



# Steam Mills Primary

## 31.01.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

### Look Who's Talking 2025

Well done to Harper from Class 3 who represented Steam Mills in the latest round of the Look Who's Talking Schools competition. Harper's speech was so moving that a few of the audience were brought to tears! An amazing performance Harper, we are very proud of you 😊



### Play Equipment – Health & Safety

Please could we request that all parents keep their children with them and ensure that they do not use the play equipment **before or after school**; whilst at drop off or collecting. The school and children are not covered by insurance during this time as no staff are present and equipment checks have not been carried out. Thank you.

### Cooking Club

We have just allocated the final children from our waiting list to the Cooking Club taking place next term which runs on Tuesday's (Term 4 - 4<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April; 3:15pm-4:15pm). We have 1 space available; please let Miss Agg know if your child would like to attend, the place will be given on a first come, first served, basis. Any other interested children will be added to a new waiting list. Many thanks.

### FoSM Valentines Disco's

Our next FoSM Disco's will be on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.

**KS1 Disco** 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm  
(Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Pre-school and Reception parents to stay with their children please.

**KS2 Disco** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Year 3 – Year 6)  
Parents to drop children off and leave; please ensure you are back promptly to collect.

Admission will be **£1 per child (on the door)**. Tuckshop will be available, please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day. **Please bring correct money if possible**. All proceeds will go towards the next Pantomime Trip.

### FoSM Non-school Uniform Day

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** will be a non-school uniform day for FoSM. Please could all children bring in a **£1 donation** which will go towards the next events and Pantomime trip. Thank you.

### 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Children's Mental Health Week

4<sup>th</sup> Children's Mental Health Workshops with Young Minds Matter

5<sup>th</sup> **Mental Health Federation afternoon for Y5/6**

7<sup>th</sup> **In the Net – Y4**

Look Who's Talking Upper KS2 (Berry Hill Primary)

10<sup>th</sup> Bikeability Week for Y5's

13<sup>th</sup> FoSM Valentine's Disco Class 3 Trip

14<sup>th</sup> FoSM Non-school Uniform End of Term 3

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)

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

## 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

### **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 very busy one! The children have been learning about the celebration of Chinese New Year, we have talked about the Great Race and looked at what animal year we were born in. They have made blossom tree pictures, Chinese lanterns and used watercolours to create their own beautiful Chinese inspired pictures. We have also enjoyed reading a different Class book every day for storytelling week. We have also started looking at snails and their spiral shells and the story of Matisse's Magical trail as we will continue to explore Henri Matisse and his work next week.

**Class 1** – this week we have been continuing looking at the story of 'The 3 Little Pigs'. We have explored how we could make houses for the pigs using toys in the classroom. We have also enjoyed a range of lovely books this week for National Storytelling week. In phonics our sound this week was 'ai' and our hfw (it's, do, so).

**Class 2** – this week we have started a new book in English, Grandad's Camper. We have had some really lovely discussions around this story and it was nice to hear about the children's understanding of the theme. We have continued to look at the continents in Geography and the children created a world map puzzle. We also explored Lunar New Year this week and created some snake artwork to celebrate the new Chinese zodiac year.

**Class 3** have worked hard for a range of adults this week, whilst I have been at Soudley and watching Harper at Look Who's Talking. They have explored colour mixing ready to paint volcanoes next week in art and played the glockenspiels in music. In writing, they have planned their next chapter for our book character, Idris and will be writing them in little books next week. The children are very excited for this. We won class stars this week so will be saving up a treat for the end of term.



### Star of the Week Certificates



#### Pre-school

**Livvie-Mae** - settling beautifully and always keen to try any activity.

**Georgie** - Demonstrating great confidence and resilience.

#### Class 1

**Zachary** - for super sounding and blending displayed in all learning.

**Tobiasz** - for his fantastic work designing a house.

#### Class 2

**Charlie W** - wonderful drawing of animal habitats.

**Zia** - for going above and beyond in your writing.

#### Class 3

**Poppy** - for always being kind and helpful.

**Edward** - for a great application of descriptive language in his writing.

#### Class 4

**Oliver** - for improved dedication to his work.

**Fergie** - for a great effort in English when using figurative language.

**Class 4** have been creative this week in Science and Art. They have planned their Monet art piece with Miss Barber and created a draft painting. We have been impressed at how much the paintings are reflecting all the knowledge and techniques that have been taught this term. Well done for putting your skills in to practise! The other creative yet practical activity the class has completed are periscopes in their science lesson this week. This was to help the children to understand how light reflects in a fun and hands on way. In English, we are improving our powers of persuasion and writing a persuasive letter to King George. The key question is based on our text The Highwayman - Who is responsible for Bess' death? Some great class discussions have come out of this and I look forward to seeing the finished letters.

### **Free School Meal Scheme – February Half-Term**

The holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire provides families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. Families who sign up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per eligible child.

Voucher code emails will be sent from week commencing 10 February. If parents have not received their vouchers by 17 February, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#). Please check emails including junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to do so as soon as they can. Families not already registered to receive holiday FSM vouchers can make an application from midday **27 January until midday on 7 February**. To make a new application please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#).

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register holiday but ensure families already registered receive the vouchers they are eligible for, they will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. number eligible children or contact details) by **7 February**. To update existing details please submit a request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#).

Vouchers not received should be queried via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) before the end of the holiday period. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

### **Icepacks**

When a child has a bump at school we always ensure they have an ice-pack to reduce bruising. Please could we request that any ice-packs that find their way home, are returned to school. Thank you.

### **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**






# 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 CofE 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



## February 2025 Newsletter

Thursday 20th Feb 19:00 - 20:00 FREE		<b>FREE SESSION</b> <b>Supporting Healthy Screen Use</b> A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens
Monday 3rd Feb 10:00 - 11:30 £24		<b>Supporting a Child with ADHD</b> Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.
Tuesday 11th Feb 19:00 - 20:30 £24		<b>Facing Defiance</b> Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.
Tuesday 18th Feb 19:00 - 20:30 £24		<b>Cannabis &amp; Ketamine Awareness</b> Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.
Tuesday 25th Feb 19:00 - 20:30 £24		<b>Understanding the Teenage Brain</b> A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)    [info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Understanding Anger	10 FEB 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	11 FEB 10am
Facing Defiance	14 FEB 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN 7pm 25 FEB 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN 7pm 24 FEB 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 FEB 10am 3 MAR 7pm
Improving Family Communication	3 FEB 7pm 4 MAR 10am
AUTISM: Improving Communication	4 FEB 10am 4 MAR 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	4 FEB 7pm 4 MAR 10am
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	10 FEB 10am 10 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	17 FEB 10am 17 MAR 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 FEB 7pm 18 MAR 10am
Anxiety Explained	18 FEB 10am 18 MAR 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	18 FEB 7pm 17 MAR 10am
Decreasing Depression	24 FEB 7pm 25 MAR 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	25 FEB 7pm 24 MAR 10am

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.**