



Steam Mills Primary

06.03.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Red Nose Day for Comic Relief – Non-school Uniform Day - Friday 20th March

Children are invited to wear something **red** on Friday 20th March and we will also have a limited number of Red Noses (initially 1 per child) to sell from w/c 16th March. The noses are a “design your own nose” this year, having a white panel at front for decoration. Please could we ask that all noses are taken home for decoration, rather than children trying to do this in school. They will be sold from class each day and are £2 each; we are not asking for any other donation for this day. Please note that Class 2 and all Year 1 children will be on a school trip on Friday and will need to wear uniform as stated in the trip letter and will obviously not be able to purchase noses on the Friday. Thank you.



Diary Dates

Spring Term 2026

5th January-27th March

Summer Term 2026

13th April-20th July

Half Terms

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

March

18th In the Net – Y4's to St. Whites

20th Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

Y1&Y2 Trip to Slimbridge

23rd C3 Trip to Dean Heritage Centre

24th Parents Evening

Federation PE Morning Y1/2

25th Parents Evening

26th Preloved Uniform Sale –
2:00pm-4:00pm

26th Easter Service – 2:30pm

27th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day –
bottles for Summer Fayre
Tombola
End of Term 4

April

13th Start of Term 5

15th- Class 4 Residential Trip

17th

May

7th Tempest Photography – Class
photos and leavers photos

11th SATS week
Rags 2 Riches

20th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day –
Tombola for Summer Fayre

21st Sponsored Walk

22nd Inset Training Day and last day
of Term 5

June

1st Start of Term 6

12th Sports Morning

18th Federation Day (Sports)
Y3/4am, Y5/6pm

19th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day –
Sweet Donations

26th FoSM Summer Fayre

July

15th Leavers Disco



Parents Evenings – Tuesday 24th March and Wednesday 25th March

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 24th March and Wednesday 25th March. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 are made via our eSchools system which is now open for booking. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit. Appointments start at 2:30pm (except for C2 on Tuesday due to Gymnastics) on both days; this is to ensure there are enough slots for all parents to attend. If you do not book on the parent evening days, please do not assume an appointment will be available on another day as this will not be possible before the end of term. The booking window closes on **Friday 20th March at 3:15pm.**

Please let Miss Agg know if you would like to see Miss Barber (SENCO) or if you are experiencing any difficulties making bookings. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Jay - for demonstrating his fantastic knowledge when building the Numberblocks.

Hero - for asking super questions and showing great interest in our Chinese New Year celebrations.

Class 1

Logan - for his brilliant progress in blending.

Freddie - for his effort when writing.

Class 2

Willow - for a great effort at gymnastics.

Delilah - for using her resources to support her with her writing.

Class 3

Marley - great attitude to all areas of her learning.

Alfie - impressive multiplication knowledge.

Class 4

Ruby and Sonny for great teamwork in DT.

Easter Service – Thursday 26th March at 2:30pm

There will be an Easter Service on the Thursday of the last week of term. Parents are welcome to join the children in the School Hall at 2:30pm. Children will return to class after the service and this day will be normal pick-up day at 3:15pm (3:00pm for Pre-school).



Preloved Uniform Sale – Wednesday 26th March – 2:00pm until 4:00pm

We will be holding a uniform sale on this day in the playground (or Library area depending on the weather); all items are £1 and money raised goes to FoSM towards their fundraising.



FoSM Non-School Uniform Day – Friday 27th March

FoSM are holding another Non-school Uniform Day on Friday 27th March. Please could Parents/Carers donate a bottle for the Summer Fayre Bottle Tombola. Thank you.

After School Club - Friday 27th March

We are looking to gauge interest in the ASC on the last day of term. Historically this day has not been viable for the club to run, with so little demand. Please let Miss Agg know if you require ASC on this day. Thank you.

Pot Holes!

We are desperate for some help, yet again, with our potholes in the carpark and on the track. If you can help with the offer of time and any equipment, we would be most grateful. Please contact Miss Agg in the School Office. Thank you

School Sports Competition Kit

The school is hoping to purchase new Sports Kit, based on pupil feedback, for the competitions that the children attend from time to time. We are looking for any local companies that would be interested in sponsoring the kit. Please contact Miss Agg in the School Office if you know of anyone. Thank you.



