



**Staplehurst School Newsletter No.07-
Winter Term 2023**

A message from the Senior Team



Dear Parents and Carers

This has been an exciting and busy start to the year!

Parents' Evening: thank you to all parents for braving the elements this week to attend parents' evening. There was a lovely atmosphere and it was wonderful to see you enjoying your children's learning and having the opportunity to be in and around school. If you haven't already please complete our parent survey by following the link <https://forms.office.com/e/qwgSEeP22e>

Farewell: good bye to Mrs. Johnson who is off on maternity leave; we look forward to meeting her little bundle of joy next term!

Before we head off into a well deserved break, enjoy the reflections from our wonderful leaders at Staplehurst.

My very best wishes

Miss Davenport

A message from the Deputy Headteacher



I can't believe we are at the end of our first term already! Such a positive start back for our children and it has been wonderful to share their learning in our celebration assemblies every week and see children's achievements in everything from essay writing to science investigations.

I am very fortunate to be able to play my guitar in singing assemblies with children and explore different songs and genres as part of our music offer. This term, we have been learning a plethora of songs including 'Ho Hey' and 'The Proclaimers'; we are heading towards Christmas next term and we will be focusing on songs ready for our concert at the end of term. I am very impressed with how well the children have learnt the songs and are carefully thinking about phrasing and melody when they sing - we really do have some talent at Staplehurst. I have also been struck by the confidence of our children to perform in front of their peers and we have already had several children come out to play their instruments. If children want to play, even if they learn something outside of school, I will always encourage them to do so.

I am very proud of how well our children have settled in this term and our focus on excellent routines has really paid off - children are now really embedding their STAR behaviours in class and our lining up has been excellent at the end of playtimes. Let's keep this excellent work going into next term!

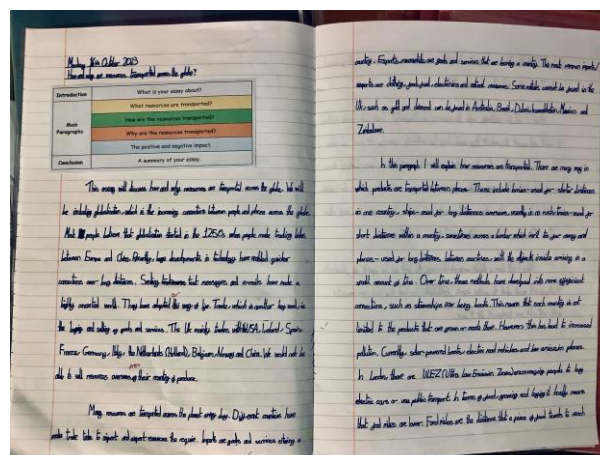
This term we celebrated Black History month, with excellent workshops from Zara Rawlinson and focus on rich texts in our reading sessions. The children have focused on an important black, British person and are creating a display which will be up in the hall following half term. It was fascinating to recognise the 75th anniversary of Windrush and explore the impact on the UK.

As you will have seen scrolling down a lovely example of clay pot making from year four who focused on the work of Kate Malone and were inspired by their history work on ancient civilizations. They will go onto develop these skills even further studying the Benin bronzes and considering the design elements needed to reflect similar pieces.

It is always so pleasing at the end of term to reflect on the essay writing that our children have become so strong at writing. It really does reflect the quality of the knowledge they have acquired over the unit and how this can be applied to scholarly writing. The high aspirations are really seen across the school and their is a wonderful example from year 6 below who have been studying the movement of resources around the globe.

I would like to wish everyone a very restful half term - try and get out and about and stay active if you can. Don't forget to read - we know how important that is; but, most importantly, have some fun and relax - you deserve it.

