

STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers

**“Children always come first. They are our future.”**

Another great week at Staplehurst as we see fantastic learning and the remembering of new knowledge on a daily basis as children find their strengths, and passions in all subjects.

The positive reading culture within our schools is as a result of lots of hard work. A big, big thank you to all parents who are signing and commenting in home school diaries and encouraging children to comment on or evaluate their reading. This supports learning in school and helps teachers to understand reading patterns away from the classroom.

Congratulations to the Basketball Team who took part in the Kent Finals last Friday. It was an achievement to be participating and wonderful that our children pushed themselves against the top Kent schools. All of our children in the squad have worked incredibly hard by attending after school clubs and choosing to practise during lunchtimes. They have spurred each other on and challenged each other. When we have people around us who encourage us to build resilience and do better, we always achieve more. Thank you to Mr Littleton and Mrs Stevenson for their on-going passion and commitment!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Davenport  
Headteacher



Next week we will be taking part in a Wellbeing Week for all children and staff. We have a theme for each day; Mindfulness Monday, Top Tips Tuesday (Safer Internet Day), Workout Wednesday and Thoughtful Thursday. Each day your child will have a wellbeing journal to complete. In here they can write about their day, what they are proud of, did they manage the daily mile and how much water and fruit they have had each day. We really feel that highlighting the importance of water and fruit to our children will encourage them to become more independent in ensuring they have plenty to drink throughout the school day to keep their mind and bodies healthy. Your children will come home with their journals on Thursday and there will be a space in their journals for parents and carers to complete. We would love your feedback on your child's wellbeing and how we support children's wellbeing at Staplehurst School. The class with the most parent feedback will win a special prize from Miss O'Brien!

### PARENTS' FORUM

Thank you to parents who attended our termly Parent Forum. As always it is really important to us to hear how we can continue to improve our provision. These are some of the issues that have been raised in our last couple of meetings and how we are addressing them. Please see below some of the comments raised on 31 January and how we have begun to address these.

#### Communication

You said: “key dates not updated on our website”

We did: Website dates updated on our home page.

### After School Clubs

You said: "Lack of clubs for year 3; have the school followed up on this?"

We did: LD confirmed that there will be additional clubs run by Staplehurst Cricket and Tennis club in Term 4.

### Recycling

You said: "Children had to bring in tetra packs which seemed to contradict the idea of recycling as this had to be bought; as a school do we recycle and what are we doing?"

We did: We have begun an Eco Club to use this as a learning opportunity for the children.

### Class Photos

You said: "1 parent feedback that the whole school photo was very expensive"

1 parent expressed a dislike of the longer class photos as opposed to the traditional class photo"

We did: LD agreed that the whole school photo was expensive but it is only once every seven years; this will be taken into consideration for future photos

### Water and Children's Toilets

You said: "What are the arrangements for children accessing water during the day as it is unclear?"

Children have complained that there is not enough soap and that they are unclean or have missing locks; generally it is an unpleasant experience for them"

We did: We have water coolers and 2 water fountains within the school building, all of which are in good working order.

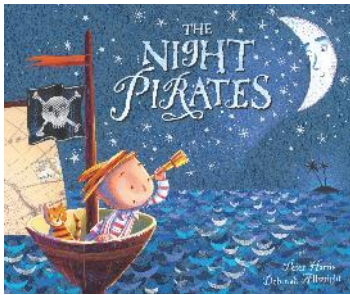
Water fountains outside the building have all been turned off due to the maintenance of keeping them clean from birds, and unfrozen during cold spells but children access water in class and during lunchtimes

All toilets have been checked and are in good working order.

All toilets are stocked every morning.

## CURRICULUM NEWS

### READING AT STAPLEHURST SCHOOL



The pupils in 2H are reading 'The Night Pirates'. A band of rough, tough, girl pirates steal the front of a young boy's house for disguise and agree to take him off on an adventure. The youthful pirates attack Captain Patch and his grown-up pirates, who have never seen a sailing house before and who hide in the trees like cowards; the girls take their treasure chest and sail away home again.

I like this book because you don't expect Pirates to be girls and beat the grown-ups!

