



Steam Mills Primary

23.06.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Max Coborn

Everyone at Steam Mills is sad to hear of the passing of Max. He was a great friend and supporter of Steam Mills School both as a parent and a governor, serving on the governing body for over twenty years until retiring due to ill health in 2019. Max was a doer who gave generously of his time to help the school over the years, whether it be doing repairs to the building, clearing the snow and ice from the playground, accompanying classes on school trips, attending meetings with officials from the local authority and was ever present at school events.

Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Dave Wildin
Chair of Governors

FoSM Non-School Uniform Day

There will be a FoSM Non-school Uniform Day on **Friday 30th June**. Please could we ask that donations are a jar filled with sweets for the Summer Fayre. Thank you.

NEU member strike action

The NEU have declared the Weds 5th and Fri 7th July to be strike days for their members. As advance notice, our school will be affected but it is yet unknown as to whether there will be partial or full closures. We will keep you updated as soon as this is clear.

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.

School Lunches

Please remember to order your child's lunches each week before Monday (there is a 48 hour cut-off!). Also we are noticing that a number of younger children are complaining about the food choice that has been ordered for them. Please could we request that parents/carers communicate what has been ordered or even place the orders together? If a child is sent to school without a packed lunch and no food ordered on Parentpay, it is the parent's responsibility to bring a meal to school. Thank you.

School Calendar 22/23

Term 6

5th June to 25th July

Inset Days:

24th and 25th July

Diary Dates

June

28th New class (Sep 23) Taster

29th Mornings

30th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day

July

7th Summer Fayre (details to follow)

12th Extra Come and Play session for new Class 1 Reception

13th Disco (details to follow)

14th Reports being sent home

19th KS2 Leavers Dress rehearsal and Evening Performance - 5pm

20th KS2 Leavers Morning Performance - 9:30am

21st Leavers Service 1:30pm

24th Inset Training Day

25th Inset Training Day

September

4th Inset Training Day

5th Start of Term 1

20th Rags 2 Riches collection

October

3rd Tempest Individual/Sibling photos

11th Konflux Theatre visiting C3

30th Half-term Holiday

November

6th Inset Training Day

7th Start of Term 2

December

6th Pantomime - Classes 1-4 (Article 29- develop a child's talents).

22nd Inset Training Day

25th Christmas Holidays

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 Disco's

The date has been set, **Thursday 13th July 2023**, the DJ has been booked and tickets will be on sale from Monday 3rd 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.
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KS2 Disco	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	(Year 3 – Year 6) Parents to drop children off and leave; please ensure you are back promptly to collect.
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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.

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.

Parking/Collection of children

Please could we remind parents/carers not to park so that cars are obstructing the school gates or the junction with the main road. Also, as the junction at the KS2 end of the school is very busy with parents arriving/leaving, we would encourage parents to come into the playground to collect children, rather than ask for them to be sent out to you to navigate the parked cars and traffic on their own.

Gate

There are new signs on the main school gate reminding parents/carers and children to please not prop this gate open. It is a safeguarding issue which was highlighted again on Wednesday when the gate had been propped open and a child exited the site without permission or their parent.

KS2 Performance letters for Classes 3 and 4

Invite letters were sent out this week for the end of year show. Please let the school office know if you have not received your copy of the letter. Ticket allocation is not automatic, therefore slips need to be returned no later than Friday 30th June.

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.

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 fully embraced our theme of “Oh, I do like to be beside the Seaside”. We have been serving and selling ice-creams at our parlour, using the cones to explore 3D shapes! We have built sandcastles, made our own flags for them and enjoyed lots of water play using bamboo guttering, syringes and toy boats.



Class 1 – This week, the children have been working really hard on their number buddies to 5 and their number recognition. On Wednesday, we played with the parachute on the school field, whilst playing number games. The children showed great number sense and resilience as this is the first time we have played these games. This week in phonics, we have been working on triple consonant blends (spr, str & scr) often found at the beginning of words. We have also been practising our HFWs and this week's words are called, looked and asked.

Class 2 have been creating lovely artwork this week. The children have been developing their own style of matchstick figures based on the work of Lowry. They worked really carefully to include detail in their drawings and create stories about what the figures were doing. They have also continued to create lovely music with Mrs Evans on the theme of friendship. Their lovely singing to 'Count on Me' can be heard throughout the school on Thursday afternoons. This has linked very well to our PSHE topic of community, where they created posters about how we can help our school community to be a better place.

Class 3 - This week, Class 3 have been very creative in writing their own versions of The Elephants in The Walls as a sequel from our class text. The ideas that the children have come up with have been amazing and they are all starting to think more carefully about crafting their writing- well done! In maths, we have been completing NFER assessments. Again, they have all been applying their learning from this year and using methods taught. In history, they have explored Roman leisure and compared activities they did to things we do today.

Class 4 had a great time on their trip this week to Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The children got to explore Ancient Greek artefacts up close and learnt about the different uses of the pots in Ancient Greek times - they had lots of inspiration for when they create their own! The children received a huge compliment from the workshop leader: she said they were one of the best groups she had ever had and she was very impressed with their art skills. After, the children got to complete quizzes and find artefacts and paintings around the museum and art galleries - time flew by so quickly! There was lots of positive feedback from the class and they enjoyed it more than they expected to, which was great to hear. A big thank you to the volunteers, Dr Tingay, Mrs Dyer and Mr Thomas for giving up their time to come with us. Here are some photos:



Sponsored Walk

Thank you all for your kind donations of Sponsor Money, the total raised so far is an amazing £1410.75. 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.

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.

Ribston Hall

Please find attached details of an invitation to Year 4&5 School Tours on taking place on 27th June.

Forest Voluntary Action Forum

FVAF are running some free activities during July in the Miners field in Cinderford, please find attached their flyer.

Healthwatch Survey

We have received a request from the Engagement Officer for Healthwatch Gloucestershire. They are making contact with as many schools as possible across the county in an attempt to reach out to parents who are feeling the effects of the cost of living crisis. The project is looking at the impact of rising costs on people's mental and physical health, as well as on their ability and willingness to access health and care services.

In case you haven't heard of them, Healthwatch Gloucestershire is the area's health and social care champion, and is independent and impartial, with the power to make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers listen to local feedback to improve standards of care. They also help people to find reliable and trustworthy information and advice, from advocacy, to complaints procedures, to community transport, through our advice and signposting service. Attached is a flyer with details of how to take part in this survey.

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