



Steam Mills Primary School

Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3JD
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Head Teacher - Mel Davis

4/1/2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Hope you and your families have all had a lovely Christmas and you are looking forward to the new term.

Also a big Thank you so much for all of our lovely Christmas cards and gifts.

We would also like to welcome Callie and Locke to our Preschool family x

Last term.....

All of the children's lovely leaf and natural collections from the half term, inspired the children to investigate the different leaves- their shapes, colour and size. They also used their 'treasure' in their play- in the creative area, in role play and some even made a small 'bonfire' for the figures!

We talked about Bonfire night, our own experiences and how to stay safe. The children created lots of lovely fireworks using toilet roll tubes, elastic band splatting, marble/conker rolling, bingo dabbers and chinks.



The children learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day, why we wear poppies and observed the 2-minute silence in school. We watched the wonderful CBeebies short 'Poppies' which explains beautifully for little ones

They created fingerprint poppies, poppy collage pictures and used fingerprints, stickers and cotton buds to create beautiful poppy pictures.



We also engaged in Nursery Rhyme Week- where we focused on a different rhyme each day, using crafts, small world play and roleplay to embed the rhymes. We created diva lamps to celebrate Diwali- using CDs and copious amounts of sequins!! The Tiger who came to tea story encouraged mark making- invites and shopping lists and lots of tea parties



This term the children have enjoyed lots of Mud kitchen play and have been very imaginative with the foam bricks and large loose parts- inspiring lots of problem-solving a



As well as having a fabulous time decorating our Christmas tree and outdoor area, we talked about the Nativity story and the very first Christmas. We talked about our advent calendars and practised for our Nativity play. We have enjoyed singing lots of Christmas songs and carols and engaged in lots of festive role-play based on our own experiences.

The Panto was great and everyone had a lovely time- we even got to meet Santa and his elf!

We have had a very busy time making calendars, Christmas cards, pine cone Christmas trees, playdough trees (and sprouts!!)

We also experimented with ABAB patterns- creating candy canes



As we begin the new term could we please ask if you could help your child by not bringing toys from home.

If children do bring things in they will be encouraged to leave them in their bags, as we do not want them to get broken or lost. This is also to prepare them for the transition to school.

A gentle reminder that Preschool starts at 9am and finishes at 3pm.

If you require your child to start earlier or stay later than these times please speak to one of us or Ms Agg about our Breakfast club and Afterschool wraparound care provision.

Thankyou

Tapestry

You should of all received a Tapestry observation with your child's photos of the term. If you are yet to access Tapestry please let one of us know.

Pre-School Charge

Taken from the main school newsletter –

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.

We are looking for.... Do you have.....?

- Clean paint rollers/ brushes
- Off cuts of guttering, flexi hose, tubes- to help with our plans to create a water wall
- Old phones
- Clean yog pots/butter tubs
- Newspapers

Important dates for your Diary

Monday 8th January - Start of Spring term 3

Monday 15th January-Deadline for Reception School Applications

Wednesday 24th January – Rags 2 Riches collection

As always, if you have any questions, please mail kstevens@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk

Many thanks.

Kelly and Laura 😊