Beth says

The book has a really interesting setting. The story moves from the dark, quiet town, to on board a ship, then to a remote treasure island. At the end we travel all the way back to Tom's bedroom but his house doesn't look the same!

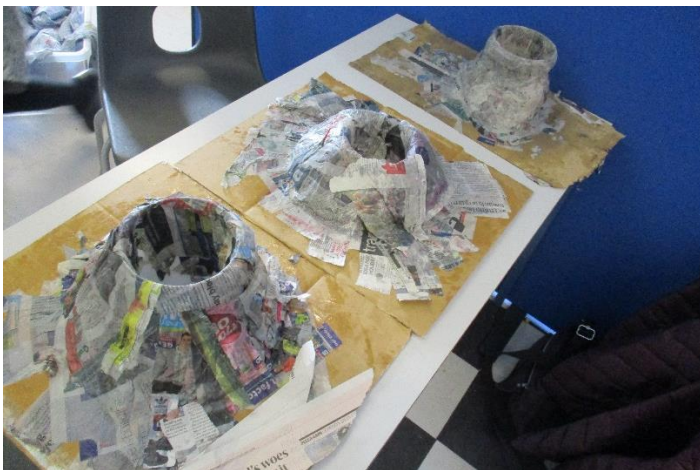
Oliver says:

I'd like to be a pirate and go on an adventure with the rough tough girls.

John says:

### YEAR 3 – EXTREME EARTH TOPIC

On Thursday, children in Year 3 had a busy afternoon making volcanoes from papier mache. The children have enjoyed learning all about volcanoes and earthquakes and are looking forward to causing some eruptions next week!



### YEAR 4 – CHANGING STATES OF WATER

Year 4 have been learning about states of matter in science. Today the children looked at how water changes state. They experimented with what happens when we add salt to ice, what happens to ice cubes when they are placed over a container of boiling water and what happens to a cold plate that is placed over a bowl of boiling water. They learned the words 'evaporation' and 'condensation' and started to write up their experiments.





# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## MENU CHANGE

**Thursday 13 February:** the menu will be Oven Baked Fish Fingers and Chips or Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with chips or Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese or Salmon Mayo, Peas or Baked Beans, and Ice Cream or Fresh Fruit Salad for dessert.

## MUSIC LESSONS FOR KS2

Andrew Parry Music are pleased to announce there are spaces for children at Staplehurst School to learn a woodwind instrument. The options are: flute, clarinet, oboe and saxophone (to learn saxophone it is advised your child is in Year 5 or above). If you are interested, for more details and to apply online please visit their website: [www.andrewparrymusic.com](http://www.andrewparrymusic.com).

## ATTENDANCE

CONGRATULATIONS - TO THE AMAZING RYLANCE (5F) CLASS – 99.54% attendance – you are setting the standard and we are very proud of you. Punctuality and good attendance are important to establish as positive habits as children, develop, grow and move on to their next stage.

## DIARY DATES

Forthcoming events:

### Tuesday 11 February

Safer Internet Day

### Thursday 13 February

Valentine's Bake Off Cake Competition

Open Classroom Event (am)

End of Term 3

Parent Consultations Bookings Open (6pm)

### Friday 14 February

Inset Day – School Closed

### Monday 17 – Friday 21 February

Half Term

### Monday 24 February

Start of Term 4

### Monday 2 March

National Offer Day (school places)

### Thursday 5 March

World Book Day

### Wednesday 11 March

Sing Up Day

### Thursday 12 March

Agility Competition (Years 1 and 2) (am)

### Friday 13 March

Sport Relief

PTA Discos

### Monday 16 March

Class Photographs

### Monday 16 – Tuesday 24 March

Year 5 Bikeability

### Thursday 20 March

Year 5 Trip to Canterbury Museum

### Tuesday 24 March

Parents' Forum (2pm)

### Thursday 26 March

EYFS Space Celebration Assembly (9am)

### Wednesday 1 April

End of Term 4

### Thursday 16 April

Start of Term 5

### Tuesday 19 May

Parents' Forum (2pm)

### Tuesday 30 June

Parents' Forum (2pm)

## 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 and Twitter page.**



Please remember if you would like daily updates about the learning at Staplehurst join us on twitter @StaplehurstSch.