Mr Williams-Jones



Pride Certificates: 6/10/23

1A	Eloise Clark	Eloise has once again had a fantastic week. She always approaches every task with an unwavering positivity and enthusiasm, whilst ensuring to add thoughtful contributions to class discussions. In maths this week, she has worked hard to systematically find each number bond for numbers within ten. Well done for all of your hard work this week and across the term! Keep it up!
1C	Elliot Cardnell	This week Elliott has shown exceptional positively in maths. He has been able to find all number bonds to ten and list them on a white board systematically and presented to the highest standard, so all number sentences are readable. His work was shown as an example to other of how to present work in maths. Elliot always shows respect to others and is a fantastic role model in the class. Well done Elliott
1FS	Lola Jones	Lola has had a great first term in Hockney Class. She always demonstrates a positive attitude towards her learning and has enjoyed challenging herself further. Lola has particularly impressed us with her dedication to improving her handwriting and presentation. Well done Lola, keep up the fantastic work!
2C	Evelyn	Evelyn has a fantastic positive attitude and gives everything her best effort. She has been a fantastic role model to the whole class. She always has a beaming smile on her face which, without fail, brightens up everyones day. Well done Evelyn for all your hard work this term! Superstar!
2K	Joey Pengelly	Joey has been a superstar this week with his reading and writing. He is always very positive in school and has tried really hard, using his growing phonetical knowledge to support when needed. Well done Joey, keep trying hard!
3KS	Michael Henley	Michael had a wonderful day during our art day yesterday. He was very sensible, listened carefully to the instructions and produced a lovely piece of art. He then tidied up sensibly and help other children in the class. Well done Michael!
3G	Emily Matthews	Emily has once again impressed me with her positive attitude towards her learning. She participated wonderfully in our art day and created a fantastic piece of art using her printing block. Emily has also been working incredibly hard on her reading this term. Well done Emily, keep up the hard work!
4W	Ayan Hoque	Ayan has had another fantastic week. He always has such a positive attitude to learning and this week displayed that when writing his essay about the ancient civilisations. His work was full of facts demonstrating his knowledge of how the societies were similar and different. Well done!
4F	Mason Patrice	Mason has demonstrated outstanding dedication, perseverance, and remarkable progress in mastering his times tables. Through hard work and determination, he has turned his entire 12 x 12 multiplication heat map green—answering all questions in under 6 seconds! We are so proud of you, Mason. Keep up the good work!
5R	Pearl-Rose Martin	This week Pearl-Rose has demonstrated a positive attitude to school life. She was fully engaged in the trip where she showed great interest in learning and exploring the Science. She Has also been eager to show her learning in History and share what she knows about the Ancient Greeks. Well done!
5C	Gethin Rowland	This week Gethin has been very positive in his approach to writing his history essay on Ancient Greeks. On the school visit he demonstrated all the school PRIDE values and was a good ambassador for the school. Well done!
6S	Anya Taring	Anya has demonstrated a fantastic level of positivity towards her writing recently. She has worked with great independence, particularly when writing her geography essay this week. She has made sure to include key vocabulary and use sentence starters to structure her work. Brilliant work Anya!
6JS	Ivy Burroughs	This week Ivy has impressed with her positive attitude towards maths. She has worked hard to develop an understanding of long division and has even used her skills to teach others. Well done Ivy! Keep it up!

Communications

Based on the feedback received through both our parent forum and last year's drop-ins, we have shaped our support for parents and carers to support the needs raised. We value parental input as it helps us shape and tailor our sessions and opportunities to support your children to achieve. We will be focusing on the following areas and offering the following opportunities next term:

Term 2

Art subject support video - **Week beginning 6.11.23**

Maths subject support video **Week beginning 20.11.23**

Parent forum - **1.12.23**

Open discussion afternoon - Relationships and Sex and Health Education **27.11.23**

Parents into read - **(Weekly)**

We welcome feedback from these opportunities and look forward to supporting you at home this year.

Many Thanks

Mr. Williams-Jones

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 2 – KS2- Year 4 (Ancient Civilizations) – **Friday 1st December 2023** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

KS2 - Year 6 (Kingdom of Benin) **Friday 17th November 2023** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

Term 3 – KS2 - Year 5 (Medicine through time) - **Friday 2nd February 2024** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

KS1- Year 1 (History of shopping) - **Friday 9th February 2024** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

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

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

EYFS: -T.B.C.

We look forward to welcoming you in to school.

Many Thanks

Mr Williams-Jones

EYFS 2024 Open Mornings for September 2024



If your child is due to start **Reception in September 2024** Join us on one of our open mornings to see why Staplehurst School is the perfect place for your child to grow and flourish.

EYFS OPEN MORNINGS: for September start 2024

Wednesday 1st November

Wednesday 8th November

Wednesday 15th November

Please contact the office for further information

Year 6: Secondary Transfer

If your child is due to start Year 7 in September 2024 you will need to apply for a place by 31st October.