Class Snippets

Pre-School – this week we have been embracing the story of Goldilocks and The Three Bears. The children have used lots of lovely mathematical language as they have explored size and capacity. They have investigated ABABAB patterns with the compare bears and sorted them by size and colour. The children loved sensory play with porridge oats - filling, emptying and comparing quantities with a variety of different sized bowls and spoons. They have also enjoyed recalling the story with puppets and acting it out through role-play. We all loved some yummy warm porridge after Forest school today, too! We had the best day celebrating World Book Day yesterday - sunshine, friends, pjs, hot choc and sharing some of our favourite stories.....what more could you ask for?!



Class 1 – this week's Reception sound is Tricky 'oi' and the HFW's are (day, play, away, children). We have been using our phonics knowledge to do some writing in English. The children sequenced Jasper's week then have been writing captions for what he did on each day. In maths, the children were using conceptual subitising, for example, by recognising a group of 2 and group of 3 and knowing that that makes 5. In the continuous provision, many of the children were rolling a die, subitising the dots, then writing that number on a poster. Lots of outdoor play this week; the children have spent a lot of time in the water tray and we went on a walk around the school to identify different parts of a tree.

Ocean from Class 1 is participating in a sponsored walk for the registered charity Autism Initiatives. Ocean and her dad will be walking 10,000 steps a day for 8 days from 26th March- 2nd of April. If you would like to support Ocean with this and sponsor her, Miss Byrnes has a copy of her sponsor form.

Class 2 have been working hard on their assessments this week. At gymnastics, they listened really well to the coach and it was lovely to see the children growing in confidence with using the equipment. Many of them took turns on the beam this week and most importantly, they got to jump into the foam pit! To celebrate World Book Day, the children enjoyed a hot chocolate, biscuit and story, took part in a book swap and enjoyed lots of book themed activities. In Religion and Worldviews, we have started to explore Islam and handled some artefacts including the Qur'an, prayer mats and prayer caps.



Class 3 - it's been a busy week in Class 3! In maths, both year groups have wrapped up their work on formal methods for multiplication and are now moving on to division. The children also learned the 8 times table – singing it to the tune of *Espresso* by Sabrina Carpenter, which was great fun. In writing, the children wrote persuasive letters to the witch, urging her to bring back the lost happy endings. In science, they continued exploring how sound travels, while in PSHE they discussed finances and budgeting. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day in style by coming to school in our pyjamas! The children shared their favourite books, enjoyed hot chocolate while listening to a story, and spent the afternoon helping to judge books from the Royal Society.

Class 4 have been very busy this week. In swimming, a group of the children were asked to wear their own clothes so they could practice their life-saving skills, whilst others worked on the basics of water

safety. In DT, the children have started designing their own bird hides; they have needed to consider the environment as well as practical sizes for the animals. In English, the children have started drafting persuasive speeches that would support protecting endangered animals; they have been considering language, punctuation and features such as questions tags to get the listeners thinking. There were some interesting discussions in Science around inherited characteristics and acquired traits - the children considered what they have inherited and what they have acquired themselves so far in their lives.

Attendance Snippet

My child is struggling to attend because of an issue in school. Who can help us?

The first step is to talk to your child's school about why your child is missing school, and what help the school can give. You should still do everything you can to help your child attend as much as possible whilst waiting for help and support to be put into place.

Information on who in school you can contact for help, including the school's senior leader responsible for attendance, can be found in the school's attendance policy on its website or available in hard copy from the school. The school and local council are expected to follow the expectations set out in the guidance document Working together to improve school attendance.

If your child is struggling to attend because of something that is happening at school, their school is expected to work with you (and your child if they are old enough) to overcome the issues. You should agree a set of joint actions with the school that you have all developed together to support your child. This will often include a commitment to support you and your child by working together or help you to access support services, in exchange for an agreement from you (and your child if they are old enough to understand) to take part in the support offered. The school will also arrange times for you to come together to review these actions and your child's progress.

Depending on the reasons for your child's absence, this may take the form of an action plan, an early help plan, or an attendance contract.

Free School Meal Vouchers issued for school holiday periods is changing.

Free School Meal vouchers provided during school holidays which have been funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through the Household Support Fund are coming to an end. This is because the Household Support Fund is ending, and Free School Meal Vouchers for the spring school holidays will be the last vouchers available under this scheme. A different fund, the Crisis and Resilience Fund is starting from Wednesday 1 April 2026.

We know food vouchers during school holidays have been important for many families and that's why we're working hard to ensure those who need support the most can still access it through the new Crisis and Resilience Fund and other support that we are putting in place across Gloucestershire.

