Steam Mills Primary

20.11.2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Children in Need
Thank you to everyone who bought merchandise to support Children in Need last Friday. The school raised an amazing £161.50 for Children in Need!



Sports Kit
We are hoping to purchase some new sports kit for the teams representing Steam Mills at sporting events and competitions. We would love to give our children a kit they can wear with pride when representing our school! We are therefore reaching out to our school community to ask whether any parents know of local businesses who might be interested in sponsoring our new kit. If you know of anyone who may be able to help, please get in touch with us. Any support would be hugely appreciated!

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 😊

Federation Football
We are pleased to share that some children have been invited to represent Steam Mills at a Key Stage 2 Federation Football Tournament next week. The children invited to take part have been chosen with a range of factors in mind, including their enthusiasm for football, willingness to participate, teamwork and the opportunity to experience representing our school at a federation event. We recognise that every child has different strengths and interests, and there will be many opportunities for children to shine in different ways throughout the year.

We are looking forward to seeing our children get involved, demonstrate great sportsmanship and represent Steam Mills with pride!

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!

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

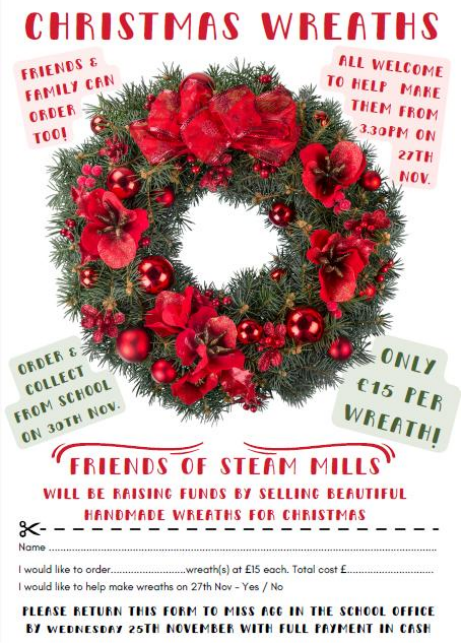
Holidays and Half Terms
21st December-3rd January
15th February-21st February
26th March-11th April
31st May-6th June

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

Diary Dates
November
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
10th Little Oaks Nativity Performance – time TBD
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.

FoSM Wreath Making – Friday 27th November
This flyer is being sent home today, please return slip asap.



Star of the Week Certificates

Pre-school
Effie - for beginning to form letters of her name to label her pictures.
Yashwin - for settling in so well into Preschool with such great confidence!

Class 1
Alexander- for his enthusiasm to his learning.
Iris- her perseverance in phonics to keep going.
Star readers: Harrison, Hudson, Hero, Nela, Alexander, Roffi, Izaak

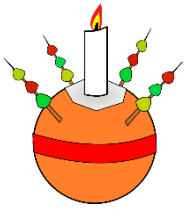
Class 2
Nori - amazing phonics work.
Zachary - amazing work consistently.

Class 3
Joules - for being a lovely learning partner in music.
Tate - for always trying his best, even when things are difficult.

Class 4
Billy – for showing a kind and responsible attitude at lunchtime.

Christmas Play – Hey Ewe! Tuesday 8th December
A letter will be sent home today, inviting parents/carers from Classes 1 and 2 to request tickets for this year's Christmas Play, Hey Ewe! Please return slips **before Monday 30th November** to secure your tickets.

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. A letter was sent home yesterday regarding this, please return the slip if you can help by walking to and from the Church with the Children, we can then add your name to our Risk Assessment. If the school does not have enough parent helpers, this event will unfortunately not be able to go ahead. 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.

Class Snippets



Little Oaks – this week the children have enjoyed different versions of Goldilocks and the Three Bears story, making bear ear headbands and immersing themselves in role-playing the story using our three visiting bears, comparing sizes of bowls, chairs and beds. They have used counting bears to match numbered bears up to 10 and loved our tuff tray filled with porridge oats using lots of different sized bowls and spoons, making porridge for each other. We have also enjoyed porridge for snacks!

Class 1 – in Class 1 this week we started a new focus book called "Ning and the Night Spirits" and have been predicting and imagining what a Night Spirit could be. In phonics we have learnt 'y, z, zz & qu' and our HFW's are 'was, will, went, all, from, help'. In maths we have been exploring parts and wholes; looking at a whole number and the parts that go into that number I.e., 3 is the whole, and 1 & 2 are the parts of 3. The children have been using unifix cubes to show their parts and whole. Number blocks "whole of me" is a useful episode for exploring this concept.

Class 2 have written recounts of the great fire of London, explored Diwali with Ms Barber and revisited maths concepts from last week. The children have also been practising for their Christmas play. We are remembering the songs and some of us have even memorised our lines! It would be great if they can keep practising their big voices at home if they have lines.

