



Steam Mills Primary

14.03.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Rights Respecting Article of the Week

Ramadan- Article 30- Children have the right to their own language, culture and religion. Tolerance and mutual respect Individual liberty.



Breakfast Club/After School Club

Please could we remind parents to keep their Parentpay accounts in credit at all times. Please check that you have credited upon making your booking. Regular debt could result in your child being refused these important services. Thank you.



Breakfast Club Drop-off

Could we also remind parents that only children from **Classes 3 & 4** are permitted to walk around to Breakfast Club on their own. All other children must be walked by a parent/carer. Thank you.

Car Parking/Mobile Phone

Please could we request that parents/carers continue to be vigilant when parking and driving on/around the school site. It was recently reported that a parent was seen driving in the car parking area whilst on their mobile phone. This is illegal and a distraction that could result in an accident. Thank you.



Lunches

A few children are bringing in a packed lunch from home and also have a hot school lunch ordered. Unless there is a special need, that has been pre-agreed with teaching staff, all children must have just one meal at lunchtime please, either a school lunch **or** packed lunch from home. Could we also request that packed lunches from home have our healthy eating policy in mind, please do not provide **sweets** with high sugar content; a small chocolate/biscuit treat is acceptable.

Track/Car Park

At this week's Governors meeting Graeme Drage (parent governor) reported that he had been approached by parents at Steam Mills regarding potholes on the track from the car park to the main road on the Cinderford side of the bowling club.

If you are willing to spare some time to help repair the track, could you please contact Graeme or Miss Agg. If there are enough offers of help, the school will purchase the gravel to fill the potholes on the track and in the car park.

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 events)

March

18th Reading café – invite only

19th Class 2 Trip to Bristol Zoo Project

Class 4 Trip to National

Waterways Museum

21st Red Nose Day

April

1st Parents Evenings

From 2:30pm - Classes 2-4

From 3:30pm - Pre-School/C1

4th C2 Art Afternoon with Parents

4th Scholastic Book Fayre -

7th&9th after school – card payments only

8th Parents Evenings

From 2:30pm - Classes 2-4

From 3:30pm - Pre-School/C1

10th End of Term 4

FoSM Non-school Uniform TBC

Easter Service – 2:30pm

11th Inset Training Day

28th Start of Term 5

May

8th Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

23rd Sponsored Walk – pm only

(collection from

Beechenhurst) Details to

follow

June

10th Federation Trip to Houses of Parliament

12th Cyber Bullying Session for Parents – 2pm

13th Sports Morning

27th Summer Fayre

Red Nose Day for Comic Relief – Friday 21st 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.

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 1st & 8th April

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 1st April and Tuesday 8th April. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 are made via our eSchools system which is now open for booking. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit. Classes 2, 3 and 4 have more slots this time, with appointments starting at 2:30pm on both days; this is to ensure there are enough slots for all parents to attend. If you do not book on the parent evening days, please do not assume an appointment will be available on another day as this will not be possible before the end of term. Please let Miss Agg know if you would like to see Miss Barber (SENCO) or if you are experiencing any difficulties making bookings. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Nori - Being more confident and adventurous during lunch time play.

Callie - Writing about Patch's stay by herself.

Class 1

Toby - for always joining in with music lessons, having fun and trying really hard.

Joseph - for great effort in gymnastics, being super brave and independent.

Class 2

Elodie - fabulous knowledge of food chains, with an informative explanation in assembly.

Maddi - wonderful start to your innovated story, using adjectives and co-ordinating conjunctions.

Class 3

Sybil - for perseverance to improve her spelling.

Xander - great detail in his circus review.

Class 4

Amelia – for amazing efforts in her Geography and Science write-ups.

Ruby – for increased independence with using her Maths strategies.

Class Snippets

Pre-school – this week we have enjoyed exploring the school environment for signs of spring. The children have noticed differences over the week as flowers have gone from bud to bloom and there has been lots of lovely mathematical language talking about amounts and different sizes of plants and flowers. We have painted our own pictures of daffodils by studying some real ones and also created fork printed tulips! We also had an amazing time creating music at the Forest school site with Rosie, trickling pine cones down bamboo canes, and creating different sounds in the environment. We also made a space ship and played Hide and Seek with our helper Mr Holder!!

Class 1 - in class this week we have continued looking at the story 'The Extraordinary Gardener' continuing to think about what makes us extraordinary and how we could write our own versions of the story. We have started to explore the Artic thinking about what it looks like and what we might find there, discussing what about the Artic is similar and different to the UK. We have also opened a new role play area in the class and have enjoyed being florists, which links in with our topic of gardening and plants. Our sound this week was 'air' and HFW (like, when, little, what, by).