To find out more, please:

- Visit Gloucestershire's [Family Hubs website](#) to learn about the support available for families, including the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which provides great activities and nutritious food for children and young people during the school holidays.
- Look out for information about the incoming Crisis and Resilience Grant Funding, which will offer support for children and young people who are eligible for Free School Meals. Details on what you can expect and how to apply will be shared soon on the Family Hubs website.

Spring holiday 2026

This Spring holiday, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), 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.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the spring holiday 2026 will be open from Tuesday 3 March until Friday 13 March. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing Monday 23 March. We hope that you will be able to pass these messages on to families within your schools. Please encourage families to check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by Monday 30 March, please encourage them to submit a query by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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 for one week. To find out more about the scheme, eligibility and to apply, please visit our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the spring 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 and carers who 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, so please make sure parents and carers are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school does not currently use this method, we will require confirmation from the relevant school for the child's eligibility for Free School Meals. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

Using vouchers – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent/carer has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers 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 that were expected but were not received should be queried by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

For any parents/carers wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to submit an update existing details request by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

Parent/Carer Checklist

It would be helpful if Parents/Carers could run through a daily checklist before school, to ensure that your child/ren are ready for the school day. This would reduce the amount of phone calls home the school has to make and also reduce anxieties for your child/ren. The school expects the older children to start taking responsibility for some of these things themselves. As an example:

- **Lunch booked or packed lunch from home**
- **Drink bottle**
- **PE kit or swimming kit when needed**
- **Homework**



- No jewellery
- Reading book
- Correct uniform and coat – please ensure all uniform is worn correctly
- No personal/unnecessary items from home
- All medication to come to school office – no medication in children's bags
- **Please ensure all uniform is named!**

Contact with School/Class Teacher

If you have a class-based query, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance via the school office. Please be assured that teachers will respond, but not necessarily on the same day. Teachers are not expected to respond whilst they are teaching or beyond 5pm; your patience is appreciated.

PROSTARS EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS
ALL VENUES NOW LIVE! BOOK YOUR SPOT TODAY!

HOLIDAY CLUB - SCHOOL VENUES

- Lift Off's Mead - Chepstow
- Primrose Hill - Lydney
- Berry Hill - Coleford
- Bosary - Stroud
- Naunton Park - Cheltenham
- Achfield Park - Ross-on-Wye

FOOTBALL CAMP - FREEDOM LEISURE VENUES

- Wydean - Chepstow
- Dean Academy - Lydney

Tiered Pricing

- Tier 1: £15
- Tier 2: £20
- Tier 3: £25

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Spring Themed Crafts
- Variety of Sports & Games
- DBS Checked
- Fully Insured
- First Aid Trained
- Safeguarding Trained

AGES: 5-11

CONTACT: info@prostars-fse.com
BOOK ONLINE: PROSTARS.IPALBOOKINGS.COM

FOREST OF DEAN SCHOOLS F.O.D.S.
FOREST OF SPORTS EDUCATION
 PROSTARS

EASTER FOOTBALL CAMP

WEEK ONE
 • MARCH 31ST
 • APRIL 1ST
 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE THEME DAY!
 • APRIL 2ND

WEEK TWO
 • APRIL 7TH
 • APRIL 8TH
 ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUES THEME DAY!
 • APRIL 9TH

AGES 5-14
£18 PER DAY

DISTRICT PLAYERS DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

FUN GAMES | SKILLS & DRILLS | MATCHES & TOURNAMENTS | QUALIFIED COACHES

FREEDOM LEISURE LYDNEY & FREEDOM LEISURE WYDEAN
 (WYDEAN ONLY AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAYS)
 • EXTENDED HOURS AVAILABLE WITH KIDS CLUB •

CONTACT MARK: 07444 436637 mark@prostars-fse.com
 prostars.ipalbookings.com

HAF Spring 2026 is coming!

Make sure you're signed up and ready to book!

Bookings open 16 March

Scan the QR code and press 'start onboarding' to begin your sign-up process. Visit <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Department for Education | HAF Family Hub | Gloucestershire

THE FVAF YOUTH TEAM INVITE YOU TO OUR

EASTER Disco

PARENTS, PLEASE STAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

FOR CHILDREN IN KS1 AND KS2

FREE ENTRY

THE WESLEY
 Balls the St, Cinderford

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL
 5pm to 7pm

BOOKS of the BIBLE

LEARN ABOUT JESUS

Scripture

WOMEN MATES

X-site
 Forest of Dean

Fun + Games

MUSIC

OLD NEW

Saturday 21st March 2026 5pm-7pm St James Church Centre

Contact us @ xsiteforestofdean@gmail.com

A light snack will be served

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.