



## Steam Mills Primary

06.12.2024



Dear Parents/Carers

### Whole School Panto to see Aladdin

Thank you to FoSM for organising such a wonderful trip to the Pantomime this week. The children had a great time and were complimented once again by the theatre staff and the FoSM team on their beautiful behaviour and conduct. Thank you also to our lovely parent helpers, we couldn't do this trip without your support.



### Diary Dates

#### Autumn Term 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> September-20<sup>th</sup> December

#### Half Term

28<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November

#### Spring term 2025

6<sup>th</sup> January-11<sup>th</sup> April

#### Half Term

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February

#### Summer Term 2025

28<sup>th</sup> April-21<sup>st</sup> July

#### Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> May - 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### INSET days:

6<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> July

### Diary Dates (incl. Federation activities)

4<sup>th</sup> Whole school Panto

9<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas Play Rehearsal

10<sup>th</sup> Pre-school trip to Christmas Show

11<sup>th</sup> KS1 Christmas Play Performances for parents  
9:30am and 5:00pm

13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre

18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day  
Christingle Service at Church – 2pm for Classes 2-4 only

19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties

20<sup>th</sup> Carol Service & End of Term 2

#### January

6<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day

7<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 3

15<sup>th</sup> Attendance Drop-in Session – 9:00am-10:00am

22<sup>nd</sup> Rags 2 Riches Collection

### Car/Road Safety Warning

Please could parents/carers/relatives please not use the layby adjacent to the main road as a "drop and go" at the KS1 and KS2 gates. Please drive around to the back of the school and drop your child at the main gate where drop and go is managed.

### Reception & Y6 Health Screening – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

All children in Reception and Year 6 year groups have received a letter this week giving details of this upcoming NHS Health screening. Please contact Miss Agg if you have not seen this letter.

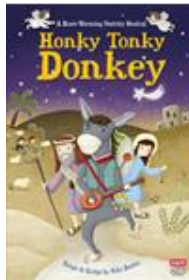
### Christmas Post Boxes

We will have the Christmas Post Boxes in place from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December in KS1 and KS2 areas. Children are welcome to bring cards in for their friends to post but please could parents/carers ensure these are addressed clearly with name and class number. Thank you



### Christmas Plays – Pre-school, Class1 & Class 2 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

All children should have brought home tickets yesterday. Apologies to those that didn't get their extra requests for evening tickets, this performance is now full. There are however a few spare tickets available for the 9:30am performance, so please let Miss Agg know if you would like any of these.



### Cake Donations – Christmas Fayre – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

A reminder for cakes for the FoSM Christmas Fayre on Friday please. They are happy to receive home-made or bought items. Please make a note to bring into school nearer the time. Thank you.



### Star of the Week Certificates



*(these are awarded in the Celebration Assembly each Tuesday afternoon)*

#### Pre-school

**Layton** - for being the perfect host to three new children.

**Nori** - for her great confidence and resilience in new situations.

#### Class 1

**Willow, Oak & Reggie** - for always cracking on with their work and trying their best.

**Star readers- Oak & Reggie**

#### Class 2

**Zakiyah** - wonderful listening and engagement during the pantomime workshop.

**Maddison** - being a very kind friend and thinking about others before yourself.

**Tate** - always being a kind and reliable friend to everyone.

#### Class 3

**Khloe** – for being brave at swimming.

**Billy** – for working hard to complete challenges.

#### Class 4

**Pacey** - for great class contributions using the idea, building and challenge methods.

**Olivia** - for great effort with Slow writing homework.

**Fergie** - for a great learning attitude and being a great role model in school.

### FoSM Christmas Fayre – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 2:00pm

We hope you can all come along and enjoy the Christmas Fayre with your children. This year we have :

- Father Christmas (free visit and free gift for all Steam Mills Children in Pre-school or school!)
- Class sale of handmade gifts
- Refreshments and cakes
- Raffle
- Tombola
- Lucky Dip
- Decorate a Ball-ball

Once children have visited the Fayre, they are welcome to leave for the day with their parent/carers.

### Mr Holder

We are very sad to say that Mr Holder will be leaving Steam Mills Primary at the end of this term. He will be taking his retirement and would like to wish him all the very best. Mr Holder has been at Steam Mills for over 13 years as both a Pupil Supervisor and Cleaner. He plans to keep in touch and pop back to see us from time to time, we may even persuade him to help once again with our Forest School sessions and maybe listen to some of our readers! Good luck Mrs Holder! We are in the process of recruiting a new Pupil Supervisor/Cleaner and will update you about this appointment in due course.

## Miss Byrnes

We also have Miss Byrnes leaving for maternity leave just after Christmas and would like to wish her well on her exciting time ahead. We have a temporary Teacher to cover this period, Miss Stones, who you may see in Class 1 over the next couple of weeks whilst she works with Miss Byrnes on a smooth transition for Class 1.

