



# Steam Mills Primary

02.02.2024



Dear Parents and Carers

## Parking

For the safety of all children and the road users, please could we ask parents/carers not to park near the junction with the main road. Doing so increases the difficulties accessing the school road and risk of an accident. Thank you

**Highway Code - DO NOT** stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/waiting-and-parking-238-to-252>

## FoSM Valentines Disco's

Our next FoSM Disco's will be on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

**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.

**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.

Admission will be **£1 per child (on the door)**.

Tuckshop will be available, please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day. **Please bring correct money if possible**. All proceeds will go towards the next Pantomime Trip.

**Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 5-11 February 2024. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'.**

**My Voice Matters** is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. During Children's Mental Health Week, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters."

To celebrate this, we will be having a whole school assembly and Class conversations about the importance of looking after our Mental Health and Well Being.

We will be using My Happy Mind and Place to Be resources. Place to Be is a children's Mental Health charity, there is more information on their website:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about/>

Miss Barber

## Term Dates 2023-24

### Autumn Term

4<sup>th</sup> Sept —22nd December  
Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct—3rd Nov

### Spring term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> January—22nd March  
Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Summer Term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> April—22nd July  
Half Term: 27<sup>th</sup>—31<sup>st</sup> May

### INSET days:

24<sup>th</sup> May and  
22<sup>nd</sup> July

## Diary Dates

### February

6<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Trip to St. Fagan's  
8<sup>th</sup> Valentines Discos  
9<sup>th</sup> Monster Phonics on-line  
Non-School Uniform Day –  
£1 to FoSM  
End of Term 3  
19<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 4  
20<sup>th</sup> C2 Start Gymnastics

### March

7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day – Pyjama  
Day  
12<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings  
13<sup>th</sup> C2 Trip to Slimbridge  
15<sup>th</sup> Reading Café  
19<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings  
20<sup>th</sup> Scholastic Book Fair  
21<sup>st</sup> FoSM Easter Egg  
Competition  
22<sup>nd</sup> Non-School Uniform Day –  
£1 to FoSM  
End of Term 4

### June

14<sup>th</sup> Sports Day morning

## FoSM Non-school Uniform Day

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** will be a non-school uniform day for FoSM. Please could all children bring in a £1 donation which will go towards the next Pantomime trip.

## Residential Trip – 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July

Thank you to those that have returned by trip slip and other related forms. There are still a few outstanding which need to be handed in, please could this be done as a matter of urgency.

## 2024/2025 Term Dates

We have added our Term Dates for the next academic year to the school website, should you need these for information/planning.

## Gloucestershire Highways

We have received the following message from Gloucestershire Highways:

*High Street, Cinderford - 2nd January 2024*

Following on from our previous email, we are writing to inform you that due to unforeseen circumstances, this scheme has now been delayed and we anticipate on finishing 01/03/2024.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation and patience.

## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

### Bedtime stories

World Book Day is upon us in the next term- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Book Tokens

Each child will be given a World Book Day token with a value of £1. This can be exchanged for any one of the books below. These can be redeemed from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March. They are redeemable from the following stores:

- Your local independent bookseller
- Asda
- Blackwell's (selected stores only)
- Sainsburys
- Tesco
- The Works
- Waterstones and WHSmith

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.  
Best wishes, Mrs Gibbs (Reading Lead for the Federation)

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

★Star of the Week Certificates★

**Pre-school**  
**Leo** - for being a kind friend sharing with his peers.  
**George** - for expressing his number knowledge through numicon and numberblocks.

**Class 1**  
**Poppy and Delilah** - for trying really hard to look after themselves.  
**Joules** - for working really hard on her independence when writing.

**Class 2**  
**Evie R** - wonderful confidence in maths.  
**Chester** - great attitude and progress in reading.

**Class 3**  
**Blair** - increased confidence in class discussions.  
**Bertie** - great explanations in maths discussions.

**Class 4**  
**Evie** - for immaculate presentation and pride in her work.  
**Norah** - for being a great friend.



## **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** – continuing on with our 'Wonders of the World' theme, we have been looking at snails. We have looked at non-fiction books and stories. The children have looked at snail shells and how they spiral which lead onto spiral mark making. We have looked at the famous art work 'The Snail' by Henri Matisse and the children have created their own versions of this by tearing up coloured paper and sticking the pieces onto paper. We have also taken part in dressing up, large scale drawing using wax crayons, playdough and outdoor play. Class 4 came to see us Monday afternoon to measure everyone's height and head span as part of their science work.

**Class 1** – the children have been learning lots about animals and have been identifying and classifying different animals into their correct groups in science. All children have been working hard with their writing to get their stories finished in English and we can't wait to share them with each other when they're finished.

Reception sounds 'oa & er' and HFW's recap of 'look, now, down, see, going, just, have, it's, do, so'.

**Class 2** – this week, we have been creating a final piece of work in art. The children have been using oil pastels and have been blending them to create a sky in the style of Van Gogh. They decided whether to create a night sky or a sunset and then set off to work with their ideas. In PE this week, we created a barn dance sequence and we were lucky enough to share it with Class 1. The children have worked really hard in PE this term and created dances for the different seasons.

**Class 3** have really impressed me with their story writing this week. They have included all of the features taught this year in their writing and had brilliant plots based on The Last Garden. In maths, they have been working hard on fractions. For Y3, they have been comparing and ordering unit fractions and fractions with the same denominator. Y4s have impressed me with their knowledge of formal column addition, with regrouping. We had a fantastic afternoon sewing on Tuesday to make our purses. Some children included zips to close their purse. We will be evaluating them before half term so that children can bring them home to share. They worked really well together to support each other with threading needles and tying knots.

**Class 4** have been learning lots this week. We have been planning for our Just So Stories, where the children will get to innovate their own character, with anthropomorphism, and create a story where there is a lesson to be learnt. The children were able to go around the school for Science, to gather data for a growth survey via measuring a variety of children and adults - we will be converting this data into a graph next week. At swimming, the children continue to impress the adults with their skills in the water - please can we ensure children are remembering their swimming kits for Tuesdays, and PE Kits for Fridays, thank you.

### **Reading cafe**

Thank you to the families that came to join us for our reading cafe. The chicken enjoyed lots of non-fiction books this time and it was a great opportunity for parents to explore the library too. Our next reading cafe is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **National storytelling week**

This week has been National storytelling week. We have been reading books each day chosen by a class teacher and shared around the school. We have been reading books about children with autism, dyslexia and hearing difficulties to celebrate diversity. The children have discussed Article 2 the right to non-discrimination and Article 23 including children with disabilities. They have had some mature conversations about including everyone and how we can adapt games and other situations so everyone can be involved.

*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**