



Steam Mills Primary

10.11.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Forest Foodbank

We have received this lovely certificate for the children from the Forest Foodbank. Thank you once again for your wonderful donations for our Harvest Festival. 89.25kg!



Track and Car Park

We would like to send our thanks to Councillor Terry Hale for arranging the latest delivery of used tarmac for the track and car park. We would also like to say a big thank you to Mr & Mrs Dickinson for putting this down for us.

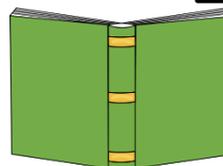
School Beat Assembly

PC Greg Steer, our local Schoolbeat Liaison Officer, visited on Tuesday 7th November and delivered an assembly to the whole school about the Police and what they do. There was also a really useful Internet Safety workshop for Class 4 afterwards. The children behaved excellently and took on board all the information.



Reading Café

Don't forget that Mrs Gibbs will be hosting our first reading Café on Wednesday 15th November after school. You and your child/ren are most welcome to join us.



Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

4th Sept—22nd December
Half Term: 30th Oct—3rd Nov

Spring term 2024

8th January—22nd March
Half Term: 12th—16th Feb

Summer Term 2024

8th April—22nd July
Half Term: 27th—31st May

INSET days:

6th November, 22nd December,
24th May and 22nd July

Diary Dates

November

- 15th Reading Café – children/parents welcome
- 17th Children in Need
- 23rd C3 Parent Grammar Session
- 24th FoSM Wreath Making Event
- 29th Panto Workshop Classes 1, 2 and 3

December

- 6th Pantomime – Classes 1-4
- 11th EYFS/KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 12th EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9:30am and 5:00pm
- 13th Pre-school Christmas Play Trip (details to follow)
- 14th Christmas Dinner
Christmas Jumper Day
- 15th FoSM Christmas Fayre
- 21st Christmas Party Day – non-school uniform.
Carol Service (details to follow)
- 22nd Inset Training Day
- 25th Christmas Holidays

January

- 8th Start of Term 3
- 24th Rags 2 Riches Collection
- 25th Reception and Year 5 NHS Health Screening

Xmas4Schools

The ordered items have now arrived and they will be available for collection from Monday morning. Please collect as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need on **Friday 17th November** by wearing something "SPOTacular"! Please do not worry if you do not have clothing with spots, any non-uniform will be fine. We are not asking for any donations this year but we will have a limited amount of Pudsey Ears (£2.50) and Wristbands (£1) for sale on the day. Please send in correct money if your child would like to purchase any items. Thank you



Grammar Information Session for Parents – Class 3

Mrs Gibbs will be holding a grammar information session after school on **Thursday 23rd November** at 3:30pm-approx 4:15pm. This will provide parents with information on the grammar expectations for Y3 and Y4. There is no requirement to book, just come along, with or without your child is fine.

Christmas Wreaths with FoSM

FOSM will be making Christmas Wreath again this year. Please think about ordering yours from us to help raise funds, and encourage family and friends to order too! You can come along and make your own wreath for a bargain - just £7; come along and show off your creativity! Also, a team will be making the wreaths to order from 5pm on **Friday 24th November** and would love a few more helpers. The flyers will be sent home next week; please look out for them in book bags:



Panto Trip – Wednesday 6th December

FoSM have now chosen the parent volunteers and parents will be informed next week if they have been selected. This has been done on a "helper for FoSM" basis and then names out of a hat. There were a number of parents/carers who missed checking the snack box on the permission slips, so we are now going to provide this to all children unless parents/carers inform us that they **do not wish** their child to have this.

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 - This week at Pre-School we recapped the activities we did over the half term break and explored the autumn bags the children returned. We have talked a lot about Bonfire Night and what fireworks we saw! We have used cardboard tubes with paint to make firework pictures, shiny paint pens to draw on black paper and marble rolling in trays to make a firework affect with different coloured paints.

Towards the end of the week we have touched on Remembrance Day and why the children may see people around them wearing red poppies. The children have made collage poppies using different craft materials and red stickers to make spotty poppy pictures. The children have also watched a short video called 'Cbeebies Poppy Animation', which is a beautiful explanation about why we have Remembrance Day.

Class 1 – The children in Class 1 have blown the adults away this week with their reading and writing. They've all returned from half term with a great attitude towards their learning and we have all seen the progress they have all made, especially in phonics.

Reception have learnt 5 new sounds this week (f, ff, l, ll, ss) and we have been talking a lot about digraphs and how they are two letters that make one sound together. The HFW's this week are (be,

she, he, we, me, of). They also enjoyed a history workshop on Friday, where they learnt all about Neil Armstrong, in preparation for our spring term topic.

Year 1s have been practising their split digraphs and have learnt two new digraphs, Green Froggy 'ea' and the Silent Ghosty 'ea', which makes the 'e' sound, found in words such as 'bread'.

Class 2 – it's been a VERY busy week in Class 2. A friendly Alien crash-landed in our playground and we went out to investigate the crash site. The children found some yellow fur and we think that the alien is hiding somewhere around the school. A message from Mrs Thomas told us that her name is Beegu and that she is scared. The children have also enjoyed their history workshop today; during the session they learnt some more information about Neil Armstrong. They acted out and created a timeline of his life, as well as thinking about what it would've been like to be the first person on the moon. They really enjoyed their day and have all behaved really well.



Class 3 had an exciting week when a mysterious bag of objects were delivered. Inside included feathers, a hat and a letter and our new book, 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx'. We have been looking at inverted commas to show speech this week and thinking about what characters in the book might say to each other. In history, the children explored sources of evidence to uncover clues about what the Ancient Egyptians did for fun and compared to what we do today. The Y3 children have impressed me with their knowledge of 3D shapes and both year groups have started their multiplication units of work.

Class 4 have had a very busy week back in school! On Tuesday, we had PC Greg, our Schoolbeat Officer, talking to C4 about Internet Safety. The children were told about how to keep themselves and others safe, alongside the age restrictions that are in place for many common apps and games. This surprised some of the children along with how the police deal with malicious communications; the children were encouraged to go home and do 3 things: check their group chats and make sure they knew everyone in them; check they follow only their friends and unfollow anyone they do not know; and, check their online friend lists and unfriend anyone they do not know. Please check this page and watch the video the children were shown: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/are-our-children-safer-online> . The children were asked to 'share with care', use privacy settings and know how to report and get help if they need it.



Class 4 also started their Gymnastics sessions which they really enjoyed and they went to Woodside this week to celebrate Remembrance with a range of activities: a museum history box, a talk with the Cadets and an art activity – it has been a great opportunity to link up with the Year 5/6 children from Soudley and Woodside – thank you to Miss Carlson for organising it and to Woodside for hosting us.

Prostars Club, Term 2 – Change of Date

Thank you to those that have signed up for Prostars Clubs next term. We have had to make a slight change to the dates due to the Christmas Fayre on Friday 15th December. The clubs will still run for 5 weeks and the payment request is now on ParentPay, dates are as follows:

KS1 Mondays - Monday 13th November up to and including Monday 11th December
 KS2 Fridays - Friday 10th November up to and including Friday 8th December

Pre-school Charge

We are having to increase the cost per hour of the Pre-school setting to £5.50 per hour for all non-funded hours from **January 2024**. This is in-line with Gloucestershire County and the Steam Mills/Woodside Federation. We hope that you find this increase still offers excellent value for money and reflects the high level of provision that the school provides.

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