



Steam Mills Primary

14.11.2025



Parents/Carers

Cinderford Triangle

The children in Breakfast Club and After School Club have made some Christmas decorations to go up in the Cinderford Triangle on the Christmas Wreaths for Cinderford Town Council. Hopefully children will be able to spot theirs' if in Cinderford during the Christmas period.



School Equipment Before and After School

Please could we remind Parents/Carers that children are not to play with or play on play equipment before or after school. It would also be very kind when wet, to ensure they are not on the grass area to avoid wet muddy shoes on the carpets in the classrooms. Thank you.

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.

My child has a short term illness. Do they have to go to school, and will I be penalised if they don't?

If your child is ill, read the NHS's 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice to help you decide whether they can go to school. If they are too ill to attend, you are not breaking the law and will not be penalised. You should let the school know as soon as possible on the first day of absence and schools must record such absences as authorised. If the absence due to illness is ongoing or frequent you should speak to your child's school to see what support can be put in place.

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

14th Children in Need Day

20th C4 Trip to Birmingham Think Tank

21st NHS Health Screening (YR&Y6)

28th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day
– Tombola items
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
9:30am and 5:00pm

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)



Please collect your ordered items from the school office.

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.



FoSM Non-School Uniform – Friday 28th November

There will be a non-school uniform on Friday 28th November and FoSM are asking for donations for the Christmas Fayre Tombola/Raffle.

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 have had a very busy week, for Remembrance Day we watched the Cbeebies short 'Poppies' and talked about it afterwards, we looked at photographs of the memorial statue in town and made fingerprint poppies and decorated biscuits. We have also taken part in World Nursery Rhyme Week - celebrating a different nursery rhyme each day, engaging in activities and crafts relating to that days' rhyme and taking home colouring sheets. The children initiated teacher role play so we created registers for them with all of the children's names on and they wore lanyards and used their teacher voices.....!

Class 1 – this week has been Anti-bullying week that has revolved around a lot of discussions about what bullying is, how we can spot it, and how we could help to prevent/stop it. Earlier in the week, the children made Anti-bullying posters and expressed what they would say to promote the stop of bullying. In phonics, Reception have moved onto phase 3 and have learnt 'j, v, w, x'. This week's HFW's are 'if, iff, you, my, they, for'. In maths the children were recapping key concepts that they have learnt so far such as, subitising, more than/fewer than and comparing quantities. They have also been showing lots of good 1:1 correspondence when counting, ensuring to assign a number to each object successfully when counting.

Class 2 had an exciting week on our trip to Aerospace in Bristol. They made and launched rockets during the workshop and one even got caught in the ceiling! The children really enjoyed the trip and were most excited about going on an aeroplane (Concorde). We wrote recounts following the trip and they all did some great sounding out. In Religion and Worldviews, the children continued to retell the Nativity story. The Year 2s wrote some excellent retellings of the story and used word mats to support their spelling. We have continued to rehearse songs for the Nativity performance and some children have started to rehearse their lines. Sounds for this week are Y1: er, ir and ur (computer, twirl, burn). Y2s o tricky witch as u (wonder) and ey (donkey).



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Ella - for settling so well with super confidence!

Izzy - for demonstrating great confidence in maths activities.

Class 1

Cooper - for his increased engagement in phonics.

Ella - for her increased engagement in phonics.

Aurora - for expressing her needs effectively to others.

Star readers – Ocean & Livvie-Mae

Class 2

Bella - for beautiful presentation of her work.

Willow - for great contributions during class discussions.

Class 3

Zia - improved presentation and effort in all subjects.

Ariana - consistently trying her best.

Class 4

Elora - for showing resilience when faced with challenging maths tasks.

Sam - for showing perseverance and improvement in handwriting lessons.



Class 3 we've had another great week in Class 3! We've started our new guided reading book, *George's Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl. The children have loved making predictions, reading the first three chapters, sketching Grandma from Dahl's descriptions, and answering questions about the story. In writing, we've been practising using commas for lists and apostrophes for both contractions and possession. In maths, we're continuing our addition unit, working on rounding and compensating, and bridging across 100s and 1000s. In RE, we've begun our Islam topic by learning about the early life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Well done, Class 3 — a fantastic week of learning!

Class 4 - this week Class 4 have been continuing their topic of circuit training in PE. At the start of which, we looked at how to find your pulse to calculate resting heart rate - a skill that was not easy to master! They will be recording how many repetitions they do at each station every week until the end of term and looking at how their results have changed over the 6 week period. This has stretched their stamina so far but the children are keen to see how they improve. We have also learnt about Remembrance Day with a whole rights respecting assembly including a 2 minutes silence. Back in class, we made remembrance wreaths to mark this important day. We are all excited for our Class trip next Thursday to Birmingham Thinktank!

GHCT Festive Scavenger Hunt

At GHCT we are working on some new initiatives to support our local churches with the Nationally felt decline in church attendance. With this we are looking to encourage families and young people to get back into churches, to enjoy the heritage and beauty these buildings have to offer. I have attached a copy of our free printable Festive Scavenger Hunt, which is a completely free resource, that gives people the option of a free festive activity to do in their own time.

Link to Downloadable Resource: <https://ghct.org.uk/free-festive-church-scavenger-hunt>

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.



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

Read Together

after-school

at Hilltop Children and Family Centre
Cinderford, GL14 2QA

3:15pm - 4:30pm

Registered Charity no. 213520

All sessions FREE
No need to book!

Every Wednesday
12th Nov though to 10th Dec

In partnership with

Gloucestershire Gateway Trust

Gloucestershire Gateway Partnership

- Group storytime
- Themed craft activity
- Snack break
- Books to take home
- Wind down time

www.readwithme.org.uk

[Facebook](#) ReadWithMe2022

[Instagram](#) ReadWithMeOrg

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:
gloshaconnector@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: gloshaconnector@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