Class 3 - it has been assessment week in Class 3, and the children have worked incredibly hard – we are so proud of the effort and focus they have shown! In guided reading, we have continued enjoying *Fantastic Mr Fox*, exploring the farmers' emotions, answering comprehension questions and making predictions about what might happen next. In writing, we have been using prepositions to add detail and describe settings, helping to bring our descriptions to life. In science, we explored classification keys and had a go at creating our own. In music, we continued learning *Lean on Me*, singing along and accompanying ourselves on the glockenspiels. Another busy week of learning in Class 3!

Class 4 thoroughly enjoyed our history lesson this week as we learnt about Anne Frank and the reasons why she and her family were forced to go into hiding during the Second World War. The children took part in a virtual tour of the Anne Frank House, allowing us to navigate through every room of the Secret Annex. Seeing the location and the conditions in which the family lived was incredibly eye-opening and sparked some thoughtful discussions, insightful questions, and a real sense of empathy throughout the class. In Art, Class 4 have been exploring the work of the artist Käthe Kollwitz. They have enjoyed experimenting with a range of printing techniques, including creating stencils, printing with ink and acetate, etching into foam, and using carbon copy paper. The children have shown fantastic focus, creativity, and perseverance as they developed their skills. We can't wait to see their final pieces of artwork, inspired by Kollwitz's distinctive style.

Attendance/Illness

If your child is absent due to illness, please could you inform the school on the first morning, before 9:30am. Please could you also let the school know the type of illness for our records; stating that they are not well is not enough information. Thank you.

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**

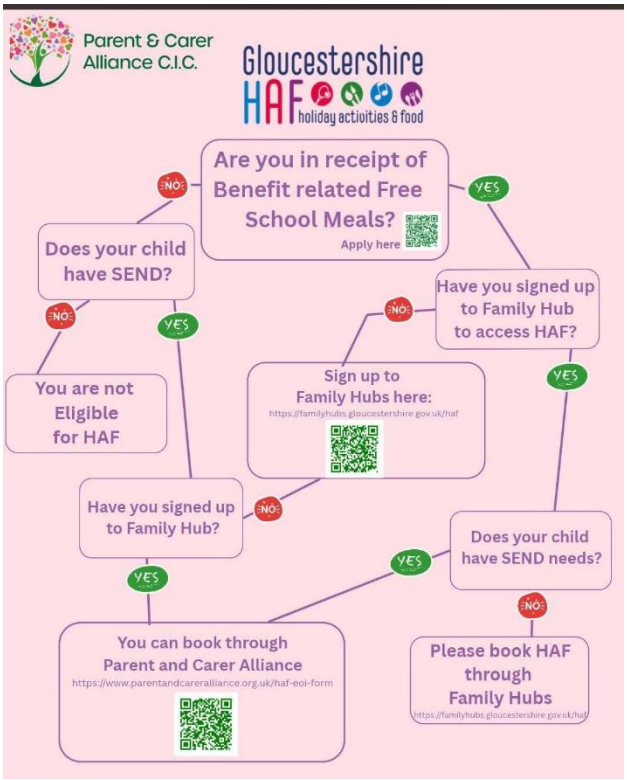
Please ensure all uniform is named!

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)


£20 PER DAY EARLY BIRD!
prostars
Forest Sports Education
SCAN ME
WINTER
Holiday Camp
Get ready for a season of joy and adventure at our Prostars Winter Holiday Camp! Designed for kids of all abilities, our camp is packed with festive fun, creative activities, and heartwarming moments.
Fun Activities
Holiday Treats
Creative Workshops
OUR VENUES
Primrose Hill Lydney
Berry Hill Coleford
Forest View Cinderford
Abbeymead Gloucester
WEEK 1
Mon 21st Dec • Tue 22nd Dec • Wed 23rd Dec
WEEK 2
Tue 29th Dec • Wed 30th Dec
DAYS RUNNING FROM 8:30AM – 4:30PM EACH DAY
BOOK NOW THROUGH:
prostars.ipalbookings.com


HAF WINTER
2026
Key dates
16-30TH NOVEMBER
SEND family priority bookings open
30TH NOVEMBER
HAF LISTING GO LIVE
21ST DECEMBER
ACTIVITIES BEGIN
ALL ENQUIRES
HAF@PARENTANDCARERALLIANCE.ORG.UK
WWW.PARENTANDCARERALLIANCE.ORG.UK


Parent & Carer Alliance C.I.C.
Gloucestershire HAF holiday activities & food
Are you in receipt of Benefit related Free School Meals?
Apply here
YES
NO
Does your child have SEND?
Have you signed up to Family Hub to access HAF?
You are not Eligible for HAF
Sign up to Family Hubs here:
https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf
Have you signed up to Family Hub?
Does your child have SEND needs?
You can book through Parent and Carer Alliance
https://www.parentandcareralliance.org.uk/haf-eoi-form
Please book HAF through Family Hubs