



Steam Mills Primary

08.05.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Little Oaks Opening

Today marked the opening of our new Little Oaks Preschool building! We welcomed our Pre-school parents and children, the Federation Governors, our great team of builders from Future Rooms, Gloucestershire County Council Early Years representatives, local press and our school staff to take a look at this existing new provision. A reminder that from June we will be able to offer places to 2 and 3 year olds. If you are interested in taking a look at the building, we welcome appointments to visit (please contact the school office) and we will also be scheduling an open afternoon in the near future, so please do look out for that invitation.



Swimming Cancellation Again for Y1 and Y2 – Tuesday 12th May

Freedom Leisure have informed the school that they are having building works to the changing rooms during this week, there will be no swimming session on this day. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Fayre – Monday 11th May

We have our last book Fayre on Monday 11th May, we are hoping to run this from 3pm until 6pm so that children who attend After School Club can choose books when they are collected. Card Payments only and it is still 3 for 2!



DATE CHANGE Rags 2 Riches Collection – Tuesday 19th May

Our next Rags 2 Riches collection will be taking on Tuesday 19th May. Please keep this in mind if you are having a Spring clean during the holidays! Please could all bags be left in the playground opposite the main gate (weather permitting) between 7:45am and 9:00am on the day. Many thanks.

FoSM Non-School Uniform Day – Wednesday 20th May

Please note this is a fundraising non-school uniform day for the Summer Fayre. FoSM are asking for donations for the Tombola. Prizes could be toiletries, chocolate, sweets, toys, hair accessories etc. Thank you!

Diary Dates

Summer Term 2026

13th April-20th July

Half Terms

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

May

11th Scholastic Book Fayre – Card Payment Only

11th SATS week

19th Rags 2 Riches

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

21st Sponsored Walk (pm)

22nd Inset Training Day and **last day of Term 5**

June

1st **Start of Term 6**

1st Class 3 and 4 Trip to the Hindu Community Centre

2nd C3 start Gymnastics for 5 weeks

12th Sports Morning

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

19th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – Sweet Jar Donations

22nd Bump up mornings

23rd

24th **EYFS Federation Trip to Soudley**

25th Class 3 Ukulele performance 1:30pm

July

3rd FoSM Summer Fayre – **date change!**

13th Leavers Play practice

14th Leavers Play – parents 9:30am and 5pm

15th FoSM Leavers Disco

17th Leavers Assembly and **end of Term 6**



Sponsored Walk – Thursday 21st May (pm)

Please ensure that return slips are handed in by Friday 15th May so that school knows the arrangements for collection of your child/ren. Pre-school children will be staying in school, along with any Reception children not taking part. Details of the Just Giving Page for Sponsorship money are below.



https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kim-gwilliam?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Dogs on School Site

Please could parents/carers observe our no dog's policy on the school site, this applies to dogs on leads and also dogs being carried. Thank you.

New Fencing – Playing Field

Cinderford Town Council have asked the school to pass on to parents/carers, that they have fitted a new Boar proof fence on the field. They have asked that this is not climbed on by any children. Thank you.

Attendance Snippet

When your child is too ill to attend School

Please call the school on the first day of illness to inform of absence. You can either leave a message or talk to the School Office. Please state what the type of illness is as this needs to be recorded. Thank you.

Class Snippets

Pre-school – this week the children have absolutely loved being very hungry caterpillars, munching lots of yummy real and paper leaves using a variety of different hole punches. They then used the 'holes' to create pictures and also made lots of lovely realistic representations of butterflies and cocoons.

We have been very busy getting the new building ready for the children and the children have been role playing teachers/pupils as if they were in their new building. We are all very excited to be officially moving back to our new Little Oaks Preschool as of Monday!!

Class 1 – this week, the children started a new book to inspire their writing called 'My Shadow is Pink'. The children used a template to draw and label what their shadow would say about them. They also thought of questions to ask a particular character in the story. HFW's this week (your, here, saw).



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Roffi - for her beautiful realistic representation of a butterfly and scenery.

Nela - showing great focus and concentration when creating her sponge print butterflies.

Class 1

Aurora – for great tidying.

Nori – being very helpful to the teacher.

Star Readers – Leighton and Violet

Class 2

Harper - for consistently joining her writing and presenting her work beautifully.

Benjamin- for showing curiosity in all areas of learning.

Class 3

Texas - for improved attitude towards her learning.

Billy - for improved scores in his multiplication checks.

Class 4

Sonny - for always being kind to others.

