



# Steam Mills Primary

19.01.2024



Dear Parents and Carers

## Lunches

A reminder that it is imperative that all lunches are **ordered in advance (48-hour cut-off)**. **The school will not be checking if your child/ren has food ordered** and food will only be delivered for those parents that have ordered meals for their child/ren. If you realise or discover that you have not ordered a meal for your child, please send them in with a packed lunch from home or contact Miss Agg to order an emergency meal (this has to be before 9:30am on the day).

## Bikeability

We have received confirmation that the training will take place on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. Please could all bikes be in school first thing on the Tuesday, they can then stay in school overnight and be collected at home-time on the Wednesday. Thank you

## Rags 2 Riches Collection

Rags 2 Riches collection will be next **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January**. Please could bags be left in the playground, opposite the main gate between 7:45am and 9:15am. Thank you

## FoSM Meeting

There will be a meeting with Friends of Steam Mills on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** after school. Please do come along if you can, FoSM are keen to invite new members and have support from as many parents as possible.

## FoSM Valentines Disco's

Our next FoSM Disco's will be on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

**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)**. Please bring correct money if possible.

Tuckshop will be available, please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

## Term Dates 2023-24

### Autumn Term

4<sup>th</sup> Sept —22<sup>nd</sup> December

Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct—3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

### Spring term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> January—22<sup>nd</sup> March

Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Summer Term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> April—22<sup>nd</sup> July

Half Term: 27<sup>th</sup>—31<sup>st</sup> May

## INSET days:

24<sup>th</sup> May and

22<sup>nd</sup> July

## Diary Dates

### January

23<sup>rd</sup> &

24<sup>th</sup> Y5 Bikeability Training

24<sup>th</sup> Rags 2 Riches Collection

25<sup>th</sup> Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening

26<sup>th</sup> FoSM Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> Reading Café

### February

8<sup>th</sup> Valentines Discos

9<sup>th</sup> Non-School Uniform Day – £1 to FoSM

End of Term 3

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

20<sup>th</sup> C2 Start Gymnastics

### March

15<sup>th</sup> Reading Café

20<sup>th</sup> Scholastic Book Fair

22<sup>nd</sup> Non-School Uniform Day – £1 to FoSM

End of Term 4

**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** – the weather has been a strong topic at Pre-School this week. We have been talking about snow, ice and the cold temperatures. We have looked at freezing and made some ice baubles to hang on our tree's. We had to decide if that water was going to freeze overnight - which of course it did! We also made some bird feeders by threading cheerio's onto pipe cleaners and hanging them out on the Pre-School trees, as we talked about the birds not being able to find much food in the cold weather.

We have been developing our fine motor skills, using playdough to strengthen our fingers, using tap a shape to carefully hammer pins and shapes into cork boards and using scissors correctly to make snips in paper.



**Class 1** – busy week for Class 1 - We have been writing letters to a character from our story this week, using our phonic skills to write words independently. In science we have been grouping animals and in history we have been learning more about the moon. The children have done a lovely piece of art inspired by Mark Rothko, mixing primary colours to make secondary colours to create our colour fields.

Reception sounds: 'ee' & 'ur' and our HFW's are 'see, going, just, have'.

**Class 2** – this week, we have been continuing to look at the Owl and the Pussy-Cat. The children have been finding rhyming patterns for nouns and verbs using their phonics skills. They have also created a set of instructions for the Owl and the Pussy-Cat to return to the Island where the Bong-Trees go. In art, they have been using oil pastels to create swirling patterns and blend different colours. In geography, we have been looking at how the weather affects us and what we need to wear. The Y1's have learnt the ie (green froggy), ie (yellow eye) and igh sounds. The Y2's have been recapping tricky g.



### Star of the Week Certificates



#### Pre-school

**Beatrix** - for her increasing confidence.

**Callie** - for settling so well into Pre-School.

#### Class 1

**Texas-Rose** - for her overall improvement in attitude towards her learning.

**Caitlin** - for her wonderful progress in phonics and her confidence in writing.

**Star readers:** Elliott & Tate

#### Class 2

**Maddie** - giving great feedback to others on their dances in PE.

**Edward** - a lovely retelling of the Owl and the Pussy-Cat.

#### Class 3

**Lily** - for great progress in all areas.

**Blake P** - for excellent contributions to class discussions in his new school.

#### Class 4

**Maeve** – for always being ready to learn and showing kindness and empathy towards others.

**Charlie** – for a fab 'Can Do' attitude in Maths.

**Class 3** - this week, we have been working hard on our writing. The children have been learning about complex sentences and how these are formed with a main clause and a subordinate clause. They have applied writing these in flyers and social media updates as the character from the book. In maths, the Y3 children have really impressed me with their knowledge of subtraction, particularly when exchanging hundreds! We have enjoyed exploring where the Anglo-Saxons came from and listened to the account of Alf to find out what attracted him to Britain. We had a brilliant time on Tuesday dying fabric with natural sources such as raspberries, beetroot, turmeric and spinach.

**Class 4** - this week Class 4 have enjoyed finding out more about South America in Geography and linking this to their ICT learning through concept maps. The children have been developing speech in their English writing to show how it can give clues to the type of character as part of their learning from stories by Rudyard Kipling. We have continued to look at a poem by the same author during guided reading and drawn comparisons or found differences between his writing for different audiences and genres.

### **Children's Fund – Holiday Free School Meals**

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for **February 2024 Half-Term** will be open from **midday 16 January until midday on 30 January**. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing **5 February**. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 7 February, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

This Winter holiday period, 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.

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 February 2024 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.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register. Parents can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page.

**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 email to [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by the end of the holiday period.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so we can update your account, as details are not automatically updated.**

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**Deal with dinner time distraction**

**Julie Rivers, Beezee Bodies Nutritionist**

**Six quick tips**  
 to help you set boundaries around screen time – for more enjoyable meals together and happier, healthier children:

1. Agree a daily routine with your child, so they know when meals and screen time are.
2. Set timers for screen time and be sure to stick to those boundaries.
3. Give them pre-dinner warnings, like "dinner is in 10 minutes", "5 minutes" etc.
4. Build up time away from screens - start with half the meal without and increase gradually.
5. Try to make dinner engaging - make conversation, play games or do a quiz.
6. Allow movement breaks if needed, to keep them engaged with eating without a screen.

**Sign up today!**

Want to start some healthy habits as a family in 2024?  
 Sign up now and our friendly team will support you.

Scan the code  
 or click here to find out more

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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**