



# Steam Mills Primary

30.06.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

## NEU member strike action

The NEU have declared the Weds 5<sup>th</sup> and Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July to be strike days for their members. As advance notice, our school will be affected, **school will be closed on Weds 5th July** and will be **open** on Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July.

We appreciate that class/school closures are disruptive and are aware that all four teacher and leader unions are balloting members regarding co-ordinated strikes in the autumn term. This is based on under-funding for schools, inspection, workload, staff retention and below-inflation rate pay matters. Whilst staff do not want to strike or lose pay, they are willing to support potential longer term benefits for education and we ask for your continued understanding at this difficult time.

## FoSM Summer Fayre

We look forward to welcoming parents, carers and children to the Summer Fayre on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 4pm, until 7pm. There will be some lovely stalls and activities for everyone along with the usual barbecue and refreshments.

Please could we ask for donations of homemade or shop bought cakes on the day, please drop off at school office in the morning. Your continued support is so greatly appreciated and we hope this will be a very enjoyable event. FoSM are in desperate need of volunteers to help run the stalls, if you are able to help, even if it is for an hour or so, please contact the school office and your name will be passed on to FoSM. Thank you.

## School Disco's

The date has been set, **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**, the DJ has been booked and tickets will be on sale from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July!

**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. **Year 1&2 parents to drop children off and leave, please ensure you are back promptly to collect.**

**KS2 Disco** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Year 3 – Year 6) Parents  
**Drop children off and leave; please ensure you are back promptly to collect.**

Tickets will be on sale from the school office and will be **£1 each** (please bring exact money). Tuckshop will be available, please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

## School Calendar 22/23

### Term 6

5<sup>th</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> July

### Inset Days:

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July

### Diary Dates

#### July

- 7<sup>th</sup> Summer Fayre
- 12<sup>th</sup> Extra Come and Play session for new Class 1 Reception
- 13<sup>th</sup> Disco (details to follow)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Reports being sent home
- 19<sup>th</sup> KS2 Leavers Dress rehearsal and Evening Performance - 5pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> KS2 Leavers Morning Performance – 9:30am
- 21<sup>st</sup> Leavers Service 1:30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day

#### September

- 4<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 1
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rags 2 Riches collection

#### October

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tempest Individual/Sibling photos
- 11<sup>th</sup> Konflux Theatre visiting C3
- 30<sup>th</sup> Half-term Holiday

#### November

- 6<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 2

#### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pantomime – Classes 1-4 (Article 29- develop a child's talents).
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Training Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holidays

Please can we ask, if at all possible, if you have siblings in the two different age groups that arrangements are made for them to be brought to their discos separately? We have very limited space in the school hall.

### KS2 Performance letters for Classes 3 and 4

Invite letters were sent out last week for the end of year show. Please let the school office know if you have not received your copy of the letter. Please note the show days and times are – Evening Performance on 19<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm (children need to be in school at 4:30pm), Morning Performance on 20<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30am. Ticket allocation is not automatic, therefore slips need to be returned no later than **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**.

**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 read Sea Mermaid and Maisie Mouse goes to the Seaside. We have used CDS, pompoms and paint to create fish and sand and sandpaper to make sandcastles for our beach display. Some of the children also enjoyed their visits to Class 1 on Wednesday and Thursday.

**Class 1** – we have had a very busy week in Class 1; all of the children have been busy during their bump up days, doing lots of fun activities in Class 2 with the Class 2 adults. Reception have continued their RSE learning and were looking at the different life stages of human beings. All of the children were very knowledgeable at identifying physical change and identifying the difference between the different stages as we grow. Our HFW's this week are 'their & our'.

**Class 2** - this week has been so busy in Class 2. We have really enjoyed our bump up days and we are excited to spend the next few weeks together as our current class. The children in Class 2 have started a new English topic of the Goldilocks Project. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at three different books which tell the story of Goldilocks in different ways. This week we have been describing Goldilocks using rich adjectives, we started the week just using adjectives on their own and we built our knowledge to create a wanted poster to help the police find her.

**Class 3** - it was lovely to welcome the Y2 children into Class 3 this week for their bump up days. We enjoyed getting to know each other and played some games. We read 'Mabel and the Mountain' about Mabel the fly with big dreams and talked about not giving up, when things are tricky. We made our own little Mabel fly complete with googly eyes, wings and hats!

We had a brilliant session at gymnastics this week and the children worked on jumping along the beam, swimming on the bars and practised handstands!



### Star of the Week Certificates



#### Pre-school

**Zachary** – settling in so well to Pre-school.  
**Charlie** – being confident telling his friends about a recent trip to Legoland.

#### Class 1

**Charlie** - for always being super helpful in Class 1 and for helping Mr Holder tidy up at lunch time.  
**Bella** - for her growing confidence in and around school.

#### Class 2

**Esmee-Rose** - amazing attitude towards maths, great resilience.  
**Lily M** - a lovely retelling of Goldilocks and the three bears.

#### Class 3

**Isla-Mae** - an excellent use of Y3 grammar in her writing.  
**Noa** - applying apostrophes and speech marks in her writing.

