



Steam Mills Primary

05.09.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter of Term 1! We send a newsletter on Friday afternoon of each week to share news about what has happened or what is planned in school. It is lovely to see the children back and to welcome those new children attending school. Everyone has settled very well into school routines and are enjoying getting to know their new classes and friends.

We have been fortunate to have been able to carry out some upgrades during the summer holidays, with new Solar Panels installed by Gloucestershire County Council, this is a County wide scheme to help schools reduce their energy costs. We have had a new ventilation system installed in Class 2 to help with the air quality; it is feeling much fresher in there now! Our Electrician has carried out statutory works; including the 5 Year Fixed Wire test and our annual PAT Testing. Mr Dickinson has painted the girls KS2 toilet area and also carried out minor repairs throughout the school. Thank you to the cleaning staff who have deep cleaned the school and shampooed the carpets in Class 1 and Class 2.

School Hours/Late Marks/Drop & Go/Parking

The expectation is for children to arrive in the school grounds from 8:40am (drop and go will also operate from this time) children will be seated in their classrooms at **8:45am**. Arriving at school after 8:45am, but before 9:15am, will incur a late code on the register (L). Registers close at 9:15am, arrival after this time will incur a (U) code. Please note that Drop & Go is for children in Classes 2-4 only and children must wait with Mrs Dickinson at the gate until the teaching staff open the door at the back of the school. If children do not wait with Mrs Dickinson then they must be closely supervised by their Parent/Carer. Class 2 children are allowed to access the school from the front door if using drop and go and go straight to class, they do not need to wait with Mrs Dickinson. Pick-up time remains at 3:15pm. Pre-school start time remains unchanged at 9:00am and pick-up is 3:00pm. **The KS1 gate and KS2 gate will be locked soon after 8:45am**, any children arriving after 8:45am will need to access school via the main reception gate and come into school through reception. Pre-school children will need to access the school via the main reception gate and wait at the Pre-school gate ready for the 9:00am start.

Parking - please could we remind Parents/Carers and inform new Parents/Carers to the school to park at an angle (nose first) to the grass verge in the lay-by parking area. This way we can fit more cars in this area. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2025

1st September-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:

1st September, 24th October, 5th

January, 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

September

1st Start of Term 1

Class 3 Start Swimming

12th FoSM Meeting – 3:15pm

17th Rags to Riches collection

26th Nasal Flu Vaccinations – whole school

30th Tempest Photography – Individual/Sibling Portraits

October

13th Y3/4 Federation Trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival

14th Parents Evenings

15th Parents Evenings

16th Reading Cafe

November

10th Anti-bullying week

11th Remembrance Day

12th C2 Trip to Aerospace Bristol

14th Children in Need Day

20th C4 Trip to Birmingham Think Tank

Attendance Monitoring

Mrs Fawkes, Executive Deputy Head/Attendance Champion, will be in touch with a few Parents/Carers over the next 2 weeks to discuss attendance. This is nothing to worry about; the school has to monitor attendance and connect with Parents/Carers as part of the requirement to improve attendance for all children. Thank you.

Personal Details/Medical Information

Please could all Parents/Carers ensure that the school has your latest and most to date information for you and your child. If you have changed email address, phone number, address etc. please let Miss Agg know in the school office. You are welcome to email : admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk or pop in when you are in school. It is also really important to ensure any medical information for your child is up to date, please do ask if you need to check the information we have currently on our system for your child.

Friends of Steam Mills (FoSM) Meeting – Friday 12th September

There will be a meeting for FoSM next Friday, 12th September, straight after school. All parents/carers are welcome to attend and it would be lovely to welcome some new people if you are able to spare the time. FoSM do so much to raise funds for extra-curricular activities and trips; such as our annual Pantomime Trip.

Cookery Club – Tuesday 16th September

A reminder to the 6 children taking part in Cookery Club this term; Cookery Club is starting on Tuesday 16th September and will be running for 5 weeks. Please ensure payment is made via ParentPay in advance. Please also do not forget your container to take your makes home. If your child was not successful, they have been placed on the waiting list and should gain a place soon.

Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception to Year 6 – Friday 26th September

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Friday 26th September. All parents/carers have been emailed a letter and information this week. Please let the school office know if you have not received this email. **It is important for all parents/carers to either accept or decline this offer via the on-line portal;** all nil responses will be followed up.

Tempest Photography- Tuesday 30th September

All children will have their Individual portrait photos taken during the school morning and those that have siblings in school will also have a sibling photo taken (including Pre-school children). If you have a younger child who does not attend the setting or is not in Pre-school on this day and would like a sibling photo taken, please arrive at school between 8:30-8:45am and this can then be done.

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 14th October and Wednesday 15th October

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 14th October & Wednesday 15th October. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are made via our eSchools system which will be open for booking from next **Friday, 12th September – 3pm**. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit. Please let Miss Agg (school office) know if you would also like to see Miss Barber (SENCO) and she will book this for you. If you have any issues booking for your child/ren, please contact Miss Agg. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days, bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.

Class Snippets - (Article 28- children have the right to an education. Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents, personalities and beliefs)

No class snippets this week, these will start next week. All classes and children have settled back in so well and the new children are taking very well to their new school routines. We have also welcomed a few new children to Pre-school this week. Welcome to Steam Mills!

Please do ask your class teacher or pop in to reception if you have any questions or concerns and we will endeavour to help 😊

School Debt Policy – September 2025

Please ensure that your Breakfast Club and After School Club ParentPay accounts are in credit at all times.

Just to remind parents and inform new parents of our Debt Policy.

- Bookings will only be accepted if Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club Accounts are in credit for each day booked.
- If your child is a “no show” or you have not given 24hrs notice, you will be still be charged for your child's place.
- If your child is not booked in for either service, you will be contacted if we are oversubscribed, asked to collect your child.
- Accounts will be debited on the same day (BC) or next day (ASC).
- Childcare vouchers/tax free childcare payments should be **sent in advance** and your Parent Pay account will then be credited ready for use.
- Breakfast club remains free of charge to those eligible for income/benefits based Free School Meals.

**We're live, online on Monday 15th Sept at
7am, 10am, 3pm and 7pm (BST)**



**Choose a time that suits you and join us by
booking your **free** place below**

[click here to BOOK your preferred time](#)

Are you hearing terms like *phonemes*, *graphemes*, *split digraphs*, and wondering what on earth they all mean? You're not alone and we're here to help. Join us for an informative and friendly **Monster Phonics Parent Webinar** designed to demystify phonics and give you the confidence to support your child's reading journey at home.

What You'll Learn:

- ✓ What phonics is and why it's essential
- ✓ Key phonics terminology made simple
- ✓ An introduction to the Monster Phonics programme
- ✓ How to make phonics & reading at home fun and effective



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