



**Staplehurst School Newsletter -No.01-
Winter Term 2023**

Welcome Back from the Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher: Miss Davenport



Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to welcome you all back to a new and exciting year at Staplehurst School. I hope you had a wonderful and restful summer break, filled with cherished memories and moments of joy.

As we begin this new academic year together, I want to extend my warmest greetings to our returning children and families, as well as extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new children who are joining us for the first time. Each and every one of you plays a crucial role in making our school community a vibrant and inclusive place of learning.

I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the year ahead. Our dedicated and passionate staff members have been hard at work over the summer, preparing engaging lessons, creating welcoming classrooms, and organising exciting events and activities that will spark curiosity and ignite the love of learning in our children.

At Staplehurst School, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and inspiring environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our school's core values of positivity, respect, independence and excellence will continue to guide us on this educational journey.

As we embark on this new year together, I encourage open communication and collaboration between our school, parents, and the community. Your involvement and support are invaluable in helping our students reach their full potential.

I would like to express my gratitude to our wonderful staff for their dedication and unwavering commitment to our children's success. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and foster a positive and inclusive learning environment.

I am looking forward to a year filled with growth, achievement, and memorable moments. Let us embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead with enthusiasm and determination. Together, we can make this school year truly exceptional and rewarding experience for every child.

Please enjoy reading the messages from our senior leaders and important information and reminders for the autumn term

