

# Steam Mills Primary

13.09.2024

Dear Parents/Carers

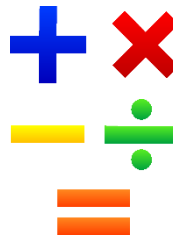
As we are all settling back in to the school routines and some new parents may have questions, we thought it may be useful to resend our Parent Handbook. It is full of useful information and guidance about the school and school life. We have added a few new items, the latest being **no Birthday/Celebration cake or treats** to be brought into school please. Thank you

### TIC+ Boys Mental Health Session Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Class 4 boys have been invited to attend a TIC+ Boys in Mind mental health session on Wednesday afternoon. Parents/Carers should have received a letter home to give permission for attendance. Please contact the school office if you have not received the letter but would like your child to attend.

### Maths Fest! Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Hopefully you have all received your invites from the children this week. The sessions will be taking place in your child's/children's classroom. The format will be flexible and informal and you should easily be able to move between classes if you have children in different classes.



### Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Mrs Fawkes will be holding a phonics workshop to explain how we teach early reading at Steam Mills on Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.45pm in the hall.

### Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception to Year 6

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. Please find attached details of how to register your child, this is all being administered on-line this year, so there will not be any paper copies of forms going home.

### Parking Request

Please when parking in the layby area by the main road, could parents/carers park nose into the grass bank, rather than lengthways. This way more cars can fit in to the available space. Many thanks.

### Pre-school Garden Area

The Pre-school are in need of some help with clearing weeds and a bit of digging. We also have a wish list which includes some raised beds for easy gardening for the children. If you have any time available and the tools, we would be most grateful for any help you can offer. Please contact the school office and Miss Agg can show you the area in question. Thank you!

### Diary Dates

#### Autumn Term 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> September-20<sup>th</sup> December

#### Half Term

28<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November

#### INSET days:

25<sup>th</sup> October

#### Diary Dates

(including Federation activities)

#### September

18<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Trip to Cheddar Caves

25<sup>th</sup> Maths Fest!

26<sup>th</sup> Community Engagement Vehicle – from 2:30pm

30<sup>th</sup> Rags2Riches Collection

#### October

1<sup>st</sup> Tempest Individual/Sibling photos

2<sup>nd</sup> Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents

4<sup>th</sup> Federation Trip for Y3/4 to Cheltenham Literature Festival

9<sup>th</sup> Nasal Flu Vaccinations

15<sup>th</sup> Y1/Y2 to Woodside for Autumn Activities

21<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival Collection (details to follow)

22<sup>nd</sup> Reading Café – everyone welcome

25<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day



**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** – the children have still been settling in and exploring the setting. We also had 2 new friends come and join us this week! We have been super busy doing some beautiful paintings using the water colours. The children have enjoyed the outdoors playing in the mud kitchen making cakes and cups of tea, as well as playing hide and seek and being able to go on the school field and large climbing equipment in the sun. We also had our first yoga session Thursday afternoon with Caroline! Our sound of the week has been S and our number has been 1.

**Class 1** – Busy week in Class 1. The children have been working really hard on their name writing each morning. They have been using magic marbles to help with their pen grip and progress is being seen already. The children have been provided with a name stencil in their book bags and it would be really helpful if they could practise this at home too. We have been doing lots of taking care of ourselves this week too. This week was our first PE and yoga sessions and the children worked really hard to change into their PE kits independently and their own shoes and socks. We have also been learning a new trick on how to put our coats on ourselves which the children are loving. We have now met all of the 10 monsters from Monster Phonics land. The children have shown the adults of Class 1 that they are more than ready to go full steam ahead starting next week (look out for sound sheets reading journals next week).

