



Steam Mills Primary

01.03.2024



Dear Parents and Carers

School Lunches

If your child requires school lunches for next week at all, please check now that you have ordered them. We have a 48 hr cut-off for all orders. Thank you.

School Pick-up time

Please could parents/carers ensure that they come into the playground to collect their children at home time. Due to safeguarding, we are unable to send children outside of the playground, even if teachers can see you and you can see the children. Thank you

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

Special World Book Day Lunch

Our caterer's, AiP, will be providing a special World Book Day themed lunch on this day. A letter is being sent home today; children who would like to order a school lunch on this day will need to return the slip. Please ignore the menu on ParentPay for this day as we are unable to change the published detail. Please order and pay for a standard meal and also return the slip by no later than **Friday 1st March 2024**. Thank you

Bedtime stories

World Book Day is upon us in the next term- Thursday 7th March 2024. To celebrate this year, we will be celebrating 'Bedtime stories'. We will encourage children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas for this day and they are welcome to bring a small teddy bear. If children do not wish to wear pyjamas, they are encouraged to wear comfy clothing. This is instead of dressing up. We will be reading a bedtime story in front of a 'cosy fire', drinking hot chocolate and eating biscuits. Hot chocolate and biscuits will be provided by school.

Book swap

Children are also invited to take part in a very special book swap. In each school, a table will be set up in the hall for children to bring in a book to donate and swap for another book of their choice. It will be really lovely for the children to all be able to take a different book home at the end of the day to encourage reading for pleasure. Please ensure books brought in are in good condition for the swap.

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 12th and Tuesday 19th March

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 12th March and Tuesday 19th March. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are made via our eSchools system which is open for booking. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit. Please let Miss Agg (school office) know if you

Term Dates 2023-24

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:

24th May and

22nd July

Diary Dates

(including Federation activities)

March

7th World Book Day – Pyjama Day etc.

12th Parents Evenings
Federation activity Y3/4 with a Reading theme

13th C2 Trip to Slimbridge
Federation activity Y5/6 with a Well-being theme

15th Red Nose Day
Reading Café

19th Parents Evenings

20th Federation activity Y1/2 with an Easter theme

21st The Great Daffodil Appeal (Marie Curie) – wear a yellow item (not non-uniform)
Easter Bonnet/Basket Competition

22nd Non-School Uniform Day – Bottle Donation for Summer Fayre
End of Term 4

April

18th Scholastic Book Fair

19th FoSM Meeting – 3:15pm

May

13th Rags2Riches collection

23rd Sponsored Walk

June

14th Sports Day morning

would also like to see Miss Barber (SENCO) and she will book this for you. If you have any issues booking for your child/ren, please contact Miss Agg for assistance. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.

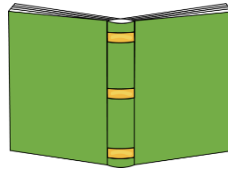
Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day this year with a "Wear something Red Day". We are not asking for donations for non-uniform but we will have a limited number of Red Noses for sale. Please note that they will be £2 per Nose on the day, with sale initially be limited to 1 per child. If we have lots left, children may have the opportunity to purchase more.



Reading Café

Don't forget that Mrs Gibbs will be hosting our next reading Café on Friday 15th March after school. You and your child/ren are most welcome to join us.



The Great Daffodil Appeal (Marie Curie) – Thursday 21st March

There is a Wear Something Yellow day to raise awareness for The Great Daffodil Appeal (Marie Curie) on Thursday 21st March. The school is supporting this day by encouraging children to wear a small yellow item if possible; e.g. hair clip, socks, t-shirt to raise awareness, no donation necessary. All other clothing on this day is to be uniform. We have a Marie Curie assembly planned this term so this day will link nicely to what the children will learn.

Easter Bonnet/Basket Competition and Parade

Mrs Dickinson is kindly organising another Easter Competition, where children can design and make their own Easter Bonnet or Basket. Templates will be available to collect from the school office from the morning of Monday 11th March or children are welcome to create their own. Numbers will be limited for this activity and it will be on a first come, first served basis. An Easter parade to show the items made will be at 3pm on Thursday 21st March, parents are welcome to come in early to watch the parade. Prize giving will be on Friday 22nd March and prizes will be brought home.



