



Steam Mills Primary

21.03.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Rights Respecting Article of the Week

Wednesday 19th March - **British science week**- 7-16th March- **Article 29**- Education should develop a child's talents and beliefs. **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.



Track/Car Park

At a recent 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.

Update – thank you to the three parents who have already volunteered to help. It looks as though we will choose a weekend to carry out the work as a parent may have access to equipment. Please do let us know if you are able to help and we will arrange a date and time.

Miss Caton

This week we welcomed Miss Caton to Steam Mills Primary. Miss Caton has joined our Mid-day Supervisor Team and will also be our regular Cleaner working every day, after the retirement of Mr Holder. Welcome to Steam Mills Primary!



Red Nose Day for Comic Relief – Friday 21st March

Thank you to everyone who brought a Red Nose today and supported the day by wearing something red. We raised an amazing £166 for Comic Relief.



Easter Raffle/Easter Service & Non School Uniform Day – Thursday 10th April

FoSM will be making up some lovely Easter Hampers for a raffle during the last week of term and the draw will happen at the Easter Service from 2:30pm on the final day of term (Thursday 10th April). This day will also be a non-school uniform day, to raise funds for FoSM. **Raffle Tickets will be £1 a strip and £1 please for non-school uniform donation.** 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 events)

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

FoSM Easter Raffle Draw

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

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.



2.3 Key stage 2 test timetable for 2025

The tests must be taken on the scheduled day, and in order, unless an application for a timetable variation has been approved by STA (see section 5.6).

Date	Tests
Monday 12 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling: Paper 1: questions
Monday 12 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling: Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday 13 May	English reading
Wednesday 14 May	Mathematics: Paper 1: arithmetic
Wednesday 14 May	Mathematics: Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 15 May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

Class Snippets

Pre-school – this week we have enjoyed going to the Forest School site with Rosie, where the children made lots of lovely sounds using the very large drum with pine cones and twigs. We have painted pine cones and engaged in lots of lovely outdoor play, including 'building' with the large loose parts and water play with the bamboo channelling and guttering in the glorious weather on Thursday!

Class 1 – this week we enjoyed reading the book 'The Undersea Cleaning Spree' which challenged us to think about how we can look after sea life. We explored what recycling is and how we can recycle to help the planet. In English we have been authors working on making our own versions of 'The Extraordinary Gardener'. Our sound this week was 'oi' for 'coin in the soil' and our HFW (day, away, play, children).

Class 2 – what a week! We had such a wonderful day at Bristol Zoo Project on Wednesday. We saw everything the zoo had to offer, and the children were so well behaved throughout. Both year groups had a learning session about Madagascar. We learnt many things: there are 120 types of lemurs; the gentle lemur is very aggressive, and an aye-aye has very long fingers! The Y2s were very good at sorting animals into those that live in the UK and those that are from Madagascar. Thank you to the adults who supported us on the trip, it would not have been possible without you!



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Hadley - Showing great resilience in any activity he chooses.

Fern - Talking about her recent holiday with confidence.

Class 1

Reggie - for always going out of his way to be kind to his classmates.

Benahim - for always joining in and signing beautifully in music lessons.

Class 2

Austin - lovely understanding and retrieval of information about Sydney Opera House.

Evie - wonderful effort and resilience in your reading of a very tricky text.

Class 3

Isla C - for excellent effort in all areas to make good progress.

Annabelle - for showing great creativity in her storytelling and story writing.

Class 4

Luca - for a shining, positive attitude to his learning and setting a great example with the SHINE ethos.

Serenity - for demonstrating some great learning behaviours and using feedback to improve her work.

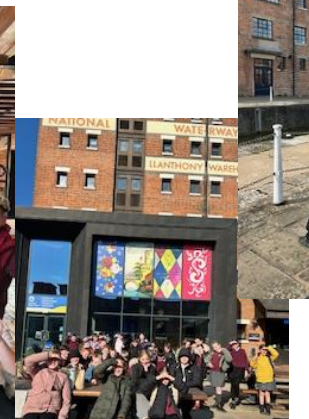


We also say goodbye to Miss Chandler this week. She has been with us for 10 weeks and has supported us through our learning fantastically. We wish her all the best as she finishes her teacher training and she will be missed by C2! Thank you, Miss Chandler, for your hard work!



Class 3 had a very busy week. Last Friday, they took part in an angling session with Prostars to learn some fishing skills. They learnt how to cast off and played different fishing games. This week, the children were excited to erupt their volcanoes. They found the more bicarb, the better the eruption. We had lots of fun trying each volcano. The weather was beautiful on Wednesday afternoon so we took our dance session outside and created tornado motifs in groups. I have been really impressed with the children's storytelling skills this week to write their innovated version of Leon and the Place Between. What an exciting week we've had!

Class 4 have had a very busy week! They have engaged with their Science well and were researching a specific genus and then discerning between different species, looking at their binomial names and their observable characteristics! We have done lots of writing this week in English considering different viewpoints and producing letters to persuade; also, we considered our protagonist's Mother's feelings in the text and wrote a diary entry considering her 'despair' in the story. We had a fantastic trip to the National Waterways this week and the staff and parents were very impressed with the knowledge the children had about Rivers, and their use of vocabulary for the features they have learnt. We were lucky enough to have a workshop about the purpose of transport and trade and learn why canals were built (focusing on the River Severn), a guided tour of the museum, and then of Gloucester Docks, and we ate our lunch on the barge. Sabrina. The staff said how lovely the children were and they were a credit to our school, which was lovely feedback to hear!



School Council

The school council have fed back and said what a wonderful job the Playground Leaders are doing. There was one child who has stood out recently to staff and their peers so the School Council chose to give Olivia a special Head Teacher award for being a lovely and kind Playground Leader.

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.

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.

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

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

Book on: Prostars.ipalbookings.com | info.lesli@prostars-fse.com

UK Health Security Agency

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Illness	Until...
Cholera	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including 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	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Strep throat

SCAN ME

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

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.