



Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of Term 4, I would like to thank, you, the staff and the children for another full and busy term. A special thank you goes to our lovely parent volunteers who come into school each week to help with listening to readers etc. I would also like to thank the wonderful FoSM parent volunteers who are so valued enriching the children's learning experience at Steam Mills.

The Easter Egg Raffle was drawn earlier this afternoon and raised an amazing, £209.00! The lucky winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Hamper - Marley B (Class 1)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Hamper - Jax Mc (Class 2)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Easter Egg - Nevaeh (Class 4)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Easter Egg - Annabelle (Class 4)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize Easter Egg - Evie (Class 4)

Thank you also for the FoSM Non-school Uniform Day donations, which raised £99.00 to go towards FoSM future events.

If you have time to spare and are interested in getting more involved in supporting the school. Please contact Miss Agg who can put you in touch with FoSM or talk to you about the possibility of volunteering in school. We hope you have a lovely Easter Break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. **Article 3- best interests of the child.**

### Drop & Go Track

Thank you again to Mr Hancock and Mr Dickinson for the work on the track last weekend. The work will be completed during the Easter Break including the couple of nasty potholes by the school main car park gate.

### Breakfast Club and After School Club

Please let Miss Agg know if your regular booking days are changing at all next term? If we don't hear from you, we will assume that the usual bookings are to be carried over. Also, if your arrangements change and you know that you do not require your booked session on any given day, please could you **email or call to cancel the space**, giving a much notice as possible. **(Article 24- the right to food)**

### Attendance

Attendance at school is so important and non-attendance can effect well-being and academic progress at school. Our whole school attendance is currently at 94%, with 21 children currently below 90% and only 3 children with 100% attendance. The school understands that illnesses happen

### School Calendar 22/23

#### Term 4

27<sup>th</sup> Feb to 31<sup>st</sup> March

#### Term 5

17<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### 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

#### **Bank Holidays in May**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May

### Diary Dates

#### **April**

3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Holidays- (Article 30- children have the right to a religion)

17<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 5

19<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Trip to Caerleon  
Roman Fortress (Article 29)

#### **May**

5<sup>th</sup> Coronation Celebrations – details to follow from FoSM

12<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography School  
Class Photos & Leavers Photos

16<sup>th</sup> Rags to Riches- (Article 27- the right to clothing)

26<sup>th</sup> Sponsored Walk (details to follow) (Article 31- relax and play)

#### **December**

6<sup>th</sup> Pantomime – Classes 1-4  
(Article 29- develop a child's talents).

but if there is any doubt about sending your child in, we do monitor children very closely and we can send home if required. You can find details of your child's attendance on their short report.

**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 read the Easter story - the children were amazed that this was 'baby Jesus' from what they had previously learnt at Christmas! We have talked about our Easter knowledge and experiences, created Easter eggs using a variety of media and tools including potato and pom printing, watercolours and charcoal. The children have decorated Easter cakes and today we have enjoyed an Egg hunt!



**Class 1** have had a very busy last week of term. We had our last gymnastics session, which the children engaged very well with and have demonstrated huge progress since the start of Spring 2. On Wednesday, the children attended a didgeridoo workshop, where Paul taught us about the origins of the didgeridoo and we all got a chance at playing one together. This week we have learnt two new Tricky Witch sounds 'ear' and 'ure' alongside the HFW's 'day, play, away, children'. We have also been enjoying the warmer and dryer weather this week in the outside area, engaging in water and sand play.