Class 2 – this week, we have written an innovated story based on Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers. The children created a story about an animal who turns up at a child's house. They chose their own animal and thought carefully about which habitat it needed to get back to. They chose a journey for their characters to take and then ended their stories by having the characters become friends. They wrote these stories by hand and then have been typing them to create digital stories on the iPads. Lots of great work was done this week.

Class 3 – this week, Class 3 have worked brilliantly in pairs to make a volcano model. They thought about the features of a volcano and use DT skills to build it. They will test them next week! In maths, the Y3 children have impressed me with their use of the formal multiplication method. The Y4 children have demonstrated perseverance skills with their short division method. In writing, the children have thought about character feeling and applied a range of sentence types to write a diary.



Class 4 had some lovely feedback from the staff at the swimming pool this week; they said the children listen well and that's why they always get extra play time every week, which was lovely to hear. The children have considered how to use antonyms to create contrasting settings/atmospheres in their writing this week and they have tried hard to include a range of features. In Geography, they were able to create an experiment to see how erosion and deposition affects rivers and they drew some lovely diagrams to show what they did. Yesterday, the children started looking into the Linnean Classification system and they were using observable characteristics to sort animals - they found this tricky but came up with some good ideas about how they could group animals based on what they could see. They have started their DT unit this week and will be using tie-dye and materials for effect - watch this space!

Houses of Parliament Federation Trip

As part of our Rights Respecting, we have been fortunate enough to secure a booking to the Palace of Westminster, 10th June 2025. The children that are on the school councils have been invited as they have shown a keen interest and passion to make changes at our schools, however, each school will have an allocation of extra spaces and we would like to offer more children the opportunity to attend. These should be children that a) have previously been on the school council, b) put themselves forwards as candidates for the school council previously, or c) have a known interest in politics. The trip is heavily subsidised but there would be a small contribution required of £12 for this trip. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, there may be funding available to subsidise further.



If you wish for your child to be considered, please communicate with your school office directly by Friday 28th March. We will then put your child's name in a ballot and then communicate if you have been successful or not, before the Easter Holidays.

Free School Meals – Easter Holidays

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the Spring (Easter) Holidays 2025 will be open from midday 18 March until midday on 1 April. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 7 April. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.



If parents have not received their vouchers by 14 April, please encourage them to submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)

This Spring (Easter), Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (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. To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for Spring (Easter) 2025 holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). 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.

Using vouchers – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot

be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) by the end of the holiday period. For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please submit an update existing details request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) so we can update details

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
- No personal/unnecessary items from home.



Join Us For Our EASTER FOOTBALL CAMP

15th-17th April + 22nd-24th April

Where? Freedom Leisure Lydney

Who can join?
• Boys & Girls
• Ages 5-13
• All Skill Levels Welcome

Price & Time
£10 Per Day
9:00am-3:00pm

Booking link: [Prostars.ipalbookings.com](https://prostars.ipalbookings.com)

Contact Mark: 07444436637 / Mark@prostars-fse.com

Hop on over for our **PROSTARS** Half Term Activity Camp

Join us on 14th-17th April + 22nd-25th April for some egg-citing fun at

Ages 5-11

Open Venues:
• Berry Hill, Coleford
• Primrose Hill, Lydney
• Naunton Park, Cheltenham
• Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

from £22.50 a day

Bookings: Prostars@palbookings.com / Mark@prostars-fse.com

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Condition	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (excluding COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Toxoplasmosis
Thrush	Strep throat

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfoc>

FACE Spring 2025 Newsletter

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK. Talks are 30 minutes long, £24 each. Book Online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Schools can now buy a **FACE School Annual Membership** which means **ALL parents and ALL staff** get unlimited **FREE** access to ALL 16 parent talks

Thursday 24th April 19:00 - 20:00 FREE	Responding to Angry Behaviour What can we do in the moment?
Tuesday 18th March 10:00 - 11:30 £24	Anxiety Explained Anxiety, especially in our young is rising. This session explains what it is, why it happens and how you can help.
Tuesday 3rd April 10:00 - 11:30 £24	Supporting a Child with ADHD Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.
Tuesday 3rd April 19:00 - 20:30 £24	Improving Family Communication How to reduce the shouting and arguing and start the talking.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk | info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

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.

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.