



**Staplehurst School Newsletter No.8 -
Autumn Term - 2024**

A message from Mrs Wall



Dear All

It has been a wonderful term of superb learning and enrichment opportunities for all children. It was a delight today to announce the winners and runners up of the very first Staplehurst Poetry Competition. Our learning Ambassadors read and judged all of the entries; we thought very carefully about how prizes were allocated and celebrated all entries today in assembly. Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to the following children:

KS1 Winners: Amalie Hooper and Harrison Weller

KS1 Runners Up: Jessica Lewis and Mia Hellowell

KS2 Winner: Lara Collins

KS2 Runners Up: Oliver Weller, James Ambrose, Hereward Wright and Hannah O'Day

Parents' Evening: our parents' evening was extremely well attended last night; this is a reflection of the excellent positive relationships you have with your child's teacher and testament to the way in which we work together at Staplehurst to achieve the best outcomes for all children.

Parent Voice: your views matter to us as this allows us to continue to improve the provision and experience for you and your child. Please take 5-10mins to complete our parent survey if you did not manage to do this last night; the survey will close by **Friday 1st November**.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBpvTG4vkEaxT947bkNA5U2EfVztxKJAojFaurYazcxUQzUyMVdYQUdMV1BIUUdSRkJLSkVMSVJCSi4u>

Please enjoy the reflections from our senior leaders in the last newsletter of the term.

After a slightly longer first term than usual enjoy the half term break and we will see you again on **Tuesday 5th November**.

My very best wishes

Mrs. Wall

A message from the Deputy Headteacher



A fantastic 8 weeks has passed by in a blink and yet again our community continues to excel. There has been so much to celebrate in the achievements of our children. We settled back so positively after the summer break and I have really noticed children embodying our PRIDE values both in their work and also behaviour.

We have made an excellent start with our student leadership, electing our House Captains, Eco-Committee, Learning Ambassadors and School council. All of these roles are integral to the work we do in school and making a difference in our community. As part of our work with the school council, we have already been fortunate enough to welcome the Mayor of Maidstone to school to officially hand out the school council badges and give us an insight to local government - thank you to Mrs Chembalipuram for supporting with this.

Another fantastic milestone for us as a school has been the establishing and official opening of our outdoor learning area. As many of you will have seen over the past weeks, the area has been constructed and we have also had EYFS and Y1 taking part in their curriculum days - facilitated by Anna Bell from Anna Outdoors. It is a wonderful space that will be fully utilised and all children will have an opportunity this year to enjoy learning in the space. A massive thank you to the PTA for funding the project and also to Mrs Hay and Mr Harding for all their hard work on the project.

Finally as we end a long term, it leaves me to wish everyone a restful break. Take time to relax and recharge ready for our next exciting term. Remember to read over the holidays but also have fun and try to get some fresh air if you can! I would like to add my congratulations to Mrs Wall on her recent news.

A message from the Head of Inclusion



As we conclude our first term, I am happy to reflect on the incredible start to the school year. For me, this term has been testament to our continued commitment to inclusive education, where every child, regardless of background or challenge has the opportunity to thrive in a nurturing and supportive environment. Each day, I am immensely proud to witness students from across the school community engaged 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 in my role as the inclusion lead, witnessing their confidence grow. As part of our SEN focused INSET day this term, it was heartening to see our dedicated school staff continuing to foster a culture of acceptance and understanding, demonstrating what they do every day to create an atmosphere where everyone feels valued and supported. I was also able to connect and work with other SENCOs at the annual Kent SENCo conference last week, which was a great opportunity to share best practice, learn about the continued vision for SEN in Kent, and celebrate all that we do in regards to inclusion at Staplehurst.

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



As our first term comes to a close, we should celebrate the remarkable achievements of the youngest children in our school. Starting school is a major milestone for children and parents and we are proud of how well the transition from nursery to primary school has gone. There are many

routines to learn when starting school and the children are doing so well in learning these routines. Every event is a first for EYFS, from our first lunch, first PE lesson to the first fire drill and the children have coped admirably. Many of our children come from local nurseries and knew other children prior to starting, while others did not know any children. Observing the children throughout the day, it is difficult to see where this might have been the case. Friendships have quickly developed and already we can see children working together in our different areas, developing their imaginations and important skills. It has been particularly pleasing to see the children's independence developing, particularly when arriving at school and walking to their classrooms.

It was lovely to get to know the children at the start of the term through the sharing of their shoeboxes. The children all shared the contents of their beautifully decorated boxes with their new classes. Through sharing a wide range of stories, we talked about ourselves, our families and our homes, as well as celebrating Black History Month as part of our whole school focus. The children have experienced a wide range of activities through our child-initiated learning enhancements, such as painting their self portraits, building homes using different construction equipment and developing their maths and phonics knowledge through games and practical activities. A highlight of the term has to be our first outdoor learning day. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience, hunting for creatures, building a nest and just being in the outdoors surrounded by nature! Every child was fully engaged throughout these sessions.

It was lovely to meet with parents on Wednesday evening to celebrate the successes of this first term. We are proud of all the children for how well they have coped with the demands of their first term in school. They have earned a rest over half term and on behalf of the EYFS team I would like to wish the children and their families a restful half term. We have an exciting term 2 to look forward to and we look forward to welcoming you all back after the break.

KS1 Phase Leader



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.

Term 1 Winners



Well done to 2C the KS1 Term 1 winners with 96.5%

Well done to 5T the KS2 Term 1 winners with 96.3%

Key Dates

Dates to Remember

April

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____

May

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____
31. _____

June

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____

For all Key dates please click on the following link: [School Calendar](#)

Community News



**Come and join us at our
Harry Potter Day**

Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone
Wednesday 30 October 2024

Bookable time slots. Limited spaces available!
9.30am-10.30am, 11.00am-Midday and 2.00pm-3.00pm

Email: historyandlibrarycentre@kent.gov.uk
or speak to a member of staff

kent.gov.uk/libr
@KentLibrariesUK
@kentlibr
0300041 31 31

Kent County Council
Kent County Council
Kent.gov.uk

1 - Harry Potter day