



**Staplehurst School Newsletter -
No.20- Spring Term**

News from the Senior Team



Dear Parents and Carers

It seems unbelievable that we have reached the end of term 3 already - so much great learning has happened and as a community we have worked in partnership to ensure our children have the very best experience at Staplehurst. Thank you for attending our parents' evenings this week ; I am sure you enjoyed the opportunity to review your child's progress since September, and to celebrate their achievements as well as understanding their next steps.

In our newsletter today our senior team have the pleasure of sharing their highlights and reflections from this term.

Have a restful break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 21st February.

Miss Davenport and the Senior Leadership Team

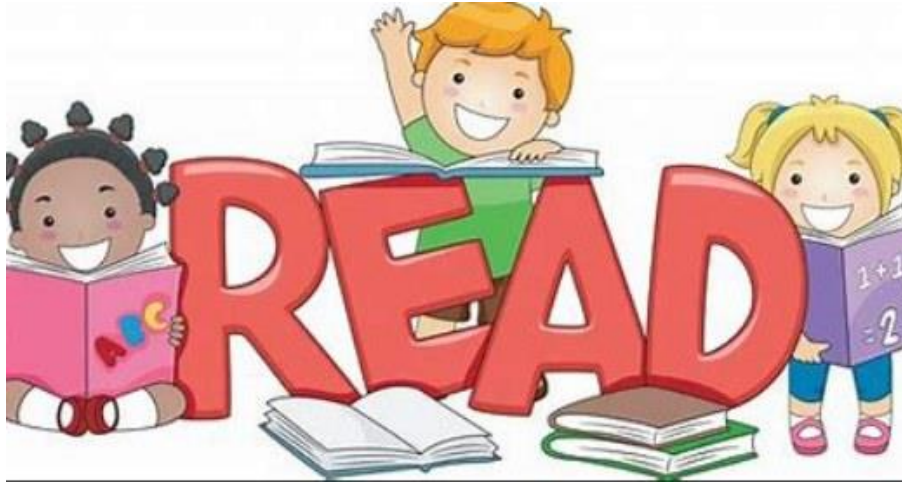
Communication

- If you have an **urgent** message please inform the school office by email or phone.
- Year group emails are answered within 48hours by the class teacher.
- Attendance: for **all** attendance matters speak with or email Mrs Mahoney in our school office.

School Uniform: At Staplehurst School we pride ourselves on the smart appearance of all children and we are grateful for parental support in ensuring children are always smartly dressed. Our uniform is both economical and practical and adds to the ethos of the school. Please ensure that your child has the correct school uniform. A detailed list is available on our website. Please pay particular attention to foot wear and jumpers: **only school shoes and logo jumpers are permitted.** If you have any issues please inform us as support is available.

School Tours: These will commence weekly after half term for prospective parents to our school. Please do tell family and friends. They are every Thursday and the first one will be on **Thursday 24th February** at 10 am. It is essential to book in with the school office in advance.

Reading



Details of our celebration of reading, including World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March, has been sent home this week. Children are invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas and bring in a favourite book to share with their class. We look forward to our visits from author Ian MacDonald and to hosting the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair during this week also.

A reminder that home reading books, for those children on decodable book levels, are changed every Tuesday and Friday. We ask that you sign the Reading Log to confirm that your child has read their current book before it is changed. The reason for sending home two books a week is in order to allow for the repeated reading of that book. Reading a book repeatedly ensures children become fluent - this is when they can read words, without stumbling, consistently. For children who are still in the earlier stages of learning to read this is essential for building their reading speed. It also allows the children to embed their understanding of the vocabulary they meet in the text and develop their understanding of the story and the characters. Children are able to do this more efficiently when they have become familiar with the text and do not have to focus on the decoding of the words as intently.

We regularly assess the reading fluency and accuracy of KS2 children. Once a child has met the reading speed of 100 words per minute and if they have a good accuracy score, they become 'Free Readers' which means they can make their own selection of home reading book, usually from the classroom book corner selection. Reading at a speed of 100 wpm is necessary in order to be able to comprehend the text at an appropriate level. This selection of books is monitored by the class teacher and we always encourage a wide range of text choice. Encouraging a variety of text choice can be difficult once your child finds an author or genre they like. The following link offers posters to support branching out in your reading selection <https://www.booksfortopics.com/branching-out>

Curriculum Update

Curriculum 2021-2022

Learning at Staplehurst School

We continue to move forward as a school with our curriculum improvements. I am very proud of the children for the efforts they are making across all subjects. We must pay particular attention, at the end of this term, to fantastic work being done in our History and Geography essays. The children are getting so much better at consolidating their learning, and showing their deep understanding for the content they have been studying. We have been so impressed with the level of formality and the clear organisation of their work. Children really do learn at Staplehurst. You can see some of the quality from the selection - we really are ambitious for our children to achieve.