Warm regards

Miss Davenport

Welcome from the Deputy Headteacher

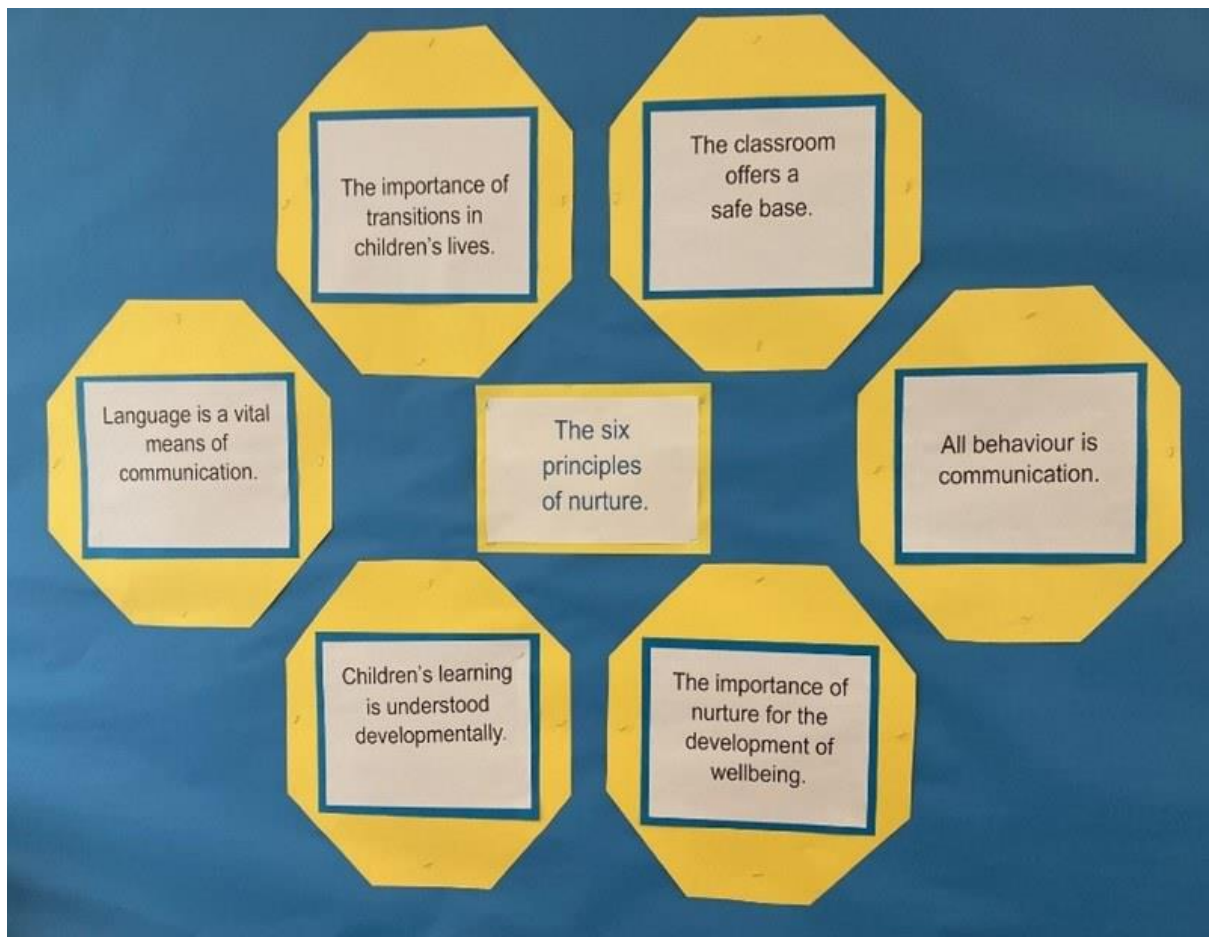


Welcome back everyone! How quickly the summer flies by and here we are back ready to learn again. It is so lovely to see so many smiling faces skipping into school and a very warm welcome to all our new children who have started in EYFS. For new parents and carers, I am Mr Williams-Jones - the

Deputy Headteacher. I lead on curriculum and teaching and learning across the school. A particular highlight of my week is singing assembly, where I get the pleasure of playing my guitar and singing with children!

Let's have a really positive start and I look forward to seeing everyone out and about on the playground!

Inclusion Update





I am Mr Tate, the new Assistant Head for Inclusion and SENCo. I've served as a teacher at Staplehurst School for the last six years, supporting children with a broad range of different backgrounds and needs. In my new role, I am committed to providing all our pupils with the opportunities they need to succeed and achieve their full potential. You'll find me supporting children and families across the school community and have this week particularly enjoyed seeing children settle into their new classes and routines. I'm looking forward to continuing to make the school a highly inclusive place where children always come first.

School Business Manager



I am Mrs Hay, School Business Manager. I have worked at Staplehurst School for 2 years, and have experience of school business management in a diverse range of schools of 21 years. My responsibilities include Finance, Human Resources and Premises, a wide and varied role which I love!

I have a fantastic team in the office, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Mahoney and Miss Forster (who has replaced Miss Skinner whilst she is on Maternity leave). Please remember the opening hours of the office are **8:30am to 4:00pm**. Mr Piper is our school caretaker, and together we manage the school site.

We offer a great wraparound care service at Staplehurst School, we would remind parents to ensure that they pre book and pay for places on Scopay in advance, as spaces fill up quickly!

We look forward to supporting all our children and families through this next year of their school life.

EYFS



I am Mrs Golding and I am the Phase leader for Early Years. I also teach one of the Early Years classes. I have worked at Staplehurst now for nine years and I have always taught EYFS. I am passionate about the importance of early education and its impact on a child's future learning and development. I particularly love teaching literacy and sharing the many books and I own with the children! As an Early Years teacher and Phase leader, I am keen to ensure a smooth transition to our school not only for the children, but also for their families. We are proud of our transition from nursery to school and each year I enjoy visiting the children in their pre-school settings before they start school. It has been wonderful to welcome our new children and parents this week and I am looking forward to building a strong partnership between home and school.

EYFS Phase leader

This week we welcomed our new EYFS children and it was lovely to see them all proudly wearing their new school uniforms. Starting school is a frightening experience for some children so we have been amazed at how well they have come into their new classrooms. Some children have even begun to leave their parents before reaching the classroom door! We are also amazed with how quickly they are learning the routines in classes, putting their bags, bottles and hats away independently. During child-initiated learning, we are already beginning to see children developing their imaginations and working together with friends to build models and recreate experiences in the role play.

