



Steam Mills Primary

26.01.2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Cake & Sweets for Birthdays/Celebrations

Please could we remind Parents/Carers that the school does not allow birthday treats to be brought into school for the children. Thank you.



Rags 2 Riches Collection

Thank you for your donations for our latest Rags 2 Riches collection. This was our best total yet, we raised an amazing £114.50 (229kg) from this collection for FoSM to put towards the next Pantomime trip.

Reading Café

Please don't forget to pop along with your child/ren to our next reading Café after school on **Tuesday 30th January 2024**, it is open until 4:00pm.

FoSM Valentines Disco's

Our next FoSM Disco's will be on **Thursday 8th 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)**.

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 9th 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 Pantomime trip.

Pupil Premium/Free School Meals etc.

Please could parents check if you think your child/ren may be eligible for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals? Please do this even if your younger children are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. You can apply here:

<https://emsonline.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCitizenPortal>

Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

4th Sept —22nd December

Half Term: 30th Oct—3rd Nov

Spring term 2024

8th January—22nd March

Half Term: 12th—16th Feb

Summer Term 2024

8th April—22nd July

Half Term: 27th—31st May

INSET days:

24th May and

22nd July

Diary Dates

January

30th Reading Café

February

6th Class 3 Trip to St. Fagan's

8th Valentines Discos

9th Monster Phonics on-line
Non-School Uniform Day –

£1 to FoSM

End of Term 3

19th Start of Term 4

20th C2 Start Gymnastics

March

7th World Book Day – Pyjama
Day

12th Parents Evenings

15th Reading Café

19th Parents Evenings

20th Scholastic Book Fair

22nd Non-School Uniform Day –
£1 to FoSM

End of Term 4

Why should I apply?

For every child that is entitled to free school meals the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for children. So please apply even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal. You can also receive financial support with trips, holiday meal vouchers/schemes, some after school clubs, free school milk and free access to our Breakfast Club.

What are the qualifying criteria for Free School Meals?

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

Bedtime stories

World Book Day is upon us in the next term- Thursday 7th March 2024. To celebrate this year, we will be celebrating 'Bedtime stories'. We will encourage children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas for this day and they are welcome to bring a small teddy bear. If children do not wish to wear pyjamas, they are encouraged to wear comfy clothing. This is instead of dressing up. We will be reading a bedtime story in front of a 'cosy fire', drinking hot chocolate and eating biscuits. Hot chocolate and biscuits will be provided by school.

Book swap

Children are also invited to take part in a very special book swap. In each school, a table will be set up in the hall for children to bring in a book to donate and swap for another book of their choice. It will be really lovely for the children to all be able to take a different book home at the end of the day to encourage reading for pleasure. Please ensure books brought in are in good condition for the swap.

Book Tokens

Each child will be given a World Book Day token with a value of £1. This can be exchanged for any one of the books below. These can be redeemed from Thursday 15th February to Sunday 31st March. They are redeemable from the following stores:

- Your local independent bookseller
- Asda
- Blackwell's (selected stores only)
- Sainsburys
- Tesco
- The Works
- Waterstones and WHSmith



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Locke - for settling so well into Pre-School.

Zachary - for using to dice to match number to quantity.

Class 1

Luca - for his wonderful writing about the moon.

Star readers : **Luca & Bella**

Class 2

Austin - settling in well to Steam Mills.

Alfie - always having a wonderful attitude to learning.

Freddie - a very interesting and informative show and tell.

Class 3

Harry - taking ownership of his learning and using resources independently.

Khloe - being resourceful in maths to support her- using number lines.

Class 4

Elwood – for persevering when learning coordinates.

Pacey – for showing maturity towards peers.



If you have any questions, please contact the school office.
 Best wishes,
 Mrs Gibbs (Reading Lead for the Federation)

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 been continuing our theme 'Wonders of the World' and have been looking this week at spiders and bees. We used bubble wrap to paint press to make hives and used potato mashers to paint black and yellow bees. The children added 8 legs to their spider bodies, which went well with this week's number of the week, and have been enjoying songs and rhymes regarding insects. We also have been out in the garden giving it a bit of a tidy and clean hoping for some winter sunshine and had a lovely donation of 'Bob the Builder' toys which all the children have loved!

Class 1 – the children have been working hard this week learning about Neil Armstrong and his companions to the moon, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. They have been writing key facts in preparation for when they write a fact file on Neil Armstrong. Lots of children have been incorporating their learning into their play, which is wonderful. In English we have finished our book 'Look Up!' and have begun to write our own stories. We have been working really hard to include finger spaces and joining clauses with the work 'and'.

Reception sounds this week are 'ai & or' and HFW's are 'see, going, just, have, it's, do, so'.

Class 2 – this week, we have begun a new class book - Jim and the Beanstalk. The children made some great predictions about what would happen in the book, based on their prior knowledge. They thought about how the characters would be feeling and role played some different scenes from the story. We thought about the dangers of the weather in Geography this week and the class made some posters about how to stay safe in a heatwave. The Y1's learnt the or, ore and aw sounds in phonics. The Y2's recapped the tricky c sound.

Class 3 – have been working hard this week in writing. They have written a speech to award the character from our books a Peace prize and explored the features of speech punctuation. We had a history day this week to explore where Anglo-saxons settled and what they ate. We learnt that they didn't have potatoes or bananas! In science, we have investigated melting ice lollies as part of our states of matter and last Friday we made raisings dance by dropping them in lemonade and allowing the CO2 bubbles to lift them up.

Class 4 have been very busy this week. Lots of children have moved groups in swimming, which is great, and they are working really hard on improving their confidence and skills in the water. In

Maths, we have looked at the characteristics of a mathematician and Y6, in particular, have been thinking about these: Resilience, Resourcefulness, Collaboration and Curiosity. Year 5s that have taken part in Bikeability this week have done brilliantly, despite some unpleasant weather; they all had some lovely feedback about their experiences and were proud that they passed the course.

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).

Monster Phonics

Attached is an invite to attend an on-line session for Monster Phonics on Friday 9th February. Here is the link again : [How to improve progress using Monster Phonics eBooks Tickets, Fri 9 Feb 2024 at 18:00 |](#)

[Eventbrite](#)

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.

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

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 by the end of the holiday period. **For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update your account, as details are not automatically updated.**

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