

Steam Mills Primary

09.07.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the Government's announcements about Covid rules in schools, here is a summary of the main points for you:

From September:

- Bubbles will no longer be required for lesson time or lunchtimes
- Assemblies can resume
- Schools will no longer be responsible for track and trace in the event of a positive case
- A whole class will no longer be required to close and isolate if in close contact with a positive case at school. All close contacts (identified by NHS Track and Trace) will be encouraged to take PCR test
- Face coverings are no longer advised in classes or communal areas
- An outbreak management plan will be in place alongside revised Covid risk assessment
- Children, staff or visitors who have symptoms must not attend; they must isolate and get a PCR test
- School will continue to provide remote learning for children who are isolating
- The following control measures will still be in place:
 - 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.**
 - 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.**
 - 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.**
 - 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.**

Diary Dates

July

21st Inset Day & End of Term 6

September

2nd Inset Day
3rd Start of Term 1
7th Class 3 start swimming sessions

More information can be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

Implications for September

We can arrange shared playtimes, lunch plays and assemblies; face coverings will not be required inside or on the yard. There haven't been any announcements about inviting parents back onto site yet, so we will update you on that when we know. We are sure there will be a lot of information coming through to schools over the next week.

As we don't have to maintain separate bubbles, we don't have to have staggered timings for drop off/collection and will revert to a 9am registration start from Reception to Year 6.

The arrangements for 'drop off and go' are new and we are grateful to Councillors Mark Turner and Graham Morgan for their input and support for a new one-way system.

Parents of pre-school children, please park at the front of the school (roadside) and walk through the bottom yard gate to the pre-school gate, where you will be met. Pre-school sessions will revert to the pre-covid timings of between 9am and 3pm. There is a one-way system used for the front parking area (which flows from the left of the building to the right as you look at it from the road.)

Class 1 parents, please park at the front of the school (road side) and walk through the bottom yard gate to Class 1's gate, where you will be met. Please arrive between 8:50am and 9am. There is a one-way system used for the front parking area (which flows from the left of the building to the right as you look at it from the road.)

Parents of Y1-Y6 children are encouraged to 'drop off and go' using a new one-way system between 8:50 and 9am rather than park, whenever possible. This means **driving through to the school car park at the back of the school to the school reception gate**, where your child can get out under the supervision of staff.

All cars entering the car park, must then leave via the one-way exit, which takes you around the pre-school and bowling club, to exit onto the main road. The lane is not tarmacked but the surface is solid.

Please all drivers exercise caution and co-operation to ensure this system works. Cars must not park against the playground wall in the car park, for safety.

If your child prefers you to walk to the gate with them, then please do park up, but note that you will need to cross the path of the drop-off system. Signs will be put up to limit speed in this area and all are asked to be vigilant.

All cars entering the car park must adhere to the one-way system and exit along the lane in the direction of the bowling club.

The arrangements for pick-up are:

Pre-school: Please park at the front of the school (roadside) and collect from the preschool gate at 3pm; the bottom yard gate will be opened at approx. 2:50pm for you. Please leave promptly to free up car park spaces for others.

Reception: Please park at the front of the school (roadside) and collect from the reception class gate at 3:15pm.

Y1-6: Pick up from the KS2 yard as usual, at 3:15pm. Wherever possible, please park at the side of the school, in the back car park, parking along the front wall (reverse into space) or start another row at the rear of the carpark, double parking with staff cars for up to 10 minutes whilst you quickly collect. Please also share pick-ups with friends, so there are less cars trying to park. If entering the carpark at the back, continue along the one-way system as you leave.

New app for receiving communications from school

Following on from the Parent Survey about eSchools, a new app will be in place in September. It is free to download from app stores and it is called ourschoolsapp. When our subscription begins later in July and you have downloaded it, please enter the school's postcode (GL14 3JD) to start receiving notifications. You only need to enter the postcode once. We will message you with a link every time something is uploaded to the website; when the newsletter is published and for any interim messages. School events will be added to its calendar and you will have automatic reminders about them. We hope that you find the app useful and that it improves communication access for you. ESchools will still be used for home learning and you will still be able to log in to your child's class pages and use other functions you usually do.

Reports

Reports will be sent out via **eSchools**, w/c 12th July, they may be sent out on different days but will all be sent by the end of the week. If you could please check your eSchools messages and contact Miss Agg if you have any issues with accessing the reports.

Summer Holiday Free School Meal Information

Please see below information regarding the two different schemes GCC will be offering for Free School Meal support this summer.

