



## Steam Mills Primary

28.11.2025



Parents/Carers

### Pre-school Update

Plans are progressing well with the building project for the new Pre-school. Here is a picture of what we can expect on completion, this isn't the exact design but will give you an idea of the finish and type of building. Just to let you know, there will be a large storage container delivered within the next 2 weeks, which will take up an area in the carpark, this unfortunately was the only suitable place to site the unit due to overhead cables.



We have made the decision to move the Pre-school children over to the main school building from **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. This is to facilitate the stripping out of the current building and also to settle the children into their new environment before January. From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December, please could parents/carers of Pre-school children wait by the school main entrance in the playground at drop-off and collection times and a member of staff will be out to greet you all. A reminder also that when we open the new building in April 2026 we will be taking 2 year olds, please contact the school office or Kelly in Pre-school if you would like to register your child. Thank you.

### Christmas Post Boxes

We will have the Christmas Post Boxes in place from **Monday 1st December** 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.



### KS2 Panto – Wednesday 3rd December

We hope all the children in Classes 1-4 are looking forward to the Panto Trip on Wednesday. A reminder that children need to be in school for 8:30am. **Some parents did not tick the return slip for the chocolate treat (we think this may have been an oversight in some cases), we will plan to give this treat to all children unless we hear from you.** Children will return in time for their usual lunch at school. Thank you.



### Diary Dates

#### Autumn Term 2025

1<sup>st</sup> September-19<sup>th</sup> December

#### Spring Term 2026

5<sup>th</sup> January-27<sup>th</sup> March

#### Summer Term 2026

13<sup>th</sup> April-20<sup>th</sup> July

#### Half Terms

27<sup>th</sup> October-31<sup>st</sup> October

16<sup>th</sup> February-20<sup>th</sup> February

25<sup>th</sup> May-29<sup>th</sup> May

**INSET days:** 5<sup>th</sup> January, 22<sup>nd</sup> May & 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### Diary Dates (incl. Federation events) December

3<sup>rd</sup> FoSM KS2 Panto Trip

4<sup>th</sup> FoSM EYFS & KS1 Trip to Raglan Farm Park

5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre - 2:00pm (no Prostars or ASC)

8<sup>th</sup> Short Reports to Parents/Carers

9<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Taylor Author Visit & after school book sale

15<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Nativity Rehearsal

16<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performances 9:30am and 5:00pm

17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day  
Christingles and walk to the Church

18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties

19<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term 2  
Christmas Carol Service– 1:30pm (no Prostars or ASC)

#### January

5<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 3 - Inset Training Day

6<sup>th</sup> Children in for 1<sup>st</sup> day of term

## EYFS & KS1 Raglan Farm Park Trip – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Pre-school, Class 1 and Class 2 are also looking forward to their trip on Thursday. Children need to arrive at their normal time for school as coaches will be departing as soon after 9:00am as possible. Please don't forget that children will need a packed lunch for this trip and will arrive back at school for their usual pick-up time.



Thank you to FoSM for financing and arranging these very special experiences for all the children, also thanks to all the Parents/Carers and school staff for supporting fundraising events over the year to make these trips possible. **We have now informed all of the parent helpers for both trips and allocated them to coaches.** We hope a wonderful time is had by all!

## FoSM Christmas Fayre – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – 2:00pm (please note change of start-time to that previously advertised)

We hope you can all come along and enjoy the Christmas Fayre with your children next Friday. This year we have :

- 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
- Teddy Tombola
- Decorate a Ball-ball
- Name the Christmas Giant Highland Cow!

Once children have visited the Fayre, they are welcome to leave for the day with their parent/carer.

## Cake Donations – Christmas Fayre – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

FoSM are asking please if they could have donations of cakes for the Christmas Fayre. We are happy to receive home-made or bought items. Please bring into school the day before or on Friday morning. Thank you!



## After School Club and Prostars Club – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

With these two Fridays being an optional early finish for children – anytime from 2pm (after the Fayre) on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and approx. 2:15pm on 19<sup>th</sup> December after the Carol Service, there will be no Prostars Clubs running. We will refund the Prostars fee for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December as we are aware this day was originally included in the term fee. For ASC, please could you let Miss Agg know if you will need ASC provision, if you are able to make other arrangements for both 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you.

## EYFS and KS1 Performance – Born in a Barn

Please don't forget to return your ticket order slips by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please ask the school office if you need another copy of the letter.



### Star of the Week Certificates



#### Pre-school

**Roffi** - for being super helpful at snack time and making sure her friends have what they need.

**Nela** - for embracing and giving every activity her all.

#### Class 1

**Ocean** - for her perseverance when reading.

**Livvie-Mae** - for trying her best to listen to adult instructions.

**Star readers: Livvie, Layton, Ella**

#### Class 2

**Willow** - for clear and loud lines in the Christmas play.

**Elodie** - great explanations in maths.

#### Class 3

**Caitlin** - continued efforts to improve her handwriting. It's really paying off!

**Maddi** - always having a positive attitude towards her learning and always giving her best.

#### Class 4

**Harry** - for always engaging in lessons and offering meaningful contributions.

**Khloe** - for an improved learning attitude and engagement.

### Christingle Service at the Church – Classes 2-4

Please look out for this letter that was sent home this week. We are looking again this year for volunteers to walk with the children to the church on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (1:30pm)**. Thank you.