I am sure many parents and carers would have seen the wonderful efforts of the children at parents' evening this week, and we are all extremely proud of how hard everyone is working on learning, understanding and applying. As we move into the next term, we will continue our focus on making the Staplehurst curriculum world class.

Mr Williams- Jones: Deputy Headteacher

Pride Certificates



Name	Class	Reason
Finlay Cheeseman	EYG	Finlay has made fantastic progress since in all areas and this is largely down to his positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning. As his confidence has grown, he has developed his independence in the different areas of learning. Well done Finlay!
Freddie Warren	EYKB	Freddie always remembers to bring his smile to school. He will take on any task or challenge and complete it to the best of his abilities, even if he is a little bit worried about it. Well done Freddie.
Emily Matthews	1C	Emily consistently works hard in all areas. She produces written work to a high standard and challenges herself in maths. Emily is a lovely member of the class and is a loyal friend to others. I am particularly impressed with how Emily has changed how she comes in to school every morning - now she always has a smile on her face! Well done Emily!
Carmen Gorham	1S	This week, Carmen has shown great determination and independence in her Phonics. She has been working really hard with finding 'special friends' in words and applying this skill to her reading. Well done, Carmen.
Pyper Coshell	2SS	Pyper has been a great geographer this week. She has worked extremely hard on writing her essay about seas, oceans and coastlines. She worked with a good level of independence and thought carefully about her sentence structure. Well done Pyper!
Jessica Duke	2S	This week Jessica has worked independently in Maths. She has also produced a brilliant essay where she managed to extract key knowledge from our Geography sessions to answer the question 'Where in the world can we sail?' Well done Jessica, keep it up!
Ronnie Goldfinch	3S	This week Ronnie has demonstrated fantastic independence when writing his geography essay. He has shown great subject knowledge, use of vocabulary and has used his plan to support his writing! Fantastic work Ronnie!
Ben Glanvill	3G	Ben continues to demonstrate an extremely positive attitude towards his learning. He is a respectful and polite member of our class and is an excellent role model to other children in the school. Ben approaches all his work with independence and determination. Well done Ben!
Benjamin Hoad	4W	Benjamin has demonstrated independence this week in his essay writing and RE lessons. It has been great to see him trying hard to complete tasks and make a greater effort with independent reading. Well done Benjamin!
James Glanvill	4C	James demonstrates a wonderful attitude to his learning across all subjects. He has approached his essay writing this week with enthusiasm and determination. James is a friendly and happy member of the class, who is a pleasure to have in class. Well done!
Ben Coleridge	5K	Ben has worked extremely hard this term and is very deserving of this certificate. His attitude towards his learning improves every day, as does his resilience, and I could not be prouder of his achievements across the board. Well done Ben!
Morgan Rowland	5R	Morgan has shown the PRIDE values this week while writing her essay on about the history of medicine. She has shown great determination and stamina to write about her new knowledge and practised her independence when editing. Her finished piece of work is excellent. Well done Morgan!
Ronnie Clout	6S	Ronnie frequently demonstrates our PRIDE values in the classroom and on the playground. He is a very respectful member of the school community who approaches activities with enthusiasm and positivity. Thank you for all your hard work this term, Ronnie!
Savannah Brazil	6T	Savannah has really been working on demonstrating the school pride values this week. It's been brilliant to see her excellent attitude for learning, high levels of effort and relentless enthusiasm. Keep up the hard work and continue to challenge yourself!

EYFS



YEAR 1

EYFS have had a fantastic term learning about birds as part of our 'flying high' theme. We started the term introducing garden birds and watching the birds around our school through our very own bird hides in the classrooms and in our garden. The children produced some wonderful home learning, making bird feeders and drawing then labelling the different birds they saw. We also made bird feeders in school, hanging them around our garden. The children were so excited to find they had been quickly eaten by the birds! Many of the children also enjoyed taking part in the RSPB Garden Bird Watch as part of their home learning, sharing the results on their tally charts in school.

