



Steam Mills Primary

04.09.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter of Term 1! We send a newsletter on Friday afternoon of each week to share news about what has happened or what is planned in school. We have unfortunately lost our "Our School App" service as this has been discontinued, we will be looking for an alternative provider for App Comms, however, we continue to use eSchools (email and text messaging) as we have always done.

It is lovely to see the children back and to welcome those new children attending school. Everyone has settled very well into school routines and are enjoying getting to know their new classes and friends.

We have been fortunate to have been able to conduct some upgrades during the summer holidays, with a new Air Filtration System in Class 1 to help with the air quality; it is feeling much fresher in there now! Thank you to Gloucestershire County Council for help of extra funding for this. Our Electrician has carried out statutory work required for our annual PAT Testing. Mr Dickinson has put down a gravel path around the Pre-school Building for easy access and to avoid the mud! He has also created a lovely new mud kitchen for Class 1 in their outdoor area and completed minor repairs throughout the school. Thank you, Mr Dickinson!

Thanks also to our cleaning staff who have deep cleaned the school and our contractor Mrs Oversby, who shampooed the carpets in Class 1, Class 2 and the library area.

School Hours/Late Marks/Drop & Go/Parking

The expectation is for children to arrive in the school grounds from 8:40am (drop and go will also operate from this time) children will be seated in their classrooms at **8:45am**. Arriving at school after 8:45am, but before 9:15am, will incur a late code on the register (L). Registers close at 9:15am, arrival after this time will incur a (U) code. Please note that Drop & Go is for children in **Classes 2-4** only and children must wait with the staff member at the gate until the teaching staff open the door at the back of the school. If children do not wait with staff then they must be closely supervised by their Parent/Carer and **must not play on or with any of the school property**. Class 2 children are to again wait with the staff member and then they will go through the front door if using drop and go and go straight to class at 8:45am.

Pick-up time remains at 3:15pm. The exception being Pre-school with a start time of 9:00am and pick-up is 3:00pm. The KS1 gate and KS2 gate will be locked soon after 8:45am and opened again at pick-up time, any children arriving after 8:45am will need to access school via the main reception gate and come into school through reception. **Please could parents give a reason for**

Diary Dates

Term 1

1st September-23rd October

Term 2

2nd November-18th December

Term 3

4th January-12th February

Term 4

22nd February-25th March

Term 5

12th April-28th May

Term 6

7th June-21st July

Holidays and Half Terms

26th October-1st November

21st December-3rd January

15th February-21st February

26th March-11th April

31st May-6th June

INSET days:

1st September, 23rd October,
4th January, 28th May & 21st July

Diary Dates

September

1st Start of Term 1

8th Class 3 Start Swimming

16th Rags to Riches collection

23rd Tempest Photography –
Individual/Sibling Portraits

October

19th Harvest Collection for Food
Bank

20th Nasal Flu Vaccinations – whole
school

21st Harvest Festival Celebration –
parents welcome! 2:45pm

22nd Inset Training Day

23rd Last day of Term 1

the late arrival for our records. Pre-school children will need to access the school via the main reception gate and wait at the Pre-school gate ready for the 9:00am start.

Parking

Please could we remind Parents/Carers and inform new Parents/Carers to the school to park at an angle (nose first) to the grass verge in the lay-by parking area. This way we can fit more cars in this area. If you are parking in the rear car park, please do not obstruct cars accessing the drop and go. Thank you.

5MPH

Please note that the approach to the car park, the car park and track area is **5MPH**. This is for everyone's safety and for the maintenance of the surface. Faster speeds kick up the gravel and exacerbate to the need for extra maintenance work which the school is keen to avoid. **The track is always strictly ONE-WAY.** Please also be aware of people accessing the Allotments and the Bowling Club when exiting. Thank you.

