



Steam Mills Primary

19.09.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Tesco (Blue Token) Grant

The school were informed recently that we had been successful in receiving a Grant from Tesco for the Blue Token Grant scheme. We have been granted £1500! The school will be sourcing play equipment and storage for the children to use at playtimes. Thank you to all of you that shopped at Tesco and made sure you popped your blue tokens in for Steam Mills!



Rags to Riches

Thank you so much for your kind donations for our Rags 2 Riches collection. We had 253.8kg this time and raised **£63.45**. The money will go towards the upcoming FoSM Christmas trips.

Childhood Nasal Flu Programme YR-Y6 - Friday 26th September

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting next Friday. **It is important for all parents/carers to either accept or decline this offer via the on-line portal;** all nil responses will be followed up by the NHS Team.

Below is a link to the online consent form and the Unique Reference Number (URN) specifically for your school. Please ensure you add the unique code for your child's school, then click 'submit'. To ease submission please ensure that you manually enter your unique school code and not copy and paste. You will receive an email confirming receipt.

Flu Vaccination Consent Form

Please type in School Code: GC115522

One-way System

Please could we remind Parent/Carers that the school runs a one-way system. Cars leaving the main car park should exit via the track and cars entering the car park should do so via the main car park entrance. This is in place to avoid any cars meeting head-on. There was a near miss **again** this week with a car entering the car park via the track, whilst a car was trying to exit. The school does not take responsibility for any accidents in these public areas and seeks to minimise risk.

Drop and Go

The school runs a drop and go system in the mornings for children from Classes 2-4 at the main gate. Once the gates by the main road are locked, Parents/Carers must drive round to the main entrance and use drop and go. When you are late, Teachers will not unlock the gate for you once it is locked.

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: 24th October, 5th January, 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events) September

26th Nasal Flu Vaccinations – whole school

30th Tempest Photography – Individual/Sibling Portraits

October

13th Y3/4 Federation Trip to Cheltenham Literature Fest.

14th Parents Evenings

15th Parents Evenings

16th Reading Café

21st Y1/2 Harvest Crafts for Federation at Steam Mills

20th Harvest Festival Food Bank Collection

22nd FoSM Halloween Discos

23rd Harvest Festival Assembly – Parents welcome 2:45pm
FoSM Non-school Uniform Day

24th INSET Training Day

27th Last Day of Term 1

November

3rd Start of Term 2

10th Anti-bullying week

11th Remembrance Day

12th C2 Trip to Aerospace Bristol

14th Children in Need Day

20th C4 Trip to Birmingham Think Tank

28th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day
FoSM Wreath Making

December

w/c 1st FoSM EYFS & KS1 Trip to Raglan Farm Park

3rd FoSM KS2 Panto Trip

5th Christmas Fayre - 1:30pm

8th Short Reports to Parents/Carers

17th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day

Attendance Letter

Attached to this newsletter is an information letter about school attendance that our Attendance Champion, Mrs Fawkes has issued. Could all Parents/Carers read this information to ensure you are informed of current procedures regarding school attendance. Thank you.

Why you should resist taking term time holidays...

Your child will miss something

In some cases this is critical.

For example, a whole week out of phonics, literacy and maths means they will miss key learning objectives.

In phonics and maths especially, where learning is developmental and progressive, they will not have a strong foundation to support their on-going learning. A whole week equates to over 20 hours of learning across several subjects – that's a lot to catch up on.

What message are you sending?

If you routinely pull your child out of school without permission, you are sending a subliminal message that rules don't matter.

Timing and ability matter

The first week in September and the last week in December is a popular time for absenteeism. Yet children miss the opportunity to take part in transition such as understanding the rules in a new class, end of term school plays and team games. If your child misses the first week of a new term, they will find themselves in a class where all the other children know the expectations, rules and routines of a new class and this may impact on their confidence.

Tempest Photography- Tuesday 30th September

All children will have their Individual portrait photos taken during the school morning and those that have siblings in school will also have a sibling photo taken (including Pre-school children). If you have a younger child who does not attend the setting or is not in Pre-school on this day and would like a sibling photo taken, please arrive at school between 8:30-8:45am and this can then be done.

