion on what food different animals eat and then was able to complete her task by herself and write sentences to describe omnivores, carnivores and herbivores. Well done!
Jacob	2C	Jacob has demonstrated amazing levels of independence within his writing this week. He has been able to confidently identify different types of sentences, such as questions and statements. Jacob has show great focus within all lessons this week. I am very proud of him. Well done Jacob! Keep it up!
George	2K	George has demonstrated great independence skills during our maths lessons. He is confidently able to explain how he has worked out the total amount of money, as well as compare different values. George's confidence as mathematician continues to grow and it is a delight to see! Well done George, you're working so hard!
Freddie	3C	His attitude towards his mathematical and scientific learning. Freddie has shown independence and perseverance in developing his understanding of multiplication and division this week. He has been keen and determined to complete his work. In science, he was enthusiastic when learning about friction and in helping with the investigation. Well done!
Athena	3NS	Athena has shown great independence this week with her maths work. We have been working on some tricky division problems and Athena has made sure she has been focused in class and applied her knowledge really well. Keep up the really fantastic work Athena!
Billy	4A	This week Billy has worked with a greater level of independence to complete his work. In English, he has worked independently to join both main clauses in a compound sentence with a semicolon. Billy continues to demonstrate all of our PRIDE values and is determined to improve the quality of his work every lesson. Well done Billy, keep it up!
Tyler	4C	This week Tyler has really impressed me with his independence and engagement in outdoor learning. Tyler took on the challenge of being part of the class during outdoor learning. He listened attentively to Anna and was really keen to share all his knowledge about rivers when the opportunity arose. Tyler participated in activities with the rest of the class; it was lovely to see Tyler engaging with his classmates. Well done Tyler.
Isaac	5B	Isaac always displays our PRIDE values beautifully and shows respect towards his peers. Isaac particularly demonstrates the 'independence' value throughout all subjects. He has specifically shown independence in his maths work this week, learning long multiplication and short division Fantastic work, Isaac!
Sophie	5T	Sophie continues to astound me with the wonderful independence she shows in class. Sophie has steadily worked in lessons and shows a solid understanding of what is being taught. Sophie works hard to understand the work and is constantly improving on her knowledge. You are always working hard Sophie - keep it up!
Leah	6S	This week Leah has shown real independence when working on her poem inspired by the story 'The Day War Came'. She has worked well to include abstract nouns and relative clauses in her poem and has worked equally as hard when editing and redrafting elements of her poem to ensure it is as successful as can be. Well done, Leah!
Elizabeth	6JS	This week Beth has astounded us with her independent poem writing based around the text 'The Day War Came'. Beth thought hard about the structure of her poem, the use of abstract nouns and relative clauses and even rhyme. Beth then continued to make improvements during editing and redrafting sessions. A wonderful week Beth, well done keep it up!

Interim Reports



Today, mid-year interim reports will go home to parents and carers. These reports have carefully considered attainment information for your child. The reports will show where your child is currently achieving across the core subjects of writing, reading and maths, alongside attainment in phonics and multiplications in the relevant year groups. There will be an opportunity later in the term to discuss your child's progress and attainment at parents evening, but if you have any specific queries about the reports until then, please speak with the class teacher.

School Closure Procedures

In the event of an unplanned school closure, children's learning will be prioritised via remote learning; we will be sending out more details about this shortly. We have clear processes in place to ensure that all children continue to receive high-standards of learning throughout the closure.

EYFS



This week in EYFS the children have enjoyed learning about different garden birds. They have been writing their own bird fact booklets about these birds and drawing them using pastels.

The children have also enjoyed the story of The Ugly Duckling. After listening to the story, we thought of ways to cheer up the poor duckling. During exploring time some of the children wrote their ideas down. It is wonderful to see the children using their sounds and becoming more independent in their sentence writing.

The children have particularly enjoyed using the garden this week. They have been making their own bird feeders after our science lesson learning about a birds diet. They have also been making bird hides using the crates and other construction materials outside.