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 introduced our topic of Recycling. We have talked about what materials can be recycled and why it is good to recycle them for the planet. The children have been taking the 'Michael Recycle' bucket over to lunch to put their wrappers in to eventually make eco bricks. We have been looking at and investigating real life flowers and have painted our own representations of Daffodils. With the cold weather we had this week, we have also looked at ice and investigated hot and cold. This week has also included tent building, numercon, numberblocks, painting car tracks on large paper. Our sound of the week has been T and our number has been 2.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Rosie - for her ideas on how to solve problems with her peers.

Georgie - for always being kind, caring and helpful.

Class 1

Elodie - for mathematical language and phonics language (split digraph!).
Star Reader- **Tate**

Class 2

Chester - amazing attitude and effort to learning in all areas.

Zia - wonderful writing, thinking carefully about her phonics skills.

Class 3

Arthur - improved focus in his classwork.

Jax - great participation in class discussion.
Reading 50 times- **Lily and Esme**

Class 4

Elsa – for producing a great piece through the slow writing technique.

Freddie – for using great emotive language in his writing, creating empathy for the characters.

Class 1 – this week we have been looking at Jasper's Beanstalk and discussing vocabulary. We then moved onto suffixes 'ed' and 'ing' and have been changing the tense of verbs from the book using these suffixes. In science we have been looking at the different parts of plants before constructing and labelling a plant diagram. In computing we continued our learning of programmers and have been discussing algorithms and how they are step by step commands before applying this learning when using the BeeBots.

Reception sounds (ear, ure) HFW's (like, when, what, little, day, play, away, children).

Class 2 - this week Class 2 showed off some wonderful skills in gymnastics. They were all very well behaved and always try their best to challenge themselves on the different equipment. This included showing their super muscles by doing pull ups and climbing up ropes. We also did some beautiful watercolour artwork this week. We have been thinking carefully about how we could use the weather to describe our emotions. The children have also expressed their excitement for World Book Day next week.

Class 3 enjoyed a zoom with WWF to celebrate World Wildlife Day this week. They explored biomes around the world and plants and animals that make these places special. They also learnt about the importance of forests and freshwater environments in the UK and many children were surprised to find out that orca live off the coast of Scotland. The children have really impressed me this week with their addition and subtraction, using the column method. The Y4 children have started formal multiplication. The children have also enjoyed playing glockenspiels in music to compose and perform their own pieces of music using standard notation and they are amazing me with their musical vocabulary!

Class 4 - the children have been working hard this week. In science, we have started our work on Evolution and Inheritance and started to understand which characteristics are inherited from our parents, and which are learnt. They have started to explore the terms DNA and chromosome and how this links to their genetic code. In English, the children are enjoying the text we are looking at and we have been using the slow writing technique this week to ensure their work is packed with technical features. The Y6s are making a good start with their SATs prep as well – thank you to parents for supporting this and allowing them to attend SATs booster.

FSM Childrensfund for Easter Holidays

We would like to make you aware of a change to the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire County Council is committed to supporting families with 1 week of vouchers (£15) for the Easter holiday and 1 week (£15) for the May half-term. Vouchers for the May half-term will be distributed at the same time as those for the Easter holiday period. Therefore, families who have signed up will receive a total of £30 per eligible child.

During 2024, there will be food and activity support available via the HAF programme (during Spring, Summer and Winter holiday periods). This is a separately funded scheme that provides the children who book and attend events with a meal. The HAF programme is not able to distribute food/supermarket vouchers. For more information on the HAF programme please visit their webpage here: [Holiday activities and food programme \(HAF\) | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

This Easter 2024 holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the April (Easter) 2024 and May 2024 school holidays. Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for April 2024 and May 2024 (Easter and half term) holidays will be open from midday 27 February until midday on 12 March. We will be unable to accept any applications after this date. Vouchers for **both** holiday periods (1 week (£15) for Easter and 1 week (£15) for May half-term, a total of £30 per eligible child) will be

distributed to families the week commencing 18 March 2024. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by 20 March 2024, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk before the end of the holiday period (07 April 2024).

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.** To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [FAQs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for Easter 2024 and May 2024 holiday vouchers- they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school is one of the five that do not use this method, we will require confirmation from yourselves on the child's eligibility. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

Using vouchers – vouchers need to be used will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via email to childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk by the end of the holiday period.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.



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