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 14th October and Wednesday 15th October

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 14th October & Wednesday 15th October. 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 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. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days, bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.

Xmas 4 Schools

Your child should have brought home information regarding this year's Xmas 4 Schools campaign. The children are invited to draw their own Christmas design which then needs to be returned to school by **Monday 20th October**. The designs will be sent to Xmas 4 Schools and parents will be sent details of how to order items for Christmas.



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Roffi - for such amazing progress and independence with self-care

Iris - settling in with such confidence.

Class 1

Benahim and Tommy - for their independence when writing.

Class 2

Caitlin - being a great role model and always trying her best.

Reggie - for great effort in his writing.

Class 3

Carla - excellent written work using prepositions.

Sunneigh - always trying her very best in every lesson.

Class 4

Sam - for resilience and a positive mindset in spelling.

Esmee - for always trying her best in everything she does.



Harvest Festival Food Bank Collection w/c 20th October

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we will once again be collecting donations for the Forest Food Bank. Please send donations into school w/c 20th October, the Food Bank find that the following items are particularly useful:



Tinned Tomatoes, UHT Fruit Juice, Smash, Sponge Puddings, Jelly, Angel Delight, Jam, Packet Soup, instant Noodles, Multipack Crisps, UHT Milk, Tinned Spaghetti and Pasta Sauce. Toiletries and household products such as Washing Powder, Toilet Rolls and Washing-up Liquid are also useful.

Friends of Steam Mills Halloween School Discos!!!

FoSM have set the date for the next school disco for Wednesday 22nd October.

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. Year 1 & 2 parents to drop children off and leave, please ensure you are back promptly to collect.

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.

Tickets will be £1 on the door (please bring exact money). Tuckshop will be available; please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

Please can we ask, if at all possible, if you have siblings in the two different key stage groups that arrangements are made for them to be brought to their discos separately? We have very limited space in the school hall. Thank you

Harvest Festival Assembly/FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – 23rd October

We will also be holding a Harvest Festival Assembly on Friday 23rd October at 2:40pm, all Parents/Carers are welcome. Collection of children will then be at the normal time (3:00pm for Pre-school and 3:15pm for C1-4) from your usual collection point.

This day will also be a non-school uniform day and FoSM are asking for donations of bottles for the Christmas Fayre bottle tombola please, rather than the usual £1.

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 been working really hard on helping the children to be more independent - such as putting on coats, taking shoes and socks on and off and snack times. They have also been using large mirrors to look at and talk about their features as we have started to create pictures of our faces. We have also been very busy making Owls, harvest tracing and collecting lots of autumnal natural resources to use next week.



Class 1 – Reception have started phonics and maths, and they have done a brilliant job with the change of structure. Their sounds this week are 's, a, t, p' and high frequency words are (a, at, as). From Monday all children will have a book to take home to read (or a wordless picture book to work on comprehension) and a set of sounds, so please make sure they bring their reading diary into school each day. In Science, we have all been looking at our senses, what they are, what body part we use and have been using these senses to identify different things in our environment. In PSHE we have been doing lots of thinking about class/school rules and the type of choices we should make. We have been reading a story called 'Once there were Giants' which has helped the Y1's with some fantastic writing.

Class 2 have been learning about compass directions this week in geography. They used the Beebots to travel North, East, South and West and did a treasure hunt map to find different items. In

writing, they have written questions using a question mark and the Y2 children used non-fiction books to write facts about space. In phonics this week, the Y1 children have worked on sounds tch, ve and ai. The Y2s have worked on c as s (space) and silent k (knees). In maths, Y2 children have placed 2 digit numbers on number lines, compared and ordered 2 digit numbers. The Y1s have done lots of practical work ordering numbers to 20, counting objects and using number lines to hop forward and backwards. Weather dependant, they have been outside using chalks and giant number tiles.

