

STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER****“Children always come first. They are our future.”**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of the fourth week of term, and there are only 15 school days left until the Christmas break! That said, we still have a lot to do and look forward to!

The recent announcement that Kent will remain in Tier 3 means that it is an extraordinary time to try and prepare for Christmas. Although sadly we cannot have our usual wonderful celebrations, we still want Christmas to be special, and so our creative, industrious team of Christmas Elves are planning some special Covid-friendly moments as outlined below.

My very best wishes

Miss Davenport



## *Christmas at Staplehurst!*

This year, as part of our Staplehurst School Christmas celebrations:

<p>Early Years</p> <p>Christmas Around the World (KS1)</p> <p>What Christmas means to me (KS2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christmas Video (Nativities play to be uploaded on school website)</li> <li>- Christmas video to be uploaded on school website</li> <li>- Decorate the classroom window competition</li> <li>- Making and sending Christmas cards, including to local care homes -Last two Mondays &amp; Fridays of term</li> <li>- A Wellbeing Advent Calendar</li> <li>- Year group Christingle services</li> <li>- Christmas Art and Craft</li> <li>- Class Celebrations – last week of term, dates to be confirmed by class teachers</li> </ul>
<p>Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinners</p>	<p>KS1 Christmas Jumper day – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec</p> <p>KS2 Christmas Jumper day – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>
<p>Look out for our school Christmas tree!</p>	

## CURRICULUM NEWS

### YEAR 1

The Year 1 staff are really proud of all the hard work children did researching people for Black History Month. Here is a display of their wonderful projects. The children presented them to their friends and we even did role-play interviews in class.



Year 1 was studying the weather last week. What a week to choose! We had so much rain to measure at our weather station on Monday - 375ml. We have also noticed that the days are getting shorter as we approach winter.

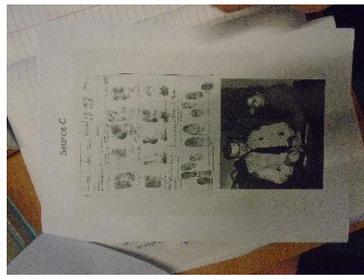
### YEAR 3

Year 3 (and some of year 4) are really excited to have taken part in the National Schools Partnership Young Imagineers Challenge; an initiative which asks the children to design challenges for real life scientists and inventors, who will then respond to these challenges in a series of Live Lessons. The children have come up with some world changing ideas to challenge the experts in science. We are looking forward to seeing if our entries are chosen, and if anything can be done to improve the environmental, health and technological issues we have identified. We are really excited to be tuning into the first Live Lesson in early December!



### YEAR 6

This week, Year 6 have been learning about the Montgomery Bus Boycott by analysing Police Incident Reports of Rosa Park's arrest, cross referring these with extracts from her own testimony of the event. We've been looking at the impact that Rosa's single action had in changing the course of history and paving the way for a future of freedom and equality for all.



### SCIENCE CLUB

We learnt about air pressure and tension by turning a cup of water upside down without spilling a single drop! It looked like magic and was quite tricky sometimes. You have to be really careful about turning the cup over, and making sure there's no tiny gaps at the edges of the cup. If more air gets into the cup, all the water comes splashing out!



**Goodbye Mrs Monk...** We'd like to wish our lovely receptionist, Mrs Monk, the very best of luck as she moves on to a new role. She's been a treasured member of Staplehurst School for many years, and we're sad to see her go. Mrs Monk – you'll be missed by every member of our school community: you've had a smile, a kind word and a helpful hand for all of us here.

*A Note from Mrs Monk*

*'I have been fortunate to have worked here at Staplehurst School for nearly 10 years, and am leaving for pastures new to work part-time as a doctor's receptionist in Goudhurst.*

*Over the years I have seen many children come through the school, and to watch them blossom and develop into strong independent young adults has been wonderful. I have also been privileged to work alongside some amazing members of staff. Some of them came as NQT's and I've seen them turn into amazing, caring members of the teaching profession.*

*I shall miss you all and wish you every happiness and success for your future endeavours."*



**Maidstone Children's Centres'** Facebook page is packed full of information, advice and support for families and lots of fun activities to keep your children entertained. Sign up and find out more about weekly activity emails, free Adult Education courses, our Virtual groups where we do arts and crafts, singing, stories and signing and much more.

**Sure Start Children's Centres**  
Maidstone

Join us at  
**'Maidstone Children's Centres'**  
Facebook page

What's on:

- Free Adult Education Classes
- Health Partners—information on Children's Mental Health, Healthy lifestyles, immunisations and much more.
- Virtual groups—Under one's, Young Parents and Stay and Play where there will be singing, stories, signing and craft activities
- Weekly emails—Fun activities for 0–18 months, 18 months–5 years and 5–18 years.
- Virtual Timetable—full of activities for children aged 0–18 years old.
- Outdoor activities—Scavenger hunts, pebble hunts and walks for all the family to enjoy.
- Cooking Activities—Sign up for a weekly affordable recipe.

You can also get information on:

- Adult Mental health
- Parenting tips and support.
- COVID-19 safety
- Antenatal
- Breastfeeding support
- Domestic Abuse
- Healthy Eating
- Frax 12

And much more