



# Steam Mills Primary

01.12.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

With the current cold spell, our thoughts have focused on weather safety and snow! Please find attached to our latest Snow Plan which the school will follow in the event of snow. Please ask at the office if you have any queries.

### Christmas Post Boxes

Our Christmas Post Boxes will be placed out in the KS1 and KS2 corridors from Monday. If your child would like to send Christmas Cards to friends, please ensure they are addressed correctly (sometimes we have more than one forename name in a class) using forename, the initial of the surname and the class number.



### Panto Trip – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

We are very much looking forward to the whole school Pantomime Trip this coming Wednesday. All parent/carer helpers have now been informed and we would like to thank everyone who put their name forward. There were a number of parents/carers who missed checking the snack box on the permission slips, so we are now going to provide this to all children unless parents/carers inform us that they **do not wish** their child to have this.

### After School Club – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

With the EYFS and KS1 Nativity performance on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, we would like After School Club to finish at **4:30pm** on this day, if possible. 4:30pm is also the time that children need to be in school to prepare for the performance at 5:00pm. Please could any parents requiring After School Club beyond 4:30pm on that day, contact Miss Agg.

### Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

The deadline for returning the Christmas Lunch reply slip was today but there are still approximately 30 replies outstanding. Please hand these in on Monday. Thank you. Apologies for the issues with paying the 96p extra charge for Christmas Lunch. If you don't have credit on your Payer Account already, please could you upload £1 (which is the minimum ParentPay will allow) then pay the 96p to the Christmas Lunch payment item. 4p will remain on your Payer Account for future use.

### Christmas Fayre – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – 2:00pm-4:00pm

FoSM have asked for donations of cakes again this year for the school Fayre. Please could these be brought into school on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

### Term Dates 2023-24

#### Autumn Term

4<sup>th</sup> Sept—22<sup>nd</sup> December

Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct—3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

#### Spring term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> January—22<sup>nd</sup> March

Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### Summer Term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> April—22<sup>nd</sup> July

Half Term: 27<sup>th</sup>—31<sup>st</sup> May

#### INSET days:

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 24<sup>th</sup> May and

22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### Diary Dates

#### December

6<sup>th</sup> Pantomime – Classes 1-4

11<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Nativity Dress

Rehearsal

12<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9:30am and 5:00pm

13<sup>th</sup> Pre-school Christmas Play Trip (details to follow)

14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner

Christmas Jumper Day

15<sup>th</sup> FoSM Christmas Fayre

21<sup>st</sup> Christmas Party Day – non-school uniform.

Carol Service (details to follow)

22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Training Day

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holidays

#### January

8<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 3

24<sup>th</sup> Rags 2 Riches Collection

25<sup>th</sup> Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening

30<sup>th</sup> Reading Café

**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** – Christmas has begun at Pre-School! The children have decorated the Pre-School Christmas tree and outside area using lights, tinsel and baubles. We have talked about advent and the advent calendars we might have at home and every day, one child will be able to have the chocolate coin from the Pre-School advent calendar. We have also read the Nativity Story and have been practising our play in the hall with Classes 1 and 2. The children have observed the change in the weather looking at and talking about frost and ice.

**Class 1** – this week has been full on with the Christmas nativity and Carol concert practice! The children have been working very hard to practise all of the words to these songs in time for Christmas. We have also been learning about balanced diets and have been designing meals to ensure we include fruit and veg, carbohydrates, protein, dairy (or alternatives) and fats. Reception sounds this week (ch, sh, th, ng) and HFW's (too, her, with, yes, are).



**Class 2** – this week Class 2 have started a new class book, The Comet. They wrote questions about the objects that were left by the girl in the story and have also been writing for sale adverts describing their dream houses. We have started practising for our Boogie Woogie Nativity in the hall now and look forward to having the stage next week for our last week of rehearsals. The children have been singing beautifully and lots of them have learnt their lines as well!

**Class 3** – have had a busy week. They visited Woodside on Tuesday for a federation activity morning and went swimming in the afternoon. They have planned their non-chronological report to showcase their learning about Ancient Egypt over the next few weeks in history. In writing, they have looked at similes, alliterations and hyperboles for impact on the reader and written a persuasive advert with these features included.

