



Steam Mills Primary

13.12.2024



Dear Parents/Carers

FoSM Christmas Fayre

Thank you to all Parents/Carers that were able to attend the Christmas Fayre this afternoon. It is always such a lovely event for the children. Your support is much appreciated and thank you to FoSM for organising once again. We will let you know the total raised as soon as possible.

After School Club/Prostars Club – Friday 13th & 20th December

Due to the optional early finish for children today and next Friday, there will be no After School Club running. Parents that have made regular bookings have been informed. Prostars Club is running today, but no Prostars Club on Friday 20th December.

Bookings for Breakfast Club/After School Club

All regular bookings will be rolled over to next term. Please let Miss Agg know if you have any changes to your requirements.

Swimming, Prostars Club and Cookery Club in January

Letters were sent this week to inform Class 4 that they will be starting swimming lessons on **Tuesday 7th January**. Prostars Club will be starting again, the first session being on **Friday 10th January**, please return your slip to secure a place. Also Cooking Club will start on **Tuesday 14th January**, the next 6 children were selected from the waiting list and have been given letters.

Carol Concert – Friday 20th January

Our annual Christmas Carol Concert will be taking place in the school hall at 1:30pm on Friday 20th December. All parent/carers are welcome to attend. This marks the end of the school term and children are welcome to leave after, with their Parent/Carer. This should be at approximately 2:00pm. Children not leaving early will stay in their class until the usual collection time of 3:15pm (3:00pm for Pre-school).



Emailing Teachers

Could we please remind parents to not email Class Teachers late in the evening. Most staff leave school by 5pm so please note, these emails will not be read or responded to outside of school working hours. If your class teachers are part-time, please only contact them on their working days.

Diary Dates



Autumn Term 2024

2nd September-20th December

Half Term

28th October-1st November

Spring term 2025

6th January-11th April

Half Term

17th-21st February

Summer Term 2025

28th April-21st July

Half Term

26th May - 30th May

INSET days:

6th January, 11th April and 21st July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation December activities)

18th Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Christingle Service at Church
– 2pm for Classes 2-4 only

Meet and greet with Miss
Stones & Class 1
parents/carers

19th Christmas Parties

20th Carol Service & End of Term 2

January

6th Inset Training Day

7th Start of Term 3

15th Attendance Drop-in Session –
9:00am-10:00am

22nd Rags 2 Riches Collection

23rd YR & Y6 NHS Health Screening

February

3rd Children's Mental Health
Week

4th Children's Mental Health
Workshops with Young
Minds Matter

5th Mental Health Federation
afternoon for Y5/6

13th FoSM Valentine's Disco

14th FoSM Non-school Uniform TBC
End of Term 3

Laura Howells

We are sure that Laura has already informed as many of the Pre-school parents as she could that she will sadly be leaving Steam Mills at the end of the year. Laura has accepted a new position within the Local Authority and will be starting that exciting new chapter in January. We would like to wish Laura all the very best and thank her for her work at Steam Mills; we know that she will be missed so very much by the children, staff and parents. A temporary staff placement has been arranged, this person has worked in our setting previously on a supply basis so is familiar with Steam Mills; this is just whilst we advertise the position and recruit.

Mr Holder

We are very sad to say that Mr Holder will be leaving Steam Mills Primary at the end of this term. He will be taking his retirement and would like to wish him all the very best. Mr Holder has been at Steam Mills for over 13 years as both a Pupil Supervisor and Cleaner. He plans to keep in touch and pop back to see us from time to time, we may even persuade him to help once again with our Forest School sessions and maybe listen to some of our readers! Good luck Mrs Holder! We are in the process of recruiting a new Pupil Supervisor/Cleaner and will update you about this appointment in due course.

Miss Byrnes

We also have Miss Byrnes leaving for maternity leave just after Christmas and would like to wish her well on her exciting time ahead. We have a temporary Teacher to cover this period, Miss Stones, who you may see in Class 1 over the next couple of weeks whilst she works with Miss Byrnes on a smooth transition for Class 1.

Reception & Y6 Health Screening – Thursday 23rd January

All children in Reception and Year 6 year groups have received a letter giving details of this upcoming NHS Health screening. Please contact Miss Agg if you have not seen this letter.

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 – what a festive week we have had at Pre-School! Tuesday, we went on our Christmas Trip to see a Santa show and the children loved it. They were all so good, joined in singing and dancing and got to meet Santa at the end of it. Wednesday, we did our Nativity Performances for our families and again, the children were great! What beautiful singing twinkling stars they were! We have been making wonderful cards and calendars for our families, as well as looking at the Nativity story. We have also been doing lots of crafts with paint and dancing to lots of festive music. Our number this week has been 2 and our sound has been N.

**Star of the Week Certificates**

(these are awarded in the Celebration Assembly every Tuesday afternoon)

Class 1
Toby - for embracing new experiences.
George - for embracing new experiences.
Star readers- **Rosie & Zachary**

Class 2
Bella C - a wonderful innovated story of the 'Naughty Bus'.
Harper - trying your best in everything that you do.

Class 3
Rowan - for confident contributions to class discussions.
Chester - for great effort to improve his presentation.