We are so proud of our new EYFS children and are looking forward to the year ahead!

Key Stage 1

I am Mrs Knight and I am the Phase Leader for Key Stage 1. I also teach 2K Class. I am new to Staplehurst School this year however I have previously worked across EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 for 11 years in a variety of schools so I am very familiar with this Key stage and love teaching in it! As KS1 Lead I want to ensure the children start off the year in their new classes smoothly and it has been great to see all the children happy and settled already by the end of this week.

We have jumped straight into our learning this week with Year 1 looking at the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'. The children looked at the different materials that the pig's houses were made of and also created puppets to support with retelling this familiar tale. Year 2 are looking at the book 'Paddington'. The children made predictions using information from the front cover and blurb, as well as thinking of adjectives to describe our main character's appearance.

With all the hard work that has already happened this week, I can't wait to see how the children all grow and progress over the coming academic year!



1 - Mrs Knight - KS1 Phase Leader

Key Stage 2

I am Mr. Smith and I am the Phase leader for Key Stage 2. This will be my 4th year at Staplehurst, having spent the previous 3 years as Key Stage 1 lead. I am extremely passionate about developing children's knowledge and future learning. As Key Stage 2 lead, I am keen to ensure that children make a smooth transition into new year groups as well as by the end of year preparing them for the next stage in their education. It has been brilliant this week to welcome all of our children back with beaming smiles and look forward to that continuing as we move forward. Welcome back KS2!

Key Stage 2 Phase Leader



Maths

As the Mathematics Lead at Staplehurst School, it is my pleasure to welcome you back to the new academic year and to our wonderful community.

Firstly, I must begin by stating how fantastic it has been to witness the children return to school with such enthusiasm. They have made a great start to their mathematics learning – there has been a real buzz in the classroom around place value!

As we begin the new year, I would like to remind you of our 'How To Help Your Child with Maths at Home' video which can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLf1QtruvGk>

I would also like to extend my gratitude to everybody who attended our parent drop-in sessions last year. We are most grateful for your feedback and look forward to sharing the videos you requested over the coming terms. The videos will focus on the following topics: subitising, number bonds, times tables, and fractions.

It has been great to see that our children were accessing their Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots accounts throughout the holidays. Congratulations to our most improved players:

- Alice Wichall
- Jemima Syred
- Sophie Staines

We are very proud of you for your hard work and commitment to learning. Well done – keep up the good work!

Finally, we will be continuing to share our termly editions of Staplehurst Maths News this year. If you have any photographs for our 'Maths at Home' initiative, please kindly send them to year4@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Hannah Farrell



English

Welcome back to a new year together at Staplehurst. A warm welcome to our new EYFS parents. My name is Mrs Johnson and I am the English lead here at Staplehurst. It has been wonderful to see so many of you back in school and sharing your summer reading adventures! Well done to those of you who took part in the local library summer reading challenge! This has been a great success, with many children taking part. If you completed the challenge and received your certificate, then please do bring into school so that we can celebrate your achievements in assembly.

I want to take this opportunity to remind parent about the expectations of home reading. This week, your child will be sent home with a reading log book and a reading book that is matched to their phonic stage and reading ability. It is important that reading routines are established at home to best support your child in their reading journey. Find 10 minutes within your day to hear your child read and interact with them about their book. Some parents find breakfast time is a good time, others find before dinner-whatever works best for your family! This little moment of the day can have a huge impact on their confidence levels, especially when done every day.

In your child's contact book you can make a brief comment about how they have read, as well as the date/title of the book/page number if needed. Please see the attached examples of what you may write to the teacher. It is important to note that the reading log book is not a form of communication for parents to share pick up information/concerns. Any issues or concerns should be raised with the class teacher either at the door on the day or via your year group email.

Happy reading everyone!

Mrs Johnson



Parental comment ideas for your child's reading log book.

