



# Steam Mills Primary

13.10.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

## Play in a Day workshop

We were treated to a wonderful performance by Class 3 children this week as they learnt lines and actions to present a play about Black History Month. They told us about the White Lion slavery ship and how William Wilberforce helped to stop slavery in this country. Then we were transported to Maryland, USA where we learnt about Harriet Tubman and her escape from slavery. With the help of the underground rail road she was able to find freedom from slavery but later she went back and helped others to escape too. Next there was a scene from Alabama where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white man on a bus before finally hearing about Dr Martin Luther King Jr, who shared his dream that one day everyone would be treated equally.

The children were absolutely brilliant and played lots of different parts so well. We were all impressed with how clearly they spoke and how many of their lines they remembered. Hopefully they have shared what they have learnt at home; please do ask them about it.

## Parents Evenings/Data Sheets/Uniform

Thank you to all those who attended Parents Evenings this week, we look forward to the final evening this coming Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Just to remind you that the meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit.

There will be a Contact Data Sheet for each child that will be handed to the parent attending. This is to be taken away, checked for accuracy (making any amendments), signed where indicated and returned to the school office. We will not be handing out sheets for families where we are aware of GDPR issues but please do let us know if you have any updates to contact details etc.

There will be a table in the library for second hand uniform. There will be an honesty pot, all items are £1 each, which is a donation for FoSM.

## Tempest Orders for Photos

For those parents who are yet to order online, you have until **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** to take advantage of free delivery back to school. Thank you.

### Term Dates 2023-24

#### Autumn Term

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

#### Spring term 2024

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

#### Summer Term 2024

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

#### INSET days:

6<sup>th</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> December,  
24<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### Diary Dates

#### October

- 17<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings 3:30-6:15pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Phonics Workshop for parents in Pre-school, Class 1 & 2 (2:45pm)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Trip to Birmingham Museum
- 25<sup>th</sup> Coram Life Education Visit (PSHE) whole school
- 27<sup>th</sup> Last day of Term – FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – donation for Xmas Tombola/Hamper
- 30<sup>th</sup> Half-term Holiday

#### November

- 6<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 2
- 9<sup>th</sup> FoSM School Discos
- 24<sup>th</sup> FoSM Wreath Making Event
- 28<sup>th</sup> Panto Workshop Classes 1, 2 and 3

#### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pantomime – Classes 1-4
- 11<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 12<sup>th</sup> EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9:30am and 5:00pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Pre-school Christmas Play Trip (details to follow)
- 15<sup>th</sup> FoSM Christmas Fayre
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Training Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holidays

#### January

- 24<sup>th</sup> Rags 2 Riches Collection
- 25<sup>th</sup> Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening (letter to follow)

## Cookery Club

Cookery Club letters for Term 2 were sent out this week to the next 6 children from the waiting list. Please return reply slips promptly. Thank you

## Lunchtime Choir Club

Mrs Evans will be starting a Choir Club after half term, it will take place on a Thursday lunchtime and will be for KS2 children. No need to sign up and the children have been made aware.

## Phonics Workshop

Our Phonics Lead, Mrs Fawkes, will be holding a Phonics Workshop for parents/carers of children in Pre-school, Class 1 and Class 2 on Wednesday **18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2:45pm**. This is a chance for you to learn about how the school delivers its Phonics sessions and how you can support your children with their Phonics work.

## Harvest Festival Collection – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

This year we are again donating items to the Forest Foodbank as part of our Harvest Festival celebration, supporting people in our local community. We have been asked by the Foodbank to request the following items if possible:



*Fruit Juice, Smash, Sponge Puddings, Jelly, Angel Delight, Jam, Packet Soup, Instant Noodles, Multipack Crisps, UHT Milk. Toiletries are also useful.*



The children will be having an assembly with Forest Foodbank on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October to explain what they do and how we can help. Please bring items into school on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. *Article 24- the right to nutritious food*

## School Discos

FoSM have set the date for the next school disco for **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November**.

**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 age 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

## Pantomime Trip

Letters were sent home yesterday, giving details of this year's Pantomime trip and a slip to be returned. Please look out for these in your child's book bag and return slips asap.



## Star of the Week Certificates



### Pre-school

**Reggie** - for joining in and enjoying Yoga.

**Maddie** - embracing and enjoying all aspects of Pre-School.

### Class 1

**Bella** - for her growing confidence in class.

**Harrison** - for his increasing engagement in phonics.

Star readers: **Charlie, Mason & Daphne**

### Class 2

**Isla** - for going above and beyond when writing.

**Chester** - for having a positive attitude to learning.

**Marley** - fantastic attitude to learning, taking care to try your best.

**Sybil** - wonderful vocabulary, especially in character descriptions.

### Class 3

Star readers: **Isla-Mae and Luca**

### Class 4

**Rhys and Ollie** - both for excellent effort in writing.

**Beatrice** - improved confidence in Maths.

## **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 been taken over my pumpkins this week! We have been developing our fine motor skills by using a hammer to tap golf tees into pumpkins, drawing faces on pumpkin sheets and using orange collage pieces and materials to create our own pumpkin pictures. We also did a Halloween picture hunt in the Pre-School garden. We have been engrossed all week in Halloween themed number songs too!

