



**Staplehurst School Newsletter No.10  
- Winter Term 2023**

## A message from the Senior Team



Dear Parents and Carers

This term is well underway and children are thoroughly enjoying their learning. It is always wonderful to celebrate their achievements and the learning they are proud of: we do this every week at our PRIDE values assembly and children regularly come to see me with their fantastic learning- as you can imagine this is the best part of my job!

Thank you to Year 6 for their class assembly today; it was wonderful to see how confidently they are able to talk about their learning by sharing their depth of knowledge and achievements in front of their KS2 peers and family members. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us today.

**Parent Voice:** thank you to everyone who completed our recent survey; I am delighted to share some headlines and areas that we will continue to work on to improve our provision:

- My child is happy at school: **96%**
- My child feels safe at school:**94%**
- The school makes sure that children are well behaved:**93%**
- The school has high expectations for my child: **96%**
- My child does well at this school: **99%**

- I would recommend this school: **93%**

#### **Parent Comments**

***'My child loves school and we have lots of positive interactions with staff and other pupils.'***

***'Staplehurst school have exceeded my expectations for a good primary school . The teachers are exceptional and provide outstanding care. The school deserves more recognition for the hard work and effort they put into the wellbeing and education of its students.'***

***'My child LOVES this school – from the teachers to the students to the challenging curriculum. The school integrates compassion into their teaching standards, emphasizes the importance of values, and builds leaders through each of their classes and lessons. Though it is a primary school, it allows for a lower student to teacher ratio, giving children more confidence when asking questions, engage in group activities, and opportunities for one-on-one time with the teachers. Teachers are passionate about seeing their students succeed. They are so great about sharing moments of pride they see within your child – their good behaviors and achievements; and they know the importance of getting the parents involved should an issue arise, and do it in a very respectful, approachable manner. Great team – great school!'***

#### **Areas we will continue to develop this year:**

- Continue to review our clubs offer
- Ensure that our pupils have opportunities to compete in competitive sporting fixtures with our local schools and across Kent
- Communication: aim to ensure it is timely and that PTA messages are not short notice
- Times Tables Rockstar: ensuring recognition of effort is acknowledged

Miss Davenport and the Senior Leadership Team

**Pride Certificates: 17/11/2023**

Name	Class	Reason
Piper Hill	EYG	Piper is always polite and helpful in school, tidying things away without being asked. She always listens on the carpet, putting her hand up when sharing her ideas. Piper works hard and enjoys sharing her work with the class, but also listening when other children share their work. Well done Piper!
Rose Ryder	EYF	Rose is always respectful of others in our class. She is polite to adults and her peers, always remembering to use her manners. Rose is always enthusiastic to learn and shows great respect in her work. She is an excellent role model for others in class. Well done Rose!
Jasmine Jameson	1A	Jasmine has produced excellent pieces of writing this week in her story about Rapunzel. She has carefully considered the adjectives she has used in her work. Jasmine shows high levels of respect towards her peers and the classroom environment. She ensures the classroom is always kept organised and tidy. Well done, Jasmine!
Obie Matthews	1C	Obie has had a fantastic week of writing this week. He has been showing high levels of respect in his work. Over the week Obie has managed to really imbed using finger spaces and full stops in his writing. Well done Obie
Conor BeedenCampbell	1FS	Conor was very careful considering his artwork and put the techniques he had learnt in to practice. His writing this week has been fantastic, and he has remembered to write all the way along the line. Well done!
Valdis Ennis	2C	Valdis is a kind, respectful member of the class. She has put in a lot of effort into her homework this week and has been enthusiastic in our History and Writing lessons. Well done Valdis, keep working hard!
Bella Wright	2K	Bella is really enjoying our Great Fire of London topic and demonstrated her enthusiasm by creating a wonderful poster. Bella is always a keen learner with high levels of respect in her work. It's wonderful seeing her apply herself and work really hard! Well done Bella, I am very proud!
Sarune Stoskute	3KS	Sarune has blossomed this term, she has been applying herself to every task she has been given showing a high level of respect towards her learning. She is now reaping the rewards. We are thrilled with the results of her recent assessments and she should be very proud of herself! Keep up the hard work Sarune!
Archie Ambrose	3G	Archie has demonstrated a high level of respect this week towards both his learning and his peers. I am thoroughly impressed with his fantastic positive attitude and he has set a great example to those around him by always being ready for his learning. Well done Archie!
Robert Vallance	4W	Robert has had an excellent week showing enthusiasm across many subjects. He particularly excelled in English this week, writing a beautiful poem with expanded noun phrases to tell the journey of a drop of water based on The Rhythm of the Rain.
Caitlin Gorham	4F	Caitlin consistently exhibits exceptional respect and exemplary listening skills in the classroom. This week, she particularly impressed the Year 4 team during Geography by demonstrating careful and attentive listening during the discussion on human and physical features along the River Thames. Thank you, Caitlin, for your focus and fantastic contributions during lessons! Keep up the good work.
Freya Edwards	5R	Freya has demonstrated respect everyday towards people throughout the school. She is always welcoming and willing to help anyone when they ask. Freya also has a positive attitude towards her learning and never complains even when she struggles. well done!
Mark Mehanikovs	5C	This week Mark has shown respect towards everyone in school. He enters the room with a smile and always says good morning. He has a positive attitude towards his learning and always tries his absolute best. A good week, well done!
Annalise Wilson	6S	This week Annalise has demonstrated a high level of respect towards adults and her peers, particularly during learning time—she is always ready to learn. This week she has worked particularly hard in English, retelling the poem of 'The Highwayman' as a narrative. Well done Annalise!
Lilly McPherson	6JS	This week Lily has demonstrated respect towards all her peers and teachers. Lily also demonstrated her exceptional talents in writing - producing a superb narrative based on 'The Highwayman' and even demonstrated her musical talents during our Y6 assembly. Well done Lily, another wonderful week!