Below are some example comments which may help you when writing your child's reading log book to describe how your child has read at home. To build a realistic picture and encourage your child appropriately, it is essential for both parent and teacher to have an open and honest dialogue and as such, it is important to record both positive and developmental dialogue.

- Read familiar words independently.
 - Segmented (broke down the sounds in the word) and blended (put the sounds together to say the whole word) some words they weren't sure of.
 - He/she could recognise the (oa, igh, ee etc) phoneme when reading the words.
 - Showed a good understanding of the text by answering questions.
 - Able to predict what happens next.
 - Used their phonics to read new words.
 - Discussed the story.
 - Used great expression.
 - Self-corrected themselves independently.
 - Read with fluency.
 - Remembered many words by sight.
 - Could recall words previously read.
 - Could read Tricky Words/ 'Common Exception Words' within the text.
-
- Struggled to blend in order to read the word as a whole.
 - Struggled with the (oa, igh, ee etc) phoneme.
 - Guessed the words.
 - Needed some support with
 - Struggled to understand what the text/story was about.
 - Was not engaged with this book
 - Used the punctuation well (Paused at full stops, used expression for exclamation marks etc..)
 - Was able to relate what they had read to own experiences.

Attendance

Every year we talk about attendance and how important it is. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future will be affected if they don't attend school regularly. Setting good attendance patterns from an early age is crucial, if your child doesn't attend school regularly, they will struggle to keep up with their school work. Poor attendance can also affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school is very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class. Please try to be punctual. Our school doors open at 8.35am and close at 8.50am.

Punctuality



How does punctuality affect attendance?	
Minutes late each day	School Days Lost Over Academic Year
5 minutes	3 days
10 minutes	6.5 days
15 minutes	10 days
20 minutes	13 days
30 minutes	19 days

Is your child an Attendance HERO?

Arriving late means your child misses out on vital learning. Your child's phonics/reading sessions start at 9am every day. It may also make your child feel uncomfortable or embarrassed and less prepared for the day ahead.

Any child arriving after 8:50am is late. Arrival between 8:50am and 9:20am, when our registers close, will mean your child is marked with an 'L' code on the register. 5 or more 'L' codes could result in you being invited to attend a meeting to discuss how we can support you to ensure your child arrives on time every day.

Any time after 9:20am, when registers close, your child will be marked with a 'U' code, which is an unauthorised absence. 10 incidents of late arrival after the registers have closed (U code) during any possible 100 school sessions leads to a Penalty Notice Warning Letter.

Attendance Rewards 2023-4

At the end of the school year there will be a whole school celebration of attendance. The criteria for taking part is any ONE of the following:

- Achieving 100% Attendance in ANY one term (6 Week period)
- Achieving our School target for overall attendance of 98%
- Receiving a 'Most Improved Attendance Certificate'. This means your child could have a significant period of absence in a term followed by a term with no absence or very little absence.

Please Note:

- **We appreciate that over a year children may suffer from some sporadic illness which means that their attendance falls below our school target; following sustained improvement they will also be entitled to take part in the celebration.**
- Any additional needs and ongoing medical appointments will of course be taken into consideration.
- We will keep you informed of your child's level of attendance at both Parents' Evenings and in the End of Year Report.

- Every child's attendance is monitored weekly by our attendance team; if we have any concerns we ensure that families and children receive the support required to ensure their child attends school.

Uniform

School Uniform for Staplehurst School

KEY STAGE 1 School Uniform (Reception to Year 2)	
WINTER	
Grey trousers or shorts	Grey skirt, grey trousers or shorts
White polo shirts	White polo shirt
NO tie	NO tie
School jumper	School cardigan or jumper
Grey socks	Grey or white socks, or grey, navy blue or black tights
Black shoes (not trainers)	Black shoes (not high heels, boots or trainers)
KEY STAGE 2 School Uniform (Years 3 to 6)	
WINTER	
Grey trousers or shorts	Grey skirt, grey trousers or shorts
White shirt	White blouse
School tie	School tie
School jumper	School cardigan or jumper
Grey socks	Grey or white socks, or grey, navy blue or black tights
Black shoes (not trainers)	Black shoes (not high heels, boots or trainers)

