

STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chair of Governors: Mr Chris Roome

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Staplehurst School Newsletter marks the end of Term 4 2021 and also the anniversary of a year in the life of our school like no other.

The Governors' Meeting held in March 2020 via Zoom was our first "virtual meeting". Little did any of us think that a full year later we would still be meeting via Zoom to carry out our governing body duties of continuous strategic support, analytical judgement and evaluation of the school's actions and direction of travel.

In the course of this year we have welcomed three new governors - Kelly Gascoyne, Rory Silkin and Heidi Smith, and we are grateful to them for joining us and giving so freely of their time. Also in the course of this unusual year, the school has welcomed new members of staff too - including our new Deputy Headteacher Mr Williams-Jones.

As governors we have witnessed at close quarters the unceasing hurricane of directions, regulations, policies, health advice and risk assessments that have arrived in the school - as in all others - from central and local government, and which have often been subject to changes at very short notice but still require rapid and effective implementation.

These measures have asked of the school and its leadership the ability to implement plans in unfamiliar areas - for example - frequent hand sanitising requirements, deep cleaning of all classrooms, corridors, toilets, break out rooms and offices, social distancing, teaching in "bubbles", delivery of meals and vouchers, and a whole array of distance teaching methods and techniques to be used effectively and quickly.

Throughout this testing time the Governors have seen at first hand, and with admiration, just how - with effective and able leadership - the staff have demonstrated both their professional ability and their educational agility to adapt effectively to these new situations and challenges.

We know, through our governors' questions, our discussions with staff, our feedback from yourselves and our debates in meetings just how hard the entire staff have worked to ensure that ALL the children who attend the school have had access to opportunities to learn and progress during these difficult times.

We are aware that you, our community of parents and carers, have been kind to our staff, overwhelmingly supportive of the school and its work and appreciative of the outstanding efforts being made to serve your children. Thank you all.

We are aware too, as governors, that the strain of this last year has added to the burdens carried by all of our staff in Staplehurst School, with the added dimension of fears of contagion and anxiety about partners, children and relatives. That they have carried these extra stresses so well, so professionally and uncomplainingly does them great credit. Thanks to them too.

We have missed the best bits of being a governor - of visiting our lovely school when all the children are there - when we can witness and participate in the buzz of a school filled with happy and effective learning and teaching. We all hope that those days will return in the next few months!

In the meantime, on behalf of the school governors, I hope that you all have a happy and comforting break over Easter, enjoy your families and stay safe.

Chris Roome
Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a unique term, it is important to celebrate how our children have demonstrated great flexibility, and have been incredibly industrious this year; we are very proud of them all. Congratulations to those children who received our termly Headteacher's Commendation in recognition for consistently upholding our school PRIDE values.

End of term news:

- It was wonderful to welcome Silke back this week to lead our Easter assembly; we look forward seeing her more next term, too.
- Today we said our goodbyes to Mrs. Seymour; I am sure you will join me in thanking her for serving our school community for eight years – we wish her well for the future.
- Congratulations to the children who won our Easter Egg Competition; the entries were fabulous and it was a tough job for Mrs. Golding, Mr Smith and Mr Tate to choose the winners!
- A massive thank you to the PTA for working with us to make Easter special by donating mini eggs for all of our children; they were delighted!

Have a restful break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th April!

Kind regards

Miss Davenport & the Senior Leadership Team

KEY DATES/INFORMATION

Uniform: Summer uniform Term 5

Students return: 19th April (Monday)

Class Photos: 11 May (Tuesday)

Communication: Messages

- From next term: please email staff non urgent messages; staff will respond within 2-3 working days. We have taken this decision in order to maximize the amount of time staff are working directly with children in school hours.
- If you have an urgent message e.g. you need to inform the school that someone other than yourself is picking up your child, please phone the office speak to a member of the team.
- Reading books will continue to be changed on Monday and Friday; comments regarding reading will be monitored and responded to on those days as usual.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Important Reminders

- Parents (+1 person per family) will need to enter the main gate and follow our one way system as normal.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times.

YEAR 1

Year 1 have been investigating which materials are absorbent and which materials are waterproof. They talked about what objects are made out of waterproof materials and what objects are made out of absorbent materials and the reasons why.

**YEAR 2**

As part of our fantastic finish of our Great Fire of London topic, we watched our Tudor houses burn. We also experienced windy weather just like at the time of the Great Fire which made us see just how quickly the fire spread! Once the fire had cooled completely, we got to feel what ash was like and we imagined just how much ash and dust there would have been after the fire lasted for four long days. We have loved learning all about the Great Fire of London!



YEAR 3

We have welcomed a group of new friends this week as some tadpoles have joined us in Year 3. We are very excited to watch them grow and develop into young frogs, and discover what happens at each stage of the life cycle of a frog.



As part of our Literacy work on Iron Man, we have been exploring how language, structure and presentation can impact the meaning of a text. To do this we made our own blackout poems from a page of the text. We carefully scanned the passage to pick out words and phrases that could be joined to create our atmospheric poems, then used coloured pens to 'blackout' the rest of the text. As you can see, this is a very striking way of creating poetry.