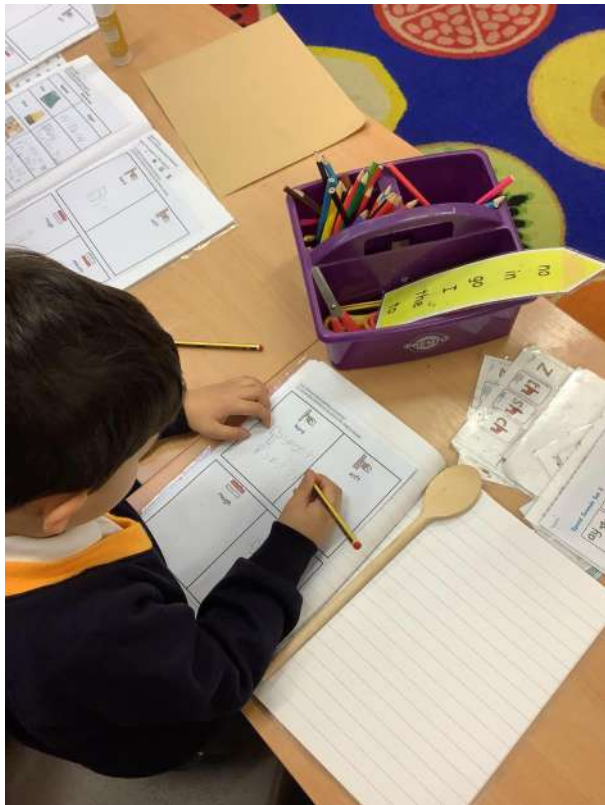
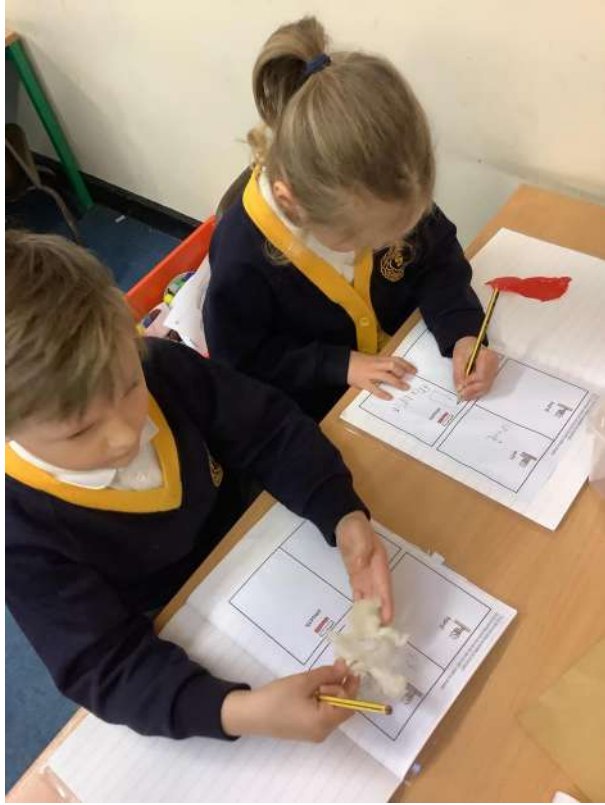
Year 1

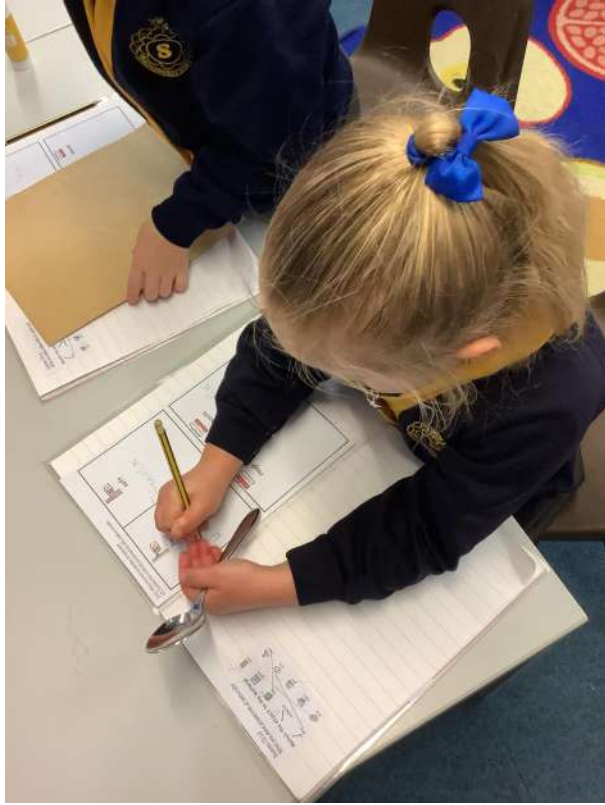


It has been a busy week for year 1! We had an amazing science visitor on Monday who talked to us about how animals use camouflage to protect themselves from predators. We looked at some fascinating pictures to see if we could spot them! Then we designed our own butterflies, making sure that they were symmetrical and could camouflage in to a patterned background.

In maths, we have been learning how to build the teen numbers using diennes (A tower of ten) and ones, We have explored representing numbers using tens frames too.

In our science lesson this week, we looked at objects and sorted them based on if they were rough, smooth, soft or hard. We thought carefully about what the material was and how we could describe it using our scientific vocabulary.







Year 2



This week in English Year 2 have been learning about the four different sentence types (questions, statements, questions and exclamations) and practiced writing their own sentences for each through a range of activities.

