

Staplehurst School



NEWSLETTER

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

SCHOOL NEWS

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

Wow! What a fantastic event the Christmas Fair was on Saturday. There was a lovely atmosphere in both halls and our wonderful PTA raised over £1,000 for the school. The refreshments in the Infant Hall were extremely popular and we would also like to thank Mr Glazier for organising the Choir to sing carols to enhance the Christmas mood.

KS1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Thank you to everyone who came to see our production of Sugar Plum this week. It was a wonderful performance on both days and the children all danced, sung and acted brilliantly! 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.



We would also like to thank you for your generosity as the money raised from donations was an amazing £296.40 which will be going to Kent Air Ambulance. Thank you.

LITERACY COMPETITION - YEAR 5

Four children from Year 5 represented Staplehurst in a Literacy Competition at The High Weald Academy on Thursday. They competed against four other primary schools in areas such as spelling, punctuation and grammar – competing against the clock, as a team and one on one. We are so proud to announce that our team won – so a huge well done to Zac, Izzy, Isabel and Ewan. Thanks also to Mrs Craig for supporting them and to the parents who transported the children. A really excellent team effort!



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

On Wednesday the choir went to sing to the residents at Abbotsleigh Care Home, and on Thursday they sang to the residents at 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.



CHEMICAL REACTIONS YEAR 5

Year 5 have been chemists in Science this week, looking at chemical reactions and how they create new materials. We added bicarbonate of soda to vinegar in a sealed bag - and waited for the explosion! The children realised that this was down to the creation of a gas (carbon dioxide) Some of the groups were more successful than others - but we all enjoyed learning outside.



HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday some children who attend Premier Sport Handball Club represented Staplehurst School at a Handball Tournament held at High Weald Sports Centre, Cranbrook. The children all played extremely well, showed true sportsmanship and were great ambassadors for the school. There were six teams participating and Staplehurst were worthy runners up. Very well done.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 13 December was Christmas Lunch Day and 389 meals were served. The staff all wore something festive and served the children a delicious Christmas meal.

MENU CHANGE – TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER

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

- Fish Fingers
- Tomato Sauce
- Vegetable Fajitas
- Chunky Chips
- Baked Beans
- Mixed Salad
- Mixed Fruit Yoghurts
- Fruit/Fruit Pots
- Ice Cream
- Cookie

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Date	KS1 Assembly 9am	KS2 Assembly 2.45pm
5 January	Early Years	Year 6
12 January	Year 1	Year 5
19 January	Year 2	Year 4
26 January	Early Years	Year 3
2 February	Year 1	Year 6
9 February	Year 2	Year 5
23 February	Early Years	Year 4
2 March	Year 1	Year 3
9 March	Year 2	Year 6
16 March	Early Years	Year 5
23 March	Year 1	Year 4

HELEN GRANT CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNER

We've been sent a lovely photograph from the office of Helen Grant who came and visited last week. Our winner Amelia C from 2KS is pictured with Headteacher Cathy Farthing, Helen Grant MP, and Debbie Lewis (right) from Tuition Academy the sponsors of the competition.



SPRING TERM LUNCH MENUS

Today 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.

EARLY YEARS NEWS

There will be a special edition of Early Years News to round off the term on Tuesday.

ONLINE SAFETY

It is hugely important that parents closely monitor what their child(ren) is/are watching on-line. The school include messages regarding on-line safety whenever possible in the teaching but it is important this message is reiterated at home. If you have any concerns regarding the content of what your child views on-line please contact the Inclusion Office.

SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 18.12.17 Year 3, 6, 5, 4
w/c 01.01.18 Year 6, 5, 4, 3

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education's target for attendance is 96%. We always strive for 100%.

Whole school attendance

Attendance for the whole school for the week is **92.12%**.

Class attendance

Special congratulations to **2KS** who achieved the highest attendance this week with **97.04%**.

ADOPTIONS – RECORD MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS

Did you know that if you are the parent of an adopted child it is necessary for the school records to be updated to reflect this. Please let us know in confidence if this affects you.

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 by TEXT and EMAIL.

SCHOOL JACKETS

Now that the weather is changing may we remind you that we do keep in stock reversible waterproof fleeces at school. The jackets have the school logo on the front and light reactive triangles on them so they can be seen in the dark. The jackets are excellent value at £15.

PTA NEWS

CHRISTMAS TEDDY WINNER

Mrs Clark was the lucky winner of Name the Bear Competition at the Christmas Fair. The winning name was Baloo. Congratulations Mrs Clark.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PTA would like to say a huge thank you to all who came and supported the Christmas Fair on Saturday. The Fair raised over £1,000. We would also like to thank everyone who helped man stalls and helped to set and clear up after. To run a Fair is a mammoth task and this would not be possible without the continued support of staff and parents. So thank you once again.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

The draw is taking place today, 15 December. Winners will be announced in due course. Good luck!

COMMUNITY NEWS

STAPLEHURST FREE CHURCH

Tomorrow, **Saturday 16 December** from **10.00am to 2.00pm** you can meet Santa in his winter wonderland grotto at Staplehurst Free Church

Admission is only £2 and includes a small gift. There will also be an opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping and find that extra special Christmas gift on the craft stall.

Why not stay for lunch in the café and try out the festive additions to the cafe menu at what will be the last café session before 2018!

Also, the church welcomes you to go and be reminded of the events surrounding the very first Christmas as on **Sunday 17 December at 10:30am** when their Kid's Church will lead our Nativity Service.

ANGEL FESTIVAL – ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

All Saints' Church would like to welcome you to take part in Staplehurst Community Angel Festival at All Saints' Church on 16 and 17 December.

To participate, all you need to do is make an Angel, which will be displayed in the Church for everyone to enjoy. Entry is free to all.

Angels can be made from any material and be any size. They can be made from papier mache, wood, feathers, clay, abstract art, paintings, photography, cards and much more in any size or form but please attach to (or place beside) your Angel, a card with a short note explaining what your angel means to you.

Angels can be placed in the Church during the week leading up to and including Friday 15 December using the boards provided (which will be laid over some of the pews), tables, window sills and floor. Please do not use any "blu tack", nails, staples, drawings pins or other sharp objects on walls, pews or general church furnishings. Angels should be free standing.

Anybody who would like to enter an Angel, please contact:

All Saints Church Parish Office on 01580 891258 or e-mail allsaintsstaplehurst@enterprise.net.

If you wish to illuminate your Angel, please use battery operated lights as there are NO electricity points that can be used in church.

The winning Angel will be announced at the Nine Lesson & Carol Service on Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 19 December

KS2 Christmas Performance 9.30am
End of Term

Wednesday 20 December

INSET Day

Thursday 4 January 2018

Start of Spring Term (Term 3)

ADMIN

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

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

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