**Class 1** – Reception - this week we have been working hard on our segmenting and blending skills during our phonics lessons and when reading with an adult. The new sounds we have learnt this week are (o, c, k, ck) and our HFW's (to, into, go, no, the). For Maths we have been practising our subitising skills and working with the number 4.

As a class we have been looking closely at 'where do we live?'. We have been looking at our homes individually and where our homes are nationally and globally. The children have drawn wonderful pictures of their homes and of planet earth.

**Class 2** - in Class 2 this week, we have begun to plan and write our fictional story based on Billy and the Beast. The children painted their beast, drew their front cover and created a story board of what would happen in their story. The class have enjoyed thinking carefully about what their beast will try to make the animals into - a hedgehog soup, a fox sandwich and even a badger stew! In History this week, we have begun to look at the life of Amelia Earhart. We explored what her thoughts would have been as she flew across the Atlantic Ocean.

**Class 3** - produced an amazing show this week that they performed to parents/carers and Class 4 pupils. They learnt about Black History month and some important figures that shape changes in our world. They created a boat scene to show the work of William Wilberforce, a bus to show Rosa Parks' story and Harriet Tubman's underground rail road to help black people escape from slavery. They impressed us with how they managed to put the whole show together in a day with the help from Mark at Konflux Theatre. We have been discussing rights in class linked to non-discrimination and speaking out (Article 2, 12 and 13). They have written brilliant letters in the role of a character too using some compound sentences.

**Class 4** have worked hard on writing their memoirs and editing them this week. This has meant the children have had to use lots of their knowledge and skills to improve their work, which is not always an easy process, however, lots of them have shown resilience and determination with this. The children enjoyed watching Class 3's Play in a Day, themed around Black History; well-done Class 3 – the children were impressed with what you managed to achieve in a day. Their flute lessons are going well and Miss Wilson is pleased with their progress; the children are reading more notes and performing more whole pieces together... it is also lovely to see other children wishing to take up the small group flute lessons as well. Please note, the children have had to be spoken to this week about kindness to each other online and there has been a steady increase in these types of incidences being reported to school; please can we ask that parents remain vigilant with what their children are doing online (phones/tablets/gaming) and regularly check their chats. We talked about how much trust is instilled in them with having these devices and they need to ensure that they are making responsible choices.

### **Childrensfund – Half-term Free School Meals**

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for October half term are open from midday 03 October until **midday 17 October**. Voucher emails will be sent out on 23 October. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by 25 October, email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child. To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our [Holiday FSM vouchers webpage](#).

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they will already have been included. 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. If you feel you may be eligible for Free School Meals and have not applied, you can apply here - [apply for free school meals](#)

Using vouchers – vouchers 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](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by the end of the holiday period. For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

### AiP New Menu

Please find attached a copy of our Caterers new menu for Autumn/Winter 2023/24. This menu has already been uploaded on to ParentPay from Term 2. Please remember our 48 hour cut-off period when booking meals.



### ParentPay Payer Accounts

Thank you to those parents who are managing their ParentPay accounts and ensuring they are in credit at all times. Here is a link with instructions of how to credit if you are unsure, you can load any payment item with any amount you choose.

<https://support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4409657929361-Payer-guidance-How-to-top-up-your-account-and-then-pay-for-items#payer-guidance-how-to-top-up-your-account-and-then-pay-for-items-0-0>

### Xmas 4 Schools

We are again offering the Xmas 4 Schools scheme for children to create a picture to turn into a mug/ calendar etc. The forms will be distributed to children over the next few days to produce their designs. The forms will be sent home on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and need to be returned back to school by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October if you would like to order items.

### Pumpkin Carving

Beechenhurst (Forestry England) are having a Pumpkin Carving event on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Please find attached poster. For more information please see the link to the booking page: <https://bit.ly/FODPumpkins>



### What to do if you have a query or would like support:

Query about a school club or event date/time.	Check the newsletter, which is distributed via our app and is on the school's website
Query about ParentPay, Breakfast and After School Club or to notify school about changes to picking up arrangements, absences and medication	Contact Miss Agg at the school office
Query about FoSM events	Please contact the school office
Quick query about homework or class work	Check with your class teacher at pick up time

Query about homework, class work or request for meeting about a class-based query	Contact the school office for an appointment with your child's class teacher
Pastoral support for your child and/or family	Talk to your child's class teacher first and if appropriate a meeting can be arranged with our family support worker, Mrs Warren
Special Educational Needs (SEN) support	Talk to your child's class teacher first and if appropriate a meeting can be arranged with our SENDCo, Miss Barber
If your query is ongoing	Contact the school office for an appointment with our Deputy Head, Mrs Thomas
If your query is ongoing	Contact the school office for an appointment with our Executive Deputy Head, Mrs Fawkes
If your query is ongoing	Contact the school office for an appointment with our Executive Head, Mrs Davis

*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***