



# Steam Mills Primary

21.04.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 5! Lovely to see all the children return and to now start enjoying some sunny playtimes on the field area. We have some wonderful wildflowers coming up in our special wildlife border. Thank you to Mr Drewitt (Freddie's Dad from C2) for helping monitor the progress of this exciting new area.



One of the new wildflowers is called the Cuckooflower.

[Cuckooflower | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

### FoSM

FoSM are holding a meeting on Monday after school. Please do come if you are able to do so. Thank you.

### Coronation Items

If you have ordered items with your child's Coronation design, these are now ready to collect from the school office from Monday.

### Solihull Parenting Drop-in Sessions - Barnardo's

Please find attached a revised offer from Barnardo's with regards to their Tuesday parenting sessions. It is hoped that this more flexible approach may be of interest to more families. No requirement to book, just come along on the allotted day. **(Article 5- Family guidance as children develop)**

### Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing again to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You will have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wish to inform you about the impact at our school.

Steam Mills School only (Pre-school will remain open) will be closed to children on:

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

### School Calendar 22/23

#### Term 5

17<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### Term 6

5<sup>th</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### Inset Days:

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### Bank Holidays in May

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May

### Diary Dates

#### April

27<sup>th</sup> School Closed (Industrial Action) Pre-school open

#### May

2<sup>nd</sup> School Closed (Industrial Action) Pre-school open

5<sup>th</sup> Coronation Celebrations – details to follow from FoSM

9<sup>th</sup>- SATs week

12<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> Rags to Riches- (Article 27- the right to clothing)

19<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography School Class Photos & Leavers Photos

26<sup>th</sup> Sponsored Walk (details to follow) (Article 31- relax and play)

#### June

8<sup>th</sup> New Reception Parent meeting at 5pm

16<sup>th</sup> Sports Day

28<sup>th</sup>- New class (Sep 23) Taster

29<sup>th</sup> Mornings

#### July

14<sup>th</sup> Reports being sent home

19<sup>th</sup>KS2 Leavers Dress rehearsal and Evening Performance - 5pm

20<sup>th</sup> KS2 Leavers Morning Performance – 9:30am

21<sup>st</sup> Leavers Service 1:30pm

24<sup>th</sup> Inset Day

25<sup>th</sup> Inset Day

#### December

6<sup>th</sup> Pantomime – Classes 1-4 (Article 29- develop a child's talents.

There will be **no school dinner provision** for the Pre-school on these days, so please ensure that you supply a packed lunch from home. We are also going to review the Breakfast Club and After

School Club provision for these days. Please contact the school office if you require either of these for your Pre-school child. Thank you

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains the reasons for strike action. It can be found here:

<https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view>

Clearly this is a difficult situation; I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those who wish to strike will have thought long and hard about their decision.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Davis

### Rags to Riches

Our next collection for Rags to Riches is taking place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May. A great opportunity to support the school if you are having a sort out! Please could you drop bags on the morning of the collection (anytime between 7:45am and 9:15am) and leave in the playground opposite the main entrance gate.

Here is a link showing which items can be donated:

<https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/>

### Sports England Survey

Thank you to those parents who took part in the recent Sports England Survey. As a result of our participation, we have received a credit to order sports equipment for the school. Mr Yearly from Prostars will be checking the priorities are for items and we will be ordering them as soon as possible.

### Sponsored Walk – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

We are looking forward to the Sponsored Walk next month. As stated in the letter, this year we are walking one-way only and then finishing the school day at lunchtime. As part of our obligation and even though lunch-time is not included as part of the day, we have to offer those entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals, a lunch on that day. Please note that you are welcome to book **a packed lunch meal only** if you wish to do so. Please order on ParentPay in the usual way and Mrs Molyneux will deliver the packed lunches to Beechenhurst for yourselves and children to collect before leaving.

### 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** – The children have enjoyed sharing their Easter experiences with each other. We have hunted for worms, made our own envelopes and enjoyed lots of play in the sunshine. We have shared lots of stories involving different modes of transport, to introduce this term's theme – "I've got a ticket to ride".

**Class 1** - we have had a brilliant first week back. We have started to blend more complex words now and have begun to revisit all of the wonderful sounds we have learnt since September. We have started to work towards the number 20 this week and the children have done very well in

### Star of the Week Certificates

#### Pre-school

**Charlie** – kind and helpful to everyone around him.

**Tiago** – fantastic recall of events over the Easter holidays.

#### Class 1

**Zakiyah & Texas** for their amazing independent writing about animals.

#### Class 2

**Year 2** - for their amazing progress in maths, remembering fractions and working very hard in lessons to complete their work! Well done all of year 2!

