

Staplehurst School



NEWSLETTER

PRIDE

Positivity

Respect

Independence

Determination

Excellence

Staplehurst School is an inclusive community. We do not tolerate bullying – race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or age.

SCHOOL NEWS

What a busy week it's been...

EARLY YEARS AND KS1 PERFORMANCE

Thank you to everyone who came to see our production of Penguin Pete this week. We've had some fantastic feedback this year on what a wonderful performance it was. One parent commented "the children spoke so clearly, the participation and enthusiasm was delightful to watch" and "the engagement from Mrs Stevenson with the children, teachers and parents was just fantastic and a real joy to see so many happy faces." Thank you to everyone who provided such wonderful costumes and took the time to help their child learn their song lyrics and lines, it is a great help to the staff who are busy trying to put everything together. Extra thanks too to the PTA who were kind enough to have a stall selling teas, coffees and treats.



HEADTEACHER COMMENDATIONS

The Headteacher commendations for this term are:-

EYD	Daisy D-G	3T	Skkye S
EYD	Luca S	4H	Henry A
1RS	Harley B	4S	Tilly P
1/2S	Jayden B	5C	Emilia P
2KS	Felix P	5L	Evie M
2O	Max V	6C	Oliver B
3G	Isabelle B-C	6W	Ethan W

GRAND OPENING – SCHOOL LIBRARY

Today, thanks to some great organisation by our fabulous PTA, we were delighted to welcome popular children's writer Nick Carter, from Southborough, who officially opened the new library. Nick's books are set in our local area and children in Year 1 were lucky enough to hear him read some of his stories.

Some of the children brought money in today to buy copies of Nick's books and he has also left some copies in the office for families to buy before the end of term. They are being offered at the special price of £6.99 (rrp £9.99) and would make ideal Christmas presents. His books are mainly aimed at younger children so would be most appropriate for children in EYFS or KS1.

You can find out more about his books via the following links:

[Chestle Crumb and the Animals of Broadwater Warren](#)

[Barney and Edwards Adventures at Bodiam](#)



HOUSE POINT CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to Peake - Yellow House who won this term's House Point Challenge and may wear their own clothes to school on Friday 4 January 2019.

VISIT BY MP HELEN GRANT



Today, MP Helen Grant came and met the children who had entered her Christmas Card Competition. Mrs Grant praised the children for the high standard of entries and announced the winner for Staplehurst School: Grace B 4S. All children received a certificate and Grace was presented with a certificate and prize goodie bag.



While Mrs Grant was here she was most impressed with the new Library and was thrilled to hear all about it and meet some of the Year 5 Library Monitors.



ANGEL FESTIVAL – ALL SAINTS CHURCH

This week the children in the KS1 Art Club visited All Saints Church to deliver the Angels we made as part of the 'Angel Festival'. It was wonderful to see our Angels on display, along with others from around the Staplehurst community. The festival takes place this Saturday, 10-4.00pm and Sunday 12.00-6.30pm. Thank you to the parents who kindly brought their children along to the church.



CHOIR VISITS

Our School Choir has been very busy with Christmas performances this month.

This week they went to sing to the residents at Abbotsleigh Care Home and Sobell Lodge. The children all sang beautifully and both care homes greatly appreciated their visit. We would like to particularly thank those parents who were able to offer help to transport the children to the venues.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH & FESTIVE JUMPERS

This week it was Christmas Lunch Day on Wednesday. Lots of children and staff wore festive jumpers and all the children who had school lunch were served their meal by the staff. There was a very festive atmosphere, with Christmas songs played in the hall and lots of children singing along! The homemade Christmas Pudding was exceptionally tasty.

HELPERS NEEDED - KS2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE REHEARSAL

As in previous years, KS2 will be performing at All Saints' Church on the last day of term at 9.30am. There will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, 18 December and our Year 2 children would like to go along and watch. However, we need helpers to walk them to the Church and back, leaving School at approximately 9.15/9.30am and returning around 11.00/11.30. If you are able to help, please contact the office or one of the Year 2 teachers. Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 31.12.18 Year 6, 5, 4, 3
w/c 07.01.19 Year 5, 4, 3, 6

STAFF CHANGES

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Phillips who is leaving at the end of this term. Mrs Phillips has been a Teaching Assistant here for nearly 19 years and has also been a stalwart member of the Breakfast Club team. She will be sorely missed by staff and children alike and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything she has done during her time here at Staplehurst School.