**Class 2** – this week Class 2 have been impressing with their role play skills. We have been using the book, I Want My Hat Back, as our writing text and the children got to pretend to be the characters in the story. In pairs they played the rabbit and bear. The sneaky rabbit had taken the bears hat and the bear was very angry. The whole class did fantastically in their role playing, and some of them were so inspired they continued this in their play time. The Year 2s have also been very engaged and focused in our maths lessons this week where we have been looking at the value of 2-digit numbers.

**Class 3** have worked really hard this week. They have impressed me with their understanding of 3 and 4-digit numbers in maths, using the dienes and place value charts to help them. In writing, they have written diaries as Heather from our book and they all worked incredibly hard to do this. We played the glockenspiels in music and talked about the value of musical notes. I am so impressed with the children all trying their best!

**Class 4** - this week Class 4 have started looking at the book 'Goodnight Mister Tom' in English which is also linked to our topic of World War 2. We have been getting to know the characters in the book by looking at characterisation and considering how this period of time may have felt for a young child being evacuated. Continuing on this theme, Miss Barber has been looking at morse code in DT and the children also have found out about the wartime artist Kathe Kollwitz. This has involved looking at the artist background, her style of art and feelings that her art evoke.



### Star of the Week Certificates



#### Pre-school

**Reggie** - for settling so well into Pre-School and getting stuck into everything.

**Georgie** - for coming back to Pre-School after the Summer full of smiles and confidence.

#### Class 1

**Rosie** - for being super kind to new starters.

**Lockie** - for settling beautifully into his new school.

#### Class 2

**Brody** - for having a can-do attitude in his learning.

**Delilah** - wonderful understanding and inference skills.

#### Class 3

**Piper** - for an excellent line drawing of a badger.

**Blake** - for being a great role model for the new Y3 children.

#### Class 4

**All year 5's** - for settling in brilliantly!

## Accessing Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club

Please could parents/carers ensure that their child is booked into Breakfast Club and After School Club. There are booking forms available from reception and Miss Agg can also email these on request. For last minute requests we can take phone bookings and emails but these are obviously subject to availability. When dropping your child for Breakfast Club, please press the **Hall** button on the gate intercom, state your child's name, and staff will then let you in to walk your child around to the back door where there is another bell if needed. Like-wise when collecting, please press the Hall button and let staff know who you are and who you are collecting, they will then let you in to walk around to the back door to collect your child. On a Friday ASC is usually run from the small classroom at the front of the school, on this occasion, please press the button for the office. Thank you.

## School Debt Policy – September 2024

**Please ensure that your Breakfast Club and After School Club ParentPay accounts are in credit at all times.**

Just to remind parents and inform new parents of our Debt Policy.

- Bookings will only be accepted if Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club Accounts are in credit for each day booked.
- If your child is a “no show” or you have not given 24hrs notice, you will be still be charged for your child's place.
- If your child is not booked in for either service, you will be contacted if we are oversubscribed, asked to collect your child.
- Accounts will be debited on the same day (BC) or next day (ASC) and not weekly.
- Childcare vouchers/tax free childcare payments should be **sent in advance** and your Parent Pay account will then be credited ready for use.
- Breakfast club remains free of charge to those eligible for income/benefits based Free School Meals.

## Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

We would like to make you aware of changes to the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire. The holiday vouchers are designed to support eligible children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire, and families where no other support is available.

Gloucestershire County Council is committed to supporting families with 1 week of vouchers at £15 per child, per week for the October 2024 holiday. Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for October 2024 holiday will be open from midday 2 September 2024 until midday on 20 September 2024. We will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers will be distributed to families the week commencing 30 September 2024.