Dexter - for showing enthusiasm and always trying his



Class 2 had a fantastic trip to Crickley Hill this week, exploring minibeast habitats and woodland habitats. They found centipedes, millipedes, spiders, worms, a cricket, animal skulls, nut shells and many more creatures. They looked at the features of a beech tree and talked about different animal groups. In the afternoon, the children were in animal groups and created their own habitats- a fox den, owl nest, hedgehog nest and a squirrel drey. They worked brilliantly in their teams and were a real pleasure to take on the trip. A BIG thank you to the helpers who made it possible and to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for fully funding the trip.



Class 3 have been busy this week learning about complex sentences and subordinating conjunctions, and have written letters from the perspective of a character in our class book. In RE, we learned about Hindu worship, including puja, and compared it with baptism. In Maths, the Year 3 children have been continuing their work on time, converting digital times to analogue and vice versa, while Year 4 have started learning how to calculate fractions after finishing their work on decimals. In PE, the children enjoyed a large game of rounders, and I was particularly impressed by their improved communication skills from last week. It has also been wonderful to check in on our bean plants again and see how much they are growing!

Class 4 - in Class 4 this week, both year groups have been exploring statistics in maths, with Year 5 focusing on tables and line graphs and Y6 looking at pie charts and calculating averages. The Sleeper and the Spindle text still has the children hooked and they are presenting many predictions about what they think will happen next - Year 5 are also focusing on The Grimm Tales for Young and Old in guided reading and this is supporting their understanding of fairy tales and their purpose over time. In Science, the children have been further exploring insulators and conductors and when and where these properties can be helpful - they have already made some great links to their learning about Space, when they made space bags.

SATs Week

Next week is SATs week for our Y6s. Y6 are welcome to come into class from 8.15am (Monday to Thursday) so they have time to settle before the tests commence each day. If the children do not want to arrive early, then please ensure they are in school promptly for 8.45am. Additionally, if a Y6 child is ill this week, then please communicate with the office asap so that we can advise on process and procedures. If your child is feeling particularly nervous, please let the school know so we can support them. See below the timetable for the week:

The 2026 Key Stage 2 (KS2) SATs week for Year 6 students runs from **Monday, May 11 to Thursday, May 14, 2026**. Students will take tests in English grammar, punctuation, spelling, reading, and mathematics over these four days. These mandatory national tests gauge progress at the end of primary school. [GOV.UK blogs +3](#)

2026 SATs Schedule:

- **Monday, May 11:** English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Papers 1 & 2.
- **Tuesday, May 12:** English Reading Paper.
- **Wednesday, May 13:** Mathematics Papers 1 (Arithmetic) and 2 (Reasoning).
- **Thursday, May 14:** Mathematics Paper 3 (Reasoning). [GOV.UK blogs +4](#)

Key Information for Parents & Schools:

- **Timing:** Tests are strictly timed, though schools may use multiple sittings on the scheduled day.
- **Attendance:** Pupils should attend every day. If a child is ill, parents should contact the school immediately to discuss potential exceptions.

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.



+ KIDS UP TO 14 YRS!!

Baby bank

Pop up

OPEN TO ALL
Not means tested

MONDAY 11th 10AM-12PM
MAY

Ow Bist - Forest Community Space,
Dockham Road, Cinderford GL14 2AN (next to Tesco)

**Need a specific item/age range?
Let us know!**

Contact katy@fva.org.uk
If we have it, we will bring it!

ENTRY FEE - DONATION

BILLYS VINTAGE WEEKEND

raising money for local charities

Public gates open
SATURDAY 11AM-5PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

- TRACTOR PULLING • BAR
- VINTAGE VEHICLES • TOMBOLA • CRAFT STALLS
- LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY NIGHT FROM 8:30PM •

MANOR FARM, CLIFFORD'S MESNE, NEWENT GL18 1JL

13TH & 14TH JUNE

Steam Mills Primary School

Uniform

Official School Uniform Supplier

Order Online
Fast order turnaround

Scan the QR code to shop your uniform directly
www.schooltrends.co.uk

Order before **July 21st** and get 15% off with code: **FRESH26**

Trusted Quality School Approved Great Value

ROCK Respect • Optimism • Community • Kindness

Open Evening

Thursday 4 June 2026
5:00pm - 7:00pm

For Prospective Students

Year 7 Admission
September 2027

Unlock Your Potential

Talk from the Principal at 6pm in the main hall.

Rotary Club of the Royal Forest of Dean

FOREST YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION 2026

£200 first Prize
Entries open May 1st to August 31st 2026
Age Groups 4-11 And 11-18

Original photograph on the subject
"Life in the Forest of Dean"

Entry free. Limit of two photographs per entrant
Digital entry only

Full details and Entry:
www.rotary-rfod.org.uk/photocomp
or QR

Rotary Club of the Royal Forest of Dean Trust Fund Reg. Charity No. 288332

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