



Steam Mills Primary

17.01.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Look Who's Talking

Children from Year 1 up to Year 6 recently had the option to enter the Oracy competition, Look Who's Talking. Children from across the school entered Class Heats and if successful, went through to the School Heats. Congratulations to the winners from each phase:

KS1 – Maddison LKS2 – Harper UKS2 – Bertie

These children will now go through to the next stage of the competition at Berry Hill and compete against other schools in the Forest of Dean.

A huge thank you to all the children that took part - we were so impressed with their efforts, and they should be very proud of themselves, as we all are! Thank you to parents who have been supporting the children at home and we will keep you updated in the coming weeks on the competition's progress.

Car Parking and Safety

Please could we remind parents/carers of the 5mph speed limit in the school car park, this also applies to the layby adjacent to the main road. There is a one way system at the rear car park, please could we also request that the layby is used in the same manner, in at the top KS2 gate and out at the bottom KS1 gate. This is not a drop and go area and you need to park and accompany your child into the playground. As we do not have designated walkways, we request that all drivers are vigilant and use these spaces sensibly. Thank you.

Rags 2 Riches – Wednesday 22nd January

Our next collection of clothes is this Wednesday, on 22nd January. If you are having a new year clear out, please check the Rags to Riches website for suitable items to donate. Bags to be left in the playground (weather depending) on the morning, between 7:45am and 9:30am. Thank you!



Reception & Y6 Health Screening – Thursday 23rd January

All children in Reception & Year 6 year groups 23 have received a letter giving details of this upcoming NHS Health screening.

Icepacks

When a child has a bump at school we always ensure they have an ice-pack to reduce bruising. Please could we request that any ice-packs that find their way home, are returned to school. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Spring term 2025

6th January-11th April

Half Term

17th-21st February

Summer Term 2025

28th April-21st July

Half Term

26th May - 30th May

INSET days:

11th April and 21st July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation activities)

January

22nd Rags 2 Riches Collection

23rd YR & Y6 NHS Health Screening

24th Looks Who's Talking KS1

31st Look Who's Talking Lower KS2
(Berry Hill Primary)

February

3rd Children's Mental Health Week

4th Children's Mental Health Workshops with Young Minds Matter

5th Mental Health Federation afternoon for Y5/6

7th In the Net – Y4

Look Who's Talking Upper KS2
(Berry Hill Primary)

10th Bikeability Week for Y5's

13th FoSM Valentine's Disco
Class 3 Trip

14th FoSM Non-school Uniform TBC
End of Term 3

24th Start of Term 4

25th Class 1 start Gym sessions

26th Young Voices Trip

March

6th World Book Day – Poetry Workshops for all classes and Author Booksale after school (C Taylor)

May

8th Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

June

13th Sports Morning

27th Summer Fayre

Breakfast Club and After School Club

A reminder to please book places for Breakfast Club and After School Clubs. We have had situations again this week of being over safeguarding ratio as a result of unexpected children attending the clubs. **Please also ensure that you credit your ParentPay accounts upon booking and keep them in credit at all times in line with the school's no debt policy.** Many thanks.

Parent/Carer Checklist

It would be helpful if Parents/Carers could run through a daily checklist before school, to ensure that your child/ren are ready for the school day. This would reduce the amount of phone calls home the school has to make and also reduce anxieties for your child/ren. The school expects the older children to start taking responsibility for some of these things themselves. As an example:

- **Lunch booked or packed lunch from home**
- **Drink bottle**
- **PE kit or swimming kit when needed**
- **Homework**
- **Reading book**
- **Correct uniform and coat**

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 welcomed some new children this week, who have all settled so beautifully. We have been very busy exploring the setting and all of the different resources available. We also listened to music from "The Great Escape" by Elmer Bernstein. On Wednesday we welcomed Rosie from the Music project, for our first session of the year. Rosie introduced some new music to the children and they described what they could hear, as this term we will be looking at Brass instruments.

Class 1 - this week in English we have continued our work around the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We thought about what the bears ate in the book and made our own porridge recipes, which we then followed to cook some in class. We then enjoyed our porridge with some fruit as a class. Linked to this we also explored what other people eat for breakfast, including those that live in different countries. In phonics this week our sound was Green Frog 'ee' for 'sheep in a Jeep' and HFW were (see, going, just, have).

Class 2 it has been wonderful to be back again; the children have all been kind and caring with each other. We have started our new English book: Stella and the Seagull. They used some prediction and inference skills to guess which animal had been into the classroom and left us some gifts. We have been thinking about how characters might be feeling and what they might say to each other. The children made some wonderful posters as a guide to be green and help stop litter! The Year 2's have been working hard in phonics with their adverts, contractions and apostrophes for possession. The year 1's have learnt the ew(U-Hoo) sound and the rules for spelling with c or k.

Class 3 have learnt lots this week about speech punctuation in their writing. They have thought about how characters feel and what they might say from our book Wisp. In reading, we have been working on developing inferencing skills, using evidence and explaining in detail. The children have been working really hard this week and earned some extra playtime. In art, the children experimented with colour mixing to produce different shades of secondary colours.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Florence and Harriett - for settling so well and trying lots of new activities.

Class 1

Ava-gracie - for getting stuck into morning tasks every morning.

Benjamin - for brilliant contributions to all class discussions.

Class 2

Bella L - wonderful effort in everything you do!

Robert - trying hard in all areas, even though it might be difficult.

Class 3

Jasmine - for participating confidently in class discussions.

Isla C - for developing her knowledge of vocabulary in maths.

Class 4

Bailey - being a supportive peer and focusing on making better choices.

Blake - for managing his worries and turning them into positives, improving his day.

Class 4 have had a great week. We held our Oracy competition and the children that entered should be very proud of themselves - they were very brave and chose interesting topics to share with the class and school. In science, the children have started to learn how light travels and how we see and in Geography, we have tested their knowledge on the water cycle - we are going in more depth about this next week and will hopefully produce some lovely work as a result. In Art, the children are learning about Monet and the impressionism era and they are enjoying looking at the different styles of painting.

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition	Patient eligibility
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first) as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

Beezee Families

We know it can be tricky to get children to eat their vegetables, but we also know that getting more greens in at mealtimes can lead to a healthier and happier family life. We run Beezee Families, a FREE healthy lifestyle programme that helps families across Gloucestershire discover the power of small changes together.

Our Beezee Families programme begins the week commencing 3rd February. Sign-ups are still open, so there is still time to join. Spots are available in-person and online! Alternatively, families can start their journey now with our Beezee Academy. [Visit our website for more details.](#)

If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you.

Healthy wishes, The Beezee Team 🍀

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.