Please follow the link for further information [Secondary school places - Kent County Council](#)

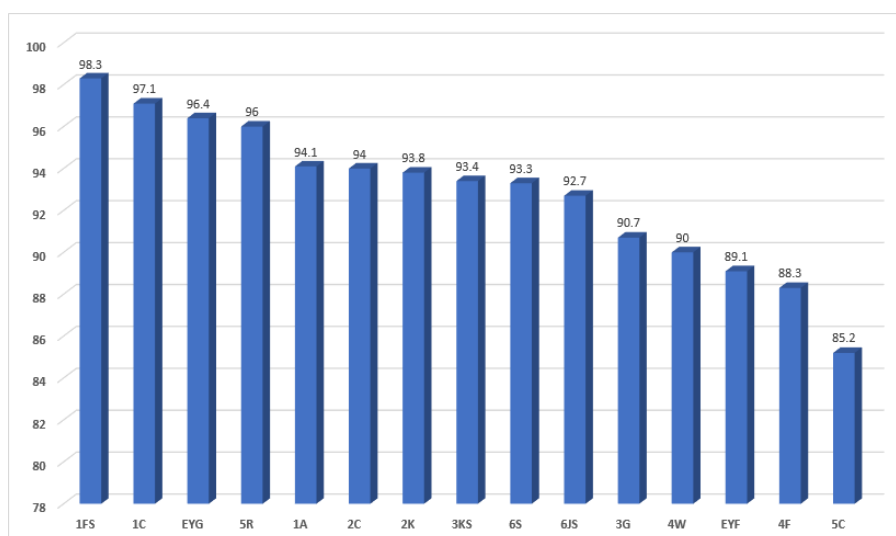
Attendance

Whole school attendance for this week was 92.7%

Whole School Attendance *from September* is: 94.9%

National School Attendance is currently: 94.8%

Punctuality Reminder: Did you know that 5 minutes late each day is equivalent to 3 days lost, 10 minutes late each day is equal to 6.5 days lost, and 15 minutes late each day, 10 days lost. Please ensure your child arrives on time to prevent them being marked as late and missing their phonics/reading lesson.



Well done to 1FS, the weekly winners with 98.3%

What attendance means to us -

100% - Excellent attendance

97% - Good attendance

95% - Satisfactory attendance

Below 95% - Unsatisfactory attendance

Below 90% - Persistently absent

Below 50% - Severely absent

School Uniform: polite reminder

Please note that if your child has a piece of missing or incorrect uniform we will speak to you at the end of the day and send a polite reminder. From next week if children have incorrect footwear they will be provided with an alternative. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Assistant Head for Inclusion

As we conclude our first term, and my first in my new role of Assistant Head for Inclusion, I am delighted to reflect on the incredible start to the school year. For me, this term has been testament to our commitment to inclusive education, where every child, regardless of background has the opportunity to thrive in a nurturing environment. I am immensely proud to witness students from across the school community engaged passionately in their learning and school life, embracing everything that Staplehurst School has to offer.

This term, I have had the pleasure of working closely with a number of pupils, new and old, in my role as the Head of Inclusion, witnessing their confidence grow. It has been heartening to see our dedicated school staff fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding, creating an atmosphere where everyone feels valued and supported.

Now, as we approach the half-term break, I want to emphasise the vital importance of rest and rejuvenation. Let's use this break as an opportunity to nurture not only academic growth but also emotional and mental well-being. The break offers a chance for students to recharge their minds and bodies, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities the next term will bring. Over the break, encourage your children to engage in activities they enjoy, spend quality time with family, and explore hobbies that bring them joy: maintaining a healthy balance between relaxation and physical activities can significantly contribute to their overall well-being. Additionally, as the weather begins to get colder and wetter, ensuring our students are mentally and physically healthy is essential for their success in the classroom and in life.

I look forward to welcoming our students back after the half-term break, rested and refreshed. Let's continue this journey of inclusive education, empowering every child to reach their full potential.

EYFS Phase Leader

It is hard to believe that the children in EYFS have only been in school for one term. Since the beginning of the term, I have been so impressed with how quickly and how well they have picked up the routines in school and how daily they are developing their independence. It was a pleasure to meet with our parents evening on Wednesday to reflect on the past term.