## Odd Socks Day - Children in need



Well done and thank you to all those who celebrated and donated - **we raised £199.22!**

### Key dates

#### **Friday 24th November (see below)**

World Week: There will be an opportunity for parents to view the work the children have produced

#### **Friday 1st December (see below)**

Year 4 Assembly 9am in Junior hall

#### **Friday 1st December**

Parent's Forum

#### **Saturday 2nd December**

PTA Peter Pan Pantomime 1pm and 5pm

#### **4th - 6th December**

Santa Shop open

#### **Monday 11th December**

Infant Nativity Rehearsal

**Tuesday 12th December**

KS1 Nativity (two performances 9.30 & 2pm)

**Wednesday 13th December**

EYFS Nativity 9.30

Christmas lunch and jumper day

**Thursday 14th December 2023**

KS2 Carol Rehearsal

**Friday 15th December 2023**

KS2 Carol Concert

## Parental Engagement: support for parents and carers



Based on the feedback received through both our parent forum and last year's drop-ins, we have shaped our support for parents and carers to support the needs raised. We value parental input as it helps us shape and tailor our sessions and opportunities to support your children to achieve. We will be focusing on the following areas and offering the following opportunities over the next two terms:

### **Term 2**

Maths subject support video **Week beginning 20.11.23**

Parent forum - **1.12.23**

Open discussion afternoon - Relationships and Sex and Health Education **27.11.23**

Parents into read (Every Friday)

We welcome feedback from these opportunities and look forward to supporting you at home this year.

Many Thanks

Mr. Williams-Jones

## Class Assemblies

We will be starting our class assembly programme for the year in term two this year. We would like to invite parents/carers in to share in the wonderful learning that has been taking place. The assembly schedule is as follows:

**Term 2 – KS2- Year 4** (Ancient Civilizations) – **Friday 1st December 2023** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

**KS2 - Year 6** (Kingdom of Benin) **Friday 17th November 2023** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

**Term 3 – KS2 - Year 5** (Medicine through time) - **Friday 2nd February 2024** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

**KS1- Year 1** (History of shopping) - **Friday 9th February 2024** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

**Term 4 – KS2 - Year 3** (Stone-Age) - **Friday 22nd March** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

**KS1 - Year 2** (Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole) **Friday 15th March** at 9.00 am in the junior hall

**EYFS: Thursday March 28th**

We look forward to welcoming you in to school.