In maths we have continued to use addition and subtraction to work out the total value of an amount of money. We have also used 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to' to compare different values.

During our geography lesson, the children explored the seas of the world by using maps and labelling. We also compared oceans and seas with the similarities and differences.

In Computing the children used the '2Sequence' program to explore, edit and combine sounds to make music digitally! We enjoyed listening to each other's music tracks.







Year 3



Year 3 have begun their new geography unit answering the question 'Why is the weather different in different parts of the world?' Children have used world maps to identify the world's continents, seas, the equator, North Pole, South Pole, Northern hemisphere and Southern hemisphere.

Within English, Year 3 have begun their study on the text *Nothing but Trouble* by Alan Macdonald, which addresses prejudice within communities. Children have identified what prejudice is and considered how people can be prejudice towards others and how we can overcome this.

In DT children have begun to investigate board games, as part of their market research. They considered the aims of games, the target audience, as well as their similarities and

differences. In ICT children have begun to learn what an email is and how to begin to write one.





Year 4



YEAR 3

Year 4 have had an exciting start to their music this term. After lunch the children found an envelope in their classroom which said 'Watch this' with a link to a video online. The children watched the video as instructed and then they decided they should next open the letter and see what it said. The letter said that they, at English National Opera, know our Year 4 children had the skills needed to fulfil the task – “you have bold ideas and big imaginations, and, most importantly, you all possess the most important tools for any composer — determination, and the belief that anything is possible!”

The children read on to find out what the challenge was. It appeared that one of their composers had gone missing in the middle of composing a piece of music and the ENO wanted us to finish the piece of music!! Each child got to wear a lanyard that said 'Composer' as they watched the video again and analysed the composer's actions and body language to begin to understand the task involved. Next week the children will start using their own ideas to create a theme for the music.





On Thursday Year 4 had their first taste of Outdoor Learning. All children were very excited when they came to school and even more excited when they were getting changed and being given wellies to wear. We began the session in the Outdoor Learning tent, answering true or false questions about rivers. The children had remembered so much of their rivers learning they got so many questions right! The class was split into 4 groups and each was given a rope, they were tasked with making a river feature out of the rope so that other teams could guess what it was. We had an amazing confluence, source, meander and river mouth that demonstrated the children's learning. They children were then asked to hunt for name labels of rivers and a matching information card. Finally the fire was lit and each child got to toast and eat a marshmallow on the fire. It was a thoroughly enjoyable 90 minutes and we all cant wait for the next time!





Year 5



YEAR 5

Year 5 tasted bread for research in DT this week. We tasted 6 different types of bread - wholemeal with seeds, farmhouse white, sourdough, tortilla, pitta and bagels. We discussed the texture, appearance, taste, origin as well as our own thoughts on what we had tried. Some of the children really liked some of the flavours, whereas others seemed bland or sour. The texture too made an impact with the wholemeal bread being the least liked due to the seeds.





Year 6



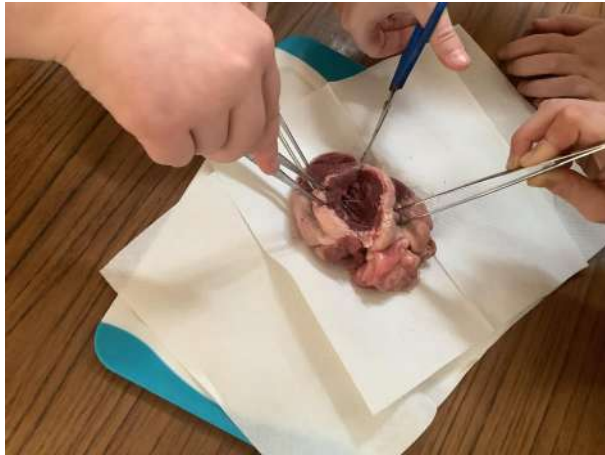
This week Year 6 took part in a science workshop about the heart and circulation. The children took part in a science lesson, learning lots of fun facts about the heart before they had the opportunity to dissect a heart. The children used tools to search for heartstrings within the heart and identify chambers and valves within the heart.

Did you know?

Veins lead into the heart and arteries lead out of the heart!

Your heart is roughly the size of your fist and grows with you!







Important Dates: Term 3

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

Online Workshop - understanding your child's behaviour



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Online Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in
primary school

Understanding your child's behaviour

Wednesday 22nd January 10:30pm – 12:30pm

Are you currently experiencing **difficulties with your child at home**? Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **enjoy your time more with your child**?

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding and communicating with your child**. It will help you consider **factors which influence behaviour**. We also discuss **techniques that you can use at home** for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage. If you would like to join, please ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 336 234 531 867 Passcode: P7df6fg9

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's school. Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending an EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools. If you require materials in another language or have any other access needs, then please email:

EWTandESTenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk

We look forward to meeting you!

