Steam Mills Primary

06.11.2026

Dear Parents/Carers

FoSM Non-School Uniform Day – 22/10/26
Thank you for your kind donations, the school raised £78 which will go towards the Christmas Fayre.

Contact/Medical Details for your Child
Please could you ensure that the school is fully up to date with your current contract details and any emergency contact information. Also, it is essential that we have the latest medical information regarding any ongoing issues, including allergies etc. Please either email or call into the school office. admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk Thank you.

Xmas 4 Schools
We have extended the return date to **Monday 9th November.** FoSM arrange this activity each year where your child can, using the sheet provided, create their own design. The design sheets are then sent to Xmas 4 School who will then forward you a link where you can order items, such as, Christmas Cards, Mugs, Tea towels and Calendars.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November
We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 13th November with a non-school uniform day and, if possible, by **wearing something spotty, if not, something bright and cheerful**!
We have very limited amounts of Pudsey Ears (£2.50) and Pudsey Wristbands (£1) to purchase if children would like to support the charity. Apologies if your child does not have the opportunity to purchase this year. No other donation is required for this day.

Teams 4 U
A reminder that the school is taking part in this Charity collection again this year. Please note that the requested return date is by Friday 20th November. Thank you.



Diary Dates

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
21st December-3rd January
15th February-21st February
26th March-11th April
31st May-6th June

INSET days:
4th January, 28th May & 21st July

Diary Dates

November
9th Xmas 4 Schools deadline
10th C2 Show and Share for Parents (3:20pm)
13th Children in Need Day
16th Anti-Bullying Week
27th Non-school Uniform Day (Xmas Tombola Prizes)
Wreath Making – Time TBD

December
7th Christmas Play Rehearsal
8th Christmas Pay Performances 9:30am and 5:00pm
11th FoSM Christmas Fayre – 2pm
14th Christingle Service at the Church
16th Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Carol Concert – 2:30pm
17th Christmas Party Mornings

January
6th Whole School Panto Trip

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.

Attendance Snippet

What should I do if my child needs a dental or medical appointment in school time?

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible. When they are, you should ask the school in advance for a leave of absence and collect them as close to the time of the appointment as possible and return them to school for the rest of the school day afterwards.

One-way System



We still have cars coming down the track the wrong way. If you are entering of exiting the car park, please ensure you are going the correct way. The school has also informed the council of visitors using the Bike Jumps not adhering to the one-way system and please look out for bikes accessing the track at the Bowling Club entrance when you leave. 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. Thank you.

Message from Cinderford Town Council

Dear Cinderford schools,
At a recent meeting we discussed the number of children riding bikes without bike lights. Please can you remind pupils to make sure they can see and be seen on Cinderford's roads.

- Wear bright or reflective clothing
- Use lights when cycling
- Check your lights are working and keep them clean
- Take extra care around crossings and junctions

A few simple checks can help reduce the risk of a collision. Be bright. Be seen. Stay safe.

Class Snippets



Little Oaks – this week the children have investigated their autumn treasures, natural found resources the children have collected in their own autumn bags in the half term. We talked about the many different coloured and shaped leaves and textures of cones, chestnuts and twigs. Hide and seek has been very popular this week, taking turns to be the seeker and practicing counting to 10. We've talked all things fireworks this week - the importance of being safe when watching fireworks and the children have loved telling their friends about their own experiences and their bonfire night plans.

We have made lots of firework pictures using many different resources such as toilet roll print fireworks, we used bingo dabbers and chalks to create some beautiful, colourful fireworks. The children especially enjoyed choosing which colours they wanted to use when using marbles, rolling in tray to create firework bangs!

Stars of the week:
Theo - for his increased independence throughout the Preschool day.
Lily - for showing fabulous perseverance when using the stilts.

Class 1 – we have been talking about remembrance, making Poppies and wring what we would say to the soldiers who fought. We have also been talking about and retelling the story of Guy Fawkes, making rockets with craft and 2D shapes.

The children continue to work hard on their phonics and are beginning to learn diagraphs (2 letters, make 1 sound). Well done Class 1!
Star readers: Hero, daisy, Izzy, Hadley, Lottie

Class 2 have been busy exploring the Great Fire of London this week. We have started our new writing text and been exploring the features of non-fiction. In history, children sorted artefacts into past and present and thought about how London has changed since 1666. In maths, Y2 have been working on addition and have impressed me with drawing dienes to support them and Y1s have been looking at numbers to 100.

Stars of the week:
Aurora - for great participation in phonics.
Joseph - for great writing about London.

Class 3 – What a lovely first week back in Class 3! In writing, we have started our new text, *Black Dog* by Levi Pinfold. We have been exploring the themes, making predictions and getting to know the characters. In Guided Reading, we have begun *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl, reading Chapter 1 and putting our comprehension skills to the test by answering questions about the text. In Science, we have launched our new topic, Living Things, and explored how organisms can be grouped and classified. In History, we have been learning about Skara Brae, using our research to create and perform our very own Newsround-style episode. The children thoroughly enjoyed becoming reporters and sharing their historical knowledge! In Art, we have also been getting creative by designing our own cave art, inspired by prehistoric paintings.

Class stars:
Bella C - for great knowledge and recall in maths
Josie - for her excellent research and answering questions about Skara Brae

Class 4 – What an exciting week we have had in Class 4! Our school trip to Bletchley Park was a great success, and every single child made us proud by upholding our SHINE rules and showing respect throughout the visit. We all learnt so much about Bletchley Park's vital role in World War II and just how top secret the location was. It was especially exciting to see the Bombe machine in action, and we even had the rare opportunity to touch a genuine Enigma machine – something we were told very few visitors get to experience! A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who joined us on the trip. We hope the children came home with lots of exciting stories to share and enjoyed telling you all about their day.

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!

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)


xsiteforestofdean@gmail.com
X-SITE
Forest of Dean
Drainpipe of Doom
Games
Music
Learn about Jesus
Bring friends
DRAINPIPE OF DOOM!
Age 7 to school year 7
Saturday 19th September 2026
St James Church Centre, Bream
Saturday 17th October 2026
Parkend Baptist Church
Saturday 21st November 2026
St James Church Centre, Bream
Saturday 19th December 2026
St James Church Centre, Bream
5pm to 7pm
FUN
FRIENDS
FAITH
sportily
PLAY SPORTS, TALK LIFE
SERVING A LIGHT SNACK