



# Steam Mills Primary

29.11.2024



Dear Parents/Carers

## KS2 Home-time Collection

Please could we request for parents to collect children from inside the Playground whenever possible. As part of our safeguarding, staff are not comfortable with sending children outside to you due to traffic safety concerns and a recent near miss.

## Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

A reminder that all orders for Christmas Lunch day need to be handed in to class or the school office by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. Christmas Lunch is a very special day and the rare occasion where the whole school (and staff) squeeze into the hall to enjoy eating this festive meal together. Staff wait on the children while they sit and with their friends and a Christmas Cracker! Thank you to FoSM again for their contribution to the Crackers again this year. This day is also our, wear a Christmas Jumper Day (instead of usual school jumper – so all other uniform as normal) £1 donation to Save the Children please.

## GHLL Healthy Living Award

We are pleased to announce that Steam Mills has been recently awarded the GHLL Healthy Living award. To achieve this, we completed an audit of our school's health and wellbeing provision in six different sections:

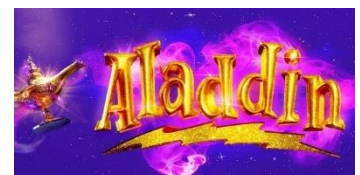
- School Ethos
- Teaching & Learning
- Healthy Eating
- Physical Health
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- SMSC



Congratulations to the all the children, staff, parents, Friends of Steam Mills and Governors who all contribute to making Steam Mills a wonderful place to thrive. Skills for learning and learning for life.

## Whole School Panto – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

We hope all the children in Classes 1-4 are looking forward to the Panto Trip on Wednesday. A reminder that children need to be in school for **8:30am**. Please could parents/carers also not park in the layby area if attending the Panto as we need the coaches to park there when they arrive. Thank you to FoSM for financing and arranging this very special treat for the children, also thanks to all the Parents/Carers and school staff for supporting fundraising events over the year to make this trip possible. We have now informed all of the parent helpers and allocated them to coaches. We hope a wonderful time is had by all!



## Diary Dates

### Autumn Term 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> September-20<sup>th</sup> December

### Half Term

28<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November

### 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:

6<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> July

### Diary Dates (incl. Federation December activities)

4<sup>th</sup> Whole school Panto

9<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas Play Rehearsal

10<sup>th</sup> Pre-school trip to Christmas Show

11<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas Play Performances for parents 9:30am and 5:00pm

13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre

18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day  
Christingle Service at Church – 2pm for Classes 2-4 only

19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties

20<sup>th</sup> Carol Service & End of Term 2

### January

6<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day

7<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 3

15<sup>th</sup> Attendance Drop-in Session – 9:00am-10:00am

22<sup>nd</sup> Rags 2 Riches Collection

## Christmas Plays – Pre-school, Class1 & Class 2

All children should have brought home a letter regarding the Christmas Nativity Plays taking place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please return slips by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** to secure your tickets. Please ask at the office if you need another letter.



## Cake Donations – Christmas Fayre – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

FoSM are asking please if they could have donations of cakes for the Christmas Fayre. They are happy to receive home-made or bought items. Please make a note to bring into school nearer the time. Thank you.

## 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 at Pre-School, we have been creating our own tea party for the tiger making cupcakes out of playdough and laying the table with the cups, saucers and food. We have been looking at lots of rhyming books and have played an animal sound game which they all really enjoyed! We have started to touch a little on Christmas and are starting to practice our Nativity play. We have also been looking at dice and what they represent, tiger arts and crafts and recognising our names on our name cards. Our sound this week has been P and our number has been 10.

**Class 1** continued their writing topic of Ning and the Night Spirits, and they have been using adjectives to describe the night spirits. The children have also started to create posters to stop the townspeople from being afraid of the Night Spirits. This week we introduced the topic of weather watching. We will be comparing the weather of Cinderford and Port Douglas (Australia). Phonics sounds 'ch, sh, th (tickly and smooth) ng'. HFW's (too, her, with, are, yes).

**Class 2** – On Wednesday, Woodside Year 1 and 2s joined us for a History day all about the Great Fire of London. During this time, the children split into their year groups; they then each had a workshop in the hall and completed some artwork in the classroom. During the workshop, the children acted out different scenes from the fire. They pretended to be important people; such as Thomas Fariner, Samuel Pepys and King Charles II. They created a living museum, where they were freeze frames of scenes from the fire. They even thought about one of the benefits of the fire: it stopped the plague! The children from Steam Mills were very well behaved and a great credit to the school during the whole day! It was lovely for them to interact with some of their peers from Woodside.

**Class 3** have worked hard this week in maths. They have been using dienes and place value charts to add numbers. I have been really impressed with their listening and explanations this week. In



## Star of the Week Certificates



*(these are awarded in the Celebration Assembly each Tuesday afternoon)*

### Pre-school

**Locke** - for always joining in, singing and sharing his own ideas during music session.

**Hadley** - for settling in so well at Pre-School.

### Class 1

**Penny** - for her fantastic effort with her reading.

**Tommy** - for always trying his best when writing.

**Star reader: Benjamin**

### Class 2

**Harrison** - wonderful effort in maths this week. Great listening skills!

**Evie** - great effort and perseverance in your independent work, even if it is challenging.

**Luca** - being a kind and caring member of Steam Mills.

### Class 3

**Ava** - for always trying her best in maths.

**Elora** - for being increasingly open to taking on board feedback.

### Class 4

**Maeve** - for excellent efforts in Science.

**Bertie** - for great class contributions and building on others' ideas.



guided reading, we have moved to reading a non-fiction book- The Lost Species. We have learnt about titles, contents page, glossary, index, pictures and captions. It would be great if you could discuss the features of non-fiction books at home with your child.

**Class 4** have had a good week. In Maths, Y5 have been learning all about nets of 3D shapes with Miss Harte and have had so many opportunities to investigate different shapes and make nets to support their learning. In Science, the children have explored friction and how it can be helpful and unhelpful - they had the chance to investigate with newton meters, their shoes and different surfaces and how different surfaces can affect the effectiveness friction. In History, the children learnt about different military machines in WW2 and the purpose of these machines - they are now starting to utilise their learning from this whole term to support their understanding, which is great to see.

#### **Winter 2024 – Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers**

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for December 2024 Winter holiday will be open from midday 25 November until midday on 6 December. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 16 December. Please could families to check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 23 December, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#).

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.

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. We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.

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 December 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, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

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 ask them to submit an update existing details request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

## 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**

## Free Webinar and Resources

This link will take you to tips on talking - [Tiny Happy People - Key talking tips for any age](#)



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## Free Webinar & Resources: Join BBC Tiny Happy People to find out more

The [BBC Tiny Happy People](#) website provides a wealth of **FREE** resources including fun [activity ideas](#), [tips and advice](#), [child development facts](#), [key talking tips for any age](#) and much more. All designed to empower families with knowledge and techniques to support their 0–4-year-olds development in the home learning environment.

**To find out more join one of the free monthly webinars here:** [Champions Training sessions](#).

This virtual 45min session will explain BBC Tiny Happy People's approach, show you easily shareable content on the website and highlight key language techniques and resources to share with families you work with. If you have any questions **please email** [tinyhappypeople@bbc.co.uk](mailto:tinyhappypeople@bbc.co.uk).

*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**