DONATIONS PLEASE

Some of the costumes used the KS1 Christmas Performance are beginning to get a little tatty so if anyone has any spare stripy material that could be used to make some new shepherd costumes we would love to hear from you.

MENU CHANGES

Monday, 17 December: the main dessert option will be Sticky Toffee Pudding rather than Fruit.

Wednesday 19 December: We have a change of menu for the last day of term:

Fish Fingers and Chips
Cheese, Onion and Potato Pasty with Chips
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
Mixed Salad, Peas, Baked Beans
Treat Biscuit and Fruit

SPRING TERM LUNCH MENUS

By now, your child should have brought home a new lunch menu for the Spring Term. Further copies are available from the office and on our website.

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education's target for attendance is 95%. We always strive for 100%.

Whole school attendance

Attendance for the whole school for the week is **94.70%**

Class attendance

Special congratulations to **209** who achieved the highest attendance this week with a fantastic **98.85%**.

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS 2019

If you have a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, you need to apply for their place at a primary school. You must submit one application per child, even if you already have a sibling at school. Applying online is quick, simple and convenient. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/ola and you must apply by 31 January 2019.

PTA NEWS

300 CLUB

December's draw took place today and the winners are:

1st Prize: Grandparents of Rohan and Diya C
2nd Prize: Parents of Matthew White
3rd Prize: Parents of Jemima S

Prizes can be collected from the office.

It's not too late to join in the fun so if you fancy a chance to win please complete the 300 club form (available from

the office) and return to school with £9 per number for membership for the next 9 draws.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NATIVITY SERVICE



Nativity Service for All Ages

Staplehurst United Reformed Church
TN12 0AS

Sunday 16th December, 10.30 – 11.30

Please do come and join us as we retell the story of Jesus' birth.

You could simply come and enjoy the service in which there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

OR.....and there's no pressure to do this.....

If you fancy breaking out your inner Mary, Joseph, shepherd, king, angel, donkey, sheep, camel.....(you get the idea!), please do come along either in full dress, or just a prop, and you'll get the chance to shine at the appropriate moment!

We do have a few children's costumes available.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

CHRISTMAS STORY TELLING

On Thursday 20 December at Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone, the Library Service is holding a special Christmas storytelling event from 2.00-3.00pm. They will be acting out stories, sharing tales and celebrating the start of the Christmas holidays; all children will receive a Christmas treat! All ages welcome but children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult. £2 per ticket and booking is required.

WORD BUDDY CLUB

On Thursday 20 December at Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone, the Library service is holding Word Buddy Club from 3.00-4.00pm. There will be a special wintry theme with activities for children of all ages. There is no fee and no booking required.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Calling all budding young singers! All Saints Staplehurst has started a new children's choir *Sing!* running on Friday evenings from 6.00pm until 6.50pm. They sing a wide selection of music and look to find opportunities to perform. The choir meets weekly and new members are always welcome, just come along and see if it's for you – best suited to children age 7 and up. No need to be a congregation member. Find them at the back of the

church on the right – see you there! Any questions please call Jacqui on 07796 487538.

FOOTIE MAD GIRLS!

Staplehurst Monarchs Youth FC are looking to get more players (Years 2 and 3) for their new U8 Girls team. They train at the school on Saturday mornings and will soon start to play matches against other teams. If your daughter would like to give it a go, please email them (smufc1@yahoo.co.uk) and they send you more details.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 19 December

KS2 Christmas Performance – All Saints Church (9.30am)

Class Parties (pm)

End of Term 2

Thursday 3 January 2019

Start of Term 3

Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

Half Term

ADMIN

Online payments - This is the preferred method. Please pay online for School Dinners, Trips, Swimming, Uniform and Equipment (via ParentMail) and Breakfast Club (via Scopay).

Dinner Money queries and payments - Please contact Maxine on 07501 007835.

School Uniform - Uniform can be ordered and paid for online (via ParentMail) (orders will be sent home with your child). The Uniform Shop is open anytime, but **please avoid Monday mornings and Friday afternoons**. Thank you.