

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Children always come first. They are our future."

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a busy and exciting week across the school. Our children have enjoyed an excellent range of experiences within school, and at Local and National events, which they have fully embraced. Thank you to those parents and carers who have attended and actively participated in their child's learning; your feedback has been extremely positive. By partnering together we ensure that our children have exceptional opportunities.

This term our P.R.I.D.E value is 'Independence' – children are expected to: choose for themselves; think for themselves; act for themselves, and speak for themselves. I am sure you will celebrate with your children when they have demonstrated these skills at school, and provide opportunities at home, too!

Once again thank you to all parents and carers for making me feel so welcome; I am enjoying getting to know everyone a little better as we begin to work together.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Davenport
Headteacher

CHOIR SING AT THE O2

The choir had the most amazing day on Tuesday when they attended the Young Voices concert at the O2 in London. There were over 8,800 children singing – the biggest children's school choir in the world. The songs ranged from pop medleys to American folk songs to 1920's jazz with a finale of music from *The Greatest Showman*. It truly was '*the greatest show*'. Other highlights included music by Tony Hadley, watching Urban Strides doing street dance and the children/parents dance-off. The children were a pleasure to take and were great ambassadors for Staplehurst School.

Tilly said: "we sang great songs and watched and listened to awesome songs dances".

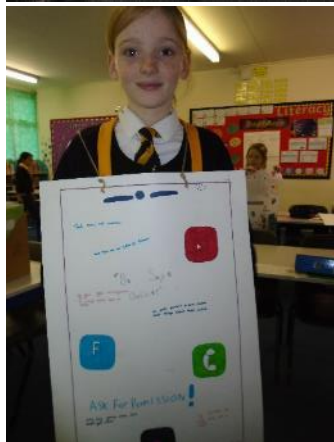
Jack K thought "the experience was great" and Poppy echoed everyone when she said "thank you for arranging the O2! We're all grateful for it!"

The choir are planning new concert ideas for the Spring and Summer. New members are very welcome.



SAFER INTERNET DAY 2019

On Tuesday Staplehurst School, along with thousands of schools across Europe, took part in Safer Internet Day. The theme of the day was permission, with the objective of making the children think about what information they are allowing companies to access online. Each key stage had a special assembly with even EYFS joining in the fun. Then, throughout the day the children engaged in an array of fun activities from making puppets in Year 1 to designing their own internet safety advert in Year 6. We would also like to thank all of the parents who were able to attend the drop in at the end of the school day to share in the children's learning. It was excellent to see so many of you and to hear all of your positive comments. We hope we can keep working together to make Staplehurst School and your own homes safer places to go online



YEAR 5 MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday four Year 5 pupils, Annabel H, Bella R, Lauren D and Mikaella D in 5C represented Staplehurst School in a Maths Challenge at Invicta Girls Grammar School. The girls faced some very tough questioning but despite all of them having a late night at the O2 the night before they came a very respectable fifth out of eight schools in total. We would like to thank the parents for transporting the children and Miss Harris for escorting them.

MEDITATION PRACTICE

The Mind-set Mum visited our school to offer a teacher training meditation session, to inspire us on the benefits of a regular meditation practice with the children at school. You may have heard your children coming home discussing meditation as we are beginning to roll it out

among the school and slot the 5 minute meditation into the school day. We are excited to observe the positive impact this is going to have on the children in their school environment and also within their friendships and relationships at home. If you would like any further information or would be interested in giving this a go for yourself at home to support our efforts in school, head to <http://www.themindsetmum.com/guided-meditation> which is a link to guided meditation for use with children at bedtime. Please also see the Tip Sheet enclosed with this week's newsletter which gives more information about what our children have been learning during Children's Mental Health Week this week.

YEAR 5 – BIKEABILITY

There are still spaces available on this year's Bikeability scheme. Please register your interest by **Monday 11 February**.

