



Dear Parents/Carers

Nativity Performances

Thank you to everyone who came to see Pre-school, Class 1 and Class 2 perform their Boogie Woogie Nativity on Tuesday, we think you will all agree that the shows were absolutely brilliant and the children did so well. Thank you also to all the staff involved for their hard work and enthusiasm helping the children to perform so well.



Christingle

Each class will be enjoying a Christingle activity next week and we would like to say a big THANK YOU to Tesco's, Cinderford, for helping us again this year with a donation of oranges to make this possible.



After School Club – Thursday 21st December

Please could you let Miss Agg know if you are planning to use After School Club on Thursday 21st December. With this being the last day and some parents collecting after the Carol Service, we need to gauge, plan staffing levels and decide if this club will be viable. Thank you.

Alliance in Partnership – Vacancy

Our Caterers has asked us to advertise as they are looking for to recruit a Lunchtime Catering Server for Steam Mills Primary. The expected hours would be 11:30am until 2:00pm, each school day, term time only. Any required training will be provided.

Please contact paula.addison@sodexo.com if you are interested in this vacancy.

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:
22nd December, 24th May and
22nd July

Diary Dates

December
21st Christmas Party Day – non-school uniform.
Carol Service (details to follow)

22nd Inset Training Day
25th Christmas Holidays

January
8th Start of Term 3
26th FoSM Meeting
22nd Y5 Bikeability Training
24th Rags 2 Riches Collection
25th Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening
30th Reading Café`

Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 14th December

Thank you to Mrs Molyneux, the Midday Supervisor staff and all the other staff that helped serve a wonderful Christmas Lunch to the children yesterday. The children really enjoyed experiencing lunchtime together as a whole school and being waited on for this special occasion. The children also raised £76 for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – thank you for your kind donations.



FoSM Christmas Fayre

What a wonderful and busy Christmas Fayre! Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the Christmassy atmosphere. We will let you know the amount raised next term, the amount will be split between the Class 4 Residential Trip in the summer and Friends of Steam Mills.



Short Reports – Monday 18th December

There will be a short progress report for each child sent home on Monday, please look out for these in your child's book bag.

Design a Christmas Jumper FOSM competition

FOSM are running a competition to design a Christmas jumper. Children can create their design in whatever medium they would like - pens, pencils, paints, glitter, etc. There is NO charge for this competition and there will be a prize for the winning entry. Please return entries to the class teacher by **Monday 18th December** for judging. Please write your child's name and Year group clearly on the front of their design.

Christmas Party Day/Non-school Uniform/Carol Service

Our last day of term for the children is **Thursday 21st December** and this will be a non-school uniform day (no donation as we are collecting on 14th December for Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children). Each class will enjoy Christmas Party activities so children can wear party clothes, if they

wish. There will be the annual Christmas Carol Service at **1:30pm** in the school hall, this usually finishes at approx. **2:15pm**, if you are attending, you are welcome to take your child/ren after the service, please collect from the hall or from their class.

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 has been a Christmas fun filled week! We performed in the Nativity play for all of our parents and family and the children did so well as twinkling stars. On Wednesday we went on our Christmas trip to the Bacon Theatre to watch a Santa Show and everyone loved it! We all danced, sang and had a really good time. Thursday we all enjoyed our Christmas dinner! This week we have also made pine cone trees to sell as the Christmas fayre, experimented with magnets and have decorated trees with loose parts as well as role playing, using Christmas cutters in the playdough and practicing our songs for next week's carol service.



Class 1 – a very busy week! The children did such a wonderful job for this year's nativity and their behaviour was brilliant! We also had our whole school Christmas dinner yesterday, which the children really enjoyed. In Class 1 we have been making predictions for our science experiment. We are currently making scientific observations on 5 eggs that have been submerged into different kinds of liquids. The children were very excited about this.

This week's reception sound is (ar) and their HFWs are (that, this, them, then, said).

Star readers: **Charlie** and **Luca**

Class 2 have had a super busy week this week! They were AMAZING in the nativity performances on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you for all the parents who helped learn lines and songs over the last month. The children were so well behaved and did so well considering some of them were nervous. They have had a lovely week and worked so hard! They should be so proud of themselves.

Class 3 have had an eventful week. They had a supply teacher on Tuesday who explored features of a newspaper and during this the classroom door handle broke. The supply teacher said that the children dealt with this very well and we have a new handle! In writing, the children have written amazing newspaper reports about Marcy rescuing her father from the Great Sphinx. The children also impressed me with their knowledge about Ancient Egypt in their history reports this week. A big thank you to FOSM helpers this week for working with class 3 to wrap books for the mystery book stand at the fair. They told me that the children were all very helpful. We are looking forwards to doing lots of fun Christmas activities next week!

Class 4 – have had a good week. They have been writing their final newspaper reports in English this week, and thought carefully about how they can be effective editors. Lots of children were very proud of the work that they achieved and this was shown in their efforts. In gymnastics, lots of children were very brave with trying to climb the rope and some being supported with doing flips – they have made great progress over the last few weeks there and are looking forward to their last session next week. Starts of the week **Maeve** – for a great effort writing her newspaper report **Charlie** – for resilience and independence in writing

Forest Foodbank – Christmas Opening Hours

During the Christmas week the only centre that will be open will be Cinderford on the 28th December at the Forest Community church 1-3pm. It doesn't matter which centre a voucher has been issued to, people can still collect their food from Cinderford. Lydney and Coleford distribution centres will be closed on 26th and 27th December.

To get help look on our website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

Breakfast Club & After School Club

The school will carry over current regular bookings for Breakfast Club and After School Club. If your plans for the use of the clubs are changing, please contact the school office to amend your booking.

Keeping Safe On-line

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with:

- Home Office
- Gloucestershire Police
- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

New Year Offer from Prostars

Prostars HAF Holiday Club

Prostars are delighted to announce that our Winter Holiday Kids Club Camps are returning. FREE HAF places will be on offer for children who receive benefit related free school meals, fully funded by Gloucester County Council and Hereford County Council.

We are delivering at:

- St White's Primary School, Cinderford
- Ashfield Park Primary School, ROW
- Primrose Hill Academy, Lydney
- Dene Magna School, Mitcheldean
- Shurdington C of E Primary
- Queen Margaret Primary, Tewkesbury

Bookings are LIVE!

Tewkesbury → <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/tewkesbury-haf/children-young-people-activities-tewkesbury-haf/>

Forest of Dean → <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/forest-of-dean-haf/>

Herefordshire → <https://aequ.org/experience/5615>

Dates: Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th January 2024

Kids club days involve a range of fun sport & active games alongside craft activities. Snacks, lunch and drink options will be provided during the day but children are welcome to bring their own.

Gloucestershire HAF holiday activities & food

HERE FOR HEREFORDSHIRE HOLIDAYS

Lost Property

We have a few items at Reception that people may be missing!



Roadworks

We have received the attached letter from Gloucestershire Highways, to forewarn you for our return to school in January 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

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life