Many Thanks

Mr Williams-Jones

## Attendance

**Whole school attendance for this week was 93.3%**

**Whole School Attendance *from September* is: 94.3%**

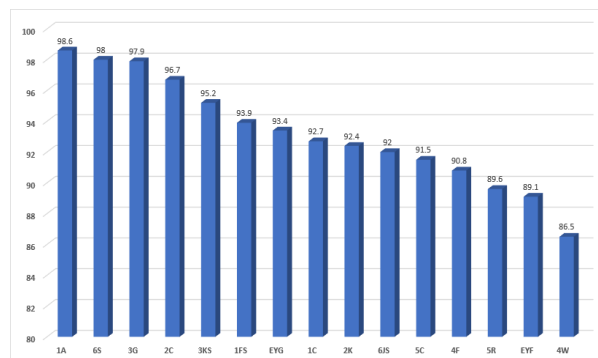
**National School Attendance is currently: 94.4%**



**Punctuality Reminder: Did you know that 5 minutes late each day is equivalent to 3 days lost, 10 minutes late each day is equal to 6.5 days lost, and 15 minutes late each day, 10 days lost. Please ensure your child arrives on time to prevent them being marked as late and missing their phonics/reading lesson.**

**Please remember to report your child's absence by 8:30am, either by calling the school office or emailing [attendance@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk) - Please also let us know if your child is due to attend an after school activity club so we can cancel their provision.**

**REMINDER - Pick-up time at the end of the day is 3:15pm. Please let us know, by emailing your child's year group, if there are going to be any changes to your child's expected collection arrangements. For example: the person collecting, unless they are already on the School Pick-Up list. If your child has not been collected by 3:30pm, they will be taken to After School Club and a charge may be incurred.**



**Well done to 1A, the weekly winners with 98.6%.**

What attendance means to us -

100% - Excellent attendance

97% - Good attendance

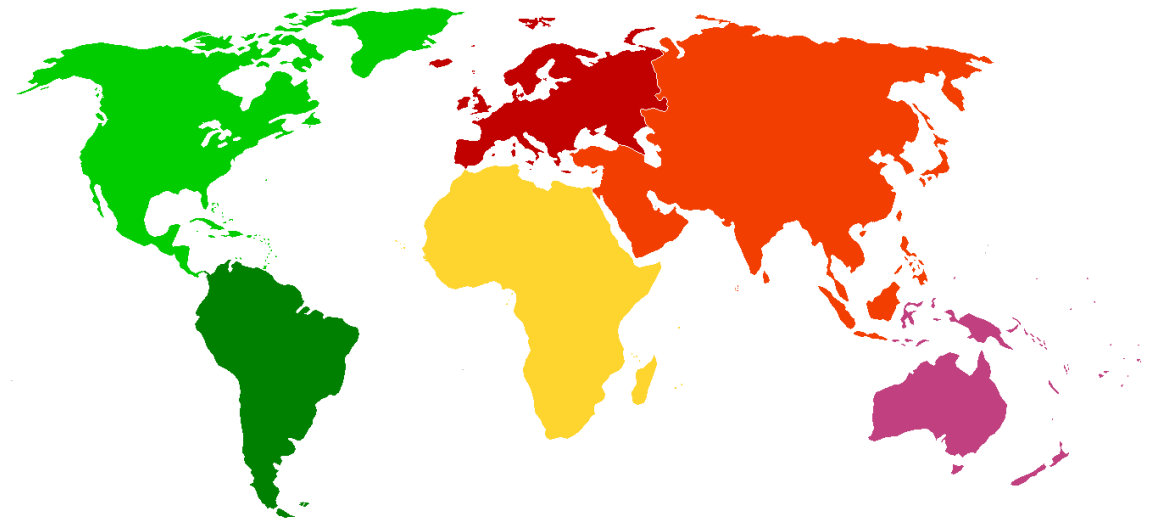
95% - Satisfactory attendance

Below 95% - Unsatisfactory attendance

Below 90% - Persistently absent

Below 50% - Severely absent

## World Week 2023



Next week children will be learning about a specific city in each year group, focusing on global citizenship. This will form part of their continued geographical learning here at Staplehurst School. Pupils will consider migration over the centuries, how the movement of people has effected the indigenous people of the area and how the land use has changed as cities have developed.

