



# Steam Mills Primary

## 22.11.2024



Dear Parents/Carers

### Xmas 4 Schools

If you have ordered items from Xmas 4 Schools, items are now ready to collect from the school office. Thank you.

### Mrs Warren – Miss Carlson

We will be saying a little “Goodbye and Good luck” to Mrs Warren as she plans to depart for her maternity leave, her last day being Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Miss Carlson will be covering Mrs Warren’s Family Support time during this maternity period. You can contact Miss Carlson via the School Office if you need to make contact. Mrs Dickinson will be covering Mrs Warren’s Teaching Assistant role linked to Class 3 during this time.

### FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

There will be a non-school uniform day next Friday. FoSM are asking for donations for the Christmas Fayre tombola please. Any items you would like to donate, such as Sweets, Chocolates, toys, stationery and bottles. Thank you.

### 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 as soon as possible and before the cut-off date. 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 had a very special visitor come to visit us and join us for tea! The Tiger came on Monday and has loved Pre-School so much he stayed for the week. The children have been having tea parties, laying the table with cups and saucers and have been having a lovely time altogether. We have been doing some tiger arts and crafts, adding stripes to our tiger templates and created spotty cups and saucers. The weather has been very cold this week so we have spent most of the day inside but on Wednesday we did go out and look at the ice that had formed in the tuff trays in the garden and have talked daily about

### 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 November activities)

27<sup>th</sup> One Day Creative Fire of London Workshop – Class 2 and Woodside

29<sup>th</sup> FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – items for Christmas Fayre Tombola

#### December

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

the weather. We have enjoyed playdough, small lego, colour and shape sorting and lots of dancing! Our sound this week has been T and our number has been 9.

**Class 1** – this week Class 1 have been reading a new book called Ning and the Night Spirits and although we haven't read much, we have been writing letters to Ning to help them make friends. Phonics sounds this week are (y,z,xx,qu) and HFW's are (will, all, went, was, from, help). Road safety week this week and the children have been creating posters to go up around the school giving people advice on how to stay safe on the roads.

**Class 2** – this week the year 2s have been working really hard on some assessments. They have all tried their best through it all and did themselves proud! We have begun our nativity practice and have been very impressive in learning the songs. The children were all very excited by the snow this week and have had a lot of fun exploring the seasonal changes that are upon us. We have continued to learn about the Great Fire of London and created a short diary entry of what would've been seen by Samuel Pepys. The children created posters in groups to share what they had learnt so far. We have also learnt about what can and can't be recycled this week!

★**Star of the Week Certificates**★

**Pre-school**  
**Lottie** - for being a kind and caring friend towards a peer who was upset.  
**Fern** - for her confidence, joining in with our Wednesday music sessions.

**Class 1**  
**Lockie** - for being kind and considerate.  
**Benahim** - for his increased independence when writing.  
**Star readers:** Riley, Tommy, Rosie, Reggie

**Class 2**  
**Adam** - thoughtful and kind answers in PSHE.  
**Charlie W** - wonderful description of fire using your senses.

**Class 3**  
**Sonny** – working with increasing independence  
**Freddie** – keen interest in science.

**Class 4**  
**Paige** – challenging herself with writing and reading.  
**Luca** – for enthusiasm and effort in all areas of learning.



**Class 3** went time travelling yesterday back to the Neolithic period of the Stone Age to Skara Brae in Scotland. They wrote letters to their future selves to tell them about the foods eaten there, what their homes were built from and how it was uncovered during a storm. They completed the NFER assessments this week and they have all tried incredibly hard to apply their knowledge- well done, Class 3.

**Class 4** - this week Class 4 have made us proud with their approach to assessments - showing us how mature and focussed they can be. In other areas, they have enjoyed planning their ICT blogs based on their trip to Bletchley park and what they have learnt so far about WW2. These will be written on Purple Mash next week and shared between the class so they can all read and positively comment on each-others. Even though blogging is their current topic, being able to learn about commenting appropriately online is also an important part for them to practise through Purple Mash so they can apply this in the real world in the future. Another exciting part has been in science where they have been learning all about gravity and getting hands on using Newton Meters.

## 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](#)



## 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**

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life