

Steam Mills Primary

22.10.2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Mrs Walkley

We are happy to confirm that Mrs Walkley, who has been our recent supply teacher in Class 3, has accepted a fixed term contract until the end of the school year. This will offer consistency for the class, with Mrs Mclean teaching Monday to Thursday am and Mrs Walkley, Thursday pm and Friday. Welcome to Steam Mills Mrs Walkley!

Halloween Disco

FoSM have said that an amazing **£178** was raised from the discos last night. Thank you to all the children who attended, we hope you had a lovely time 😊 We also would like to say a massive **thank you** to everyone else involved; parents, teachers and helpers.



Clothing Bank

You may have noticed that we now have the clothing bank in place next to the layby at the back of the school (by the main road). If you are having a sort out anytime, please do remember the school. We receive money back for Friends of Steam Mills fundraising. Many thanks.

One-way System

We have had another near miss this week with a car coming down the track the wrong way! If you are entering or exiting the car park, please ensure you are going the correct way. The school and the council, who own the land, are again appealing for co-operation with this system. 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 the need for extra maintenance work which the school is keen to avoid. Thank you.

Class Snippets

Little Oaks – The children have enjoyed finding Halloween inspired pictures around the garden, marking them off their tick lists as they found each one on their Halloween hunt. We have worked as a team to carve our pumpkins - creating faces, scooping out the inside, discussing the textures and exploring the insides of the pumpkin. Some of you may have seen our beautiful Spiders web we created on our window, using masking tape and spooky Halloween paints which was very messy but was so worth it as we think it looks fabulous!



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:

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

Diary Dates

November

2nd Start of Term 2

3rd Class 4 Start Swimming

4th Class 4 Trip to Bletchley Park

5th Xmas 4 Schools deadline

6th Author Visit and Book Sale after school

10th C2 Show and Share for Parents (3:20pm)

13th Children in Need Day

27th Non-school Uniform Day (Xmas Tombola Prizes)

Wreath Making – Time TBD

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.

We've used our imagination to create spooky faces on laminated pumpkins using black pens, black glass beads and curtain rings. The children have loved reading the books **10 Little Pumpkins** and **What's in the Witch's Kitchen?** -taking it in turns opening the flaps to discover what's hiding in the Witch's Kitchen!

Class 1 – this week Reception have been exploring zero and how it is the number for nothing, but it is also a place holder, and we should never forget about zero when counting. We have also been working on our number recognition and ordering, please continue this skill at home, especially to 5 and within 10 if possible. In phonics we have learnt the 'h, b' sound and our HFW's are (up, mum, put, had, oh, him, his, big, has). We have also been practising our handwriting and writing of CVC words by listening out for sounds we hear then writing them in the correct order to form words.

Could we remind grownups that the Class 1 outdoor area is to be enjoyed by the children when supervised by school adults. This week Class 1 and Class 2 children have been in the area before school starts and adults have later on found the boom whackers have been put into the dirty pumpkin water in the tuff tray. This is not the first time that something like this has happened and although we can appreciate it is an area to shelter from the rain, resources are not being used or supervised respectfully. **We ask again, that this area is not to be entered or used by children and their parents outside of schooling hours as this is an area to be used with school adults.**

Star readers: **Tommie, Hero, Sienna, Alexander, Willow, Izaak**

Class 2 have had a busy few days. They enjoyed a Great Fire of London Workshop yesterday. They got to do a fire dance with ribbon sticks, created a timeline and acted out parts of the great fire. On Wednesday, children enjoyed a visit from Carol at the allotments to show all of the wonderful produce they had grown. It was very interesting to see different types of pumpkins and hearing about all of the wonderful things they had grown.

Class 3 – what a fantastic final week of the term in Class 3! Both year groups have completed their Maths geometry units, and in Writing, we have been busy creating Harvest and autumn-themed poems. I was so impressed with the children's creativity and the lovely language they used! In Science, we made working models of hands to explore how our muscles and bones work together to help us move our fingers. In Guided Reading, we have been exploring extracts from Roald Dahl's *The Witches* and answering a range of questions to develop our comprehension skills. On Tuesday, we enjoyed a 'Fun Splash' during our final swimming session of the term – a lovely way to finish! It has been a fantastic first term, full of learning, achievements and fun. Well-done, Class 3 – you should all be very proud of yourselves!

