



Steam Mills Primary 05.12.2025



Parents/Carers

Christmas Trips!

The Christmas trips have been slightly different this year; being split between KS2 and EYFS/KS1 but the children have taken this in their stride and enjoyed their separate experiences to the full! FoSM have said that the feedback from both venues has been wonderful and the children were complimented on their behaviour and conduct. FoSM and the staff at Steam Mills are very proud of the children and thankful, through fundraising, to be able to provide these trips. Here are a few photos from the KS2 Panto Trip. We will place some photos from the EYFS/KS1 Raglan Farm Park Trip on next week's newsletter.



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

27th October-31st October

16th February-20th February

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 5th January, 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events) December

8th Short Reports to Parents/Carers

9th Charlotte Taylor Author Visit & after school book sale

15th EYFS/KS1 Nativity Rehearsal

16th EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performances
9:30am and 5:00pm

17th Christmas Dinner Day &
Christmas Jumper Day
Christingles and walk to the Church

18th Christmas Parties

19th Last Day of Term 2
Christmas Carol Service-
1:30pm (no Prostars or ASC)

January

5th Start of Term 3 - Inset Training Day

6th Children in for 1st day of term



FoSM Christmas Fayre – Friday 5th December

Thank you to all those that attending the Christmas Fayre today. We will let you know the amount raised in next week's newsletter.

EYFS and KS1 Performance – Born in a Barn

Please don't forget to return your ticket order slips by Monday 8th December. Please ask the school office if you need another copy of the letter. **Tickets will be being sent home next week and extra tickets released where possible. Please remember that children will need to be in school at 4:30 on Tuesday 16th December to prepare for the evening performance.**



Christingle Service at the Church – Classes 2-4

We are looking again this year for volunteers to walk with the children to the church on **Wednesday 17th December (1:30pm)**. Thank you.



Christmas Lunch Arrangements – Wednesday 17th December

A letter has been emailed out this week to all Parents/Carers regarding booking of this year's Christmas Lunch. There is a Christmas Roast option, Vegetarian option or sandwiches; please note that there are no Jacket Potato options on this day. Please contact Miss Agg if you have any queries. Thank you.



Carol Concert – Friday 19th December

Our annual Christmas Carol Concert will be taking place in the school hall at 1:30pm on Friday 19th December. All parent/carers are welcome to attend. This marks the end of the school term and children are welcome to leave after, with their Parent/Carer. This should be at approximately 2:15pm. Children not leaving early will stay in their class until the usual collection time of 3:15pm (3:00pm for Pre-school).



After School Club and Prostars Club – Friday 19th December

With this last Friday being an optional early finish for children, approx. 2:15pm after the Carol Service, there will be no Prostars Clubs running. For ASC, please could you let Miss Agg know if you will need ASC provision or if you are able to make other arrangements for Friday 19th December. Thank you.

Attendance Snippet

When may I be given a 'notice to improve' instead of a penalty notice? In some cases, your school or local council may choose to give you a 'notice to improve' instead of a penalty notice once the national threshold of 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence is met. This is a formal written warning that, unless attendance significantly improves, you will be issued with a penalty notice. This is to give you another chance to work with the school to improve your child's attendance. A 'notice to improve' will not be given if you take a holiday in term time without permission.

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 most definitely arrived in Preschool this week! The children delighted in decorating the Christmas tree and even added some tinsel and baubles outside. We have talked about Christmas and the children have shared their own knowledge and experiences, including their naughty elves!! We have also looked at the Nativity story and have been busy practising our song for the play. They have decorated playdough trees and added sparkly loose parts to their own individual trees too. We worked together to create a large handprinted Christmas tree and we have embraced the Christmas themed mark making table, complete with cards, envelopes and stickers! We all had an amazing, bouncy time at Raglan, feeding the donkeys, meeting the baby alpaca and dragging all of the grown-ups on the soft play.

Class 1 – this week's sound is the long 'oo' sound in words such as food, moon and zoom. HFW's are (then, them, that, this, said). We have continued our story Cave Baby with the children sequencing the story in pictures. Class 1 have also officially started the countdown to Christmas with decorating the classroom and starting our advent calendar. All of the children LOVED Raglan Farm park! They all had lots of fun and represented the school brilliantly; they should be very proud of themselves!

Class 2 – we have this week been practicing our Nativity Play and learning our lines. Year 1 in Phonics have been learning Brown Cow (ow) and Miss Oh No (ow), Year 2 have been learning I, as just I, and for Maths Year 2 have been learning shapes, Year 1 addition facts to 9 and 10. The whole class enjoyed a lovely day at Raglan Farm Park yesterday. Thank you FoSM and all our lovely parent helpers!

Class 3 -We've had a lovely week in Class 3. We started the week by reflecting on our Autumn Term science topic, "Animals including Humans," and the children began creating information texts to show what they've learned. Our castle designs also took shape, with everyone carefully following their plans, and in maths both groups continued developing their multiplication skills. Wednesday was a real highlight as we visited the Everyman Theatre to watch *Robin Hood*—oh yes we did! Thank you to FOSM for providing such a great experience. Back at school, we enjoyed getting stuck into our Christmas crafts for the FOSM Christmas Fayre, and we're looking forward to all the exciting things still to come over the next two weeks.

Class 4 have had a very busy week! The children have been starting to develop their final piece of writing and are excited to design their own, upgraded Mars Rovers - they are thinking about the terrain the robot has to navigate and what modern technology could be incorporated. They really enjoyed the trip to the Everyman on Wednesday so thank you to FoSM for organising this. In Geography, they have learnt how to use points of a compass and then applied this learning navigating around the school grounds, using their own directions they had written.

Childrens Fund Free School Meals for Christmas Holidays

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 the Winter holiday 2025 will be open from midday **25 November until midday on 9 December**. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 15 December. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by 22 December, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)

This Winter Holiday, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding they have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.** Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of **£15 per child for one week**.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply and those wishing to find out more about eligibility can do so by visiting our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the Winter holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). 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.



During the Christmas holidays the Coleford distribution centre at the Salvation Army in Broadwell GL16 7BX will be open on Wednesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period. The last session before Christmas for Lydney distribution centre will be on 16th December and for Cinderford will be 18th December. Lydney distribution centre at the River Family and children's centre, Naas Lane Lydney GL15 5AU

opens after Christmas on 6th January 2026, Coleford opens on 7th January 2026 and Cinderford at The Forest Community church will be open on 8th January 2026.

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.



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