



Steam Mills Primary

06.10.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Rights Respecting

Thank you and well done to Steam Mills School Council, who led an online meeting with the Woodside and Soudley School Councils. The children shared information about Right Respecting Schools and explained some of the Rights. Woodside and Soudley will be signing up and working towards the Bronze Award.

Start of the School Day

Please could we remind parents/carers that the children's start time at school is 8:45 am. Drop and Go operates from 8:40am and we encourage as many parents/carers as possible (for children in Classes 2, 3 & 4) to use this service at the **main gate in the rear carpark** and use the one way system to exit.



Parents Evenings/Data Sheets/Uniform

Thank you to all those who have booked onto the Parents Evenings. There are still a few places left if you have yet to book, please contact Miss Agg for assistance, if needed. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit.

There will be a Contact Data Sheet for each child that will be handed to the parent attending. This is to be taken away, checked for accuracy (making any amendments), signed where indicated and returned to the school office. We will not be handing out sheets for families where we are aware of GDPR issues but please do let us know if you have any updates to contact details etc.

We plan to set up a table in the library for second hand uniform. There will be an honesty pot, all items are £1 each, which is a donation for FoSM.

Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception-Y6

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Friday 13th October 2023. All Parents/Carers should have received letters home in book bags. **All forms are required to be returned**, even if you do not wish your child to have the vaccination. There are still a few forms outstanding, we will be chasing these up early next week.

Cookery Club

Cookery Club is progressing well and the current group of children have 2 more sessions before the end of this terms club.

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:

6th November, 22nd December,
24th May and 22nd July

Diary Dates

October

- 10th Parents Evenings 3:30-6:15pm
- 11th Konflux Theatre visiting C3
- 13th Nasal Flu Immunisations
- 17th Parents Evenings 3:30-6:15pm
- 18th Phonics Workshop for parents in Pre-school, Class 1 & 2 (2:45pm)
- 24th Class 4 Trip to Birmingham Museum
- 25th Coram Life Education Visit (PSHE) whole school
- 27th Last day of Term – FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – donation for Xmas Tombola/Hamper
- 30th Half-term Holiday

November

- 6th Inset Training Day
- 7th Start of Term 2
- 9th FoSM School Discos
- 24th FoSM Wreath Making Event
- 28th Panto Workshop Classes 1, 2 and 3

December

- 6th Pantomime – Classes 1-4 (details to follow)
- 13th Pre-school Christmas Play Trip (details to follow)
- 15th FoSM Christmas Fayre
- 22nd Inset Training Day
- 25th Christmas Holidays

January

- 24th Rags 2 Riches Collection
- 25th Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening (letter to follow)

A letter will be sent out before the end of term for the next group of children (taken from the waiting list) who will be invited to take part next term (Term 2).

Please could we also clarify the arrangements for collecting children from Cookery Club which is very similar to After School Club. Could parents/carers access the school via the main gate, buzz through to the hall, explain you are collecting for Cookery Club, walk around to the back kitchen door and ring the bell there. Mrs Molyneux will then bring the children out to you.

Phonics Workshop

Our Phonics Lead, Mrs Fawkes will be holding a Phonics Workshop for parents/carers of children in Pre-school, Class 1 and Class 2 on Wednesday **18th October 2023 at 2:45pm**. This is a chance for you to learn about how the school delivers its Phonics sessions and how you can support your children with their Phonics work.

Harvest Festival Collection – Friday 20th October 2023

This year we are again donating items to the Forest Foodbank as part of our Harvest Festival celebration, supporting people in our local community. We have been asked by the Foodbank to request the following items if possible:



Fruit Juice, Smash, Sponge Puddings, Jelly, Angel Delight, Jam, Packet Soup, Instant Noodles, Multipack Crisps, UHT Milk. Toiletries are also useful.