Class 4
Toby - for improved ownership towards his homework.
Serenity - for a great effort with her art work.



Class 1 – this week, the children have been imagining a night spirit for English then writing a sentence describing their night spirit. In phonics we have been learning the 'ar' sound and revisiting our HFW's from the Autumn term. The children have been looking at AB and ABC patterns this past term. The children have been spending time with their new teacher Miss Stones this week, getting to know her and showing her how wonderful they are.

We have been busy this week making about Christmas Fayre crafts and of course the nativity. Thank you all for your support in helping your children learn their lines and bringing them back for their evening performance.

Class 2 – this week has been a bit of a crazy one! Firstly, thank you to all the parents/carers/family members who came to our Nativity performances this week. The children were absolutely amazing! They have worked so hard over the last few weeks to practice their lines, actions and songs to show you all on Wednesday. Some of the children were a bit nervous about this, however, they all gave it their best and were fantastic. We hope you all enjoyed it and a big thank you to FOSM who paid for the script and licenses for our performances again this year. Our week has mostly been occupied with nativity preparation, however, the children also managed to write their own innovated stories this week too! They used the class text - The Naughty Bus - to develop their own short story about further adventures of the bus. The children also illustrated their stories too, they are really lovely pieces of work all round!



Class 3 had a busy week writing their non-chronological reports in history to showcase their learning about the Stone Age. The children enjoyed making crispy puddings with Mrs Dickinson ready to sell at the fayre. We received a letter from an elf called Jingle Toes on Thursday asking us to write letters to persuade children to leave carrots out for reindeer. The children amazed me with their great letter writing skills and ideas. We are looking forward to doing lots of Christmas activities next week.

Class 4 have had a really good week: they have been able to test water resistance with moulding their blue-tack into different shapes to see which fell the slowest. They then saw which shapes were most effective. After, they compared their fastest sinking shape by making the same out of air-dry clay to see if this behaved the same way, which it didn't. We explored the differences between the two materials and how the air-dry clay was much lighter and buoyant. The children also got to do their war-time themed prints in Art; we learnt about VE Day and created prints to reflect the celebrations.

Look Who's Talking!

Steam Mills have entered a competition to encourage their children to practice their oracy skills. Lots of children were excited about this opportunity when it was shared in assembly and details will have been sent home with your child about this competition.



Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

What is oracy and why is it so important?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language.

By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

How will the competition work?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a Star Speaker will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools! The grand final will be on 16.04.25, which you can come to, if your child is a representative for our locality.

What can your child talk about?

Children can talk about anything that they choose to, for up to two minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoints slide shows please.

How can you help them at home?

- First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It really can be anything at all!
- They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

Thank you for your support!



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**
- **Reading book**
- **Correct uniform and coat**

Forest Foodbank Update

The Lydney distribution centre has had to relocate from Lydney town football club. It is now at River Children and Family Centre Naas Lane, Lydney GL15 5AU. This is because of flood damage at the football club.

During the Christmas holidays Lydney distribution centre at River Children and Family Centre will be open on Tuesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period. Cinderford distribution centre at the Forest Community church opens on 2nd January 2025.

To get help look on our website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to us.



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-Monday- Chepstow- Ages 4-7 & 8-11
-Wednesday- Coleford Tots Ages 3-5
-Friday- Lydney Development ages 5-11 / Lydney tots 3-5

To View Venues & book visit:
prostars.ipalbookings.com
For more information contact Mark-
07444436637/mark.prostars@gmail.com



WINTER HAF
FESTIVE CRAFTS & JUNK MODELLING
FRIDAY 03 JANUARY, 2024
10.30AM-1.30PM
The Main Place, Old Station Way
Coleford, GL16 8RH
Fully funded for children living in Gloucestershire who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals.

Aged 5-16

Activities to choose from

HOW TO REGISTER
<https://forestofdeandistrict.coordinate.cloud/project/62298>

CONTACT
ACCOUNTS@BLOODHOUNDEDUCATION.COM

Department for Education Gloucestershire County Council BLOODHOUND EDUCATION



Good afternoon,

STEMworks is delighted to once again be part of the Gloucestershire Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme. We will be offering a workshop during the Christmas break for families and children to participate in. The FREE places are available to families of children who qualify for benefit-related Free School Meals, and booking is now open.

We kindly request that schools help promote the programme by informing eligible families about the offerings and forwarding this information to those who could benefit.

The STEMworks workshop will be held at Berry Hill Primary School, Nine Wells Road, Coleford, GL16 7AT, on Tuesday, 31st December. The activity will be K'Nex Fair Grounds.

Qualifying participants will be provided with a FREE hot meal during the day, along with drinks and snacks. Full details of the event, including booking instructions, can be found at: <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/forest-of-dean-haf/family-activities-forest-haf/>

Attached to this email is our All About Us document, which will provide more information for parents about the workshop.

Thank you for helping us reach those who can benefit from these wonderful opportunities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,

Mo Follis
Director of Finance and Administration

STEMWorks Ltd, Mill Lane, Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4QF
01452 865028 admin@stemworks.co.uk www.stemworks.co.uk
Registered Address: Unit 3, Ambrose House, Meteor Court, Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3GG.
Company Reg: 07486319 VAT No. GB 234238718

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