



Steam Mills Primary

20.10.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Harvest Festival Collection – Friday 20th October 2023

Thank you so much for all your kind donations to our Harvest Festival Collection for Forest Foodbank. *Article 24- the right to nutritious food*



Drop and Go

We have made a slight change to the arrangements for the Drop and Go in the mornings. Due to safeguarding concerns, children in classes 3 and 4, will now wait with Mrs Dickinson inside the playground until 8:45am, they will then be sent around to line up with the other children at the KS2 door. Class 2 children who use Drop and Go will continue to go into school via the reception door and then straight down to class.

FoSM Non-School Uniform Day

Friday 27th October (last day of Term 1) will be a non-school uniform day. Please could we ask for donations such as chocolates/sweets and items for the Christmas Fayre Tombola/Raffle. Thank you!



School Discos

FoSM have set the date for the next school disco for **Thursday 9th November**.

KS1 Disco 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm (Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Pre-school and Reception parents to stay with their children please. **Year 1&2 parents to drop children off and leave, please ensure you are back promptly to collect.**

KS2 Disco 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Year 3 – Year 6)

Parents to **drop children off and leave; please ensure you are back promptly to collect.**

Tickets will be £1 on the door (please bring exact money).

Tuckshop will be available; please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

Please can we ask, if at all possible, if you have siblings in the two different age groups that arrangements are made for them to be brought to their discos separately? We have very limited space in the school hall. Thank you

Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

4th Sept —22nd December

Half Term: 30th Oct—3rd Nov

Spring term 2024

8th January—22nd March

Half Term: 12th—16th Feb

Summer Term 2024

8th April—22nd July

Half Term: 27th—31st May

INSET days:

6th November, 22nd December, 24th May and 22nd July

Diary Dates

October

24th Class 4 Trip to Birmingham Museum

25th Coram Life Education Visit (PSHE) whole school

27th Last day of Term – FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – donation for Xmas Fayre

30th Half-term Holiday

November

6th Inset Training Day

7th Start of Term 2

9th FoSM School Discos

11th Remembrance Day

23rd C3 Parent Grammar Session

24th FoSM Wreath Making Event

27th Children in Need

28th Panto Workshop Classes 1, 2 and 3

December

6th Pantomime – Classes 1-4

11th EYFS/KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal

12th EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9:30am and 5:00pm

13th Pre-school Christmas Play Trip (details to follow)

14th Christmas Dinner
Christmas Jumper Day

15th FoSM Christmas Fayre

21st Carol Service (details to follow)

22nd Inset Training Day

25th Christmas Holidays

January

8th Start of Term 3

24th Rags 2 Riches Collection

25th Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening

Remembrance Day

We are hoping to mark Remembrance Day with the sale of Poppies and other Poppy Appeal merchandise again this year. We will let you know the details either next week or the first week back after half term. Thank you



Grammar Information Session for Parents – Class 3

Mrs Gibbs will be holding a grammar information session after school on Thursday 23rd November at 3:30pm-approx 4:15pm. This will provide parents with information on the grammar expectations for Y3 and Y4. There is no requirement to book, just come along, with or without your child is fine.

Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need on **Friday 27th November** by wearing something "SPOTacular"! We are not asking for any donations this year but we will have a limited amount of Pudsey Ears (£2.50) and Wristbands (£1) for sale on the day. Please send in correct money if your child would like to purchase an items. Thank you



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Tobiasz - for being more independent.
George - for embracing new experiences.

Class 1

Daphne - for her wonderful engagement in class.

Charlie - for his growing confidence and engagement in phonics and reading.

Star Readers - **Caitlin, Elodie & Luca**

Class 2

Billy - for having a great attitude to reading and respecting our book corner.

Zia - for always being a kind and caring friend.

Class 3

Poppy - for putting 100% effort in all areas.

Olivia- for an excellent understanding of Y4 grammar.

Class 4

Freddie – for an excellent explanation in Science.

Oliver – for being a great learning and showing enthusiasm in maths.

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 - This week we have made hand print spiders, done lots of mark making, added loose parts to the spiders bodies and read 'what's in the witches kitchen'. We have also been looking at the number 4 and the letter 'P'. Outside we created a balancing walk using the crates and wooden planks and have been using chalk to draw around one another.

Class 1 – this week Class 1 have been reading a lovely story called 'Coming to England', which is about a young girl from Trinidad, whose family move to England and she wishes to meet the Queen. The story is actually about the Author, Floella Benjamin, who does get to meet the Queen when she received her Damehood. This book has slotted in nicely with our Geography topic of 'where we live' and is also a nice introduction to our learning of weather patterns next half term. Phonics: this week's sounds are (e,u,r) and our HFW's are (get, dog, can, got, on, not, cat). HFW's and sounds assessment for Reception is the first week back after half term, your children will be assessed on all sounds from Phase 2 and all of the HFW's we have learnt so far. Your children will be sent home with a sheet which will have all of the HFW's to help your children practise them at home.