The children will be having an assembly with Forest Foodbank on Thursday 19th October to explain what they do and how we can help. Please bring items into school on **Friday 20th October 2023**.
Article 24- the right to nutritious food

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 we have been continuing our autumnal theme at Pre-School. We have made bushy squirrel tails using leaves and other natural resources and hand print trees. We have been talking about our families, who lives in our house and if we have any pets. The children have been continuing to develop their fine motor skills and independence by putting on and taking off dressing up clothes by themselves.

Class 1 - this week Reception have been looking at the numbers 3 and 4, then applying their mathematical thinking into making groups of objects. In phonics we have been revisiting our previous sounds and our sounds of the week are (m, d, g) and HFW's are (dad, and, am). As a whole class we have been using Owl Babies as a focus text, working on our comprehension and sequencing, with Year 1 independently writing captions for the story. Our foundation focus has been the history of Steam Mills Primary and we are now moving onto 'where we live'.

Class 2 – on Tuesday afternoon, the children from Class 2 visited Woodside School. We had a nice afternoon there, listening to harvest songs and making harvest wreaths. Class 2 were very well behaved and represented Steam Mills incredibly well. It was a bit of a squeeze at Woodside with 75



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Willow - counting confidently and adding 'one more' to her tower.

Zachary - being more confident and outgoing during new experiences.

Class 1

Texas - for her focus and ideas during History.

Luca - for his engagement and focus in phonics/reading.

Class 2

Will have 4 "Stars" next week!

Class 3

Brandon – for excellent rounding work in maths.

Xander – great work in maths.

Class 4

Matei – great explanations in Maths.

Paige – for pushing herself out of her comfort zone.

children, however, they all seemed to enjoy their time mixing with the other children from Woodside and Soudley schools. This week in maths, both year groups have begun a unit on 2D shapes. The Year 2's have been learning about pentagons, hexagons and octagons and they have been showing their fantastic knowledge.

Class 3 had an exciting week learning all about Ancient Egypt with our workshop on Wednesday. We were visited by a scribe, who time travelled from Ancient Egypt. We watched how to mummify a pharaoh, built our own cities thinking about the resources we needed, wrote on papyrus paper and asked lots of questions to our visitor. The children had a brilliant time!

The children have also worked well this week for lots of different adults and adapted well to this.



Class 4 have had busy week – the children have been working on their plans ready to write their memoirs for their chosen characters. They really enjoyed seeing parts of the book, *Hidden Figures*, come to life by watching sections of the film and this really helped them understand how they could describe emotions, facial expressions and body language – hopefully we will see this all come to fruition next week in their work. We now have enough parent volunteers for our trip later this month so thank you to those parents that have agreed to spend the day with us 😊 Please remember to give your child consent for the trip via parent pay or they will not be able to come with us and will remain in Class 3 for the day.

Childrensfund – Half-term 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 October half term are open from midday 03 October until **midday 17 October**. Voucher emails will be sent out on 23 October. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 25 October, email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

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 [Holiday FSM vouchers webpage](#).

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. If you feel you may be eligible for Free School Meals and have not applied, you can apply here - [apply for free school meals](#)

Using vouchers – vouchers 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 their account, as details are not automatically updated.

Solihull Parenting Course

Please find attached poster for s upcoming Solihull Parenting programme running at River from 17th October 2023 with Severnbanks Primary School.

Xmas 4 Schools

We are again offering the Xmas 4 Schools scheme for children to create a picture to turn into a mug/ calendar etc. The forms will be distributed to children over the next few days to produce their designs. The forms will be sent home on Wednesday 11th October and need to be returned back to school by Wednesday 18th October if you would like to order items.

Gloucestershire Libraries – Halloween Costume Swap

Please find attached details of Halloween costume swaps in every library in the county.

Gloucestershire County Council Admission Arrangements

We have been asked to distribute the admission arrangements consultation for 2025/2026 to all parent/carers. Please find attached.

Vaping on School Site

Part of a vape was found on one of the picnic tables earlier this week. Please can we remind parents not to vape on site and to keep any items off-site. Thank you.

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