



# Steam Mills Primary

06.09.2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter of Term 1! We send a newsletter on Friday of each week to share news about what has happened or what is planned in school.

It is lovely to see the children back and to welcome those new children attending school. Everyone has settled very well into school routines and are enjoying getting to know their new classes and friends.

We have been fortunate to have been able to carry out some upgrades during the summer holidays, with the hall having a new coat of paint, carpets having a deep clean and the school has a new digital phone system. Please bear with us with the new phones as we get used to them, sometimes connection seems a little slow as they rely on our internet connection. Thank you once again to Mr & Mrs Dickinson and Mr Holder for their time in carrying out painting and other maintenance jobs around the School and Pre-school during the holidays.

## School Hours and Late Marks

The expectation is 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**. Arriving at school after 8:45am, but before 9:00am, will incur a late code on the register (L). Registers close at 9:00am, arrival after this time will incur a (U) code.

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. Please find attached a copy of our latest Attendance Policy.

## Cookery Club

A reminder to those 6 children that the Cookery Club is starting next week on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September and will be running for 5 weeks. Please ensure payment is made via ParentPay in advance. Please also do not forget your container to take your makes home. If your child was not successful, they have been placed on the waiting list and hopefully gain a place next term.

## Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents

Mrs Fawkes will be holding a phonics workshop to explain how we teach early reading at Steam Mills on Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.45pm in the hall.

## Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception to Year 6

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Please find Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

## 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

### INSET days:

25<sup>th</sup> October

### Diary Dates

(including Federation activities)

### July

22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Training Day

### September

18<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Trip to Cheddar  
Caves

25<sup>th</sup> Maths Fest!

26<sup>th</sup> Community Engagement  
Vehicle – from 2:30pm

30<sup>th</sup> Rags2Riches Collection

### October

2<sup>nd</sup> Phonics Workshop for  
Reception Parents

21<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival Collection  
(details to follow)

attached details of how to register your child, this is all being administered on-line this year, so there will not be any paper copies of forms going home.

### **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** – we have welcomed some new friends to Pre-School this week which has been lovely seeing old faces and new! Although the weather hasn't been great, we have managed to get outside and explore the Pre-School garden and the school field. The children are starting to make some lovely friendships with their peers. We have played with playdough, rolling marbles down ramps and have started to talk about Autumn and the changes in the weather and environment. Our sound this week has been S and our number has been 1.

**Class 1** - exciting first week at school for Class 1. All of the children have settled into class really beautifully, getting to know each other and making friends. We have also been meeting the monsters from Monster Phonics Land. So far, we have met, Angry Red A, Green Froggy, Yellow I and Miss Oh No. The children have been helping the adults put the class rules together and we have been using a book called When a Dragon Goes to School.

**Class 2** – it's been a lovely week in Class 2. Though the weather hasn't been on our side, we managed to have lots of fun and get outside a few times throughout the week. I have been very impressed with the children's behaviour and the way they have all settled back into school life. They have been introduced to Class 2's book vote this week and have showed lovely democratic skills by voting on which books they would like me to read at the end of the day. I'm excited to see what next week brings us!

**Class 3** have had a fantastic start to the term! They explored Stone Age artefacts on Tuesday to work out what they might have been used for in the past and then went swimming in the afternoon. On Wednesday, we explored cave art and the work of Banksy. Children then used charcoal to create their own line drawings of animals. We have started out maths work this week and the children have been using dienes and counters to make 3 and 4 digit numbers. They have really impressed me with their fantastic listening skills and all trying their best!

**Class 4** have settled in really well this week, which is such a positive start. The Year 6s have really stepped up as role models and showing Year 5 the expectations we have. They have started various units of work this week which include Art, History, Science, DT, Computing and French. We have also gone through homework this week and in the front of their homework diaries, they have completed the timetable for this term and what needs to be in when; this also includes PE Kit. They can use this as a checklist at home to help them be organised. We are looking forward to getting into our usual routines next week - as always, any questions please do not hesitate to ask any member of the Class 4 Team.

### **School Debt Policy – September 2024**

**Please ensure that your Breakfast Club and After School Club ParentPay accounts are in credit at all times.**

Just to remind parents and inform new parents of our Debt Policy.

- 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 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.

### Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

We would like to make you aware of changes to the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire. The holiday vouchers are designed to support eligible children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire, and families where no other support is available.

Gloucestershire County Council is committed to supporting families with 1 week of vouchers at £15 per child, per week for the October 2024 holiday. Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for October 2024 holiday will be open from midday 2 September 2024 until midday on 20 September 2024. We will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers will be distributed to families the week commencing 30 September 2024.

If parents do not receive their vouchers by 7 October 2024, please check their spam/junk mailboxes for an email from [selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk](mailto:selectcode@select-your-reward.co.uk), as well as ensure mailbox settings allow junk mail.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by 13 October 2024, so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

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

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01452 717262

Gloucestershire  
COUNCIL

Our programmes are for children aged 7-12 years old, see our website for more information. 24-0915

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**