



### **Steam Mills Primary School**

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Head Teacher - Mel Davis

06/11/2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our new parents/carers at Pre-School and hello to our existing parents! 😊

This term we have been getting used to the setting, school routines such as attending assemblies and the rules we have. We have all been getting to know one another and have formed some lovely friendships already!  
All of the children have really settled well and we are so pleased!

We have looked at sounds S, A, T, P and numbers 1-4 this term using sound bags, numberblocks and alphablocks.

We have enjoyed exploring the Pre-School garden and the school field. We have made obstacle courses, enjoyed a lot of sand play and mud kitchen play, role play in the play house and using the bikes and scooters.

We talked a lot about ourselves, our families and friends, who lives in our houses and the similarities and differences we all have. We drew self portraits of ourselves using a mirror with paints and crayons and used a simple house template to draw who lives in our house – people and pets!

Daily, we have talked about the different signs of Autumn and what changes we have noticed outside. We looked at the leaves and how they've changed colour, the change in weather and environment around us.

We have made hedgehog paintings using fork prints for spikes and gave squirrels bushy tails using fallen leaves we have found.

For Halloween, we engaged in a Halloween themed picture hunt in the outside area. Making ticks and marks when we had discovered each picture. We had a couple of pumpkins and the children tapped golf tees into the pumpkins using a small hammer, made marks giving the pumpkins faces and scooped out the contents of the pumpkins, talking about what it looked/smelt/felt like. We also made pumpkin rice crispy marshmallow cakes which went down a treat!

The children have also enjoyed 'what's in the witches kitchen' story book, the pumpkin number song and the skeleton dance that have been played daily in setting and I'm sure will be continued to be played! We used glitter and glue to create sparkly spider webs and used our handprints to make spiders. The children made witches potions using coloured water, bubbles and small plastic bugs.









Other activities have included playdough, painting, dressing up and role play with small figures and dolls, construction with train and car tracks, washing babies, decorating biscuits, yoga and lots of dancing and singing!

### **Tapestry**

You should all have received a Tapestry observation with your child's photos of the term. If you are yet to access Tapestry please let one of us know.

### **Pre-School Charge**

Taken from the main school newsletter –

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.

### **Autumn Treasure bags**

If you have collected any Autumn treasures over the half term break please remember to bring them in so we can explore what you may have found!

### **Christmas Trip**

Please can you return your Christmas trip letter if you haven't already. Please give the slip to either one of us so we can ensure we have your permission.

As it states, we will let you know if your help is required once we have all of the slips returned.

As it is a 1pm collect time (if your child does not normally attend a Wednesday) and you want them to stay until 3pm please let one of us know, as you will need to be billed for the additional hours.

### **We are looking for.... Do you have.....?**

- Clean paint rollers/ brushes
- Off cuts of guttering, flexi hose, tubes- to help with our plans to create a water wall
- Old phones
- Clean yog pots/butter tubs
- Bubblewrap
- Newspapers

### **Important dates for your Diary**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** - End of Term 1

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - Inset Day

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** - Start of Autumn Term 2

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November**- FOSM School Disco – 17:30 - 18:15 **Parents to stay with their child please.** £1 per ticket which can be purchased on the door.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need – Non-Uniform. Wear Something Spotty if you can!

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - EYFS/KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal (letter to follow shortly)

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9:30am and 5:00pm (letter to follow shortly)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Pre-School Christmas Play Trip

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Fayre

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – End of term 2 and Carol Service (details to follow)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** - Inset Day

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January** - Start of Spring term 3

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January** – Rags 2 Riches collection

As always, if you have any questions, please email [kstevens@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:kstevens@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk)

Many thanks.

Kelly and Laura 😊