



Steam Mills Primary

18.09.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Message from Mr Dave Wilden, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

The school has received queries regarding school track and parking. I would like to explain the situation regarding the land behind the school and the Steam Mills playing field.

The school owned land is inside the boundary wall and fence. The land behind the school is owned by Cinderford Town Council and is there's to do with as they wish. We have no legal right or agreement to access and use any of Cinderford Town Council's land.

The school has historically had a very good and positive relationship with Cinderford Town Council and through their good will and generosity they have allowed the school and parents to use the car park behind the school for staff and parent parking, the track to make it easier and safer to leave the area and to access and use the field for PE lessons and events such as Sports Day. When my children first started at Steam Mills none of this land was available. The only parking was at the front and in The Branch and all traffic entered and exited off The Branch. Parking was chaos at the time. The land is also used by other groups in the community, the bowling club, allotment holders and residents of Steam Mills and the surrounding area. The town council have recently installed picnic benches, bike racks, large stones to separate the track from pedestrian access and are currently building mountain bike track on the far side of the field.

As a school our continued use of, and access to, the land depends on the continued good will and generosity of Cinderford Town Council. I hope everyone will help us continue our positive relationship.

Regards,
Dave Wildin

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. Thank you.

ONE WAY

The track is always strictly ONE-WAY, there was a near miss again this week where someone was exiting the wrong way.

Please also be aware of people accessing the Allotments and the Bowling Club when exiting. Thank you.

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

23rd Tempest Photography –
Individual/Sibling Portraits

25th Rags to Riches collection
(new date)

Football Tournament (invite
only)

28th European Day of Languages

October

7th Parents Evenings (bookings
open 25/09/26)

14th Parents Evenings (bookings
open 25/09/26)

19th Harvest Collection for Food
Bank

20th Nasal Flu Vaccinations –
whole school
C2 One Day Creative
Workshop

21st Harvest Festival Celebration –
parents welcome! 2:45pm
Halloween Discos (Details to
follow)

22nd Last day of Term 1 for children
FoSM Non-school Uniform

23rd Inset Training Day

Medication

Just a reminder that children should not have any medication in their bags, this must be handed in at the school office and a Medication Form completed for administering. This includes oral medication and ointments.

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.

Whole School Group Photo

Have you ordered your school Group photo yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Tuesday 22nd September 2026. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was sent to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk
If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 5). Many thanks,

Rags 2 Riches Collection – Wednesday 25th September (new date)

We have our next collection booked for 25th 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/>

This is likely to be our last Rags 2 Riches Collection as Friends of Steam Mills have sourced a clothing bank company that will put a permanent clothing bank on-site, to be situated outside the school for the convenience of Parents/Carers and the wider community.

European Day of Languages

On Monday 28th September, every class will be celebrating the European Day of Languages in school. Each class will represent a different country and take part in activities linked to that country.

Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform, wearing the colours of the flag of their class's assigned country. Please see the details below:

- Class 1 – Italy: Green, white and red
- Class 2 – France: Blue, white and red
- Class 3 – Spain: Red and yellow
- Class 4 – Greece: White and blue

Throughout the day, each class will also have the opportunity to visit the other classrooms to experience and learn about the different countries being represented.

We look forward to a fun and exciting day of learning and celebrating the many languages and cultures across Europe!

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

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Tuesday 20th October. All parents/carers

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

**Star of the Week Certificates**

Pre-school
Ria - for settling so beautifully into Preschool with great confidence.
Ella - for challenging herself by writing new letters and words...e.g Mummy, Daddy.

Class 1
Sienna - for always trying her best in phonics.
Roffi - for giving it her best go in handwriting.

Class 2
Ocean - fantastic teamwork when ordering numbers.
Tommy - a great attitude towards learning and a fantastic start to Y2.

Class 3
Maddi - for showing kindness to peers.
Josie - amazing ideas in writing.

Class 4
Freddie - for an excellent setting description.
Annabelle - for a brilliant setting description evoking emotion.

should now have received an email with information. Please let the school office know if you have not received this. **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 – the children have been using mirrors around the room to look and study our features on our faces, leading to discussing our similarities and differences. We are starting to create a gallery of our very own self-portraits! We have loved adding Autumn leaf fingerprints on tree pictures, leading to colour mixing using hands and paper to create wonderful autumn themed paintings. We also used our handprints to work together to decorate a beautiful seasonal tree! The children have loved reading and looking at our book 'Each Peach Pear Plum', taking it in turns to spot each character on different pages.

Class 1 – successful first week of phonics and maths with Reception. In maths we have been practising the skill of subitising. This is when we use our 'fast eyes' to correctly identify a number of objects, rather than counting them. In phonics we have learnt s, a, t, p and our HFW's (high frequency words) are 'a, at, as'. That cheeky Tricky Witch has already been changing our sounds and has changed the 's' sound in the word 'as'. We also enjoyed the Gruffalo's Granny this week, which was a lovely addition to the Gruffalo's Child and the Gruffalo.

As you are probably aware already, Miss Byrnes is expecting a baby! The school will be arranging suitable cover for Miss Byrnes in January next year and will keep you informed.

Class 2 have been exploring the United Kingdom in Geography this week. They named countries and capital cities, made flags on peg boards, drew pictures of features of the capital cities and used blocks to build Big Ben. In PE the children explored forward rolls as hay bales and explored being different animals at the farm. In maths, the Y1s have been ordering numbers to 20 and Y2s have been exploring numbers to 100 using 100 square puzzles and bingo games. The children have really impressed me in phonics with their sounding out and reading of CEW. Sounds this week Y1: tch- fetch, ve- give and ai- train. Y2: c as s- Cinderford and kn silent k- knock.