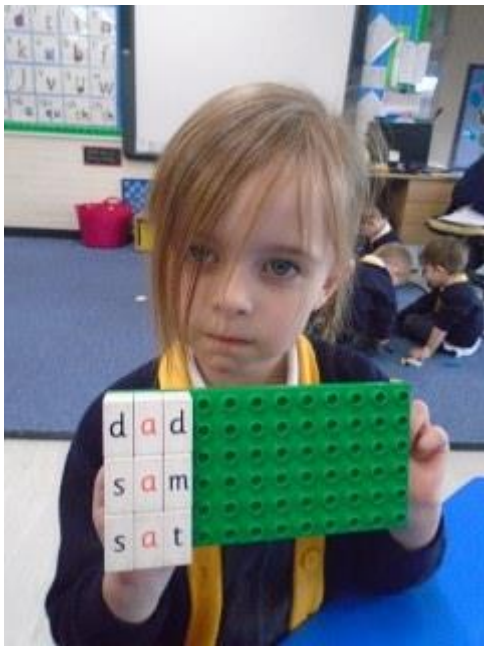
Over the past term, we have been learning about ourselves, discussing our families, our friends and our homes. It has been wonderful to see and hear the children standing in front of their classes, sharing shoeboxes, family photos and discussing their homes. We have seen their confidence grow throughout the term. A particular highlight for the children was taking Winston the Book Wolf out of the classroom to explore the whole school. Their behaviour was wonderful as they moved through the school, despite their excitement!

Throughout the term we have developed our learning across the areas of the EYFS curriculum. The children have enjoyed different creative activities, using combs to make wolf paintings, blowing paint to make our very own colour monsters and this week building our own box model homes.

This week we have welcomed many of our parents to join us for our daily phonics lesson. Once again we were proud of how well the children behaved and remained focused throughout the sessions. The feedback from parents was also positive.

The children are now ready for a well-deserved rest over half term. I hope you have a wonderful half term and I look forward to welcoming the children back next term.







KS1 Phase Leader



Key Stage 1 have had an amazing start to the year with both year groups transitioning well through September and this first half term. The children have thoroughly been enjoying their learning, which is clear to see when I've been into their classes and seeing them around school.

Year 1 have loved discussing their text 'Beegu' and were able to retell the story verbally and through writing sentences. They have made excellent scientists and have learnt about different animals, looking particularly at what makes a carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. In geography they have been exploring the school grounds and the local area of Staplehurst through looking at maps and simple directions.

Year 2 have really enjoyed learning about London as an overarching focus in our English and Geography lessons. Paddington is now definitely a firm favourite with both classes. It's obvious how much the children have soaked up all the information from their 'Paddington' and 'Katie goes to London' texts, as this week all the learning came together to write their first essay, they did a draft version, edited and then published!

I am so proud of all the children and can't wait to see what Term 2 bring us!

Have a lovely half-term!

Mrs Knight

KS2 Phase Leader



What a tremendous term we have had! I cannot believe that our children have completed the first term already, the transition into their new year groups has been seamless.

It has been a pleasure to see our children exploring our vast curriculum. Here are some of the highlights:

Year 3 have loved learning about the human and physical features of Staplehurst and comparing them to those in Maidstone. They even learned to use grid references. Year 3 also looked at what makes a good friend in PSHE. The children have been working hard on their spelling strategies and identifying different representations of sounds within words. An excellent start Year3 keep it up!

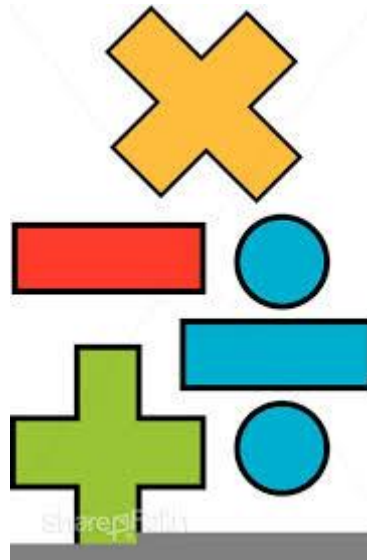
Year 4 travelled back in time to discover what life was like in ancient civilisations, looking at different artefacts to support their learning. During English, the children wrote fantastic reports based on the characters of 'The Queen's Nose' by Dick King-Smith. they have also been working exceptionally hard on their timetables knowledge, well done Year4.

