



# Steam Mills Primary

14.02.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

## Contact with School/Class Teacher

If you have a class-based query, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance via the school office. Please be assured that teachers will respond, but not necessarily on the same day. Teachers are not expected to respond whilst they are teaching or beyond 5pm; your patience is appreciated.

## Potholes

We are planning to fill some of the potholes along the track at the start of the half-term break. If you could spare some time on Monday morning, it would be greatly appreciated to have some willing volunteers! Staff will be on-site between 8am and 9am. Please bring a shovel and a wheelbarrow would be useful. Thank you

## Items from home

Please could we request that the children's personal belongings from home are not brought into school. We have had a recent increase with regard to this, which is proving difficult for the school to police and in some cases, causing upset. Please could parents/carers support the school in this; check in with children and remind them of this rule. Thank you.

## World Book Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

For World Book Day this year, we are very lucky to have local author Charlotte L Taylor to run poetry workshops with the whole school. She will be working with each class and selling her books/ signing books after school. There will be more information to follow, regarding prices for these.



Children are welcome to wear **pyjamas** on this day to enjoy a 'bedtime' story and hot chocolate in their classes during the day.

Following our successful book swaps over the past few years, this year we are asking children to create a 'mystery book' to donate. If you have a book at home that is no longer wanted, please wrap it up in wrapping paper and attach some clues to the front of it e.g. If the book was Fantastic Mr Fox the clues could be - chapter book ages 6-9, animal story and adventurous. Children will then swap these in classes by reading the clues and deciding which book they are drawn to.

As always, World Book Day tokens will be handed out and they can be exchanged for a book or £1 off a book in all good bookshops and some supermarkets. If you have any questions, please ask class teachers or Mrs Gibbs.

## Diary Dates

### Spring term 2025

6<sup>th</sup> January-11<sup>th</sup> April

### Half Term

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February

### Summer Term 2025

28<sup>th</sup> April-21<sup>st</sup> July

### Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> May - 30<sup>th</sup> May

### INSET days:

11<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> July

### Diary Dates (incl. Federation activities)

#### February

24<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 4

25<sup>th</sup> Class 1 start Gym sessions

26<sup>th</sup> Young Voices Trip

#### March

6<sup>th</sup> World Book Day – Pyjamas!  
Poetry Workshops for all classes Author Booksale after school (C Taylor)

19<sup>th</sup> Class 2 Trip to Bristol Zoo Project

Class 4 Trip to National Waterways Museum

21<sup>st</sup> Red Nose Day

31<sup>st</sup> Parents Evenings from 3:30pm

#### April

7<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings from 3:30pm

10<sup>th</sup> End of Term 4

FoSM Non-school Uniform TBC

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

28<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 5

#### May

8<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

#### June

13<sup>th</sup> Sports Morning

27<sup>th</sup> Summer Fayre

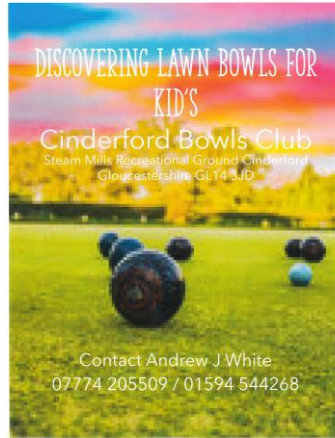
## Red Nose Day for Comic Relief – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day again this year. Children are invited to wear something **red**; we will also have a limited number of Red Noses to sell on the day. Noses are £2 each; we are not asking for any other donation for this day. Thank you.



## Lawn Bowls for 10-11 year olds

Our neighbours at the Bowling Club are keen to encourage our Y5/6 children to try bowling and possibly join a youth league. If you are interested, please contact the number on this flyer. We envisage that the club will run straight from school and the school may be able to arrange to take children over on the allocated day.



## Star of the Week Certificates



### Pre-school

**Aurora** - being a kind and caring friend.

**Logan** - settling so smoothly into a new environment and routines.

### Class 1

**Oak** - for sharing brilliant ideas in class discussions.

**Riley** - for joining in positively with group activities.

### Class 2

**Joules** - excellent effort in everything you do, really great work in maths.

**Harper** - lovely use of phonics in your writing, trying your best in everything you do.

### Class 3

**Dexter** - a positive learning attitude and for being a great learning partner.

**Evie** - trying her best to make great progress.

### Class 4

**Pacey** - for showing ownership with his writing and using some effective features.

**Mollie** - for always having a great learning attitude and taking on feedback to improve.

## 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 looked at Bees, using stories and non-fiction books. We watched a bee close up collecting pollen and talked about patterns in the environment. The children have made a collaborative Bee hive, by painting and printing with bubble-wrap. We have enjoyed some messy play with some Valentines inspired gloop, adding spoons, bowls and love heart pebbles.

**Class 1** – this week we continued looking at the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' finishing our topic 'Once Upon a Time'. We explored the different parts of plants and considered how they might grow. Our sound this week was 'oa' for 'float like a boat' and our HFW were 'come' and 'some'. It has been a fantastic term and I look forward to the next after a well-deserved holiday for all.