CURRICULUM NEWS

YEAR 1

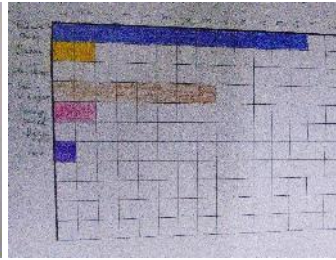
As part of their 'Frozen Planet' topic, Year 1 took a rather adventurous school trip to Antarctica! With passports in hand they boarded the boat, sailed past the enormous icebergs and docked safely on the frozen continent. Whilst exploring, the children learnt about the specialised equipment that Antarctic explorers would need with them to keep safe and warm. They tried on snow boots and salopettes, scanned the landscape with binoculars and trudged through the snow with hiking sticks. Once they had safely returned to their classrooms, the children wrote some wonderful recounts of their experience, describing in detail all the sights and smells, as well as the charming animals that they encountered.



YEAR 2

On Tuesday, Year 2 tasted crisps during maths then collected the results in a tally chart which they made into a block graph as part of their statistics topic.





YEAR 3

Year Three had an explosive science lesson this week, as part of their topic on Forces and Magnets. They were busy investigating the effect of pressure by building film canister popper rockets, and exploring ways that they could make them fly higher. Some of the children chose to see if changing the amount of water had the largest effect, and some decided to see if adding more tablets would make their rocket the most powerful. They all had a fantastic time competing to see who could build up the most pressure, and one group even managed to get their rocket as high as the school roof!



SPORTS NEWS

INTRA HOUSE COMPETITION

On Wednesday evening, our Year 5/6 Basketball team took part in a 5-a-side Intra House competition, comprising of 5 different teams.

Each team worked extremely hard and we are very proud to announce that Team Green (Tom P, Thomas S, John-Henry J, Felix S and Freddie H) were victorious, remaining unbeaten throughout the entire competition.

Mrs Stevenson and Mr Littleton were incredibly proud to see the fantastic progress that the children have made since the beginning of the school year! **Go Team Staplehurst!**

BASKETBALL KENT FINALS

Mr Littleton and I took our team of Tunbridge Wells Champions to the Kent Basketball Finals last Friday. Fourteen teams from across the whole of Kent took part and we were divided into two pools.

We had to play 6 eight minute matches and the standard was exceptionally high. We started off really well winning our first 5 fairly comfortably as follows:

Tunbridge Wells	12	Canterbury	3
Thanet	4	Tunbridge Wells	5
Shepway	4	Tunbridge Wells	9
Maidstone	1	Tunbridge Wells	5
Tunbridge Wells	7	East Kent Coastal	2

We then had to face a very strong team from Medway, who were also unbeaten, to see who would head up the pool. Despite playing incredibly well we lost 10-8. As both

teams had lost one match, it went down to baskets scored: Medway 49, Tunbridge Wells 46. We therefore finished runners up.

Next step was the semi-finals where we had to play the winners of the other pool. Unfortunately, we now appeared to be "running out of steam", losing 6-4. I think that had we played this team at the start of the day we would have won easily, however these tournaments are not just about skill, but stamina.

In the third/fourth place play off, we again lost by a narrow margin of 7 baskets to 4. However, coming fourth out of 14 champions was a fantastic result. This is the first time that Staplehurst has entered a basketball competition and I think that we learned a considerable amount from the experience.

Apparently, over 250 schools across Kent took part in the regional events so being the **4th best team** is a remarkable achievement. Mr. Littleton and I were so proud of the children who all gave their best throughout the day.

I would also like to thank all the parents who gave lifts and came along to support. We wouldn't be able to enter these competitions without you.

Team: Izzy F (Captain), Sophie C, Amber E, Tom P, Tom B, James S, Kester J, Liam D.

Mrs Stevenson
Deputy Headteacher



KS1 AGILITY COMPETITION

We have a photo of our Year 2 pupils who won the Infant Agility Competition at the Weald Sports Centre in January. Well done to Oscar B, Katie P, Siena H, Remi R, Tallulah V, Matilda W, Jimmy F, Jazzmine D and Ethan P who are shown proudly showing off their medals and cup!



USEFUL INFORMATION

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Today we welcomed the parents and carers of Class 4H to the KS2 Celebration Assembly. The children were very excited to share their recent learning activities.

The children really enjoy parents attending their celebration assemblies and it's a great opportunity for them to share their successes with family members. Here's the timetable for the rest of the year so you can plan ahead and we hope you will be able to come along.