#### Class 4

**Matei** – for impressing a parent with his lovely manners.  
**Elwood** – for showing improved positivity in Maths.

#### Reading Certificates

For completing Reading Challenges in class

Freddie, Xander,  
Jasmine, Esmee-Rose &  
Harry (Class 2)  
Robert, Marley, Evie &  
Sunneigh



**Class 4 - Circus Skills** - Class 4 really enjoyed their class treat on Friday last week, thank you to FoSM for funding this event. Solo Circus came in to teach them a variety of circus skills including plate spinning, juggling, hula hooping and unicycling! Perseverance was definitely needed and class 4 were brilliant at never giving up. There were many joyful faces throughout the morning but even more so when they had mastered a new skill! Well done class 4! The whole school then enjoyed a show and enjoyed watching lots of funny juggling skills from Solo Circus.



### **Artspace Parent/Carer Art (with a hint of Maths!)**

Artspace Cinderford have been in contact and would like to offer a free Art session to parents/carers at school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm until 4pm. The sessions are available to all but in particular to those who do not have their Maths GCSE or those who lack confidence with Maths. You will also receive an activity pack. We understand that you may need to collect your children during this time and Artspace have confirmed that they are happy to have the children join you for the final part of the session, if necessary. Please could you let the School Office know by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July if you are interested in attending this session? Thank you.

### **Sponsored Walk**

Thank you all for your kind donations of Sponsor Money, the total raised is now an amazing £1565.75. We will continue to accept money in as soon as you can get this into us. We think this is a record



year for the total raised; we really do appreciate all of your efforts in supporting this event. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for next year's walk or feedback from this year.

### **Launch of Safe Space**

Please find attached information from Stagecoach Southwest regarding their new Safe Space scheme.

We are pleased to confirm that Stagecoach Southwest have now trained up all their bus drivers on the "Safe Space scheme" and are displaying the Safe Space stickers and posters (see attached) on all their buses (Approx. 400).

This scheme clearly supports Gloucestershire Police and Crime Prevention Plan under "Tackling Violence and Intimidation against Women and Girls" and is once again a big step forward in rolling out this scheme across the whole of Gloucestershire and in some cases neighbouring forces.

### **Date for Launch: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 @ 12:30pm**

#### **SkillZONE**

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service  
Tuffley Lane  
Gloucester  
GL4 0AS

### **About the Safe Space Scheme:**

**The Safe Space Scheme** is a community of businesses that provide a safe and secure place for anyone to go to if they are being followed or feel under threat in any way. Wherever you see the Safe Space logo, you know that the business welcomes you in immediately, no questions asked until the threat has passed.

[Safe Space Scheme - Safe Space Scheme](#)

### **Newent Secondary School Open Day**

Due to industrial action, the Year 5 open morning planned for 5<sup>th</sup> July has been cancelled. A new date will be announced shortly.

### **School Hours**

To bring the school into line with current Government guidance, the school start time will be changing from September 2023. Children will be welcome to come into the school grounds from 8:40am and will need to be ready to go into their classrooms at **8:45am**. Pick-up time will still be 3:15pm. Pre-school start time remains unchanged at **9:00am** and pick-up is 3:00pm.

### **School Lunches**

Unfortunately the paid school meal price will be increasing again in **September to £2.54 per meal**. This increase is as a result of current food and energy costs. We have been able to minimise this increase with AiP so that it falls in-line with the current Gloucestershire County Schools price.

### **School Debt Policy – September 2023**

This week the school debt for Breakfast Club and After School Club has reached an unprecedented high. As a result we have made the decision to introduce some tighter measures for the use of these services to eliminate this ongoing issue and maintain zero debt for the school. This change will take effect from the new school year.

Parentpay gives parents/carers the ability to load their child's account in advance and this must be done prior to booking/taking sessions at either Breakfast Club or After School Club. Much the same as our booking system for school lunches, you pay and we then we provide the service. The current practice by some parents/carers of using the clubs and then crediting their accounts some-time after, usually on "pay day" will no longer be acceptable and you will not have access to the services whilst your account is in debt. We hope that this advance notice and the summer holidays

will assist you in being able to turn this financial situation around enabling you to be in a position to pay in advance. We have also witnessed a culture of booking a place and then not cancelling that place with the school office, which we are also addressing (all cancellations must be at least 24hrs notice or you will still be charged). The new measures we are introducing from September are as follows.

- 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 and 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 Parentpay account will then be credited ready for use.
- Breakfast club remains free of charge to those eligible for income/benefits based Free School Meals.

There will be updated booking forms for the clubs and these must be completed, signed and handed in prior to the start of the new school year to reserve your place for September.

### **FSM Summer Holiday Scheme**

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers summer holiday period are now open until the 11 July. Voucher emails will be sent out from week commencing 17 July. Please check your junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by the 19 July please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so that they can look into it.

This summer holiday, 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 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.

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive 2 weeks of vouchers for the summer holiday at £15 per child per week, whilst the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) provides support for the remaining 4 weeks of the holiday. For more information on the HAF programme, you can visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [Holiday free school meal vouchers webpage](#), 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.

### **Neuroself**

There is an event being held at Primrose Hill for children in need of an ASD or ADHD diagnosis. Waiting lists are so long at the moment and this is an opportunity to explore the private assessment route. Please find attached leaflet.

## **Families Gloucestershire Magazine**

Here is the **link** to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine July/Aug 2023](#)

The **July/Aug 2023** issue is loaded with useful information for local parents including:

- The benefits of performing arts
- Summer Reading Challenge 2023
- Moreton Show 2023 - family fun, food and farm
- Top family beaches in the UK
- Top theme parks to visit this summer
- Outdoor adventures for summer
- Let the kids in the kitchen recipes
- Helping your child with school transitions
- School uniform labelling options
- Avoid summer hearing loss
- Let's go plastic-free in 2023
- and loads more.....

*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***