



Steam Mills Primary

05.05.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Solihull Parenting Drop-in Sessions - Barnardo's

The next session for Steam Mills parents is running on Tuesday 9th May. No requirement to book, just come along on the allotted day. **(Article 5- Family guidance as children develop)**

Rags to Riches

Our next collection for Rags to Riches is taking place on **Tuesday 16th May**. You should have all received a collection bag which was sent home with children this week. If you have more than one bag to fill, you can use any large bag. It is a great opportunity to support the school if you are having a sort out! Please could you drop bags on the morning of the collection (anytime between 7:45am and 9:15am) and leave in the playground opposite the main entrance gate.

Here is a link showing which items can be donated: (Article 270 The right to clothing)

<https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/>

Sponsored Walk – Friday 26th May

We have received notification from Forestry England that operations are taking place in one area on our route. Mrs Tobin has kindly run and worked out a slightly altered route, but this does mean that the walk will be approximately a kilometre longer to get to Beechenhurst, totalling approx. 5 miles.

As part of our obligation and even though lunch-time is not included as part of the day, we have to offer those entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals, a lunch on this day. Please note that you are welcome to book **a packed lunch meal only** if you are in receipt of **FSM or UFSM**. Please order on ParentPay in the usual way and Mrs Molyneux will deliver the packed lunches to Beechenhurst for yourselves and children to collect before leaving. There will be **no ASC for any children on this day, including Pre-school children**.

Social Media – Snapchat etc.

Recently, there has been a rise in issues, particularly in KS2 with children being on Social Media platforms, such as Snap Chat, and Gaming platforms and being unkind to one another within these forums. We appreciate there is parental discretion around the use of devices and these platforms, alongside the age limits that are advised for these features, however, because of the language used (swearing) and arguments that arise through them, it has led children to worry about coming into school which is detrimental to their attendance, concentration and well-being. A member of

School Calendar 22/23

Term 5

17th April to 26th May

Term 6

5th June to 25th July

Inset Days:

24th and 25th July

Bank Holidays in May

Monday 8th May and Monday 29th May

Diary Dates

May

9th Solihull Parenting Drop-in Session – all welcome

9th- SATs week

12th

16th Rags to Riches- (Article 27- the right to clothing)

19th Tempest Photography School Class Photos & Leavers Photos

26th Sponsored Walk (Article 31- relax and play)

June

8th New Reception Parent meeting at 5pm

16th Sports Day

28th- New class (Sep 23) Taster

29th Mornings

July

12th Extra Come and Play session for new Class 1 Reception

14th Reports being sent home

19th KS2 Leavers Dress rehearsal and Evening Performance - 5pm

20th KS2 Leavers Morning Performance – 9:30am

21st Leavers Service 1:30pm

24th Inset Day

25th Inset Day

December

6th Pantomime – Classes 1-4 (Article 29- develop a child's talents).

staff spent 3 and half hours this week dealing with issues that have arisen through these platforms; we are sure you agree that any form of abuse or intimidation is not acceptable in any way so we are asking if parents could be extra vigilant in checking the use of these platforms and supporting children with this.

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 have had a fabulous week – gardening and using Class 1's "big bikes" – encouraging lots of team work and problem solving. We have created coronation crowns, leaf bunting and wavy royal sticks for the coronation party later.

Class 1 – This week Class 1 have continued their topic of Jaws, Paws and Claws and have been learning about the different animal groups. We have then furthered our learning, by identifying which animal group, our animals from our fact files belong to. In phonics we have continued to practise CCVC word blending, and our HFW's for this week are 'your, here & saw'.

Class 2 – This week, the Year 2's in Class 2 have completed their maths SATs papers. They have worked really hard on these and I am so proud of the progress they have made this year so far. They will be completing their reading papers during this month, with some children doing these next week. They have been very resilient so far and have all been trying their best to answer all of the questions - even when they were a bit tricky! As whole class, we have started to look at Florence Nightingale and explore who she was and why she was important. We found out that she was a very clever nurse who made hospitals better by ensuring they were clean. We are excited to continue this learning in the coming weeks.

Class 3 enjoyed exploring Roman artefacts in their history lesson on Wednesday. They guessed what time items might have been used for and used clues to make links to items we have today. In science, they explored different types of skeletons and categorised animals based on endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatics skeletons. They have amazed me this week in maths this week too. Y3 children had absolutely blown me away with their multiplication knowledge using the formal method and Y4s have all been confidently dividing numbers by 10 and 100 to find decimal answers. A huge well done Class 3 - you have amazed me this week!

Class 4 have been continuing to look at Midsummer night's dream in English this week. They have enjoyed writing their own play-scripts using a particular scene. This has also involved looking at Shakespearian language and finding modern day words to reflect the same meaning. Our current topic is Ancient Greece; they have found finding out about Greek civilisation and the events that occurred during this time very interesting. As part of this, the children have been tasting Greek food over the last few weeks and have now designed their packaging for it including recipe cards. There has been lots of excitement today for the King's Coronation and it has been lovely to see all the children in red, white and blue with their decorated crowns.

Free School Meal Scheme – May/June Half Term

For the May/June half term, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is providing vouchers to eligible families who have signed up to our Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by GCC as part of our commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received and is separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child. (Article 24- the right to nutritious food)

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register - you will already have been included. To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

If you have any updates to an existing application, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so that we can update your details, as this is not an automatic process.

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for the May/June half term are now open until midday 16 May. Voucher emails will be sent out on 22 May. Please check junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by the 23 May, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

For more information and to sign up, please visit our website - [Holiday School Meal vouchers](#).

Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Here is the link to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine May/June 2023](#).

The **May/June 2023** issue is loaded with useful information for parents including:

- Coronation downloadable challenges
- Teacher gift Day gift ideas
- Top children's literature festivals
- How handwriting affects self-esteem
- Creative garden play
- Father's Day gifts under £20
- Tackling summer ailments
- and loads more.....

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.