For the final part of our Geography topic, exploring water, weather and climate, we considered the effect that people have on our world and the ever-growing problem of climate change. We have designed some posters to raise awareness of this important issue and give suggestions on how we can help prevent it.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have continued their rainforest composition this week, selecting different percussion instruments to represent the sounds of the rainforest. They also used some body percussion to make the sound of the rain. The children also devised their own graphic score suggesting symbols that would instruct them what to play and when. Children then enjoyed sharing their composition with Mrs Craig and Miss Cook, who were very impressed with their musical talents.

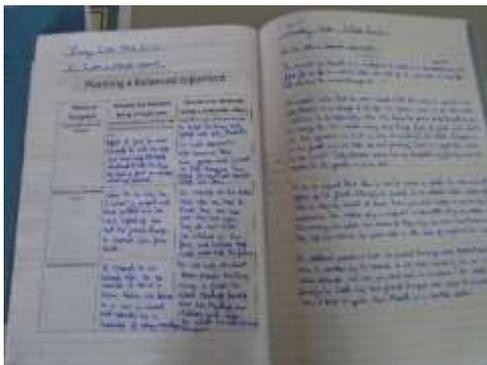


Over the past week, Year 4 have been learning about how to prepare and deliver a debate. Today, that hard work paid off and two lively parliamentary style debates took place about deforestation on the rainforest. Miss Callan was very impressed with how well the children thought about their proposing and opposing arguments.



YEAR 5

This week year 5 wrote a balanced argument concerning the personality of Macbeth- we thought about whether he was a hero or villain using conjunctions and persuasive phrases. Look at this fantastic work!



YEAR 6

This week, ahead of their World War 2 topic after Easter, Year 6 pupils have been learning about World War 1. They have looked at the reasons for and consequences of the war, learnt about life in the trenches and studies poems by Wilfred Owen and John McCrae. The week was rounded off with an art lesson where the children created beautiful poppies from charcoal and oil pastels.

Year 6 has been working on a patchwork quilt to mark this very strange year we have all experienced. On Friday, the children finished off the last stitches of their individual patches ready for Mrs Fairley to sew them all together over the Easter holidays.

Over £250 was raised for the Year 6's leaving celebrations by holding an Easter egg raffle. Thank you to all parents who supported this competition and well done to everyone who went home on Friday with an egg or two.

