Steam Mills Primary

13.11.2026

Dear Parents/Carers

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.



Toys for Early Years

The Little Oaks and Class 1 are in need of some Early Years toys and would welcome any "outgrown" or surplus donations that you may have. Ideally, we need toys (the pop-up, press or spin type) for children aged 2-4. Thank you in advance 😊

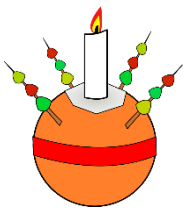
FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – Friday 27th November

There will be another non-school uniform day on Friday 27th November and FoSM are asking for donations of Tombola prizes for the Christmas Fayre please. This could be, Sweets, Chocolate, Toiletries, Toys, Bottles etc. Thank you!



Christingle Service and Walk to the Church – Monday 14th December Classes 2, 3 and 4 only

The School will be celebrating their Christingle Service at the Church again this year. Please could you let the school office know, **next week** please, if you are able to help by walking to and from the Church with the Children, we can then add your name to our Risk Assessment. We leave school after lunch, approximately 1:30pm. Thank you.



One-way System

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.

HAF Activities

For those families who are eligible to book onto HAF Activities during the holidays, we have been informed that bookings are open from **Monday 16th November** – there is a poster at the end of this newsletter with details.

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
16th Anti-Bullying Week
20th Teams 4 U return date
27th Non-school Uniform Day (Xmas Tombola Prizes)
Wreath Making – 3:30pm
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
18th Christmas Film, Hot Chocolate and Wear your Pyjamas
Last Day of Term 2
January
4th Inset Training Day
5th Children return to school
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.

Class Snippets

Little Oaks – this week we have celebrated World Nursery Rhyme week! We have looked at the five chosen nursery rhymes, a different one each day, singing them and talking about them. The children also have enjoyed arts and crafts linked to the rhymes and the children have taken colouring sheets home each day and will receive a participation certificate too.

For the early part of this week we have made fingerprint poppies and decorated poppy templates with dabbers and various media. We have also used red and black loose parts to create our own special poppies to mark Remembrance Day. Both myself and Lexi are so proud of all of the Preschoolers who took part in our two-minute silence on Wednesday and also how they engaged with the Cbeebies short film **Poppies.**

Star of the Week Certificates

Pre-school
Ella - for being so kind and welcoming to our new friend starting in Preschool.
Eala - for settling really well into Preschool.

Class 1
Jay - came back from half term with a brilliant learning attitude.
Hero - her resilience in phonics.
Star Readers: Willow, Billy, Tommie and Jay

Class 2
Willow – for great independent learning.
Locke – great sounding out in writing.

Class 3
Charlie M - for helping a peer during PE without being asked.
Bella L - for super effort in her lessons, especially in maths.

Class 4
Andrea - for a focused attitude to her work.
Brooke - for improved attitude and confidence in swimming.

Class 1 – Reception have now finished their phase 2 phonics sounds and we have moved onto phase 3! This week's sounds are 'j, v, w, x' and HFW's (if, off, you, my, they, for). The children have done a brilliant job and are able to identify our 'loud sounds' (vowels), our 'quieter sounds' and our digraphs. In maths we have been looking at comparison and discussing what the same and different is about towers of 3 and earlier in the week we were reinforcing the language or more and fewer. This week, we have made a poster for anti-bullying week and in Geography we have been looking at the United Kingdom.

Class 2 have been busy working on Remembrance Day. They made collages of poppies, Lego poppies and Gem poppies. Y2's have been adding using tens and ones. We explored timelines in history and acted out the Great Fire of London. We have also been doing lots of singing for the Christmas Play.

Class 3 have had another busy and productive week! In art, we used our plans to create our own cave art masterpieces before taking time to evaluate our finished pieces. In guided reading, we continued exploring Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl, focusing on Mr Fox and discussing his characteristics. In maths, both year groups have been developing their addition skills, exploring a range of different strategies, while Year 4 have now moved on to multiplication. In music, we learnt the song Lean on Me and enjoyed practising together. In writing, we have been learning about the present perfect tense, exploring how it is used to describe actions that began in the past and continue into the present. Well-done, Class 3, for another fantastic week of learning!

Class 4 have continued their learning about forces in science, focusing on gravity this week. They carried out an exciting investigation using Newton meters to explore the relationship between an object's mass and the gravitational force acting upon it. In maths, year 6 have started their new fractions unit, using their knowledge of multiplication to help them understand and work confidently with fractions. Year 5 have now completed their decimals unit. They finished by developing their skills in rounding decimals to the nearest tenth and nearest whole number. Well-done to everyone for their hard work!

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)





gloucestershire MUSIC

Ever wanted to try an instrument but not sure which one is for you? Then come along to our

TRY AN INSTRUMENT DAY!

We will have a wide range of instruments for you to try along with an expert team of tutors to guide you.

Saturday 21 November • 10am - 12pm
Sir Thomas Rich's School, Longlevens



Let us know you're coming at gloucestershiremusic.paritor.com
Open to children of all ages.
T 01452 427242 W gloucestershiremusic.co.uk

GSW Music Hub

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Nature Nurtures

Free nature sessions in the Forest of Dean



Join our FREE sessions, running for 8 weeks in The Forest of Dean. The sessions are designed to get children struggling with their mental health, learning about nature and building confidence.

Contact Katie at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to find out more and sign up: katie.hall@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Ages 5 - 9
Saturdays
10-11:30am
23rd January - 13th March
2027

Ages 10 - 15
Saturdays
1-3pm
23rd January - 13th March
2027

Thank you to the NHS, our local community and business for making this project possible.

NHS Gloucestershire

Registered Charity Number 232580



swim school

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Following the Swim England Learn to Swim Programme

Forest of Dean

freedomleisure where you matter