Class 3 - another busy and enjoyable week in Class 3! In writing, we have been looking at expanding noun phrases using prepositional phrases and put our skills to the test by creating persuasive posters to sell a spaceship. In Guided Reading, we have started our new text, *Stone Age Boy*, making predictions, exploring new vocabulary and answering a range of questions. In maths, we have continued our place value unit, focusing on number lines and counting in sequences. In science, we have been learning about the skeleton and even got to know the names of some of our bones!

Class 4 – this week, Class 4 has continued exploring our Electricity topic in Science. We investigated voltage and carried out an experiment to test whether our predictions were correct. The children worked scientifically by making observations, recording results and comparing them with their original ideas. In English, we developed our understanding of writing dialogue, focusing on how it can be used to reveal and develop character. At the end of the week, the children performed their written scenes, bringing their characters to life. Demonstrating how effectively they had used language and grammatical features to create personality and engage their audience.

Past Teacher at Steam Mills

We have received the following letter from the daughter of a Teacher who used to work at Steam Mills. Some past pupils may remember her.

I wanted to let you know that a former teacher from your school, Mrs Maureen Billingham passed away on 23 August 2026. She was 82 years old!

She had been at your school teaching for a number of decades in the 1980's and early 1990's, she was a well loved and respected teacher of the infant school and loved her job and the

families in the Forest of Dean. Mr Malcolm Britten was headteacher and then Mrs Glynnis Williams (I think I have the right surname).

There may well be grandparents of your children who remember her and I wondered whether you would be kind enough if you felt it appropriate to let your families know of her passing.

I enclose notification of her passing.

With best wishes

Jenny Steven
Daughter

The obituary notice of
Maureen Edith BILLINGHAM (née Sanders)
Gloucester | Published in: Gloucester Citizen, Gloucestershire Echo. Notable areas: Newent, Bromyard, Cinderford, Clifford's Mesne



School Debt Policy

A reminder that the school has a no debt policy. Please ensure that any Breakfast Club and After School Club bookings are paid for via ParentPay in advance. Many thanks

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.



Denmark Road High School

Be part of the Denmark Road experience.

Join us for our Open Events
5th October
8.45-10.30am
7th October
5.00-8.00pm

All welcome.
No booking required.

www.denmarkroad.org

Beezee FAMILIES

Making healthy school lunches easy!

Helping children make healthier choices at school doesn't have to be complicated. A few simple changes can build healthy habits and help your children stay energised and ready to learn throughout the day. Here's a few tips to help you get started:

Tip 1:
Pack some healthy snacks
Including a healthy snack in your child's lunchbox, like a preferred fruit or plain popcorn, can help them stay energised throughout the school day and make nutritious choices easier.

Tip 2:
Know what options are available
Take a look at your child's school lunch menu together and talk about the healthier choices available. Exploring the options in advance can encourage children to try new foods and make balanced choices at lunchtime.

Tip 3:
Talk about healthy choices
School lunchtimes can be a great time to encourage independence and positive decision-making. Agree simple goals together and celebrate healthy choices throughout the week.

Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click to find out more

gloucestershire.gov.uk

gloucestershire.gov.uk

* Gloucestershire is available for families with children aged 5-11

JOHN KYRLE HIGH SCHOOL
READY | RESPECTFUL | RESILIENT

YEAR 6 TRANSITION EVENTS 2026

Take the next step with confidence
Join us to discover life at John Kyrle High School, meet our staff and students and explore our school.

REGISTER NOW!
Scan the QR code to book your visit

OPEN MORNINGS
 **Dates** 6th • 7th • 8th October 2026
 **Time** 9.30 AM – 11.30 AM

OPEN EVENING
 **Date** Thursday 22nd October 2026
 **Time** 5 PM – 7.30 PM

**FIRST CHOICE
FUTURES FOR ALL**

**NEW
EVENT!**

**BRICK PIRATE
TRAIL; 17, 19 & 20
SEPTEMBER, 10AM**

**PIRATES & PIZZA; 18
SEPTEMBER, 4-8PM**

For more information and to book, visit
www.perrygrove.co.uk/events

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS
AND BOOK NOW**

 www.perrygrove.co.uk/events

Read with me  Supported by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust

FREE!

Read Together after-school!

- ✓ Group storytime
- ✓ Free books to take home
- ✓ Fun craft activity
- ✓ Drink and snacks provided

Every **Wednesday** at
Hilltop Children & Family Centre,
Cinderford, GL14 2QA.
Drop in from **3:15pm to 4:30pm**
(during term time)

www.readwithme.org.uk  ReadWithMe2020  ReadWithMeOrg

 **Ribston Hall High School**
SHARING AMBITION

Open Events Thursday 15th October 2026

Please join us for one of our Open Events this October:

- Open Morning: 9am to 11:30am
- Open Evening: 4:30pm to 7pm
- Open Evening: 5:30pm to 8pm

Our open events are the perfect opportunity to find out more about our school and the changes to the Grammar Schools Test for 2027. We will also be offering student-guided tours, and our Senior Leadership and Admissions teams will be available to answer any questions you may have.

To find out more and book your place please visit:
www.ribstonhall.gloucs.sch.uk/join-us

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