



Steam Mills Primary

09.01.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back! This week the children have come back into school very well; they have settled back into school life/routines and are excited for the term ahead 😊

Drop & Go

The Drop and Go is now running in the layby by the main road, from 8:40am, whilst demolition works start on the Pre-school building. The Pre-school area is now a closed building site with restricted access. We will let you know when we may be able to move Drop and Go again to the back of the school and use of the track, as soon as possible.



Please can we ask that if you are accessing the layby that you use Drop and Go wherever possible (children in classes 2, 3 and 4), rather than waiting for a space to become available to park. Please be extra vigilant about moving vehicles. Ideally, we need to reduce congestion in this area and if you do need to park (parents in C1 and Pre-school) please utilise the carpark at the back of the school, rather than the layby.

If you are running late, and the class doors close promptly, Mrs Dickinson is still at the gate so you may leave your child with her and she will ensure they come into school via reception; please do not expect class staff to open the door again when you are late as learning has started at this point. Thank you.

Parking at Home-time

If you are parking in the layby at home-time, please could we remind you to park nose into the grass verge and diagonally. This way more cars can fit in. Thank you.

Rags2Riches Collection – 27th January 2026

Our next collection for Rags2Riches is on Wednesday 27th January. If you are having a sort out during the holidays, please keep this in mind. The school receives so much per kilo and this money is always gratefully received by FoSM. You can find details of what is collected here: <https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/> Thank you.



Breakfast Club and After School Club Payments

Please could all parents using Breakfast Club and After School Club ensure that payment is made in **advance**. The school has a no Debt Policy and Miss Agg will be chasing up any outstanding debt. Thank you.



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2025

1st Sept-19th December

Spring Term 2026

5th January-27th March

Summer Term 2026

13th April-20th July

Half Terms

16th February-20th February

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

January

15th Attendance Drop-in Session

27th Rags2Riches Collection

Reading Café

February

2nd National Grid to start work on Electricity Cables around the school

Bikeability Free Bike Checks

9th Y5's Bikeability Training

Mental Health Week

11th Federation Mental Health Afternoon Y5/6

13th FoSM Non-school Uniform £1 donation

Last day of Term 3

23rd Start of Term 4

SATS Booster sessions start for Y6

24th C2 start Gymnastics

March

27th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – bottles for Summer Fayre Tombola

End of Term 4

April

13th Start of Term 5

15th Class 4 Residential Trip

17th

May

7th Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

11th Rags 2 Riches

21st Sponsored Walk

22nd Inset Training Day and last day of Term 5

June

1st Start of Term 6

12th Sports Morning

26th FoSM Summer Fayre

Attendance Snippet

What should I do if my child needs a dental or medical appointment in school time?

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible. When they are, you should ask the school in advance for a leave of absence and collect them as close to the time of the appointment as possible and return them to school for the rest of the school day afterwards.

Class Snippets

Pre-School - it has been a lovely start to the new term: the children have excitedly told us all about their Christmas experiences, what Santa brought them and have loved being back and playing with their friends. We have been joining with our Class 1 friends for snack time and having lots of fun playing and exploring in their classroom. Ms Barber also very kindly donated a bag of craft goodies which has kept the children very busy, creative and also very glittery! It has been very exciting seeing all the snow in the playground, and we have created chalk snowflakes and added our own buttons to numbered snowmen. We have been exploring our new array of different musical instruments, including a 'moana coconut' and boom whackers - sorry Miss Agg!



Class 1 - really enjoyable first week of the Spring term. At the beginning of the week, we enjoyed the snow and frost, the children were given magnifying glasses to look at the snowflakes. We have started our new book for English, called 'Look Up!', which is about a girl called Rocket and the children have been practising their writing skills this week. Our phonics sounds are Tricky Witch 'Oo' found in words such as 'good' and 'book' and Brown Owl 'ow'. HFW's are look, down, now. In maths we have been practising our subitising skills and counting up to 10.

Class 2 have had a brilliant first week back! They have amazed me with their knowledge during our Lesson 0 sessions. In science, the children discussed different types of animals and used fantastic vocabulary to describe herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. The children were very creative in PE to create ice skating dance routines using spins and jumps. Sounds for the week are ew (news) for Y1s and Y2s have explored the use of apostrophes to show possession. The children enjoyed reconnecting with lots of choosing time.

Class 3 - we've had a great first week back after the Christmas break, with the children settling quickly back into learning. They particularly enjoyed our topic morning on Tuesday, exploring Anglo-Saxon artefacts and discussing what they thought each item might be — some ideas were very imaginative! We have begun learning about the artist J. M. W. Turner, whose work will inspire our Anglo-Saxon scene paintings later this term. In English, we have started reading our new text, *The Last Garden*, a story of hope, and have been exploring setting descriptions using abstract nouns. Alongside this, we have started new units in maths on subtraction and in science on States of Matter, where the children have been learning about solids, liquids and gases. **PE will take place on Tuesdays and Fridays, so please ensure your child has their kit in school on these days.**

Class 4 have started 2026 with a great attitude and lots of learning. With the overall theme of South America, we have tried to include lots of links across the curriculum; the children have explored what they already know and now applied this into looking at World Maps to compare continents. In English, they are exploring the author Rudyard Kipling and his writing style, using animals that speak and act like humans, in his stories. The children have been exploring the painting by Henri Rousseau, *Tiger in a Tropical Storm*, and had a go at drawing their own, which most tried really hard at and were proud of their efforts. Science generated lots of discussions around human development and how humans change through a lifetime - the children had some thoughtful insights and were able to record their ideas.

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.

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