There will be an opportunity for parents to view the work the children have produced on **Friday 24th November at 3pm in their classrooms from 2.45pm.**

## EYFS

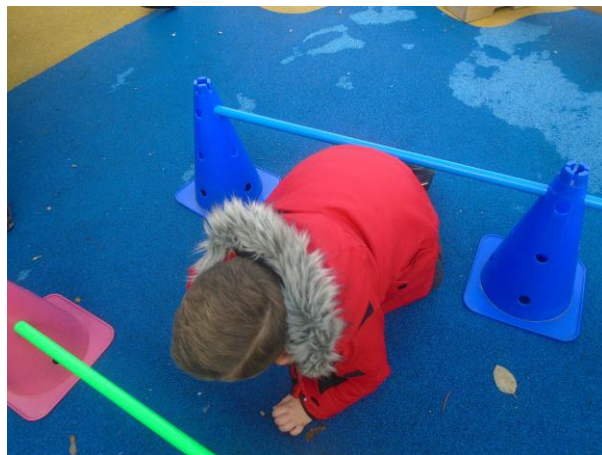


In maths this week, EYFS have been using positional language to create obstacle courses during child-initiated learning. We used various equipment to enable us to travel over, under and through. We found that some of our obstacles were either too high or low so we had to adapt some.

'I'm going to make it smaller because I want to jump over it....Its easy now!'

'I can't go under it because it's near to the floor'

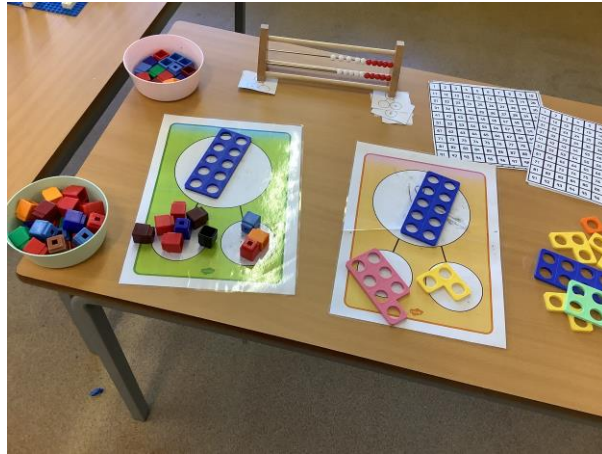
This week we have also been learning about the festival of Diwali. We used wet chinks to create Rangoli patterns on the tuff spots. We also made Rangoli patterns with Numicon and with various pulses.



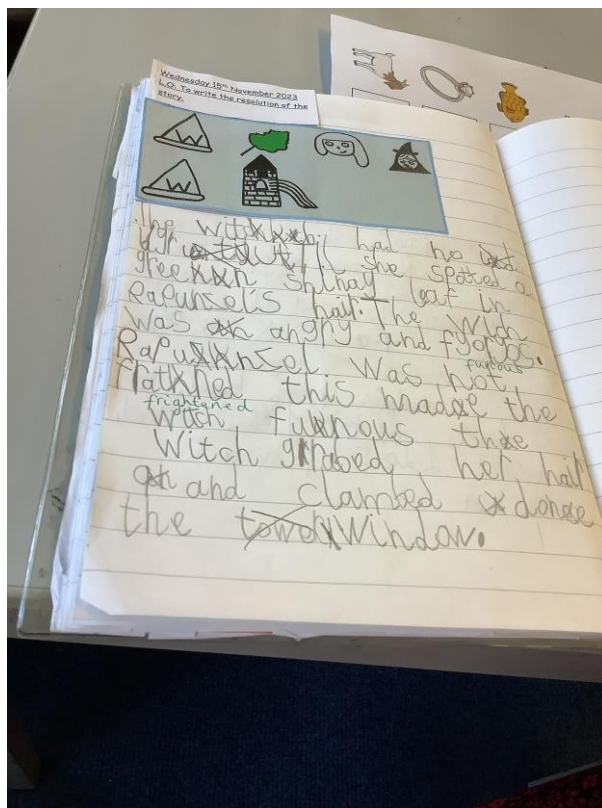


Year 1





1 - We are always using our exploring time to reinforce concepts taught in our formal lessons. Here you can see we have some resources out for the children to explore the number bonds to 10.



2 - In English we are writing the story of Rapunzel. The children have done fantastically well with this and here you can see some ambitious vocabulary being used. It is wonderful to see the children using their phonics in their writing.



## Year 2



Year 2 have continued to enjoy our topic of The Great Fire of London. The children wowed us with their amazing posters! They wrote interesting facts, drew wonderful pictures and were able to show how much they have learnt so far!

We wanted to share just some of them with you!