Date	Class	Time/Location
15 Mar	4S14	2.30pm Junior Hall
29 Mar	Early Years	9.00am Infant Hall
3 May	3T12	2.30pm Junior Hall
10 May	3G11	2.30pm Junior Hall
7 Jun	2O9	9.00am Infant Hall
14 Jun	2KS8	9.00am Infant Hall

DIARY DATES

Forthcoming events at Staplehurst School:

Monday 11 February

Parent Consultation Booking Opens (6pm)

Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

Half Term

Monday 25 February

KS1 + EYFS Parent Consultations (5.00-7.30pm)

Tuesday 26 February

KS1 + EYFS Parent Consultations (3.30-5.30pm)

Thursday 28 February

KS2 Parent Consultations (5.00-7.30pm)

Friday 1 March

KS2 Parent Consultations (3.30-5.30pm)

Thursday 7 March

World Book Day

Wednesday 13 March

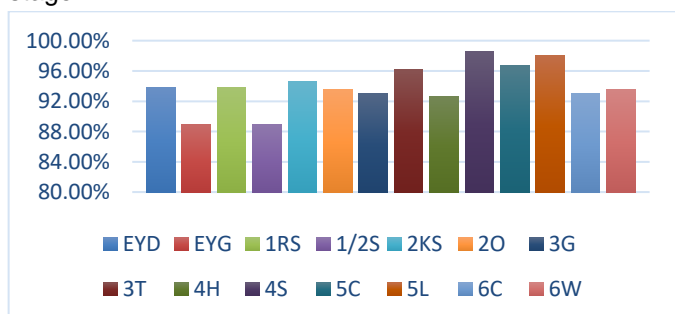
Class Photographs

Friday 15 March

Red Nose Day

ATTENDANCE

CONGRATULATIONS - TO THE AMAZING SEACOLE CLASS 4S – 98.55%attendance – you are setting the standard and we are very proud of you. Punctuality and good attendance is important to establish positive habits as children, develop, grow and move on to their next stage.



SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 11.02.19 Year 6, 5, 4

w/c 25.02.19 Year 5, 4, 6

MENU CHANGES

There is a change to the menu for Week 3. On Tuesday, the main option will be Chicken Curry and Rice rather than Sweet Chilli Chicken and Noodles.

Due to feedback from the children the Chicken and Sweetcorn Pie will no longer be served on Thursdays in Week 2. The new option will be BBQ Chicken and Rice.

There will be a special menu for Valentine's Day on Thursday, 14 February:

Hearty Meatballs & Penne Pasta
served in a Tomato Sauce

or

Cupid's Vegetable Pockets with Potato Wedges
served with

Cute Carrots and Perfect Peas

Strawberry Mousse with a Mini Heart Shaped
Shortbread Biscuit

followed by

Fruit Jelly or Fresh Fruit

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE

The DfE (Department for Education) states that "schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather" and we recognise that it is important for Staplehurst School to remain **open** so that parents are able to work and children can continue to learn. Our fundamental principle is that every effort will be made to ensure that Staplehurst School remains open even if only limited numbers of children can attend.

In each instance the school will determine:

- whether the school site is safe
- how many staff are likely to be in

then make a decision based on the safety of children.

If the school is CLOSED we will notify you via ParentMail and also publish a message on our website and Facebook page.

PTA NEWS

VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE OFF

Any children who love to bake – don't forget to enter our Valentine's Day cake competition. All cakes in the competition will be sold at a cake sale after school on Friday 15 February. There will be a prize for KS1 and for KS2. We would also be grateful for donations of shop-bought cakes or parent-baked cakes for the cake sale. More information and an entry form for the competition in the letter enclosed with the Newsletter. Copies of the form are also available in the office.

300 CLUB

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 £8 per number for membership for the next 8 draws.

COMMUNITY NEWS

STAY SAFE STAPLEHURST

On Saturday 23 February there will be an interactive fun family event at Staplehurst Village Centre between 10.30am and 1.30pm. Find out how our emergency services and local help groups work to help keep residents safe in Staplehurst. There will be free bicycle security marking and free PAT testing and advice from our local help groups and businesses. The Women's Institute will be providing teas and coffees.