If parents do not receive their vouchers by 7 October 2024, please check their spam/junk mailboxes for an email from [selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk](mailto:selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk), as well as ensure mailbox settings allow junk mail.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by 13 October 2024, so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

To find out more about the scheme, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**WILDCATS**  
Make Friends

**ELLWOOD YOUTH WILDCATS**  
DEDICATED GIRLS FOOTBALL IN COLEFORD

FA qualified coaches & DBS checked Safe, fun & inclusive environment

FOR NEW & EXISTING PLAYERS 5-11 YEARS OLD • SUNDAYS-10-30 - 11-30 • FIVE ACRES SCHOOL, COLEFORD

INTERESTED? PLEASE MESSAGE US OR EMAIL [ADMIN@ELLWOODYOUTHFC.CO.UK](mailto:ADMIN@ELLWOODYOUTHFC.CO.UK) FOR MORE INFO  
Lee Hemming - 07817 968 146 (Chairperson - Ellwood Youth FC)



## OPEN EVENTS

COME AND SEE WHAT OUR WORLD-CLASS SCHOOL CAN OFFER YOUR CHILD

**OPEN EVENING**  
TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2024, 4:45-7PM  
SCHOOL TOURS & HEADTEACHER'S TALKS

**SCHOOL IN ACTION TOURS**  
WEDNESDAY 25 - FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024  
9:30AM-12:30PM  
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL RECEPTION TO BOOK

- [www.5acreshighschool.co.uk](http://www.5acreshighschool.co.uk)
- 01594 832263
- [admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk)

**STUDY SMART** Free Online Courses  
**aspire Education**  
ncfe | cache Education & Skills Funding Agency

**Fully Funded School Support Course**  
[www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)

**Next Start date 30th September**

CACHE Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent  
CACHE Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours  
CACHE Certificate in the Principles of SEN  
Levels 1, 2 & 3

**Six Week Course**  
Mon - Fri  
9:30 - 11:30am  
12:30 - 2:30pm  
4 - 4:30pm  
(last optional session for reflection and support if needed)

**PROSTARS HALF-TERM FOOTBALL CAMP**

FREEDOM LEISURE-LYDNEY  
9:00AM-3:00PM  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

**ACTIVITIES**

- Tournaments
- Technical/ Tactical Sessions
- Inflatable football pitch and dartboard
- make new friends in a fun and safe environment

**WHO CAN JOIN?**  
Boys and girls  
Age 5-11  
All skill levels welcome

CONTACT MARK DN  
07444436637/mark.prostars@gmail.com  
[Prostars.ipalbookings.com](http://Prostars.ipalbookings.com)

**FOREST SPORTS EDUCATION**  
WILKS PROSTATE HOSPITAL  
PROST-178

**Half Term Activity Camp**  
Monday 28th Oct - Friday 1st November

Prices Starting From **£25.00 PER DAY**

Bookings: [prostars.ipalbookings.com](http://prostars.ipalbookings.com)

- Ashfield Park Primary School (ROW)
- St White's Primary (Cinderford)
- Primrose Hill Primary (Lydney)
- Naunton Park Primary School (Cheltenham)
- Picklenash Junior School (Newent)

For Further Information Please Contact:  
Email: [info@prostars-fse.com](mailto:info@prostars-fse.com)  
Josh: 07515 508643  
Jack: 07990 624347

Facebook.com/prostarsfse

gloucestershire MUSIC

**Forest of Dean Area Wind Band**

Coleford Baptist Church  
Saturdays: 10.00 - 12.00

A community wind band for all wind, brass and percussion players - youth and adults

Join now!  
01452 427242  
[gloucestershiremusic.co.uk](http://gloucestershiremusic.co.uk)  
[glosmusic@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:glosmusic@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Make music, make memories

Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND  
MakeMUSIC Gloucestershire  
Gloucestershire Education Trust

**Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?**

We've got you covered!  
Our free, Beezee Families healthy lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.

**Tuck into these healthy snacks:**

- Two wholegrain crackers and tzatziki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs
- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Handful of dried fruit
- Dried apple-slices (slice into 1/4 inch circles, bake at 200 degrees until dry)
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Apple slices with peanut butter.

Want more healthy lifestyle support? Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.

Scan here or Click the link

Gloucestershire Education Trust

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**

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life