



# Steam Mills Primary

23.02.2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope you had a lovely half-term break, the children have settled back in very well and are enjoying their learning.

## School Lunches

If your child requires school lunches for next week at all, please check now that you have ordered them. We have a 48 hr cut-off for all orders. Thank you.

## Parking

Please could we remind parents/carers to park considerately. If you are parking along the front of the school in the layby, please park lengthways/diagonally to the grass verge. This way more cars can fit in. If you park lengthways, you are taking up 2 spaces. Also a reminder to not park near to the junction and please leave promptly once you have collected your children in order to free up space for other parents collecting. Thank you

## Forest of Dean District Council - Artwork Competition for Primary Schools

As part of a piece of research which is being carried out around the regeneration of our 4 market towns, the FOD District Council is calling on Primary school children to get involved by producing some artwork.

The idea is for primary school students (of all ages) to create a piece of artwork which represents one of the four market towns in the Forest of Dean: Cinderford; Coleford; Lydney; Newent. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Once you have created your artwork, please take a photo of it and email it to [regeneration@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@fdean.gov.uk) by **Friday 1st March**. The artists of 4 selected creations from each town will be invited to meet our design team to talk through their process and inspire the final designs.

## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

### Special World Book Day Lunch

Our caterer's, AiP, will be providing a special World Book Day themed lunch on this day. A letter is being sent home today; children who would like to order a school lunch on this day will need to return the slip. Please ignore the menu on ParentPay for this

### Term Dates 2023-24

#### Autumn Term

4<sup>th</sup> 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:

24<sup>th</sup> May and  
22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### Diary Dates

(including Federation activities)

#### March

- 7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day – Pyjama Day etc.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings  
Federation activity Y3/4 with a Reading theme
- 13<sup>th</sup> C2 Trip to Slimbridge  
Federation activity Y5/6 with a Well-being theme
- 15<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day  
Reading Café
- 19<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings
- 20<sup>th</sup> Federation activity Y1/2 with an Easter theme
- 21<sup>st</sup> The Great Daffodil Appeal (Marie Curie) – wear a yellow item (not non-uniform)  
FoSM Easter Egg Competition
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Non-School Uniform Day –  
Bottle Donation for Summer Fayre  
End of Term 4

#### April

18<sup>th</sup> Scholastic Book Fair

#### May

13<sup>th</sup> Rags2Riches collection  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sponsored Walk

#### June

14<sup>th</sup> Sports Day morning

day as we are unable to change the published detail. Please order and pay for a standard meal and also return the slip by no later than Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Thank you

#### Bedtime stories

World Book Day is upon us in the next term- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. To celebrate this year, we will be celebrating 'Bedtime stories'. We will encourage children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas for this day and they are welcome to bring a small teddy bear. If children do not wish to wear pyjamas, they are encouraged to wear comfy clothing. This is instead of dressing up. We will be reading a bedtime story in front of a 'cosy fire', drinking hot chocolate and eating biscuits. Hot chocolate and biscuits will be provided by school.

#### Book swap

Children are also invited to take part in a very special book swap. In each school, a table will be set up in the hall for children to bring in a book to donate and swap for another book of their choice. It will be really lovely for the children to all be able to take a different book home at the end of the day to encourage reading for pleasure. Please ensure books brought in are in good condition for the swap.

#### Book Tokens

Each child have been given a World Book Day token with a value of £1. This can be exchanged for any one of the books below. These can be redeemed from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

They are redeemable from the following stores:

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Your local independent bookseller  | • Asda or Sainsburys      |
| • Blackwell's (selected stores only) | • Waterstones and WHSmith |
| • Tesco                              | • The Works               |

#### **Parents Evenings – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are made via our eSchools system which is open for booking. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit. Please let Miss Agg (school office) know if you would also like to see Miss Barber (SENCO) and she will book this for you. If you have any issues booking for your child/ren, please contact Miss Agg for assistance. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.

#### **Red Nose Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day this year with a "Wear something Red Day". We are not asking for donations for non-uniform but we will have a limited number of Red Noses for sale. Please note that they will be £2 per Nose on the day, with sale initially be limited to 1 per child. If we have lots left, children may have the opportunity to purchase more.

#### **Reading Café**

Don't forget that Mrs Gibbs will be hosting our next reading Café on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** after school. You and your child/ren are most welcome to join us.



#### Star of the Week Certificates



##### **Pre-school**

**Tilly** - for her growing confidence and forming beautiful friendships.

**Maddie** - for always getting stuck in and involved.

##### **Class 1**

**Toby** - for his increase in use of words and phrases.

**Aakelah** - for her wonderful half term writing.

##### **Class 2**

**Marley** - amazing independent writing using your phonics skills.

**Winnie** - lovely advert for the Cloud Seller.

##### **Class 3**

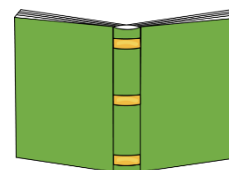
**Poppy** - great work on formal addition.

**Mollie** - great work on formal addition and subtraction.

##### **Class 4**

**Tehya** - for listening to feedback and always trying to improve.

**Bailey** - for showing improved ownership in his learning.



**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 spoke as a group about all of the fun and exciting things we did during our week off! We have had fun dressing up doing lots of role play, playing with playdough, painting and large-scale drawing. The weather has been up and down this week and we have been outside on bikes and scooters and in the mud kitchen when we have been able to! We have been looking at number 1 and the P sound, finding items that begin with P and using number blocks and maths resources to use 1.

**Class 1** – lovely first week back! The children have blown Miss Byrnes away with their half term writing, they did a wonderful job and they are now proudly on display. We have been recalling all of our learning about Neil Armstrong and the first moon landing to support our writing of fact files in English. In Maths, Reception have been looking at 5 as a part to make greater numbers (5 and 3 make 8). This has been a challenging concept, but they have all been working really hard using their new mathematical vocabulary. Exciting Thursday, first we had Yoga, then we had our first computing session. We took it in turns being robots and programmers giving each other codes to follow (instructions).

Reception sound Tricky Witch 'oi' and HFW's 'like, what, when, little'.

**Class 2** – the children have all settled in well to being back at school. We received some very exciting post this week - from Paddington Bear! He is working with UNICEF to tell us more about children in need and countries around the world. Every month we will be getting a postcard from him as he visits different countries. This month, he has been in London and told us about his home there in Windsor Gardens. We have also been finishing our science topic - Everyday Materials - with a final experiment. We have been testing materials to see if they would be suitable for an umbrella.



**Class 3** had a great first week back learning all about our new book The Lost Happy Endings. They have used some amazing vocabulary to write character descriptions about the witch and are impressing me with the use of the grammatical features they are including. In science, we have started our new topic on sound and we have explored how humans hear sound and particle vibration. We have also been reading a new book with a poem for each day and Viking Voyagers in Guided Reading, to explore the features of non-fiction text.

**Class 4** have had a busy week back at school. We have started looking at the poem 'There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom' and the children have started to comprehend the impact of deforestation on the Orangutans and other animals within these habitats. In Science, we have shared new knowledge organisers for Evolution and Inheritance in readiness for this upcoming unit of work. Class 4 have been excited to start their art topic; the children have started to look at Henri Rousseau and will be developing their own pieces of work this term. We also won class stars this week so there will be a treat organised soon.

*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**