



Steam Mills Primary

08.09.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter of Term 1! It is lovely to see the children back and to welcome those new children attending Reception Class and Pre-school. The children have already settled very well into school routines and are enjoying the current sunny weather.

We have been fortunate to have been able to carry out some building upgrades during the summer holidays, with the children in Pre-school returning to a new toilet fit-out and the whole school has had a lighting upgrade. The lighting upgrade was possible due to an Environmental Schools Grant from Gloucestershire County Council and this has enabled us to install more cost effective LED lighting. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Dickinson and Mr Holder for also carrying out various maintenance jobs around the School and Pre-school during the holidays.

School Hours

As you should be aware, the school has changed hours for attendance from September 2023 to 32.5 hrs per week. The expectation will be for children to arrive in the school grounds from 8:40am (drop and go will also operate from this time) then children will be seated in their classrooms at **8:45am**. Pick-up time will remain at 3:15pm. Pre-school start time remains unchanged at 9:00am and pick-up is 3:00pm. **The KS1 gate and KS2 gate will be locked soon after 8:45am**, any children arriving after 8:45am will need to access school via the main reception gate and come into school through reception. Pre-school children will need to access the school via the main reception gate and wait at the Pre-school gate ready for the 9:00am start. Thank you.

Cookery Club

A reminder to those 6 children that the Cookery Club is starting on Tuesday 12th September and will be running for 5 weeks. Please ensure payment is made via ParentPay in advance. If your child was not successful, they have been placed on the waiting list and you will be contacted again when a place is available for future terms.

Rags2Riches Collection

The Rags2Riches team have provided bags for our collection on Wednesday 20th September, these have been sent home this week. Please note that if you have additional bags, plain ones are fine to use. Collection is usually in the morning, please could bags be dropped off opposite the main gate between 7:45am and 9:15am. Thank you

Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception to Year 6

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Friday 13th October 2023. Parents/Carers are being sent letters home in book bags this week. **All forms are required to be returned**, even if you do not wish your child to have the vaccination. Please return by **Friday 29th September 2023**.

Diary Dates

September

20th Rags 2 Riches collection

October

3rd Tempest Individual/Sibling photos

11th Konflux Theatre visiting C3

13th Nasal Flue Immunisations

25th Coram Life Education Visit (PSHE) whole school

30th Half-term Holiday

November

6th Inset Training Day

7th Start of Term 2

December

6th Pantomime – Classes 1-4 (Article 29- develop a child's talents).

22nd Inset Training Day

25th Christmas Holidays

Class Snippets - (Article 28- children have the right to an education. Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents, personalities and beliefs)

Class 1 have settled in beautifully this week. The new Reception children have shown a lot of resilience with starting school and the Year 1s have been fantastic at modelling classroom expectations to their younger peers. We have had a lovely week playing, exploring and getting to know each other and school routines, whilst preparing for the school year ahead.

Class 2 - We have had a lovely first week back in Class 2. The children have been kind and caring towards each other. They have a new creative area in class so they have been making lots of lovely artwork. We all created our own Elmer the elephant and they are on display around the school. Mrs Evans took us to Forest School on Thursday where the children had a fantastic time and remembered all of the rules. They even made artwork out of blackberry juice. I'm sure they will sleep well this weekend!



Class 3 have settled in very well this week. The Year 4 children have been super helpers to make sure the Year 3 children are settled and they have been helping with jobs around the classroom. We have been busy learning all about each other and sharing our hobbies and qualities. I was very impressed that all children remembered their swimming kits on Tuesday and they are a class of little fish in the water! We painted ourselves as Ancient Egyptians to start off our new history topic and I was very impressed with the detail that they added. We have started our maths and writing work for the term and the children have impressed me with the speed at which they have been working. I look forward to a fantastic week next week.

Class 4 have had a positive start to the new school year! The children considered what their Big Dreams are and we learned we have aspiring footballers, marine biologists, athletes, carpenters, police officers and lawyers, to name a few – the children then mapped out their timelines to achieve their dreams and asked some great questions about how to get there... "Do we need to go to university? Can I do an apprenticeship? What skills will I need to show? What else could I do linked to this job?" The children have also started learning about the beginnings of the universe and considering the different theories around this: Religious and Scientific. They are really looking forward to learning all about Space and following the class charter that they have created; this is centred around Agency, Autonomy, Respect and Gratitude that link to our Rights Respecting values.

Tour of Britain Cycle Race this Saturday in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire County Council have sent through these details of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race. Stage 7 of this year's Men's Tour of Britain Cycle Race is taking place in Gloucestershire this **Saturday 9th September 2023**.

□ If you want to watch the race live, the action starts in Tewkesbury at 11am and finishes in Gloucester Docks at approximately 3:15pm with the route going through both the Cotswold and

Stroud Districts. For details of the route and timings, please follow this link <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-seven/>. Get out there and cheer the riders on!

□ From 12pm, there will be an exciting finish event in Gloucester docks including a BMX display, Stunt cyclists, Smoothie bikes, Cycle Scalextric, balance bikes, mini racing bikes, a circus bike workshop, a watt bike challenge, live music and more.

□ A school's pack containing reading comprehensions, quizzes and art activities is available here: <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/community/schools/>

Beezee Families

Beezee Families run healthy lifestyle programmes for children and their families in the Gloucestershire area. These are 12-week programmes, starting week commencing 18th September and running through to the end of week commencing 11th December. They provide reasonable adjustments for children with additional Needs and learning disabilities on our programmes. Please find attached flyer.

Gloucestershire Families Magazine

Our **September/October 2023** issue is loaded with useful information for local parents including:

- Free Halloween Activity Pack
- Best new adventure books for kids
- Celebrating different learning styles
- Fun role play ideas for kids
- Top family friendly museums
- Making the most of Parents' Evenings
- How can AI support dyslexia?
- Phonics resources to assist with reading
- Autumn outside activities and loads more.....

Here is the link [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Sep/Oct 2023](#)

School Debt Policy – September 2023

New measures we are introducing from September are as follows.

- 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 and 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.

Please ensure that your Breakfast Club and After School Club ParentPay accounts are in credit by September if you are planning to use these services.

Monster Phonics Webinar

There is a monster phonics parent webinar scheduled for parents on 4th October. If you are interested in learning more about how we teach phonics you can reserve a place by opening the link below:

[Monster Phonics a Guide for Parents Tickets, Wed 4 Oct 2023 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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