### Christmas Lunch Arrangements – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

A letter has been emailed out this week to all Parents/Carers regarding booking of this year's Christmas Lunch. There is a Christmas Roast option, Vegetarian option or sandwiches; please note that there are no Jacket Potato options on this day. Please contact Miss Agg if you have any queries. Thank you.



### Attendance Snippet

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

You should contact the 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.

### 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** - we have still been very engaged in The Gingerbread Man story, with a little sprinkle of Christmas sneaking through! The children have created their own gingerbread houses, making marks, adding stickers and have also made fingerprint candy canes. They have continued to really enjoy the gingerbread house role-play, and we have decorated a real Gingerbread house too...yummy! The children have initiated and loved engaging in Celebration assembly role play all week, complete with teacher chairs and certificates!!



**Class 1** – this week in Class 1 we have been looking at teeth and how we look after them. We have conducted an experiment by submerging eggs in coke, lemon juice, apple juice, orange juice and pineapple juice, whilst half of the egg has been covered with toothpaste to see if the toothpaste will protect the shell. In just 2 days, we have seen lots of changes to the eggs and the children have been keen to check them each day. In English we have started our new book Cave Baby and the children thoroughly enjoyed acting out the different animals from the story. Reception sounds ch, sh, th(that) th(thumb) & ng. HFW's (her, was, are, too, yes, that, this, them, then).

**Class 2** have been busy rehearsing for the Christmas play this week. They have done an amazing job at learning their lines and the songs. They are really impressing me. In history, we looked at comparing planes today with a plane Amelia Earhart flew. The children looked at different engines and how fast the planes could travel. In maths, the Y2s have moved onto their geometry unit to explore different 3D shapes and Y1s have been partitioning 8 in different ways. We had a fun day today making smoothies of our own and preparing reindeer food to sell at the Christmas Fayre.

**Class 3** - we've been super busy again this week, and the days just seem to get busier and busier! In Maths, both year groups have now wrapped up their unit on addition and begun their final unit of the term, focusing on multiplication. In Writing, we've been exploring figurative language to help make our work livelier. The children produced a wonderful piece on Egypt, using similes, alliteration, and

even a touch of hyperbole. In PSHE, the class has been learning about character traits and discussing how these qualities help shape who we are. We're very much looking forward to building our castles next week, as well as our exciting trip to the theatre on Wednesday.

**Class 4** - this week in Class 4, children have been working on their writing skills with using the passive voice and formal writing - they are getting quite good at identifying the subject, verb and objects in these sentences. In Science, the children have conducted their investigation to see which spherical object created the largest crater, determining that the mass and size of an object often created a larger 'crater' in the sand - lots of them linked their learning to the planetarium show we saw last week at the Thinktank. In Maths, Y6 have been working on calculating fractions and are using a range of skills to add mixed numbers and proper fractions; Y5 have been working on addition and subtraction strategies, both mental and written, and how they can be more efficient with their methods - we have seen some great mathematical thinking skills linked to curiosity, collaboration and resourcefulness.

### **Childrensfund Free School Meals for Christmas Holidays**

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the Winter holiday 2025 will be open from midday **25 November until midday on 9 December**. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 15 December. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by 22 December, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)

This Winter Holiday, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding they have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.** Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of **£15 per child for one week**.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply and those wishing to find out more about eligibility can do so by visiting our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the Winter holiday vouchers** - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.



**Toadstool Tales**



Multi-Award-Winning Author  
**Charlotte L. Taylor**  
**Tuesday 9 December 2025**

Book Sale After School:  
 Any two signed books for £15,  
 three for £23 or sold individually.



  

[www.toadstooltales.com](http://www.toadstooltales.com)

# PROSTARS FOOTBALL CAMP



Prostars Leisure, Lymington  
 9.30am-5.00pm

<b>Dates-</b> Mon- Dec 22nd Tues- Dec 23rd Mon- Dec 29th Tues- Dec 30th	<b>Indoor/Outdoor facilities available</b> Coaches are UEFA and FA qualified Fun for all	<b>Contact Mark</b> 07444436637 <a href="mailto:mark@prostars.fun.com">mark@prostars.fun.com</a> To book - <a href="http://Prostars.funbookings.com">Prostars.funbookings.com</a>
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**CHRISTMAS**




SPECIAL OFFER

## Christmas Big Sale

**15% OFF**

Take advantage of a 15% discount until the year's end. Ensure you're one step ahead for the upcoming year!

**USE CODE**

**ENDOFYEAR15**

Ends 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

# CHRISTMAS DISCO

**FREE ENTRY**

**THE WESLEY**  
 BELLE VUE ROAD, CINDERFORD

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**  
**5-7PM**

KS1 AND KS2!  
 PARENTS/CARERS,  
 PLEASE STAY WITH  
 YOUR CHILDREN



  @FoDYouthAssociation  
 hi.ya@fvaf.org.uk

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**