## Year 3



This week has been another interesting and exciting week for Year 3.

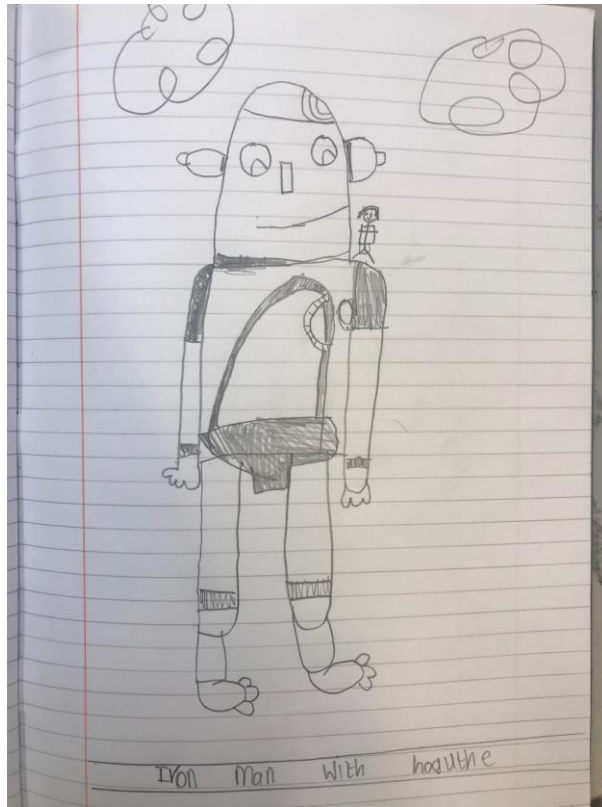
In English, Year 3 have been writing a non-chronological report on the character 'The Iron Man'. They have been writing about his diet, appearance and habitat, they particularly enjoyed writing the diet paragraph as they were incredibly imaginative about what an iron giant would have for dinner.

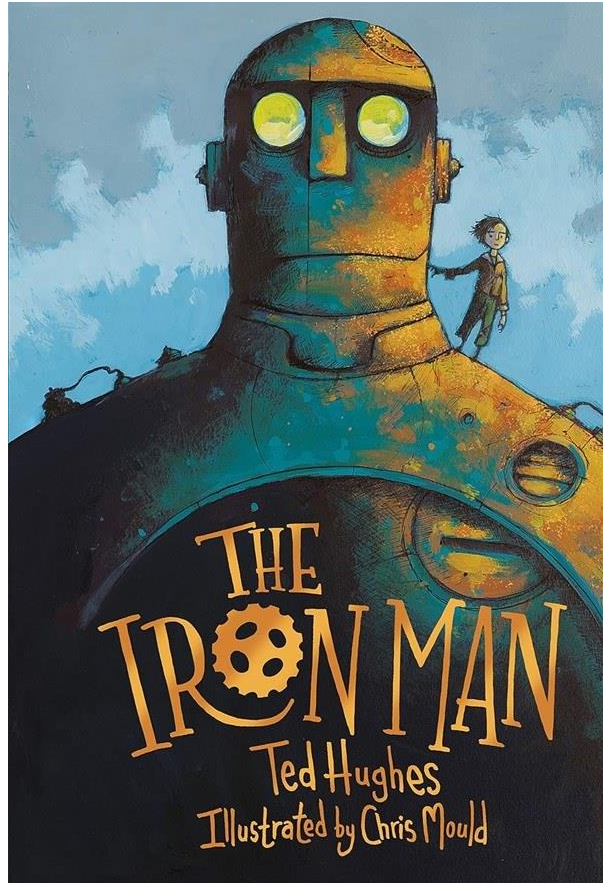
They have continued their learning on a balanced diet in science and considered the effects of not getting the right nutrients.

In Maths, the children have been starting to share objects into equal groups and have been practicing their times tables.