Class 2 – we have completed our DT topic this week. On Monday, the children tried some smoothies and evaluated them. Then, they tried different fruits and decided whether or not they liked them. In groups, the children designed their own smoothies and chose fruits to go into them. On Tuesday, it got very messy in Class 2; the children cut up their own fruits and made their own smoothies from their designs. They then evaluated their own smoothies and thought carefully about what went well and what could be improved next time. On Wednesday the children wrote up instructions on how to make a smoothie. If you ever need any help making a smoothie, Class 2 are happy to help!





Class 3 impressed Mrs Evans this week with their musical performance on the glockenspiels playing, The March of the Golden Guards, using notes C, D and E. They have brilliant understanding of musical vocabulary. Ask them to tell you about the following: crochet, minim, rest, minim rest and semi-breve. The children have been working hard in writing and produced excellent setting descriptions using all of the grammar taught so far. They thought about carefully selecting words to create a desired atmosphere.

Class 4 have shown great resilience and perseverance in maths this week as they have tackled long division and long multiplication. This has involved using their multiplication knowledge and applying it to multi step calculations. We have also continued to look at black history month themed texts in English. This week we have focussed on poetry by Langston Hughes which has meant there have been many in-depth discussions about their meaning and how life would have been during the time they were written. The class are looking forward to their trip this coming Tuesday to the Think Tank at Birmingham Museum.

Lunchboxes

Please could we ask that all lunchboxes provided are healthy and low sugar where possible? Strawberry Laces and other sweets are not acceptable items and these will be kept in the lunchbox for the children to have at home. These types of items do cause problems with other children feeling that they too should have sweets! Appropriate sweet options are a small cake (eg. Mini Roll, a yogurt or a biscuit. Thank you



Pre-school Charge

We are having to increase the cost per hour of the Pre-school setting to £5.50 per hour for all non-funded hours from **January 2024**. This is in-line with Gloucestershire County and the Steam Mills/Woodside Federation. We hope that you find this increase still offers excellent value for money and reflects the high level of provision that the school provides.

Pantomime Trip

Letters were sent home yesterday, giving details of this year's Pantomime trip and a slip to be returned. Please look out for these in your child's book bag and return slips asap.



Secondary School Applications – Year 6

The closing date for secondary school applications is approaching - **31 October 2023**. Forms from Gloucestershire County Council were sent home in book bags several weeks ago.

We're encouraging parents/carers to apply online as this means they will receive an email on allocation day. The link to apply online is <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/transfer-to-secondary-school-or-from-middle-to-high-school-september-2024/>.

However, if any parents/carers are really struggling to use the online system, they can use the attached Common Application Form (CAF) and they will be notified by letter after allocation day. To ensure we receive complete paper CAFs before the deadline, the quickest way to return is for

parents/carers to scan or photograph the CAF and email it to us. If you're happy to, we can accept scanned paper CAFs emailed to us by yourselves.

Parents/carers with queries can contact this team on either school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 01452 425407.

Tennis for Half Term Coaching

The AceWay tennis business in Gloucestershire and our aim is to provide tennis opportunities to anyone and everyone at an affordable price, which includes our tennis camps. Please find attached flyer with details of the latest offer.

What to do if you have a query or would like support from Steam Mills:

Query about a school club or event date/time.	Check the newsletter, which is distributed via our app and is on the school's website
Query about ParentPay, Breakfast and After School Club or to notify school about changes to picking up arrangements, absences and medication	Contact Miss Agg at the school office
Query about FoSM events	Please contact the school office
Quick query about homework or class work	Check with your class teacher at pick up time
Query about homework, class work or request for meeting about a class-based query	Contact the school office for an appointment with your child's class teacher
Pastoral support for your child and/or family	Talk to your child's class teacher first and if appropriate a meeting can be arranged with our family support worker, Mrs Warren
Special Educational Needs (SEN) support	Talk to your child's class teacher first and if appropriate a meeting can be arranged with our SENDCo, Miss Barber
If your query is ongoing	Contact the school office for an appointment with our Deputy Head, Mrs Thomas
If your query is ongoing	Contact the school office for an appointment with our Executive Deputy Head, Mrs Fawkes
If your query is ongoing	Contact the school office for an appointment with our Executive Head, Mrs Davis

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