

Steam Mills Primary

12.01.2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome back to school (if I can say that, considering the cold weather)! It was lovely to see so many families at the Christmas events and thank you for your support.

We have had a great start back. It is lovely to see the children fresh after the break and enjoying their new topics.

Knowledge organisers are going on the website, so please have a look for the updated information. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the class staff.

Mrs Fawkes, Mrs Thomas and I continue to be delighted with the standard of provision at the school, which is continually monitored by us, subject leaders, Governors and our external school advisor. If you have any feedback, queries or suggestions, please contact the school office.

Best wishes for 2024

Mrs Davis

Christingle

We thought you may like to see some photos from the end of last term of our Christingle celebrations, this is Class 3 and 4. Thank you again to Tesco's in Cinderford for the kind donation of oranges.



Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

4th Sept —22nd December
Half Term: 30th Oct—3rd Nov

Spring term 2024

8th January—22nd March
Half Term: 12th—16th Feb

Summer Term 2024

8th April—22nd July
Half Term: 27th—31st May

INSET days:

24th May and
22nd July

Diary Dates

January

26th FoSM Meeting
23rd &
24th Y5 Bikeability Training
24th Rags 2 Riches Collection
25th Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening
30th Reading Café

February

8th Valentines Discos
9th End of Term 3
19th Start of Term 4
20th C2 Start Gymnastics

March

15th Reading Café
20th Scholastic Book Fair
22nd End of Term 4

Christmas Fayre

As promised, we would like to share the amount raised from the Christmas Fayre - £729.84. Thank you to FoSM and all the parent helpers who made this event possible. Funds raised will be going towards this year's Pantomime trip and to help purchase items for the school.

Lunches

We wanted to let you know that this was Mrs Molyneux's last week serving our lunches with our caterers, AiP, and we would like to say a big thank you to her for the many years of service and help during our lunchtimes, here at Steam Mills. However, Mrs Molyneux isn't going far, she will now be our permanent Teaching Assistant in Class 1 and Early Years, making good use of her Teaching Assistant qualification and she will also be working as a Lunchtime Supervisor for the school.

As we welcome a new member of staff from AiP next week, it is imperative that all lunches are **ordered in advance (48-hour cut-off)**. The school will not be checking if your child/ren has food ordered and food will only be delivered for those parents that have ordered meals for their child/ren. If you realise or discover that you have not ordered a meal for your child, please send them in with a packed lunch from home or contact Miss Agg to order an emergency meal (this has to be before 9:30am on the day).

Bikeability

All Year 5 pupils should have received an invitation to take part in Cycle Safety Training with the Gloucestershire Bikeability Team. We have received confirmation that the training will take place on **Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th January**. Please could all bikes be in school first think on the Tuesday, they can then stay in school overnight and be collected at home-time on the Wednesday. Thank you

Rags 2 Riches Collection

We have sent home collection bags this week for our next Rags 2 Riches collection which is on **Wednesday 24th January**. Please could bags be left in the playground, opposite the main gate between 7:45am and 9:15am. Thank you

Prostars Club

Thank you to everyone who signed up for this term's clubs. We are fully booked now for the KS2 Club but have lots of spaces available for KS1 children on a Monday. If your child would like to try the club to see if they would like it, please contact Miss Agg and we can arrange a trial session. You can find out more about Prostars – Forest Sports Education here: <http://prostars-fse.com>

Class Snippets - (Article 28- children have the right to an education. Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents, personalities and beliefs)

Pre-school – this week we have recalled Christmas, the presents we got from Santa and our families and how we spent the holidays. The weather has been so cold so that had led us to talk about snow, Jack Frost and investigated some ice we found outside. We have had playdough, car ramps, painting with water colours and large-scale colouring. We have had a lovely week back at Pre-School.

Class 1 – Wonderful first week back for Class 1. We have been learning about the moon in History in preparation for when we write fact files about Neil Armstrong and about animal groups in science.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Benjamin - for knowing and singing all of the nativity play songs.

Willow - for beginning to form the letters of her name independently.

Class 1

Robert & Joules - for their wonderful thinking and answers when learning about the moon.

Star Readers: Joules and Luca

Class 2

Emmie - for always going above and beyond.

Ava - for having a brilliant attitude to learning.

Charlie - for being a kind and caring friend to all.

Class 3

Serenity - beautiful presentation in her maths work.

Elora - trying her best in all areas.

Esmee - A lovely poem in writing.

Jack - focusing well in all areas of learning.

Star Reader: Harry for reading 50 times

Class 4

Oakley - for being helpful and supportive to a Y5 peer in Science.

Kryspin - for improved focus in Maths.

The children have been very engaged with all areas of their learning and have blown me away with their reading this week.

Reception sounds- Tricky Witch 'oo' and Brown Owl 'ow', HFW's are (look, now, down).

Class 2 - It has been so wonderful to be back with Class 2 this week. We have started a new book in English and have been enjoying writing lists. The children thought carefully about what the Owl and the Pussycat would need to take with them on their journey. They were very thoughtful with some ideas like a fishing rod or a life jacket and creative with thoughts of vanilla ice cream and fluffy blankets. We have started our new topic - Will I Need a Coat? This term we will be looking at weather patterns in Geography, Van Gogh in art and everyday materials in science. On Thursday afternoon, the children have started a unit in music of Storm music with Mrs Evans. They have all settled in really nicely to the new term and I think they're ready for a rest this weekend!

Class 3 have had a busy week introducing lots of new learning. On Wednesday afternoon, the children explored Anglo-Saxon artefacts to think about how they lived and asked questions that they would like to investigate as part of our history topic. A special thank you to Alfie and Isla C for bringing in some Anglo-Saxon coins and a light up magnifying glass for us to share. In writing, they have been reading The Last Garden by Rachel Ip and have described their own gardens using abstract nouns. They have also been working on figurative language such as similes, noun phrases and alliterations.

Class 4 have had a busy first week back. PC Greg visited on Tuesday morning and discussed Online Relationships with the children. The children were very respectful and added some useful insights and personal experiences to the discussion - please can we ask parents to remain vigilant with children's interactions online, via the various platforms the children are using. Class 4 also started swimming this week and impressed Mrs Saunders and Mrs Beard with their confidence in the water - they earned a class star for good listening and sensible water safety in the pool.

'The Big Ambition'

Please could you (and your children) take some time to look at the survey below for 'The Big Ambition' which has been forwarded to us from the Children's Commissioners Office. The survey will be **closing on Friday 19th January** so there is still time to take part.

Children and parents or carers can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Go Volunteer Glos

Attached is information from Go Volunteer Glos, a free platform to support volunteering in Gloucestershire. They are the digital home of volunteering, where individuals can find nearly 400 different roles, right across Gloucestershire from hundreds of different organisations.

Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Here is the [link](#) to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Jan/Feb 2024](#).

Our **Jan/Feb 2024** issue is packed full of useful information for parents including:

- How to make pancakes downloadable
- The importance of art in curriculum
- Best new books for kids around the world
- Helping your child with spelling
- and much more.....



LOCAL RESIDENTS HALF PRICE!

The following postcodes qualify;
NP16, GL18, GL17, GL16, GL15 & GL14.

Each adult must bring proof of residency. You cannot book online for this. Open from 10am - 4:30pm.
Available on 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 January, 3 & 4 February 2024.



As always, please do let us know if you have any questions or queries. We do also encourage parents/carers to let us know if they have any suggestions of events or activities that you would like to see in school.

Our Safeguarding, Behaviour, Complaints and other policies are available on our school website