### Diet

Have you ever wondered what Iron man's diet is? Well if you read on you will find out. He mostly eats iron such as cars, vans, lorrys and even wired fence. Well thats an incredible diet isnt it he's definitely not a





Year 4



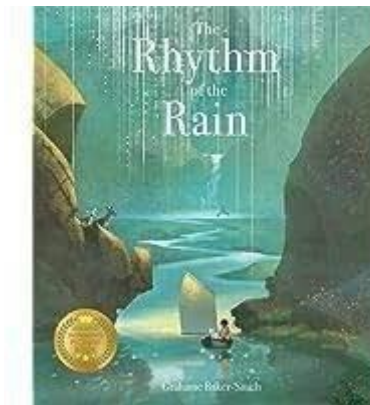
YEAR 3











We have had a very busy week in Year 4! In science, we continued our investigations into the properties of materials by learning about heating and cooling. The children observed how different materials such as egg white, butter and candle wax reacted to heating and cooling- look what happened when they warmed chocolate in their hands!

In English, they wrote some amazing poems based on the journey of a drop of water in the book *The Rhythm of the Rain*. Both classes used expanded noun phrases to beautifully describe everything the drop of water encountered on its adventure.

We also continued to learn about rivers by focusing on the River Thames in geography- using maps we traced the Thames from source to mouth and named physical and natural features along its route.

## Year 5



# YEAR 5

In Year 5 this week children have continued their learning in geography and learnt how relief is shown on a map. They have discussed contour lines, spot height and shading on maps.

Within English, they have continued their study of the book Cosmic. They have edited and improved their persuasive adverts and also learnt about modal verbs and adverbs of possibility as part of their SPAG learning.

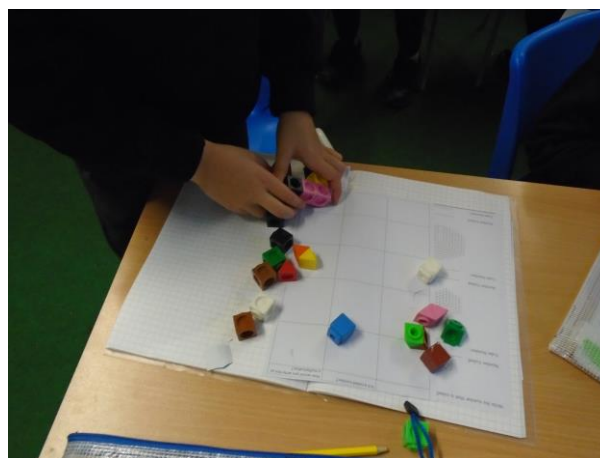
In science, children have investigated air resistance and through scientific enquiry, they tested different sized parachutes to identify how to increase and decrease the rate of fall.

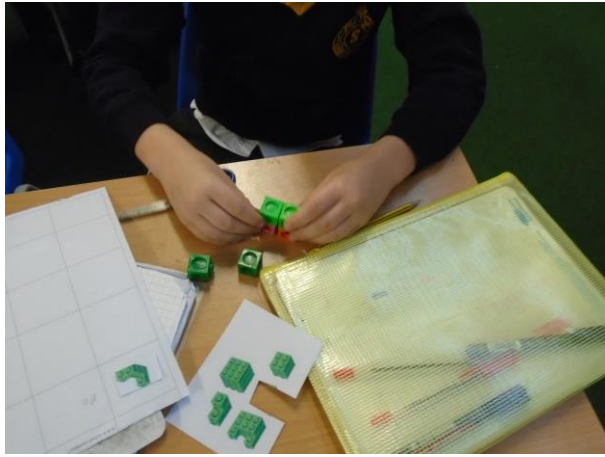
In maths, children have been investigating square and cube numbers using manipulatives.



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land elevation is shown on maps by contour lines, shading and spot height. Contour lines can be close together which means that it is steep but if they are further away it means it is flat. Spot height is a little blue triangle used to show the top of the mountain and how far above it is from sea level. Shading has a key next to it to show what colour the height is. Maps that show height are called topographical maps.





Year 6



This week year 6 continued their learning about Benin and delivered a wonderful assembly to KS2 and parents. The assembly shared their growing knowledge of the Kingdom of Benin, taking our children and families on a journey through the 900 year period. We also had some exceptional live performances from some children. A great week, well done everybody!

## Music



# Can you Sing or Play an Instrument?



Are you in Year 3-6?



Would you like to perform a solo piece or duet at the Carol Concert on 15/12/23?

If so...

- 1 Start practicing something suitable for the KS2 Christmas concert.
- 2 Ask someone at home to email Mrs Seal ([pseal@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:pseal@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk)) with your name, class and instrument.
- 3 She will invite you to audition in the Music room on Wednesday 29th November



*Good Luck!*