Offer 1: Holiday Free School Meal vouchers

For the first and last week of the summer holiday only (26th – 30th July, and 30th August – 3rd September), parents who have signed up for holiday free school meal vouchers from the County Council will receive their voucher worth £15 per child per week to spend in a chosen supermarket.

A voucher for both weeks will be sent to you between the 14th to 16th July. You do not need to sign up to receive this voucher if you have received them in previous school holidays. This scheme is funded by grant monies.

For more information and to sign up if you haven't already please visit our website:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/>

Offer 2: Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

Between the 2nd August and 27th August, we are co-ordinating the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in partnership with district councils, the voluntary sector and other organisations. This programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

This is a four-week programme face-to-face activities in your local area, plus more virtual activities online, with daily meals or food kits being offered dependant on what is available in your district. Each district area (Cheltenham, Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury) will have its own separate section on our website for you to find what is happening in your area.

This July, there will be a leaflet with further information on the HAF scheme that will be distributed to all schools in the Gloucestershire area for children to take home. You must sign up to this programme in order to take part, and we will inform you and schools when applications open. For now, please take a look at our [HAF website](#) which contains further information about the programme.

If you do not sign up to the HAF programme, you will not receive vouchers instead. To make sure you know when and how to make the most of the HAF Programme, [sign up to the newsletter](#). If you have any queries please contact: childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

On-line Pantomime & Non-school Uniform Day

The children are having wonderful time today watching the On-line Theatre Production of Robin Hood, thank you once again to FoSM for part funding this event for the children and thank you for your kind donations towards non-school uniform day.

RRSA Poster Competition

A reminder about the poster competition to complete at home. All you need to do is choose an article about one of the rights of a child and design a poster (we previously sent a list of these to remind yourselves). You might draw a picture, label the article or show how you can have access to the right you have chosen. You can use whatever materials you choose and it can be made on the computer, if you prefer. Entries need to be into your class teacher by **Monday 12th July**. There will be an art set prize for the winning entry. All entries will be displayed around the school. Good Luck!

Rags to Riches

There is a Rags to Riches collection booked for Wednesday 22nd September. Please keep this in mind if you are having a sort out over the summer holidays. Attached is information about what donations Rags to Riches will accept. Many thanks.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to the following children for being awarded certificates in our Zoom Celebration Assembly:

Ruby and Luke in Class 4
Hadyn and Finley in Class 3
Darcey and Bea in Class 2
Sam and Cole in Class 1 and
Piper and Theo in Pre-school

Certificates were awarded for fantastic attributes again this week, including:
Fantastic performance during practice for leavers play, excellent contribution to Greek project work, improved attitude to learning, being a supportive learning partner, showing courage, being resilient, excellent reading, brilliant counting in 2's, having a great learning attitude and lovely recall of recent holiday.

Breakfast Club/After School Club

ParentPay accounts should be in **credit** at all times. The school has a zero debt policy and we are not able to allow credit without a payment plan in place. Please do contact Miss Agg if you need to discuss payment issues and if you require a payment plan to help clear any outstanding amounts. We have changed our billing during COVID to weekly in arrears, rather than termly, to help parents with the possibility of rapidly changing requirements for these provisions. **Failure to clear outstanding debt could result in your child being refused these services.**

Please remember to submit your booking forms (included as part of last week's newsletter) if you require provision from **September**. Thank you.

Mr Murphy

Last week Class 2 said goodbye and thank you to Mr Murphy who has been working in school as one of our supply teaching assistants for the past few weeks. As well as working in schools, Mr



Murphy is also a children's entertainer and magician, he very kindly offered to put on a little show for the children before he left us to start his new job.

Taurus Crafts

Please find attached to the newsletter details from Taurus Crafts, Lydney about how you can plan activities for your child/ren during the summer holidays.

Road to Tokyo – Sports Day

Thank you to Prostars for providing such a fun sports day for the children. We all managed to dodge the rain showers and had a fantastic time! Here are a selection of the photos we took on the day.



Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

Class 1 – Butterflies

This week in Class 1 the butterflies that we have cared for this term finally emerged. When we arrived in school on Monday morning 4 out of the 5 were already drying their wings, whilst 1 was sleeping.

Luckily, during the morning we could see that the last butterfly was getting ready, we watched carefully and actually saw it emerge! It was amazing and so beautiful. Later in the afternoon, we took them outside and carefully helped them out of the net. With the help of some of the Class 1 children, our Class 1 butterflies fluttered off into the hedge. Look out for them, they may pay you a visit in your garden!



As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns. Miss Agg will be happy to make an appointment for you with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time. We very much look forward to seeing you more in the Autumn Term at school events, as we gradually return to normal.

Best Wishes
Mrs Davis