Uniform Lots of our children looked very smart in their uniform on the first day back. School uniform at Staplehurst School is as follows:

Parent Parking



Please can I remind parents to park safely when dropping off and picking up each day. You will have noticed, that there are double yellow lines directly opposite the school gates, please do not park on the yellow markings as this is illegal and will result in a fine if you are caught on camera by the school safety car. Please refrain from dropping children in the middle of the road and please also be mindful of our neighbours and try not to block driveways.

Pride Certificates 8th September 2023

Class	Name	Reason
1A	Ethan Watkins	Ethan has made an excellent start to life in year 1. He has demonstrated a positive attitude towards all learning activities and has been a superb role model to his peers. In science, he was able to use his knowledge of different animals to group them by their characteristics. Well done Ethan, keep it up!
1C	Leo Brooks	Leo has had a brilliant start to year 1. His positive attitude has been superb. Leo has taken STAR fully on board; he is sitting beautifully, tracks the teacher with his eyes and regularly puts his hand up to answer questions during discussions. What an excellent role model. Well done Leo.
1FS	Belle-Heidi Winters	Belle has settled really well into Hockney Class. She has demonstrated a fantastic, positive attitude towards her learning and given every task her full effort. Belle has also shown great independence this week. Keep up the great work, Belle!
2C	Merrideth Paxton	Merrideth has made a fantastic start in Year 2 and has been a great role model to all of her peers. During independent time, she always ensure that her work is completed with 110% effort, which is amazing to see. A true superstar! Well done!
2K	Olivia Vine	Olivia has had an amazing start to Year 2. Her positivity and enthusiasm has been lovely to see this week! Well done for all your hard work Olivia, I'm so proud of you already!
3SK	Carmen Gorham	Carmen has demonstrated a fantastic attitude to her learning this week. She has asked sensible questions at the appropriate times and gone the extra mile to make her work the best it can be. What an amazing start to the year! Keep it up!
3G	Alfie Porter	Alfie has had an excellent start to Year 3. I am thoroughly impressed with his positive attitude towards all of his learning. This week, he has written a great setting description using his 5 senses to help him describe and used a range of adjectives to add interest. I am also impressed with his teamwork in computing. He has been an excellent role model to his peers. Keep up the good work Alfie!
4W	Rosanna Brazil	Rosanna has had a fantastic start to Year 4. She has shown a fantastic attitude to learning by listening carefully, joining in discussions and completing her work with real determination to succeed. Well done!
4F	Abe Draper	Abe has returned to school with a great deal of positivity and enthusiasm. His dedication to learning, active participation in the classroom and outstanding efforts with his homework have been remarkable. Well done, Abe! Keep up the good work.
5R	Ameilia Sanders	Ameilia has demonstrated a keen sense of learning in all subjects. she has continuously demonstrated a positive attitude and a will to learn even if it seems tricky. She has also always tried to work out the answer by herself before asking for help. Well done Ameilia!
5C	Brooke Stevens	This week Brooke has demonstrated an outstanding attitude to her learning and in completing her written work. Brooke has approached each activity calmly and with determination. She has demonstrated a positive approach to the beginning of Year 5, a great start to the year. Well done!
6S	Lewis Vanoli	Lewis has made a fantastic start back at school and has settled into Year 6 brilliantly. Lewis has demonstrated great positivity towards all aspects of his learning, fully participating in lessons, working independently and demonstrating exemplary behaviour in class and around school. He has already shown that he is a great role model here at Staplehurst School. Well done Lewis, keep it up!
6JS	Benjamin Hoad	Benjamin has made an outstanding return to school this year and has started the year with great positivity and confidence. Benjamin has been willing to participate in all class discussions too! A great start to life in Year 6, well done Benjamin!

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