Class 4 – this week we have completed our newspaper articles based on Goodnight Mister Tom and the 'kidnapping'. The children have genuinely loved this book and it has greatly inspired their writing. In History, we have learnt about Bletchley park's important role in WW2 in preparation for our trip in the first week back - Wednesday 4th November. During their task, they became code makers and breakers using a cypher. This was met with lots of excitement. We hope everyone has a well-deserved break this half term 😊

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!**



October Half Term Crash Courses

26 - 30 October 2026

9.30am - Stage 1 / 10am - Stage 2 / 10.30am - Stage 3
11am - Stage 4 / 11.30am - Stage 5

Forest of Dean
freedomleisure where you wander

freedomleisure
Cinderford

BOUNCE AND PLAY
Enjoy the bounce of inflatables with our bouncy castles, soft play activities and plenty of space to burn off some energy.
Saturday 24 October | 10.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 25 October | 10.00am - 11.00am
Wednesday 28 October | 10.00am - 12.00pm
Thursday 29 October | 10.00am - 12.00pm

FUN SPLASH
Make a splash in the pool with floats, toys and plenty of fun for the whole family.
Sunday 25 October | 12.45pm - 1.45pm
Sunday 1 November | 12.45pm - 1.45pm

JUNIOR LES MILLS CEREMONY HYROX
A fun and energetic workout designed to introduce young people to HYROX-type fitness challenges in a supportive environment.
Wednesday 28 October | 1.00pm - 1.45pm

SPOOKY SPLASH PARTY
Our evening Halloween-themed pool party featuring music, fun, inflatables and plenty of treats for all.
Friday 30 October | 4.00pm - 5.00pm

HALLOWEEN BOUNCY CASTLE PARTY
Join us for a spectacular Halloween celebration featuring a bouncy castle, music, arts and crafts, fun games and plenty of Halloween surprises!
Saturday 31 October | 10.00am - 12.00pm

OCTOBER HALF TERM
Family Fun • Fitness • Splash • Spooky!

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Missing: Conkers

The Great Conker Caper

Can you help Percy Pine Marten and Tabitha Tawny solve the mystery?

Across Gloucestershire, conkers from horse chestnut trees have gone missing. Follow the trail, uncover the clues and help solve the Great Conker Caper this October half term.

Join us on our quest at Robinswood Hill and Crickley Hill this October half term.
25 October to 3 November

Can you solve the mystery?

Registered Charity Number 232588

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GYCA A great place to begin!
GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUTH CHOIR ACADEMY
For young singers in School Years 5-8
Providing an inspiring introduction to county-level singing. Through engaging and age-appropriate repertoire, singers will develop their vocal and ensemble skills, make new friends and grow in confidence as performers.

GYC Take your voice further.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUTH CHOIR
For singers in School Years 9-13
Offering the next step in their musical journey with more challenging repertoire and opportunities to work alongside our professional tutor team and exciting guest artists.

Make new friends
Develop your voice
Build confidence
Sing amazing repertoire
Be part of a thriving musical community

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AMITY COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Mitcheldean Community Larder
Good Food • Friendly Faces • Stronger Together

Helping our community get the support they need

Free tea & coffee and a warm welcome!

Everyone is welcome

FOOD CUPBOARD
A wide range of cupboard items including tinned, dried and packaged foods.

FREE FRESH FRUIT & VEG
Seasonal fruit, vegetables, potatoes and more.

FREE BREAD & ROLLS
Including potatoes, carrots & onions from our free table.

TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
Everyday essentials for your home and family.

PET ITEMS
Because our pets matter too.

Affordable food and essentials for local people in need
Larder is open to Everyone
No referral needed

£10 MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR
Be part of our community, get the best from the larder and help us continue to support local people.

€5 TO SHOP FOR A PICK OF 12 ITEMS
Plus items from the free table

OPEN FRIDAYS 10am - 12pm
Held at Mitcheldean Community Centre, Playway Fields, Mitcheldean, Glos. GL17 2DS

A local community initiative, run by volunteers, for you.

Good food • Good neighbours • A stronger community

halloween disco

28TH OCT
5PM TO 7PM

FREE ENTRY!

THE WESLEY
BELLE VUE RD, CINDERFORD, GL14 2AA

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
5PM TO 7PM

KS1 & KS2
PARENTS PLEASE STAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

As always, please do let us know if you have any questions, concerns 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 and our Senior Leadership Team are : Mrs Mason (Executive Head Teacher), Mrs Fawkes (Executive Deputy Head Teacher) and Mrs Mclean (Senior Teacher)