Personal Details/Medical Information

Please could all Parents/Carers ensure that the school has your latest and most to date information for you and your child. If you have changed email address, phone number, address etc. please let Miss Agg know in the school office. You are welcome to email : admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk or pop in when you are in school. It is also really important to ensure any medical information for your child is up to date, please do ask if you need to check the information we have currently on our system for your child.

Rags 2 Riches Collection – Wednesday 16th September

We have our next collection booked for 16th September so please do keep us in mind if you are having a sort out. This link tells you what is included in collections. Thank you!
<https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/>

Tempest Photography - Wednesday 23rd September

All children will have their Individual portrait photos taken during the school morning and those that have siblings in school will also have a sibling photo taken (including Pre-school children). If you have a younger child who does not attend the setting or is not in Pre-school on this day and would like a sibling photo taken, please arrive at school between 8:30-8:45am and this can then be done.

Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception to Year 6 – Tuesday 20th October

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Friday 26th September. All parents/carers will receive and email shortly with information. **It is important for all parents/carers either accept or decline this offer via the on-line portal;** all nil responses will be followed up.

Class Snippets - (Article 28- children have the right to an education. Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents, personalities and beliefs)

Little Oaks have had a very busy first few days welcoming our new starters and the children back after a lovely summer break. We have been exploring the indoor and outdoor environment, getting to know each other and learning the routine of a preschool day. Our older children have loved helping the new ones settle in and have made them feel so welcome. The children have noticed the fallen plums.... so, we have picked yummy plums fresh from the tree, washed them (very independently!) and tried them for snack. There has also been lots of painting, playdough and role-play-exploring the new teepee den.....we have delighted in hearing lots of belly laughs and seeing cheeky faces peeking out!

Class 1 – an exciting and wholesome first week back. This week has been a big week for Reception and their grownups, but we feel it has been a successful one with lots of new relationships being built and maintained. All the children have been lovely to one another and have shown lots of respectful behaviour towards the environment and resources. We have spent this week spending time together and getting to know each other and the routines of our school day. Lots and lots of positive play has been seen this week, with kind hands, kind words and sharing with one another. Thank you to those parents who welcomed Miss Byrnes and Mrs Smith-Dyson into your homes this week.

Class 2 have made a fantastic start to the Autumn term! They have explored their new classroom through lots of play. We have started our work on Science and looking at different materials. The children really impressed me with their knowledge of properties of materials and why they are suited to certain uses. They are fantastic at tidying up and have been working beautifully as a team.

Class 3 have settled in really well this week! We have been getting to know each other, establishing our learning routines and becoming familiar with our classroom environment. We have kicked off our **History topic, Stone Age to Iron Age**, with the children enjoying becoming history detectives as they explored artefacts and considered their materials and uses. In **Science**, we have been learning about food and the benefits different food groups provide, while in PSHE we have explored the idea of **belonging** and what this means to us at Steam Mills. The children have also created some fantastic artwork for our new whole-school collaborative display. In **French with Mr Whately**, they recapped and learnt French greetings. Overall, it has been a fantastic first week, well done, Class 3!

Class 4 - welcome back! It was lovely to be greeted with smiles and stories about the fun they all had in the summer holidays. In Class, Class 4 had a great start to the new school year this week. They have been introduced to our new topics of Electricity in Science and World War 2 in History. This has sparked great interest and showcased their fantastic learning behaviours. We look forward to continuing this positive start throughout the year.

School Debt Policy – September 2025

Please ensure that your Breakfast Club and After School Club ParentPay accounts are in credit at all times.

Just to remind parents and inform new parents of our Debt Policy.

- 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 if we are oversubscribed, asked to collect your child.
- Accounts will be debited on the same day (BC) or next day (ASC).
- Childcare vouchers/tax free childcare payments should be **sent in advance** and your Parent Pay account will then be credited ready for use.
- Breakfast club remains free of charge to those eligible for **income/benefits** based Free School Meals.

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**

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.



- **Please ensure all uniform is named!**

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