As one of our key texts this term we looked at the story 'Owl Babies'. The children enjoyed listening to the story, then discussing the different emotions felt by the baby owls. The story led to some wonderful learning, from story retelling using the story sack resources to a variety of owl art. It also provided opportunities for writing which has been a key priority for us this term. The children wrote missing posters to find mummy owl and speech bubbles, remembering the main parts of the story. The children have also been developing their independent writing in other areas, writing sentence labels for their models and shopping list in the supermarket role play.

To link to the next part of our 'flying high' theme, we introduced the story of Louis' Dream Plane. In the story Louis dreams of becoming a pilot so we discussed our dream jobs, writing sentences and painting what we would like to be.

The children have worked hard this term and it has been lovely to see their confidence and independence continue to develop alongside their learning in the different areas. We are really looking forward to continuing to build upon this as we move into term 3.

Mrs Golding: EYFS Phase Leader





KS1



Wow what a fantastic half term we have had in Year 1 and Year 2!

Year 1 have learned, explored and discovered what shopping was like within living memory. They have looked back at different shops, goods and money. Year 1 were extremely lucky and thoroughly enjoyed the visit of a local resident, who came into share their experiences. In English, the children have been writing letters about their text 'Ruby's Worry' and 'Dear Greenpeace'. The children focussed on using questions to find out more information. In Science, Year 1 have been introduced to materials. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the experiments. During Art day, Year 1 created nature sculptures using things that were found on the school grounds. Well done Year 1!

Year 2 have also had a terrific half term, diving into their key text 'The Hedgehog' by Dick King-Smith. The children produced excellent non-chronological reports about hedgehogs. Following this, all children wrote letters from one character to another, describing different ways in which hedgehogs could cross the road safely. During Geography lessons, the children loved looking at maps of the world, finding out where in the world we can sail. They learnt how the differences and similarities between seas and oceans as well as what coastlines were and how they are created, before celebrating their writing in outstanding essays. Well done Year 2!

KS1 have worked extremely hard this term and it has been lovely to see their knowledge, confidence and independence grow. We look forward to seeing them all continue to grow in Term 4!

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very restful half term break.

Mr Smith: KS1 Phase Leader



1 - Year 1 Art Sculptures



2 - Year 1 Art Sculptures

KS2

At the end of this term, as we approach the halfway point for this year, I am incredibly proud of the wonderful children in KS2 and their fantastic learning. Seeing the effort and enthusiasm the children have shown in their learning has been a joy every day as the children have enjoyed a broad variety of learning experiences going on throughout my phase.

I have loved seeing the fantastic writing across KS2 this term, from flashback stories to newspaper reports, as well as the amazing essays that the children have written in geography and history. It's been brilliant to see the children enjoying our library and finding books that might help them in this endeavour. My favourite writing however were the powerful poems written by Year 6 inspired by *The Day War Came*.

The war possessed my heart and silenced my lips,
It devoured the happiness that once travelled through the streets.
The war demolished the town into fragments of rubble,
The fiery trees whistled in the suffocating smoke.

The war thundered into ears and ripped through hearts,
Horrible darkness controlled the world, happiness had vanished, forever.

By Ruby (6T)

Our focus on wellbeing this term was a real highlight, and I've loved seeing the children play with their new equipment on the playground, enjoying fantastic team games of basketball and football and perfecting their skipping skills. Our focus on keeping strong and healthy was really focused on our school-wide focus on gymnastics where we learned about muscle groups and how our core helps us with our balancing skills, before trying out a wide range of exciting balances, movements and routines.

Speaking to the children, they've loved their Science learning too, with immersive investigations in every year group, measuring how far a car would travel down a ramp, changing the surface to see if this had an effect in Year 3. Meanwhile Year 5 investigated how some materials are thermal conductors, whilst others are thermal insulators, and what these could be used for. In Year 6, they planned and carried out an investigation into different types of bird beaks to find out which kind of birds are best adapted to a diet of seed, using a range of equipment to model the different beaks. It's been incredible to see the children so hands on, finding their own answers to life's big questions.

The children have shown so much creative talent this year as future artists, designers and engineers. This week year 6 were introduced to Watercolour painting. They explored mixing, blending and laying colours to create their own colour palette, using these to paint their own Polar landscapes, while in D.T Year 3 created their own magnetic board games, carefully thinking about how they could make their games both fun and long lasting. In Computing, Year 4 have been animators and had a lot of fun learning how to create an animated image. One final highlight was Year 6 pupils visiting Cranbrook to watch their 'electrifying' production of Grease! The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all and made even more special as Lylah in 6T was also performing on the stage.

