

Steam Mills Primary

27.01.2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 5 Bikeability Training

Well done to the Year 5 children that took part in the Bikeability Training this week. They all passed with flying colours and coped really well in such cold conditions. The children should have brought home their certificate, a booklet and a badge.

Young Voices

A huge well done to the children who represented Steam Mills at Young Voices at Birmingham World Arenas on Wednesday. They made all of the staff and parents very proud with their beautiful singing and their behaviour was exemplary. The children sang a range of songs with 6240 other pupils and even got to sing Proud with Heather Small. A big thank you to all the staff and parents that made it possible to attend as well! 😊

Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents.



School Calendar 22/23

Term 3

3rd Jan to 17th Feb

Term 4

27th Feb to 31st March

Term 5

17th April to 26th May

Term 6

5th June to 25th July

Inset Days:

24th and 25th July

Diary Dates

January 2023

30th National Storytelling Week

February

14th Class 4 Trip to National Waterways Museum – Gloucester

16th Year 6 Dental Survey
FoSM School Disco (details to follow)

20th Half term Break

27th Start of Term 4

March

2nd World Book Day – Bedtime Stories (**Pajama Day**)

21st Parents Evenings – all classes

27th Parents Evenings – Class 2 only

28th Parents Evenings – Class 1, 3 and 4

Rags 2 Riches

Thank you for your donations for Rags 2 Riches. This collection raised £100.16 for FoSM with the money going towards future events for the school.

Our next collection for Rags to Riches is taking place on Tuesday 16th May 2023.

Here is a link showing which items can be donated:

<https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/>

National Storytelling week

Next week (30th January) is National Storytelling week. As a school, each class teacher has chosen a book linked to the theme 'diversity'. Books will be shared around each class throughout the week. By the end of the week, children will have heard 5 lovely stories and I am sure they will be excited to tell you all about them!

Article 2- non-discrimination- treating everyone equally.

Article 29- Education should develop children's talents and beliefs.

Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You will have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wish to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are may affect schools in this area are:

- **Wednesday 1 February 2023**
- **Thursday 2 March 2023**
- **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
- **Thursday 16 March 2023**

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains the reasons for strike action. It can be found here:

<https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view>

Clearly this is a difficult situation; I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those who wish to strike will have thought long and hard about their decision.

One of the key issues will be to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. If any teachers are absent on the strike days, but there are enough staff to supervise, their class will be open or partially open but will not be taught usual lessons. If we partially open, vulnerable children and those of key worker parents would be prioritised for supervision.

Head Teacher Certificates

Pre-school

Charlie – for making up his own games with his friends.

Elodie – knowing her number bonds to make 8.

Class 1

Joules - for coming into school beautifully every morning.

Sunneigh - for settling into her new class beautifully, making lots of new friends in Class 1

Class 2

Emmie - beautiful writing and having an amazing attitude to everything she does.

Isla C - wonderful writing and trying her best in everything.

Class 3

Bertie - working really hard to improve cursive handwriting.

Beatrice - great progress in reading to develop fluency and comprehension.

Class 4

Finley – for an improved attitude and making better learning choices.

Jenson P – for an improved learning attitude in Maths.

How will strike action affect our school?

At this point, it is likely that we will be open. If this changes, it may be at short notice so please check the website on the dates above, as any information about partial closure will be posted there.

Kind regards,
Mrs Davis

School Disco's

The date has been set, **Thursday 16th February 2023**, the DJ has been booked and tickets will be on sale from next week!

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.

Tickets will be on sale **in class** and are **£1 each** (please send in the exact money to class).

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

Class Snippets

Pre-school – Inspired by the story "The Very Busy Spider", the children have created spider models and glittery webs. They have used black Playdoh to add legs to spiders, using lots of mathematical language and problem solving. The children have used hammers to help dinosaurs, animals (and cars!) escape from being frozen in the ice.

Class 1 - This week, we have started a new fairy tale, The Three Little Pigs. The children have loved dressing up and acting out the story to their friends. We used this story as an opportunity to look at different materials and we used this knowledge to identify the different materials in Class 1. This week's sound is Black Cat 'ur' and in Maths, we have been finding 1 less of a given number to 10.