#### Class 3

**Noa**- becoming more confident in discussions in maths and using mathematical language.

**Paige**- Detailed answers in Guided Reading.

#### Class 4

**Eva** – conscientious attitude to all learning.

**Tehya** – improved effort in writing.

### Reading Certificates

For completing Reading Challenges in class

Harry & Freddie (Class 2)

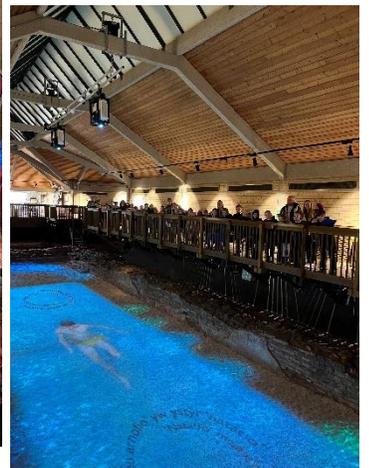
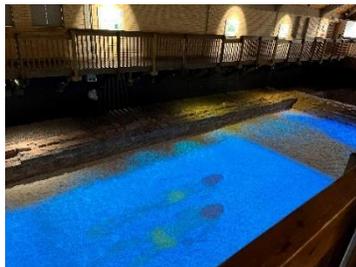
remembering their teen numbers! We have settled in beautifully this week, with the children doing some fantastic independent writing about animals!! Amazing work from the children, showing me just how ready they are for the summer term

**Class 2** - This week in Class 2 we have been settling back into being at school. We have started thinking about our topic of Important People and the children have all written a piece of writing about someone who is important to them. Many children wrote about their family and friends. This term we will be thinking about important people in history and how they have made improvements to the world we live in. This week we have started to read James and the Giant Peach as our class reader. The children all seem very excited to see what will happen in this book and were amazed and how big the peach has already gotten in a short space of time.

**Class 3** - What an amazing week Class 3 have had! The children have been very engaged in their new topic- The Romans- this week. We visited Caerleon Roman Legion Museum on Wednesday and saw a Roman bath, amphitheatre, tried on armour in the barrack room, visited the museum gallery and took part in a soldier workshop. The children were very well behaved and the museum guides in the Roman baths complimented the class on their engagement with the artefacts and focus! They clearly learnt lots as they wrote amazing recounts Thursday. For pictures of the trip, log in into our class eschool page.

We have also enjoyed some time in the sunshine this week developing fielding and bowling skills in preparation for rounders games.

On Tuesday, the children were very excited to experience what a circus is like and were describing the sounds, sights and smells using popcorn and music.



**Class 4** - This week, Class 4 have come back to lots of learning opportunities. The children have started to explore a fun Shakespeare comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the bother that the Athenians create in the magical woods. They are also investigating Living Things and their Habitats in Science and have so far explored what it is like to be a Taxonomist. The children have also started their swimming lessons and the staff that attended said their behaviour was great and they listened well in their lesson – I'm sure we are going to see some great progress this term for them. They have also been lucky enough to start to explore Greek cuisines and some were very brave this week, trying some new foods such as olives, feta cheese and hummus.

## Curriculum at Steam Mills

In **Preschool**, the children's theme for this term is 'A Ticket to Ride. .' and they will be learning all about the exciting ways you can travel around, in the local area and beyond!

In **Class 1**, the theme for the term is Jaws, Paws and Claws and the children are already using their learning from the trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park to help them.

**Class 2** are learning all about Important People and what this means to them and what important people they have in their own lives.

In **Class 3**, the children are learning all about the Roman's and they have kicked off their learning with a fun trip to Caerleon this week – they really enjoyed this experience and now, this can support their learning going forwards.

**Class 4** will be taking a trip back in time to learn about the Ancient Greeks – they have had a 'taste' of this with trying different foods – some foods were very popular and some certainly were not!

If you would like to explore your child's learning in more detail, please look at the School website, Curriculum tab:

[https://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk/website/curriculum\\_at\\_steam\\_mills/452876](https://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk/website/curriculum_at_steam_mills/452876)

## Phonics Webinar

Mrs Fawkes, our Phonics Lead, has asked for this information to be sent out. This is a really interesting webinar, if you are keen to learn more about our teaching of Monster Phonics in school.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-webinar-phonics-explained-how-to-help-your-child-with-phonics-tickets-616475333317?aff=erelexpmlt>



## Dogs

Please could parents refrain from bringing dogs onto the school site, this is part of the school's safeguarding responsibility for all of the children. Thank you.

## Chairs and Tables

We still have 5 children's chairs and 4 tables looking for a new home. Please contact Miss Agg if you are interested in any of these items.

*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.*