Class 3 have had another brilliant week! In maths, Year 3 have been counting in 10s from any 3-digit number, while Year 4 tackled counting in thousands up to 10,000. We've finished our first guided reading text and are excited to start a new one next week. In writing, the children explored adverbs and prepositions, using them to create missing story pages and diary entries based on *Hortense and the Shadow*. In art, we experimented with charcoal and rubbers to create striking drawings focused on proportion. Great work, Class 3! Class 3 are also looking for Parent/Carer volunteers to listen to readers, if you can spare an afternoon during the week and are happy to have a DBS Clearance carried out, please speak to Mrs Mclean or Miss Agg in the School Office. Thank you 😊

Class 4 have continued their DT project this week by planning and designing their own space lunch bag for them to apply their fantastic sewing skills to. They have had to draw on the knowledge they have so far about space such as how to ensure their lunch won't float away as there is less gravity! In Maths, Year 5 have been developing their skills of understanding larger numbers up to 1 million whereas Year 6 have moved on to understanding decimals. The class have also been brushing up on their sentence structure knowledge and extending it further as they will be planning a memoir next week based on our Hidden Figures book. The children have found this book insightful and we look forward to seeing them putting themselves in the characters' shoes for their writing.

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.

Personal Details/Medical Information

Please could all Parents/Carers ensure that the school has your latest and most to date information for you and your child. If you have changed email address, phone number, address etc. please let Miss Agg know in the school office. You are welcome to email : admin@steamills.gloucs.sch.uk or pop in when you are in school. It is also really important to ensure any medical information for your child is up to date, please do ask if you need to check the information we have currently on our system for your child.

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



October KIDS CLUB
OCTOBER 27th - 31st FOR AGES 5-11

SCAN ME

Get ready for **SPOOKTACULAR** seasonal themed sports, games and crafts!

Locations

- PRIMROSE HILL ACADEMY - LYDNEY
- BERRY HILL PRIMARY - COLEPORT
- RAUNTON PARK - CHELTENHAM
- ASHFIELD PARK - RIM
- ROSARY CATHOLIC - STROUD

BOOK NOW
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FOREST SPORTS EDUCATION
PROSTARS

OCTOBER HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

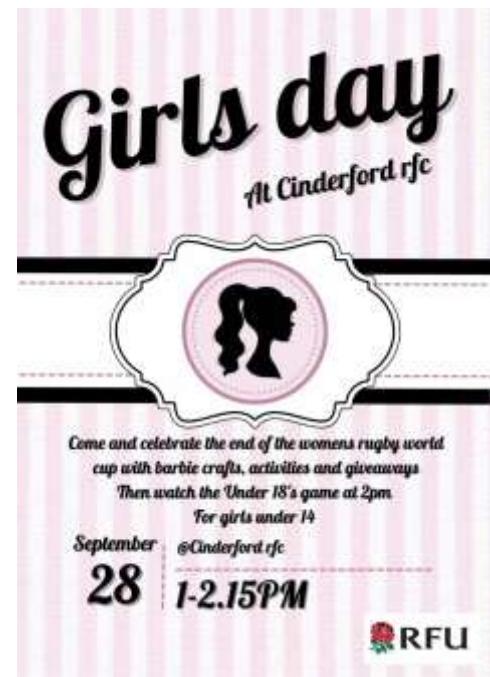
Venue
Freedom Leisure Lydney
9:00-15:00

Session will be tailored to your child's ability and delivered in a fun, safe and social environment

£18 PER DAY Discount for district!

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

To book visit: prostars.ipalbookings.com
For more information contact Mark-
07444436637/mark@prostars-fse.com



Girls day
At Cinderford RFC

Come and celebrate the end of the womens rugby world cup with barbie crafts, activities and giveaways
Then watch the Under 18's game at 2pm
For girls under 14

September 28 @Cinderford RFC
1-2.15PM

RFU



Beezee FAMILIES

Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?

We've got you covered!

Our free, Beezee Families healthy lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.

Tuck into these healthy snacks:

- Two wholegrain crackers and tartsiki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs
- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Ayran (yoghurt-based drink)
- Baked plantain
- Sebee kebab (grilled vegetable skewers)
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Apple slices with peanut butter

Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family!

Scan here at www.beezee.co.uk



Brookdean Benefice - Drybrook, Lydbrook & Ruardean

Coffee Morning

Raising funds to support the people of Gaza

10am - 12 noon

Saturday 27th September

Holy Trinity (Forest Church) School Room