



Steam Mills Primary

24.10.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Practice Lockdown

The children had their first Lockdown practice on Wednesday of this week, it was just for a few minutes, where children were kept safe within their classrooms for the duration. This practice is a safeguarding requirement for all schools and the children were well prepared for this by the teaching staff. We will be practicing termly going forward to ensure that everyone is comfortable and knows what to do in this situation.

Exciting News for Pre-school!

The school is now in a position to inform you that we have been successful in our bid to secure funding from Gloucestershire County Council to put towards a new Pre-school building. This is from both an Early Year's Expansion Grant and local 106 Development Funding Grant money. The school has also been able to contribute towards this project, having had an historical amount ring fenced for a number of years for this very purpose. The building works should be starting after the Christmas/New Year break, with the first phase being the demolition of the existing building and the whole project is expected to take 12-14 weeks – with a launch date after the Easter Holidays. **The expanded setting will then be able to take 2 year olds for which we are already taking names for on our waiting list.**



During the project the Pre-school children will temporarily be relocated to the school, utilising Class 2 3/4 (small classroom at the front of the school), the school hall and as usual the children will have access to outside play. As a consequence of the temporary setting, numbers of children attending will be capped for Terms 2/3 at no more than 10 children per day.

We will keep you updated on news that may affect the day to day running of the school whilst the construction work is taking place but we have been assured this will be kept to the minimum possible. To forewarn you, there will be a change to drop and go and the use of the track during that first week of demolition works in January.

Steam Mills Fireworks/After School Club – Thursday 6th

November

Cinderford Town Council have informed the school that the annual firework display will be taking place on the Steam Mills playing field this year. Please note that **After School Club will only run until 5:30pm on this day** as firework attendees will be using the carpark from 5:45pm. Thank you.

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2025

1st September-19th December

Spring Term 2026

5th January-27th March

Summer Term 2026

13th April-20th July

Half Terms

27th October-31st October

16th February-20th February

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 24th October, 5th

January, 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

October

24th INSET Training Day

25th Last Day of Term 1

November

3rd Start of Term 2

10th Anti-bullying week

7th FoSM Meeting (Christmas Planning) 3:15pm

11th Remembrance Day

12th C2 Trip to Aerospace Bristol

14th Children in Need Day

20th C4 Trip to Birmingham Think Tank

21st NHS Health Screening (YR&Y6)

28th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day
FoSM Wreath Making

December

3rd FoSM KS2 Panto Trip

4th FoSM EYFS & KS1 Trip to Raglan Farm Park

5th Christmas Fayre - 1:30pm

8th Short Reports to Parents/Carers

9th Charlotte Taylor Author Visit & after school book sale

15th EYFS/KS1 Nativity Rehearsal

16th EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performances

17th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day

18th Christmas Parties

19th Christmas Carol Service– 1:30pm (no Prostars or ASC)

Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November

We will mark Remembrance Day with the sale of Poppies and other Poppy Appeal merchandise again this year. We have limited amounts of Poppies, Slap-bands, Poppy Reflectors, Bracelets and Stickers. Minimum donation guide is 50p. Thank you



Children in Need – Friday 14th November

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 14th November with a non-school uniform day and, if possible, by wearing something spotty! We have limited amounts of Pudsey Ears (£2.50) and Pudsey Wristbands (£1) to purchase if children would like to support the charity. No other donation is required for this day.



Reception & Y6 Health Screening – Friday 21st November

All children in Reception & Year 6 year groups have received a letter giving details of this upcoming NHS Health screening. Please check that you have received this information as it contains information if you would like to opt out of this check.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Lottie - for always helping her peers and adults at tidy up time.

Class 1

Rosie - for always having patience and being polite towards others.

Freddie - for his effort and progress in phonics.

Tilly - for her reading progress when reading with an adult.

Star reader

Cooper, Locke, Layton & Reggie

Class 2

Charlie - for great perseverance in maths.

Benjamin - for great effort in writing to apply his phonic knowledge.

Class 3

Adam - for amazing engagement and contributions in class discussions.

Winnie - for working super hard to improve her spelling and handwriting.

Class 4

Arlo - for a fantastic learning attitude and being a great example to others.

Isla-Mae - for a great effort with her poetry.

Class Snippets - (Article 28- children have the right to an Education. Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents, personalities and beliefs)

Pre-school – the children have enjoyed finding Halloween inspired pictures around the garden and marking them off their tick sheets. We made a spooky face on our pumpkin and played with the seeds and flesh. We have made lots of Magic potions, using coloured water, natural resources and plastic bugs! The children have also made bubbly cauldrons, pumpkin and bat cookies and engaged in lots of dancing and singing, using microphones.



Class 1 – this week the children have been completing book reviews of Coming to England. They all rated the story and identified what they enjoyed most about the book. Reception sounds are (h, b) and HFW's (has, his, him, oh, had, big, mum, up, put). In Geography, we were looking further at where we live and identified that we all live in England and that it rains a lot. We then identified the different animals that we would find in England. We had some great fun with pumpkins at the beginning of the week, using hammers to hammer golf tees into them, then the children began to carve out the pumpkins.

Class 2 have been busy learning about the 7 continents. They played a game to match the continent to its name, labelled them, sang a song and drew animals found in each place. In writing, they have written some brilliant autumn themed poems. They will be entered into a competition being run by local author, Charlotte L Taylor. If you do not wish for your child's poem to be entered please let me know by 7.11.25. It was lovely to see so many children enjoying the disco on Wednesday evening. We also had lots of fun on Tuesday, when Woodside and Soudley visited us for some harvest crafts. The children were very polite/ helpful to their peers and enjoyed making chalk leaf pictures, autumn leaf wreaths and designed a hedgehog for a competition using tissue paper and shapes. Have a restful break!

Class 3 – we've had a fantastic final week! On Monday, we enjoyed two special visitors. First came the Education Life tent, where the children learned all about how amazing our bodies are — with help from Harold the Giraffe! I was so impressed by how engaged they were and how much they remembered from our science lessons. Later, dental hygienist Laura Thompson joined us to talk all things teeth. She was really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and knowledge! In maths, Years 3 and 4 have continued their geometry work, classifying 2D shapes and showing great reasoning skills. In writing, we've explored fronted adverbials through the beautiful stimulus 'Dream Maker', creating some wonderful descriptive pieces. Yesterday, the children rounded off the week with an art day, designing and creating their own printed artwork — a lovely creative finish to a busy term!

Class 4 have had a great week - they have managed to accumulate lots of class stars for trying hard with tasks in class, such as performing their poems, hakas and quizzes. The children have finished their space bags this week and the teachers were impressed with their designs; in Art, the children designed Forest of Dean murals and were able to scale their designs to larger pieces. We hope the children have a lovely half term break and we look forward to welcoming them back for Autumn 2! (Don't forget to complete your moon diaries)

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!**



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.

As always, please do let us know if you have any questions 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

Wondering where to get your child mental health support?
We're a good place to start.

At Toucan for Children we use a structured, evidence-based therapeutic approach called play therapy to help children with issues like anxiety, low self-esteem and anger management challenges to cope better in life.

Want to know more?
 Getting in touch is the first step.
 Let's get started.

Toucan for Children

Call us on: 07526 245880
 Email us on: admin@toucanforchildren.co.uk
 toucanforchildren.org