### **Class 3 Federation activity**

On Tuesday, the children in Y3/4 at Woodside, Soudley and Steam Mills met at Woodside to complete an activity together around Black History month, following on from their 'Play in a Day Workshops'. They created silhouettes of key black people and drew pictures inside them to represent their lives. The children enjoyed a playtime together and working collaboratively with new friends.



**Star of the Week Certificates**

**Class 1**  
**Bella** - for her confidence and progress with reading.  
**Harper** - for her beautiful hand writing.  
**Star readers:** Elodie, Luca, Daphne & Mason.

**Class 2**  
**Jasmine** - for working really hard in maths.  
**Alfie P** - persevering when learning is difficult.

**Class 3**  
**Isabella** - for trying her best in all areas.  
**Luca** - for making links between a range of curriculum areas.

**Class 4**  
**Isabel** - for great group work in Science.  
**Cadi** - for a great effort in all of her assessments.

**Class 4** have had a busy week. They learnt that a UFO has crash landed in the playground (video evidence) and are now gathering information from witnesses to support their newspaper reports. The children have been learning about the different ways they can show dialogue in writing and have been working towards direct and indirect speech, using quotes. Year 5 have started a new maths unit this week, based on addition and subtraction and Year 6 have moved on to calculating fractions - we are focusing the children on the following skills for a mathematician: being curious, collaborative, resourceful and resilient.

### **Pantomime Workshop- Class 1, 2 and 3**

This week, Joe from The Everyman Theatre visited the children as part of a pre-panto visit. The children learnt about the story of Mother Goose, dressed up as characters and acted out the play. They learn about theatre etiquette, including: when to be noisy, who to 'boo', who to cheer and the names of the auditorium and interval. We are looking forward to visiting Cheltenham next week.



### **Pre-school Charge**

We are having to increase the cost per hour of the Pre-school setting to £5.50 per hour for all non-funded hours from **January 2024**. This is in-line with Gloucestershire County and the Steam Mills/Woodside Federation. We hope that you find this increase still offers excellent value for money and reflects the high level of provision that the school provides.

### **ParentPay Debt**

A reminder that the school has a no debt policy. Please manage your accounts by ensuring your ParentPay accounts are in credit at all times. Please load credit, use, then reload again before debt occurs.

**LOAD CREDIT TO CLUB → USE → LOAD CREDIT TO CLUB → USE →**

### **Children's Fund – Free School Meal Holiday Scheme**

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for December 2023 winter holiday will be open from midday 28 November until midday on 12 December. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 18 December. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by 20 December, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

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 2023 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](mailto: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](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so they can update the account, as details are not automatically updated.**

### Offers from Home Start & Beezee Bodies

**HOME START**  
North and West Gloucestershire

A welcoming place for mums who are experiencing mental health challenges during early motherhood (0-5 years).  
**Join our group and feel connected.**

**Mothers in Mind**  
Free Face-to-Face Support Groups in Cheltenham, Tewkesbury & Forest of Dean

Scan the QR code to find a group near you and the registration form.

@hsnwglos enquiries@homestartnwglos.org.uk 07584472025

**How can I get my child to eat healthier if they won't try new things?**

**Our top 6 tips to tackle fussy eating at home**

**Get FREE support to get your family healthier**  
Join programmes starting in January, or start online programmes now!

- 1. The big "why"?** Why don't they try new things? Are there tastes or textures they love or hate?
- 2. Check your language.** Aim for encouraging language and avoid labelling. Swap "my child doesn't eat vegetables" for "my child loves sweetcorn."
- 3. Lower anxiety at mealtimes.** Phones away and focus on chatting. There's no need to pressure them to try new foods.
- 4. Exposure.** Get them to pick out fruits and veg when you're out shopping and ask them to help chop them up.
- 5. Routine.** Set mealtimes to build regular habits and aim for 2 healthy snacks per day between meals.
- 6. Make it fun!** Make funny face pizzas and add some new toppings.

Sign up today!

Scan the code -or- click here to find out 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**