Steam Mills Primary

27.11.2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Teams4U
Thank you to those families that donated a filled shoe box for this years' appeal. They were gratefully received by the Teams4U Team.

Learn to Ride a Bike!
Gloucestershire County Council's Bikeability Team have contacted the school to offer free sessions for children in Years 3-6 to learn to ride a bike. Please look out for a letter with return slip coming home soon.

Christmas Post Boxes
We will have the Christmas Post Boxes in place from **Monday 30th November** in KS1 and KS2 areas. Children are welcome to bring cards in for their friends to post but please could parents/carers ensure these are addressed clearly with name and class. Thank you.



Christmas Play – Hey Ewe! Tuesday 8th December
A reminder that the cut-off for tickets is **Monday 30th November.** All tickets will be sent home later next week, including, where possible, any extra tickets that have been requested.



FoSM Christmas Fayre – Friday 11th December – 2:00pm
We hope you can all come along and enjoy the Christmas Fayre with your children next Friday. This year we have:

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- Father Christmas (free visit and free gift for all Steam Mills Children in Pre-school or school!)
- Class sale of handmade gifts
- Refreshments and cakes
- Raffle
- Tombola
- Decorate a Ball-ball
- Name the Huge Christmas Capybara!



All children are to be collected from their class by parents/ carers and once children have visited the Fayre, they are welcome to leave for the day with their parent/carer.

Cake Donations – Christmas Fayre – Friday 11th December
FoSM are asking please if they could have donations of cakes for the Christmas Fayre. They are happy to receive home-made or bought items. Please bring into school the day before or on the Friday morning. 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
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

After School Club – Friday 11th December and Friday 18th December
With Friday 11th December being an early finish option for children – anytime from 2pm (after the Christmas Fayre) and Friday 18th December, being the last day of term but with normal finish time of 3:15pm (3pm for Pre-school); we are asking parent/carers if you will need ASC provision on these days. Please contact Miss Agg if you are unable make other arrangements. Thank you.

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



Thank you to all those that have returned slips to say they can help with the walk to and from the Church. A reminder that we will leave school after lunch, approximately 1:30pm. Thank you.

Star of the Week Certificates

Little Oaks
Layla - for showing increased interest and confidence in mark making.
Hayes - for his great enthusiasm when creating his tiger, using many different techniques.

Class 1
Hudson & Billy - for trying hard to stay focused.
Star readers: Izzy, Sienna

Class 2
For the whole of Class 2 this week! – for working very well for their teachers.

Class 3
Isla - for always trying her best.
Delilah - for excellent progress in maths.

Class 4
Oliver - for improved confidence in swimming.
Lilly M - for consistent effort across all subjects.

Pre-school and Class 1 would like to invite parents/carers into school (Class 1) to celebrate their **Christingles at 2:30pm also on Monday 14th December**. Hope you can make it!

Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 16th December
You should all have received details of how to order this years' Christmas Lunch this week. Please let the school office know if you have not received this and please note that there will be **no Pasta option or Jacket Potato option** on this day. Please note that this is also our Christmas Jumper Day, a £1 donation would be gratefully received for Save the Children. Thank you.



Carol Concert – Wednesday 16th December
Our annual Christmas Carol Concert will be taking place in the school hall at 2:30pm on Wednesday 16th December. All parent/carers are welcome to attend.



Whole School Panto – Wednesday 6th January
Classes 1-4 should have received information regarding the trip to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, in January. Please contact the school office if you have not received this letter. Thank you.



Class Snippets



Little Oaks – this week we've enjoyed the story 'The Tiger who came to tea' in many forms, from listening to either Kelly or Lexi reading the story, watching the short film of the story as well as independently looking and reading the story ourselves! The children have absolutely loved tea party role-play, using real tea-cups and saucers, tea pots, and lots of role-play tea party cake! We've been using a variety of orange and black collage as well as rulers in black paint to make stripes on our own tigers. The children have got very creative making invites to their tea party using fabulous pencil control! We have had a first listen and practice to our Christmas Nativity songs which has got us all very festive, so we are excited to turn Preschool Christmassy this afternoon!