**Head Teacher Certificates**

**Pre-school**

**Daphne** - creating detailed drawings and independent craft ideas.

**Aakelah** - Using materials independently to create her amazing ideas.

**Delilah** - Staying focussed on a task for a long period of time.

**Class 1**

**Calypso** - for her increased independence when writing.

**Marley** - for her independent writing.

**Class 2**

**Khloe-Mae** - brilliant behaviour on the trip last week.

**Carla** - wonderful story writing.

**Annabelle** - amazing ebook with beautiful illustrations.

**Ava** - creating a wonderful rain maker without any help!

**Class 3**

**Fergie** - working hard to improve her handwriting.

**Betsy** - being a great role model to her peers.

**Isabelle** - working hard on division.

**Maeve** - working hard on multiplication and division.

**Class 4**

**Oscar Y5** - for showing enthusiasm and positivity in Science.

**Finley** - for great descriptive writing.

**Oakley** - for listening and trying harder in Maths.

**David** - for showing effort and determination in all areas of learning.

**Ava** - for trying hard in writing and producing a piece to be proud of.

**Reading Certificates**

For completing Reading Challenges in class

Robert, Brody, Texas and Isla (Class 1)

Paige, Brandon and Corey (Class 3) for reading 50 times, completing their reading challenge.



**Class 2** have had a strange week this week! Ms Bradbury has been working with them to make some beautiful Easter cards, the children really enjoyed making these and they were very proud of their creations. On Wednesday we had a very exciting visitor! A man called Paul came in to teach us how to play the didgeridoo! The children had lots of fun doing this and there were some didgeridoo experts in the making. Paul also taught us that rainmakers were originally made from



cactus skin; we compared his authentic one to the ones we made. Thank you to the Friends of Steam Mills who funding this amazing experience for the children in Class 1 and 2. This has finished our Australia topic this term; the children have some amazing knowledge now of the differences between here and there. They have made so much progress this term and they really should all be proud of themselves.

**Class 3** - This week, class 3 have had an explosive time in DT. They tested their volcano models using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, washing liquid and food colouring. They were amazing and the children found that if you use more food colouring you get a darker lava flow! In writing, they have been writing non-chronological reports to showcase their learning about volcanoes! They were amazing and the children have clearly engaged well with this topic. I am sure they will be excited to learn about the romans after Easter.



I am really proud of how class 3 have been working as a team this half term. I hope they all have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to taking them to Caerleon on our trip the first week back!



**Class 4** have had a busy week with finishing their units of work: in writing, they have produced some great next chapters for The Viewer... Tristan met a range of fates from being stuck in the Viewer forever, to thinking the whole experience had been a dream - or had it?! In the hall, there is an exhibition of their Monet art work: this has received lots of compliments from parents, children and staff - the techniques they've used have been very effective and they



had an opportunity to reflect on their own, and each other's, work. They have also finished their DT and Geography this week and are ready for the next term. Next term, Class Teachers will be Mrs Thomas (Mon, Tues and Weds AM), Miss Barber (Weds PM) and Miss Carlson (Thurs and Fri).

### **The 3 R's – Regulate, Relate, Reason**

Ms Barber (SENCo) has attached a flyer by Dr Bruce Perry which she found recently. It may be useful for anyone who suffers stress or anxiety.

"To help a child to the point where they can reflect and think abstractly, we need to start from the bottom up. Dr Perry recommends the "3 Rs" of Regulate, Relate and Reason as a physiologically appropriate sequence of engagement."

It suggests 3 steps to help overcome episodes and to help with ongoing management. We thought it may be useful.

### **Solihull Parenting Workshops - Barnardo's**

Barnardo's are offering 6 workshops around parenting support, to include finding effective strategies in promoting emotional well-being starting in April. Please see attached flyer and contact the school office if you are interested in joining these sessions. **(Article 5- Family guidance as children develop)**

### **Chairs and Tables**

We still have 5 children's chairs and 4 tables looking for a new home. Please contact Miss Agg if you are interested in any of these items.

### **Cinderford Artspace**

Artspace are running 3 Art Workshops for young people starting in May 2023. Please see attached flyer. **(Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents)**

### **Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)**

Barnardo's are supporting the GCC HAF project with a Community Connector offer. We would love to make connections with schools in the area and support as many families as possible to access the Easter HAF project, with a focus on prioritising support to those eligible for free school meals.

Please see the attached poster for more information.

**(Article 24- the right to food, clothing and clean air)**

**Attached to this newsletter are also the Rights Respecting and Reading Newsletters from Mrs Gibbs.**

*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.*