



Steam Mills Primary

16.01.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Drop & Go

Thank you for your patience whilst Drop & Go has been operating from the layby. We have now had agreement from the building company to move the Drop & Go back to the usual place at the back of the school and along the track. The builders will avoid operating during this time in the mornings, however, please be aware that there may be track closures at other times during the day.



Rags2Riches Collection – 27th January 2026

Our next collection for Rags2Riches is on Wednesday 27th January. If you are having a sort out during the holidays, please keep this in mind. The school receives so much per kilo and this money is always gratefully received by FoSM. You can find details of what is collected here: <https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/> Thank you.



Breakfast Club and After School Club Booking & Payments

Please could all parents/carers using Breakfast Club and After School Club ensure that payment is made in **advance**. The school has a no Debt Policy and Miss Agg will be chasing up any outstanding debt. Please could we also ask that bookings are made in advance, wherever possible. We are very close to our maximum safeguarding numbers on a few days and need to ensure that we have the required staffing levels in place. Thank you.



Attendance Snippet

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact their school as early as possible on the first day of absence to explain why. If you do not, your child's school will contact you on the first morning of their absence to find out why your child is not in school.

All parents can request a 'leave of absence' for their child which gives them permission to be absent from school. Your child's school has the final say over whether to approve the request and for how long your child can be absent. Generally, a leave of absence would not be allowed for a holiday.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2025

1st Sept-19th December

Spring Term 2026

5th January-27th March

Summer Term 2026

13th April-20th July

Half Terms

16th February-20th February

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

January

27th Rags2Riches Collection
Reading Café

February

2nd National Grid to start work on Electricity Cables around the school

Bikeability Free Bike Checks

9th Y5's Bikeability Training
Mental Health Week

11th Federation Mental Health Afternoon Y5/6

13th FoSM Non-school Uniform £1 donation
Last day of Term 3

23rd Start of Term 4
SATS Booster sessions start for Y6

24th C2 start Gymnastics

March

27th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – bottles for Summer Fayre
Tombola
End of Term 4

April

13th Start of Term 5
15th- Class 4 Residential Trip

17th

May

7th Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

11th Rags 2 Riches

21st Sponsored Walk

22nd Inset Training Day and last day of Term 5

June

1st Start of Term 6

12th Sports Morning

26th FoSM Summer Fayre

Class Snippets

Pre-School – the children have initiated lots of colouring, using felt tips and watercolour paints. They have had fun cutting and sticking layers of paper and writing letters from their names. We have started to talk about birds, the different types- looking at their similarities and differences. We have also looked at forces using the book, *Bird Builds a Nest*, and we are hoping to go out around the school grounds bird spotting over the next week.



Class 1 – we have been practising our independent writing this week. Reception have been successfully sounding out and writing lots of CVC words for their morning jobs. Year 1's and some of Reception have successfully written letters to Rocket, the character from our focus text. Reception sounds this week 'ee' and 'ur' and our HFW's (look, down, now, see, going). In maths we have been practising counting skills and using our previous learnt skill of subitising when playing maths games.

Class 2 had lots of fun this week learning about weather. In writing, the children wrote an instruction manual for how to look after a pet cloud, based on the book *Lizzy and the Cloud*. I was very impressed with the beautiful handwriting produced by the Y2 children this week as they have started to join using cursive. In dance, they explored different speeds of music, pretending to be raindrops and creating routines in groups. The children did a brilliant job of categorising animals into groups in science and they are able to explain the features of reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds and fish. Sounds for the week are Y1- igh light, ie green froggy in plurals such as babies. Y2 dge bridge and adding suffixes -ed swapping the e for a silent letter and -ing drop the e and add ing.

Class 3 – another great week in Class 3! In maths, the children have continued their work on subtraction, focusing on rounding and compensating as an effective mental strategy. In writing, they wrote engaging recounts in the role of a child from our class text *The Last Garden*, successfully using the present perfect tense. In science, the children explored changing states of matter by carrying out an experiment to measure how long ice took to melt in water at different temperatures. They carefully recorded their results and presented them using a bar graph. In history, the children explored Anglo-Saxon life and learned about the different jobs people would have had during this time. In PE, the children learned why warming up is important, explored the role of red blood cells during exercise, and practised a range of different types of jumps. In music, we listened to, learned, and sang an uplifting and joyful song called *Let Your Spirit Fly*. Well done to Class 3 for another super week of learning!

Class 4 - in Class 4 this week, the children have delved deeper into their Science and learnt about the different lengths of gestation, depending on the different types of animals, and human prenatal development - they have been able to apply their timeline skills into a different area of learning, which is great. The children are progressing well with their swimming and they have been working hard on their various strokes; it has been great to see some of their confidence returning after only a couple of weeks of lessons so far. In Guided Reading, they are exploring a text called *Bright Stars of Black British History* - the children are learning about some really interesting people dating as far back as the Romans; they have been applying their skills this week in identifying different question types, linked to VIPERs and exploring vocabulary linked to a particular context. Y5s have been sent their Bikeability letters and Y6 have had their SATs Booster letters - can they please be returned asap.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Izaak - for showing great confidence and more independence in the daily routine.

Nela - showing a can do attitude when labelling her work.

Class 1

Reggie - for his perseverance with his name writing.

Layton - for his brilliant engagement in all his learning.

Star readers – **Layton, Livvie-Mae, Daisy and Ocean**

Class 2

Lockie - for great effort in math when finding facts to 11.

Mason - for a positive learning attitude and giving all of his learning his best efforts.

Class 3

Evie W - consistently trying her best in all areas of learning and making excellent progress as a result.

Evie A-R - improved confidence in her learning and giving everything a go!

Class 4

Jax - for enthusiastic and thoughtful input during English lessons.

Frankie - for a positive and focussed work ethic in English and Maths.

National Grid Works

We have been informed that work will commence on the removal of overhead power cables in the vicinity of the school w/c 2nd February. The work will start over in the Branch area but will later impact the lane to the school with temporary traffic lights. National Grid have agreed to use the February half-term to carry out the work across the lane, so as not to impact access to the school carpark.

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.

Beezee FAMILIES

Changing habits keep you healthy...all year long!

Our free Beezee Families programme is here to help you feel healthier and happier as a family.

Top Tips to brave those winter mornings

- Keep hydrated: This is a sure-fire way to get our bodies fired up in the mornings. A fresh glass of water will give your body the boost it needs to start the day.
- Breakfast: There is a reason it holds the title as the most important meal of the day! Make sure little ones grown up tum's don't leave the house empty. It's important to have a good healthy breakfast to give our bodies the energy they need.
- Sleep: It's important no matter your age to get enough sleep and sticking to regular sleep patterns can help support this.

Healthy lunch boxes

Keeping school lunch boxes interesting can be a challenge at the best of times so we appreciate how hard it is to make sure they are kept healthy too. But healthy doesn't have to be a chore, it can actually make life much easier!

Fruit is a great way to give little ones a boost of energy and if bought in packs will generally last the whole week and keep costs down too. A satsuma, banana or small handful of grapes will add a tasty (and vibrant) addition to their lunch boxes.

Fresh air fix

It's tough during the colder months to find ways to get our much-needed Vitamin D. Fresh air is a great way to improve both our physical and mental well-being and even short bursts of outdoor time can make a big difference.

Try swapping the car or bus for a short walk from time to time or get the little ones wrapped up and outside for a quick play in the park.

Want more healthy lifestyle support?

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link www.glosbeezefamilies.co.uk

*This resource was developed by National Health and Care Excellence

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