Year 5 were also exploring ancient civilisations, this time learning about the Ancient Greeks and their influence on society. The children have written outstanding essays showcasing their knowledge. In English, they were captured by the story 'Who Let The Gods Out' and were able to write both character and setting descriptions using the book as a stimulus. In Science, Year 5's work was out of this world, when they learned all about Earth and Space. A great start to Year 5, keep it up!

Year 6 particularly enjoyed their English learning, where they studied 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The book provided excellent opportunities for discussion as well as enabling the children to write in the form of the characters. Their dual narrative, which is a complex structure to write in, wowed and entertained the teachers. In DT, they designed and created pizzas, before evaluating them. Of course, they got to eat them too.

I am really pleased with the beginning of the year and look forward to seeing the children after a well-earned rest during half term.

Maths



What a wonderful term we have had! It has been a joy visiting classrooms across the school to see the children so engaged in their mathematics learning.

A particular highlight was visiting Year 2 and seeing their enjoyment about exploring number sentences. When responding to the question: $15 + 4 = ?$ Seb stated, "I know that $15 + 5 = 20$ so I know $15 + 4$ is one less and that is 19. That means I also know that $4 + 15 = 19$ and $19 - 15 = 4$." What fantastic number work and great use of number bonds! Well done, Seb.

Another highlight has been seeing the number of children accessing their Numbots and Times Table Rock Star accounts. Well done, Staplehurst School! Congratulations to our most improved players this term:

- Alice Harvey
- Aria Tajah
- Robert Vallance
- Freya Edwards
- Olivia James

We have also seen maths taking place outside of school. Well done to Oliver, Jake, Lilly, and Michaela in Year 6 for their incredible performance at the Oakwood Park Primary Maths Challenge! You certainly made us proud. Thank you to the adults who made it all possible by transporting our talented team. Your support is greatly appreciated.

As we approach the October half-term break, we have put together a list of fun maths activities that can be enjoyed:

1. Pumpkin Picking: Head to a local pumpkin patch and select a certain number of pumpkins. Explore and compare the various sizes and shapes. Which pumpkin is the smallest? Which pumpkin

is the largest? If carving pumpkins with an adult, which shapes are you going to include in your design?

2. Nature Scavenger Hunt: Take a nature walk and turn it into a maths adventure. Challenge your children to find leaves, sticks, or stones, and then help them arrange and group these items by size, shape, or colour.

3. Enjoy Playing Board Games: Board games like Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders or Uno are excellent for improving maths skills. They involve counting, strategy, and problem-solving. Gather the family for some friendly competition!

4. TTRS and Numbots: Please do login to your TTRS or Numbots account. Year 4s, don't forget there is a half term battle between 4W and 4F so please do get rocking to support your class.

If you do enjoy any of the above activities over the break, please do send photographs to: year4@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk

Thank you to everybody who has already sent in a photo. We are thrilled to share some of them ahead of our next edition of Staplehurst Maths News.

Wishing you all a wonderful break. We look forward to seeing you in Term 2.



English



What a brilliant, busy term it has been! It has been a delight to see the enthusiasm children have had for English, producing impressive narratives and non-fiction pieces across the school. The children have worked really hard on their first writing pieces this year, and already are making great strides to be successful writers!

This term, we opened our new library. It has been wonderful to see so many families visit each week. Don't forget, you can visit after school on **Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4.00**.

Thank you to those who attended the parents drop in session. This is a really useful way to feedback your thoughts and questions regarding English. Following on from this, please take a look at the Library and reading video that has been sent out via SCOPAY. This video has some top tips on ways that you can promote a love of reading at home, it doesn't have to just be reading a book!

Also in the video is some support and clarification around expectations of reading log books. Please ensure that your child brings their reading books and log book in to school everyday so that adults can hear your child read. A short comment in their log book is sufficient to show the class teacher that they have been reading at home.

This term we were also excited to have the author Tola Okogwu visit Staplehurst! The children in KS2 were fascinated to learn more about her life as an author and the challenges she has faced in order to be successful. Following this, we have also stocked multiple copies of two of her novels in the library! Please do visit if you would like to read one.

Finally, I would like to say thank you and farewell, as I begin my own new adventure on maternity leave.

I look forward to hearing all about the successes of English over the coming year and wish you all a restful and happy break with your families. Don' forget to keep up with your reading as the prizes for 30 reads will be awarded next term!

Mrs Johnson