## After School Club – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

With these Fridays being an optional early finish for children – anytime from 2pm (after the Fayre) on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and approx. 2:15pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December after the Carol Service. There will also be no Prostars Club on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We would like to gauge how many parents will need After School Club provision on these days to see if it will be viable to run the clubs. Please contact Miss Agg if you will need After School Club on these days.

## 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** – Christmas has taken over Pre-School! Last Friday we decorated Pre-School and put the tree up, the children loved it and had a great afternoon working as a team to put tinsel and baubles around the tree's outside and the beautiful tree inside. We have been practising lots for our Nativity next week singing lots of songs and getting up on the stage. The Christmas crafts have begun, making cards and calendars along with writing and drawing on our Christmas craft table. Our sound this week has been i and our number has been 1.

**Class 1** - the children have been preparing for a 'parade' this week for our English topic. The parade was to invite people to celebrate the night spirit. We used decorations, music and singing to celebrate. The children loved the Panto trio on Wednesday, they came back ecstatic when telling Miss Byrnes all about it! Just 1 sound this week 'oo' for poo. HFW's are 'them, then, that, this, said'.

**Class 2** – this week has been a bit of a blur in Class 2! The children have had a very fun week. We have spent most of our time rehearsing for the nativity and are very excited to show this to you next week. The children also enjoyed their pantomime workshop on Tuesday afternoon; some of the children got to dress up as the characters and we understood the story of Aladdin before the trip on Wednesday. The children were so well behaved and had such a wonderful time on Wednesday. Thank you so much to FOSM for providing this for us again this year and thank you to all the parents who volunteered time to come with us.



**Class 3** have worked hard for a range of adults this week. They began to explore features of instructions in readiness to write them next week and have moved on to subtraction in maths. At swimming, the children have all been trying their best to make good progress in their groups, with some moving up! The children enjoyed the Panto on Wednesday, particularly the flying carpet! A big thank you to FOSM for organising and funding this lovely experience.

**Class 4** have had a rather busy week! In Science, they were exploring the concept of air resistance and how this can be helpful or unhelpful, depending on the circumstance - they were able to



make parachutes of varying sizes for their investigation, and test which one had the best air resistance and why. The children have dipped in to the Holocaust this week and the impact that it had on many people's lives; it provided many opportunities for the children to reflect on differences and the lessons learned from this. We had the Panto on Wednesday and the children really enjoyed it - lots of them said it was the best one yet and they were amazed at how Aladdin flew on his carpet - thank you to FoSM and the parent helpers for making this happen 😊 Yesterday, the Y6s had 20 teachers from Mrs Thomas' Problem Solving: Research and Innovation Work Group watching their maths lesson - they were AMAZING! The adults were super impressed with their knowledge, their learning attitudes and behaviour... The children were an absolute credit to this school and did so well to learn with such a large audience; Mrs Thomas was so proud of them - well done Year 6!

### Look Who's Talking!

Steam Mills have entered a competition to encourage their children to practice their oracy skills. Lots of children were excited about this opportunity when it was shared in assembly and details will have been sent home with your child about this competition.



Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

#### What is oracy and why is it so important?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language.

By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

#### How will the competition work?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools! The grand final will be on 04.04.25, which you can come to, if your child is a representative for our locality.

#### what can your child talk about?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoints slide shows please.

#### How can you help them at home?

- \* First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It really can be anything at all!
- \* They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- \* Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

Thank you for your support!



### 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**
- **Reading book**
- **Correct uniform and coat**

## Forest Foodbank Update

The Lydney distribution centre has had to relocate from Lydney town football club. It is now at River Children and Family Centre Naas Lane, Lydney GL15 5AU. This is because of flood damage at the football club.

During the Christmas holidays Lydney distribution centre at River Children and Family Centre will be open on Tuesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period. Cinderford distribution centre at the Forest Community church opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

To get help look on our website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to us.



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- Monday- Chepstow- Ages 4-7 & 8-11
- Wednesday- Coleford Tots Ages 3-5
- Friday- Lydney Development ages 5-11 / Lydney tots 3-5

To View Venues & book visit:  
[prostars.ipalbookings.com](http://prostars.ipalbookings.com)  
For more information contact Mark-  
[07444436637/mark.prostars@gmail.com](mailto:07444436637/mark.prostars@gmail.com)



**WINTER HAF**  
FESTIVE CRAFTS &  
JUNK MODELLING  
FRIDAY 03 JANUARY, 2024  
10.30AM-1.30PM  
The Main Place, Old Station Way  
Coleford, GL16 8RH

Fully funded for children living in Gloucestershire who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals.



Aged 5-16

Activities to choose from

**HOW TO REGISTER**  
<https://forestofdeandistrict.coordinate.cloud/project/62298>

CONTACT  
[ACCOUNTS@BLOODHOUNDEDUCATION.COM](mailto:ACCOUNTS@BLOODHOUNDEDUCATION.COM)

Department for Education Gloucestershire County Council BLOODHOUND EDUCATION

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**