



## Steam Mills Primary School

Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire GL14 3JD  
Tel/Fax: 01594 822567. Email: [admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.steammillsprimary.co.uk](http://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk)  
Head Teacher- Mel Davis

4.10.21

Dear Parents/Carers

The new children have all settled beautifully and we have really enjoyed getting to know them.

We have been very busy in the past few weeks, exploring the setting and resources. The children loved creating a large tree using brushes, stampers and their hands. We have started to talk about the signs of autumn that we can see and have made hedgehogs-adding spikes with forks. The children explored colour mixing to create beautiful autumn leaves and used their fingerprints to add leaves to trees.



We have been looking at numbers 1-5, using our fingers, Numicon and toys



The children have been experimenting with making marks- on paper, in sand and in shaving foam. We have also drove cars in paint to create colourful tracks.





We have been making music, exploring sounds with instruments and wooden sticks and delighted in performing on the stage! We have been listening to the environment around us and what we can hear.



We have talked about 'What makes a kind friend?' and behaviours in Pre-School such as kind hands, kind feet and kind words. We have also been encouraging the children to use their words to speak to peers or adults when they have a need or problem.

We made the most of the warm weather earlier in the month, engaging in water play and having lots of fun on the outdoor equipment. We explored and experimented with water, balls and cars using the guttering. And we used lots of large loose parts to practice our balancing skills and create 'buildings'.



We have made observations of features on our faces- using the mirror and then the children created a portrait using paints.





## Forest School

We had our first session with Mrs Evans over in the Forest School area. We walked over to Forest Schools, explored the area, found lots of pine cones and sticks and enjoyed the fresh air! We will be aiming to do this every Thursday morning (weather depending).



**\*\*Please can we ask for grapes/cherry tomatoes to be cut in half in lunch boxes thank you? \*\***

We have also been encouraging the children to put on their own coats and ask that you do too. We use the method, 'hood on your head like a superhero' then it is easier for them to find at least one arm independently.

**Family Photos-** If you haven't already, please can you bring in a family photo that we could keep for the entire duration of your child's time with us. We display them in setting, in photo frames and we feel that it is a nice little reassurance for the children if they are upset or missing you.

### **Ideas for home-**

We are starting to look at the children's names, being able to recognise them and form letters from them. If you could also encourage this at home, e.g. "look there is an L for Laura, like at the start of your name" and encourage any writing that would be brilliant. We are also focussing on numbers 1-5, so number recognition and counting objects to 5 with your homes/environment will help the children develop their number knowledge.

### **Do you have.....?**

- Newspapers, buttons,
- Washing up liquid bottles, Washing powder scoops

### **Important dates for your Diary**

**Thursday 7<sup>nd</sup> October-** Individual and sibling photos.

All children are welcome, even if it is not your child's day. Please come to Pre-School as normal and we are usually first, approx. 9am in the school Hall.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October** - Last day of term

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** - Inset day

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** - Start of Autumn 2 term

Many thanks, Kelly and Laura