



Steam Mills Primary

07.11.2025



Parents/Carers

Attendance Snippet

Each week we will be highlighting an area of attendance from the **Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance** which you can find on the school website in the Parents section/Attendance.

What should I do if my child needs a dental or medical appointment in school time?

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible. When they are, you should ask the school in advance for a leave of absence and collect them as close to the time of the appointment as possible and return them to school for the rest of the school day afterwards.

Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November

We are marking 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. Monday will be the last day to purchase items. 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.



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: 5th January, 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events) November

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

10th Anti-bullying week

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
Christingles and walk to the Church

18th Christmas Parties

19th Last Day of Term 2

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

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 returned after half term with some lovely autumn treasures that they had collected and added to their Autumn bags. We have talked about our own firework night experiences and created fireworks by rolling marbles and dabbing tubes in paint. The children also made chocolate sparklers and created mini fireworks using white vinegar and baking soda

Class 1 – this week, Class 1 have welcomed a visitor. Miss Davies is a teacher in training and has joined Class 1 for her first placement experience. She has begun to build lovely relationships with the children, and she has fitted straight in. As a class we have been looking at Remembrance Day and why we celebrate it and the children have been thinking about what we would like to say to a fallen soldier. We have also been looking at Bonfire Night and why we celebrate it. The children really enjoyed acting out the gun powder plot and arresting Guy Fawkes. Reception sounds this week (f, ff, l, ll, ss) HFW's (she, he, be, me, we, of). In maths we have been looking at counting to 5 and thinking about how to make sure we successfully count each time. This would be useful for the children to continue practising this skill at home.

Class 2 received a video this week showing that a spaceship had crash landed in the playground over the holidays. They read a letter today from a friendly little alien called Beegu and wrote back to her offering advice. The Y1 children have been working more independently on their writing and using sound mats to support them with spelling. The Y2s have continued to work on purple polishing to make their work even more shiny! I have been amazed at the quality of their writing and they have been trying really hard to apply the sounds they have been taught. We have started rehearsing songs for the Christmas play this week and children have been learning their speaking parts. We look forward to acting this out over the coming weeks. In DT we have started our new topic- Super Smoothies. Next week, we will be trying smoothies so please do let me know if there are any changes to allergy information ahead of Friday 14th November.

Class 3 – we started the week by introducing our new Design and Technology unit: *Structures – Castles*. The children explored the key features of castles and discovered which shapes make them strong and stable. They then enjoyed designing their own castles, which they'll be bringing to life in a few weeks' time. In maths, both year groups wrapped up their geometry unit and began exploring addition. In writing, we started our new class text, *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx*, and learned how to use inverted commas correctly to punctuate direct speech. During our PSHE session, we discussed the importance of showing respect to the people we meet. We also explored the history of Bonfire Night and talked about how to stay safe around fireworks. To finish the week, our guided reading sessions focused on firework-themed poetry, which the children read and discussed with great enthusiasm.

Class 4 have had a good first week back! In English, they have started exploring the text, *Curiosity*, which explores the Rover landing on Mars, which they seem keen to learn about! In DT they got to evaluate their space bags and in MFL this week, they were lucky enough to have a teacher from Forest High come and teach them Spanish; they really enjoyed this opportunity. In Science this week, they have explored the phases of the moon and why this happens, to deepen their understanding of space - we are looking forward to our class trip to the Think Tank and Planetarium in a couple of weeks' time!

Gloucestershire County Council School Admissions

GCC are in the process of recruiting volunteer Panel Members to assist with virtual School Admission Appeals. They are particularly in need of Parent Members (those with children currently in education). Here's the link to the relevant page on the Gloucestershire County Council website for more information:

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

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.

This should be in bookbags this week but please come to the office if you would like to order and not received a paper copy.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY CAN ORDER TOO!

ALL WELCOME TO HELP MAKE THEM FROM 4.30PM ON 28TH NOV.

ORDER & COLLECT FROM SCHOOL ON 1st DEC

ONLY £10 PER WREATH!

FRIENDS OF STEAM MILLS

WILL BE RAISING FUNDS BY SELLING BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE WREATHS FOR CHRISTMAS.

✂

Name

I would like to order.....wreath(s) at £10 each. Total cost £.....

I would like to help make wreaths on 28th Nov - Yes / No

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO MISS AGG IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER WITH FULL PAYMENT IN CASH

BOOKS of the BIBLE

LEARN ABOUT JESUS

BRING MATES

Xsite

Forest of Dean

AGES 7-11

MUSIC

SPORTILY

FUN + GAMES

OLD → NEW

Saturday 15th November 2025

5pm-7pm St James Church

Contact us @ xsiteforestofdean@gmail.com

A light snack will be served





Forest of Dean
HAF holiday activities & food

FOREST OF DEAN HAF PROVIDES FREE ACTIVITIES AND FOOD FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

HAF takes place three times a year during school holidays in:

- Spring
- Summer
- Winter

Signposting
You can contact us for support and we can signpost you to organisations that can help you.

Food
Food is available during activities making sure your children have access to a healthy meal.

Activities

Free activities that can be booked online including:

- Family activities
- Children and young people activities
- Ticketed attractions

If you need help to sign up or book activities contact us:
gloshafconnector@gmail.com
 07340709871
familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Free Winter Activities for Children, Young People & Families



The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) returns this winter with lots of fun activities and delicious food available for children and families from **20 December to 4 January**.

HAF activities are available for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. This winter we are also able to extend this offer to any child who may benefit from attending the programme, through our grant funded Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Bookings open from midday on 1 December. Make sure you're ready to book by checking your account now
familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Use our handy checklist below to make sure that:

- All your children have an individual profile added to your account.
- Emergency contact details are filled in for each child profile
- Any additional needs or disability information is included for each child profile
- Your details reflect any recent changes (e.g. new address, phone contact details)

Setting up an account is easy:

Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access



If you need any HAF related help then please contact us:

T: 07340 709 871

E: gloshafconnector@gmail.com



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