Class 2 – This week, we have finished looking at the book Julian is a Mermaid. We have really enjoyed this book. This week we created two stanza poems, which turned out beautifully. In our first stanza, we wrote about which animal we would be and then described that animal. In the next stanza we chose a friend and wrote about which animal they would be and then described this animal. They should be very proud of their poetry!

Class 3 have been working brilliantly for a supply teacher, Mrs Morgan for 2 days this week. They explored Chinese New Year and were able to retell the story of how the years got their animal names. They also got very creative with making Chinese New Year lanterns, line drawings of volcanoes and created their own volcanic explosion inspired by the work of Hokusai using paints, marbles, matchsticks, straws and sponges for texture.

Class 4 have had a very busy week – in English, they have been learning the difference between active and passive voice. They have had their ninth session of flute and are now working towards their performance next week – they have made huge improvements with this and I'm sure the parents that are coming to watch will be impressed. Lots of Year 5s have taken part in Bikeability this week and they have all passed, which is great! We had lovely feedback from the teachers about them and all the children have notes for things to keep working on to improve their confidence. A few of the children have also taken part in Young Voices this week and had a fabulous time – thank you to Mrs Evans for organising this opportunity for children in Class 4.

Rights Respecting - Article of the Week

LGBT+ month - Articles 2, 13 and 17.

Article 2: The right to non-discrimination. Allowing everyone to be treated fairly no matter their skin colour, gender, religion or status.

Article 13: The right to share freely their thoughts and beliefs.

Article 17: The right to access information.

This week, it would be great to research members of the LGBT+ community and explore their contributions to society e.g. Elton John, Frida Kahlo and Ru Paul.

Flute Instrument/Lesson Offer

Class 4 have been enjoying their Flute music lessons so much that we have made enquiries about the possibility of further lessons for those who may be interested. We are told by Gloucestershire Music that they could provide a teacher to come into school during the school day, varying the time each week, so as not to impact other learning, to give music lessons.

This offer is open to children in Class 4 only. If your child is interested in taking up this offer, please see the following links for information and then contact Miss Agg to register your interest.

This link is all about free instrument hire for pupil premium children <https://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/youth-groups/help-with-costs/>

This link is about the £10 instrument hire for those who have had WCET lessons who aren't on pupil premium <https://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/instrument-hire/wcet-10-instrumental-hire-offer/> - this was the flyer that was sent out at the very start of the sessions.

Year 6 Dental Survey

If your child has been selected to take part in this survey, please ensure you return the permission form by Monday 6th February. Many thanks

Perrygrove Railway Offer

For the next three weekends we are offering locals HALF PRICE entry to Perrygrove! Please see the attached poster for details.

Junior Park Run

Forest of Dean junior parkrun is a lovely group and it's a great way to encourage children and their families to stay active in a different setting.

If you haven't come across it before, we are a weekly 2km event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds), held every Sunday at 9:00am in the Coverham Enclosure (opposite Five Acres High School). It's free! But please [register](#) before you first come along. Don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode - if you forget it, [you won't get a time](#). The aim is to have fun and you can run, walk, skip or dance the course, so long as you do it under your own power (no piggy backs!). Please come along and join in whatever your pace! It is entirely organised by volunteers – if you would rather have a volunteering role, email forestofdeanjuniors@parkrun.com to help. Please see attached flyer.

Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for February half term are now open until the 7 February. Voucher emails will be sent out on 13 February. Please encourage parents to check their junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by the 14 February please encourage them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so that we can look into it.

This February half term, Gloucestershire County Council are providing vouchers to eligible families who have signed up to our Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of our commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. 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 benefits-related free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, as well as children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2), as they are not eligible for this scheme.

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive £15 per child, for the February half term week.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our Holiday free school meal vouchers webpage <<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/meals-during-school-holidays/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/#main>>, seen below:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/meals-during-school-holidays/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/#main>

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they will already have been included. 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.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk <<mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk>> so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

Furniture

Would any parents have a large van to transport a display board for us up to Soudley School please? The board is 1.65m x 1.85m. Please contact Miss Agg if you are able to help.

We still have a couple of chairs and some tables which are excess to requirements. Please contact Miss Agg if you are interested in giving them a home.

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.