**Class 2** – this week, we have been learning how to create Australian aboriginal artwork. The children used different tools, such as toothpicks, cotton buds and straws to create dot style painting. In maths, the year 2s have been looking at their 10 times table and the 5 times tables. We noticed that some numbers in the 5 times table are also in the 10 times table - the children were able to understand that these numbers end in a zero. The year 1's have been continuing their addition and subtraction strategies and now we are at the number 17. In phonics, the year 1's recapped both 'ear' sounds, and the year 2's looked at the silent k before n sound in more detail.

**Class 3** – had an exciting week visiting We the Curious in Bristol. The children made me feel incredibly proud by representing the school so well. They amazed our workshop leader with their excellent knowledge of rocks and fossils and were complimented on this. In the afternoon, they got to make giant bubbles, explore optical illusions and build the human body. In writing, they have finished their unit on Wisp by writing emotive free verse poems about refugees. They demonstrated great compassion through this unit of work. I am very impressed with Class 3 this term and they are finishing the term with an arts and craft treat afternoon.





**Class 4** have had a busy week! The children have been working hard on their highwayman stories where they have written an alternative ending. They have tried hard with their descriptions, using a range of figurative devices as well as trying to improve their own work using their purple polishing pens. In Geography, we saw some great team work to research and present their information about a river from around the world and they are making some great progress with their swimming, too. Lots of the Year 5s took part in their Bikeability this week; they have made us very proud with their listening skills to ensure they were safe, and they were able to share lots of top tips on how to be safe on the road, as well as something they were proud to have learnt. Have a great, restful half term Class 4!

### Perrygrove Railway

In case you didn't know, 2025 is the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Railway in the world - the Stockton and Darlington Railway and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. As part of the nationwide #Railway200 celebrations, Perrygrove Railway Adventure is engaging with local schools & to bring this anniversary to life.

1. 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Open every day for half term! No need to book - just pay on the door.
2. Competition Time - Win a FREE Class Trip to Perrygrove Railway Adventure to celebrate National Science Week.

To enter: either write a paragraph or two or create a picture about your favourite train journey (this could be real or imaginary) and email them to: [groups@perrygrove.co.uk](mailto:groups@perrygrove.co.uk) or post to: School Competition, Perrygrove Railway, Coleford, Gloucestershire GL16 8QB. Deadline for submission is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February and winners will be announced on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and contacted directly. The winning child will also receive a **FREE family ticket too** valid until the end of 2025.





## PLAY GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S PLAY RANGERS

**February Half Term at The Recreation Ground, Ruspidge, GL14 3AE  
Tuesday 18th February  
10am to 4pm**

///grapevine.runs.wool

With thanks to Cllr Morgan who funded this session with built back better funding



Our Play Ranger activities take place outdoors in all weathers and are open access. This means there is no registration, children are free to come and go as they please.

Our Activities are aimed at school aged children. Under 8's are welcome and should be accompanied by an adult.

We believe all children have the right to play. Please talk to us if your child needs additional mobility or other support to enjoy Play Rangers.

Play Gloucestershire  
Transforming lives through the power of play  
www.playgloucestershire.org.uk  
@play\_glos playgloucestershire



### Things you need to know about Play Gloucestershire

Play Gloucestershire - a registered charity - is the leading provider of free, outdoor, active play in the county. Our Activities are aimed at school aged children. Under 8's are welcome and should be accompanied by a parent or carer. We love it when the whole household joins us at our sessions.

Our Play Ranger activities are open access. This means there is no registration - children can leave the site at any time. Our Play Rangers will not stop them and may not know that they have left.

We encourage children to take responsibilities for their own actions. We think this is good for them. They will be encouraged to resolve disagreements amongst themselves. We will intervene if absolutely necessary.

Play Gloucestershire believes that children need and want to take risks when they play. Our Play Rangers aim to respond to these needs by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, we aim to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks. Our experience tells us that whilst children play outdoors they are likely to have accidents. If this causes concern please come along and speak to us about it.

All our activities are outdoors and include den building, fires, arts and crafts, sports and a range of playful games. We encourage children to play freely and choose what they do. They do not have to do anything if they don't want to. Children will get wet, hot, cold, smelly and dirty and need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Better to wear old play clothes than ruin your best!

Our Play Rangers will provide drinking water at all sessions. We promote healthy eating and sometimes will provide free fruit.

We believe all children have the right to play. Please talk to us if your child needs additional mobility or other support to enjoy Play Rangers.

For further information:  
Visit us at [www.playgloucestershire.org.uk](http://www.playgloucestershire.org.uk)  
Email [info@playgloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:info@playgloucestershire.org.uk)  
Phone 01452 505548  
Play Gloucestershire is a registered charity (1126562)



## KIDS HALF TERM CAMP




**FUN & CREATIVE SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE!**

**AGES 5-11** **17TH-21ST FEB** **8.30AM - 4.30PM** **Prices from £22.50 a day!**

**Locations:**

- Berry Hill Primary School, Coleford
- Primrose Hill CoE Academy, Lydney
- Bishops Cleeve Primary Academy, Cheltenham
- Naunton Park Primary School, Cheltenham

Book now: [prostars.ipalbookings.com](http://prostars.ipalbookings.com)  
facebook.com/prostars-fse

## Rugby Half term Camp

Fun filled rugby, for all primary school ages of any ability

February 17th-20th

**Book 3 days get the 4th FREE**

**CM Coaching** Mannings Ground, High St, Drybrook GL17 9EU  
@drybrook rugby  
email: [commillscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:commillscoaching@gmail.com) club

07484 767754

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.**