Everyone across the phase has worked incredibly hard this term and demonstrated our PRIDE values. I can't wait to welcome all of the children back in the new term, after a restful break for us all.

Mr Tate: KS2 Phase Leader







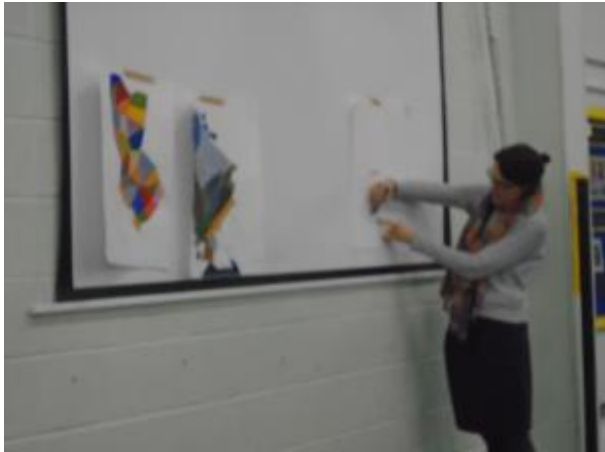
Art Day



YEAR 4

For our Art Day Year 4 have used sketching, shading and painting skills to create a portrait of themselves in an Egyptian style head dress. Our history topic of ancient Egypt and the work of Hossam Dirar inspired their work and they incorporated their own personality into the final piece of work. We were lucky enough to have the expert skills of a local artist to help the children with their work.











Maths at Home



We are really looking forward to sharing the third edition of Staplehurst Maths News with you next term.

As part of our newsletter we will be sharing our latest 'Maths at Home' photographs. If you complete any maths activities over the half term break, please do send them to Miss Stanfield using the following email address: year6@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk

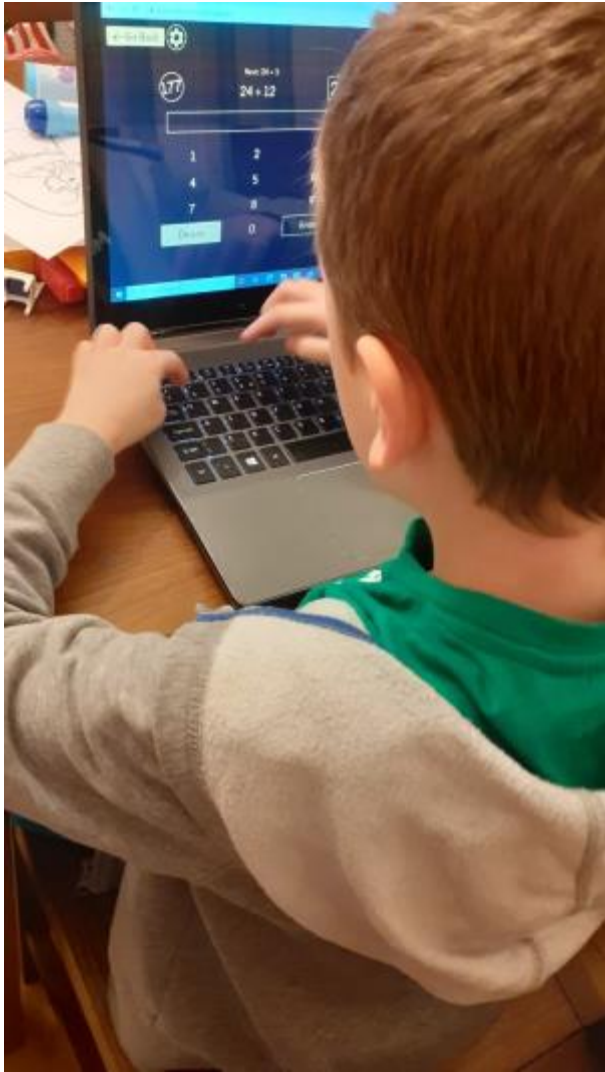
Possible activities could include:

- Playing board games or dominos
- Enjoying a game of BINGO
- Baking a delicious treat
- Purchasing items from the shop
- Helping to cook dinner
- Junk modelling with different 3D shapes

We are really looking forward to seeing your wonderful photos!

Mrs Stanfield: Maths Leader







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