Class 1 - this week reception sounds are ch, sh, th (that),th (thumb) and ng. HFW's (too, her, with, are, yes). In maths we have been exploring different shapes of 4 and the different parts we recognise in 4. We then furthered our learning by exploring 5. In science we have been looking at teeth and how we can look after them; the children were very knowledgeable about teeth and

could easily explain good habits to have in order to take care of them. Lots of nativity practise this week, the children have don't brilliantly in trying to stay focused during rehearsal.

Class 2 have had another excellent week with their learning. In Phonics Y1 were looking at "oe" and Y2's "zhun" as in television. Play practice has continued and we have started getting used to using the stage in the hall. In Maths, Y1 has been looking at 1 more and 1 less and Y2 have been looking at place value. Well done Class 2!

Class 3 - another busy week in Class 3! Both year groups have been working their way through their multiplication units in maths, with plenty of opportunities to practise and consolidate their learning through fun games throughout the day. In English, we have been exploring prepositions and the power of three before putting these skills into practice by writing diary entries from the perspective of a character in our class text. In French, we learnt the numbers 11–20 and had lots of fun practising these through games. In science, we headed outdoors to hunt for invertebrates before carefully observing and grouping our finds. A lovely week of learning all round!

Class 4 - this week in Maths, Year 6 have been adding fractions. They have demonstrated how they can use all of the fraction knowledge they have learned and apply it to new situations. It has been fantastic to see their confidence and understanding grow. Well done, Year 6 – keep up the great work! Year 5 have been focusing on addition and subtraction, exploring a range of mental strategies and recognising number relationships to help them calculate more efficiently. They have shown great resilience and are becoming increasingly confident in choosing the most effective strategy for different calculations. In English, we have planned our balanced arguments, ready to write them next week. Using our class text *Friend or Foe*, the children have been considering the question: 'Should the German soldiers be helped?' They have explored both sides of the argument, even when the viewpoints differed from their own. We have discussed the importance of avoiding bias and listening respectfully to different perspectives. The children have shown excellent maturity and empathy in considering and discussing the views of others.

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact t school as early as possible on the first day of absence to explain why. If you do not, your child's school will contact you on the first morning of their absence to find out why your child is not in school. All parents can request a 'leave of absence' for their child which gives them permission to be absent from school. Your child's school has the final say over whether to approve the request and for how long your child can be absent. Generally, a leave of absence would not be allowed for a holiday.

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.

5 MPH

A reminder that the speed limit for the car park and track is 5 MPH. This is for the safety of all users and to try and minimise damage to the surface material.

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)





Cinderford Town Council – Consultation for Steam Mills area

Please could you visit this consultation and have your say regarding planned changes for our local area. Obviously for the school, the ongoing maintenance of the car park and track are a priority.

TAKE PART IN THE CONSULTATION

Complete a Paper Consultation Form - collect from the Town Council offices

Online - Steam Mills Questionnaire - Proposed Outdoor Gym, Petanque/Boules area and track/car park – Fill in form

CONSULTATION CLOSES: 1ST December 2026 at 5pm.

HAVE YOUR SAY - Help Shape the Future of Steam Mills

Cinderford Town Council are considering a number of improvements to Town Council owned land to make this area more enjoyable, accessible and beneficial for residents of all ages. Before any decisions are made, **we want to hear from YOU!**

NEW OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT



It is proposed to install free-to-use outdoor gym equipment consisting of a Sky Stepper, Health Walker, Rower and Bicycle. Benefits include:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities
- Enjoy exercise in the fresh air

(This equipment will be grant funded)

NEW PÉTANQUE COURT

A dedicated pétanque area could provide:

- ✅ A fun activity for all ages
- ✅ Opportunities to meet friends and neighbours
- ✅ An attractive new community facility

Petanque/boules is easy to learn and suitable for people of all ages!

(This will be part grant funded)



The proposed location of the gym area is shown as the red circle. The yellow areas are the proposed petanque areas. Both areas are behind the Bowling Club.



PARKING & TRACK ACCESS

We are also proposing improvements to the existing track and parking area using recycled road planings (see area marked in red).

This could mean:

- ✅ Reduced pot holes, mud and puddles
- ✅ Improved access throughout the year
- ✅ Improved access behind Steam Mills Primary School
- ✅ A more durable and practical surface for walking and driving

(Materials will be donated and works funded by Cinderford Town Council)