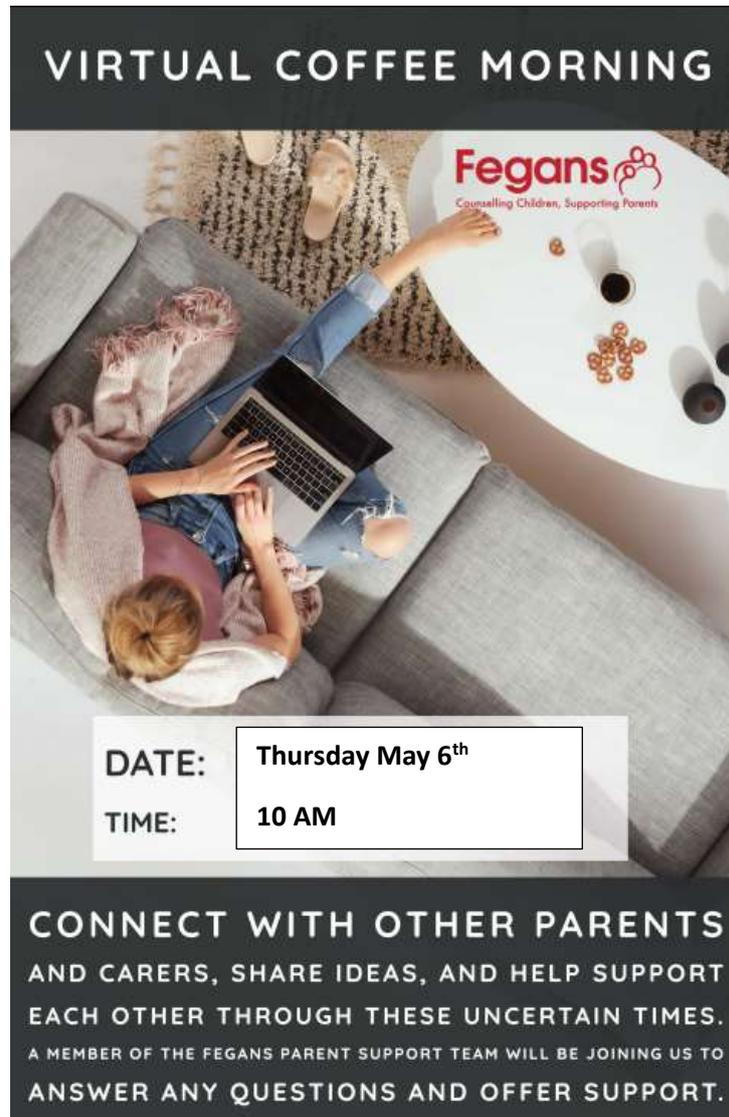


HEADTEACHER COMMENDATIONS

EYKR	Thomas shows an excellent attitude to learning every day, he always completes all his work with a smile and is keen to complete his tasks. His behaviour is exceptional and he is a good role model to the rest of the class.
EYG	Florence has such a positive and enthusiastic attitude to her learning in all areas. She has made fantastic progress so far this year. She is always polite and helpful, making her an excellent role model.
1A	Ella shows an excellent attitude to school. She is enthusiastic, keen to learn and works her hardest. Ella is always polite, kind and is a fantastic role model to others.
1SS	Cora sets an excellent example of behaviour and has a great attitude towards her learning. Her growth in self-confidence has seen her develop a good level of independence and determination with her work. Well done Cora!
2S	This term Reggie has shown an outstanding attitude towards his learning. Reggie has been a fabulous role model in the class, contributing to class discussions by sharing his ideas. Reggie has made real efforts in developing his learning and should be exceptionally proud of what he has achieved this term.
2O	Daisy for her fantastic efforts in her home learning and in school. Daisy has been a brilliant role model this term and goes above and beyond in every task set to her. She has made brilliant progress in her learning and enjoys challenging herself and pushing her learning on further.
3S	Harry. For having an outstanding attitude to learning. Harry always tries his absolute best and is extremely focused in all aspects of his learning. He consistently listens to feedback and is able to challenge himself in order to improve. Harry really is a valuable member of our 3S team!
3HS	Oliver. For consistently working hard and with determination throughout the term. Oliver has shown increased maturity in all aspects of school life. He listens to feedback and advice from adults and peers and has a positive, cheerful and engaging approach to all his exploits at school.
4LC	Kai has demonstrated an outstanding approach to his learning throughout lockdown as part of the key worker group, which he has sustained since returning to school after lockdown. His confidence in maths has grown and this is evident in the work he now produces, he should be very proud of himself. Kai is a very happy young man in class, who is friendly and happy with everyone, and is a pleasure to have in class. Well done Kai!
4NC	Tallulah consistently pushes herself to deepen and extend her knowledge in ALL of her learning. She takes her time to consider the task and produces work to the very highest standard. In class and on the playground she sets a great example to others. All this makes her a real asset to 4NC and Staplehurst School.
5W	This term Mia has consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning. She always puts in maximum effort, listens carefully and aims to improve her work whenever she can by asking for feedback. Mia is a friendly and determined member of the class and a great example to others.
5S	Izzy has shown a great deal of determination in all areas of the curriculum this term. She has been working more independently, accessing resources to help her and putting 100% effort into everything she has done. She is pleasure to have in the classroom. Well done.
6F	Max comes in every morning with a smile on his face and a friendly greeting. He is always polite and helpful and puts huge amounts of effort into his work. Max always has his hand up and makes interesting contributions during class discussions. Even when he finds the work difficult, Max never stops trying and always gives 100%.
6T	Over this term Jack has consistently challenged himself to be a more resilient learner, independently overcoming barriers to his learning and pushing himself to achieve.

Community News

- ✚ **Girls Football** : Staplehurst Monarchs have a Girls Football Open morning on 8th April from 9.45 to 12.00 at the Jubilee Playing Field, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst. All girls between 5 -16 are very welcome to come along either to try football or spend a couple of hours practising your skills. Covid regulations to be followed. If you wish to confirm a space please contact Staplehurst Monarch Youth FC via our Facebook or Instagram pages.
- ✚ Please join us for a Virtual Coffee Morning "As the path begins to clear" with Bonny Sullivan, Family Liaison Officer joined by Fegans PSP Co-Ordinator Katie Davis-Clifford, on Thursday 6th May at 10am.

A poster for a virtual coffee morning. At the top, the text 'VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING' is written in white on a dark background. Below this is a photograph of a person sitting on a grey sofa, working on a laptop. A white coffee table in front of them holds a coffee machine, a coffee cup, and some snacks. The Fegans logo, which includes the text 'Fegans' and 'Counselling Children, Supporting Parents', is overlaid on the photo. At the bottom of the poster, there is a white box containing the date and time: 'DATE: Thursday May 6th' and 'TIME: 10 AM'. Below the box, the text 'CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS AND CARERS, SHARE IDEAS, AND HELP SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES. A MEMBER OF THE FEGANS PARENT SUPPORT TEAM WILL BE JOINING US TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND OFFER SUPPORT.' is written in white on a dark background.

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING

Fegans
Counselling Children, Supporting Parents

DATE: Thursday May 6th

TIME: 10 AM

CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS AND CARERS, SHARE IDEAS, AND HELP SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.
A MEMBER OF THE FEGANS PARENT SUPPORT TEAM WILL BE JOINING US TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND OFFER SUPPORT.