



# Steam Mills Primary

10.02.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

## Parent Handbook

As mentioned in last week's Newsletter, we have updated our Parent Handbook. You can find this attached and also posted on the school website.

## School Disco's

The date has been set, **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**, the DJ has been booked and tickets will be on sale now!

KS1 Disco 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

(Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Pre-school and Reception parents to stay with their children please.

KS2 Disco 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

(Year 3 – Year 6)

Parents to drop children off and leave; please ensure you are back promptly to collect.

Tickets will be on sale **in class** and are **£1 each** (please send in the exact money to class).

Tuckshop will be available, please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

## FoSM Non-School Uniform Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

We are holding a FoSM Non-school Uniform on the last day of term. Please could each child bring in a £1 donation for FoSM. Thank you

## Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You will have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wish to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are may affect schools in this area are:

- **Thursday 2 March 2023**
- **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
- **Thursday 16 March 2023**

## School Calendar 22/23

### Term 3

3rd Jan to 17th Feb

### Term 4

27th Feb to 31st March

### Term 5

17th April to 26th May

### Term 6

5th June to 25th July

### Inset Days:

24th and 25th July

## Diary Dates

### February

14<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Trip to National Waterways Museum – Gloucester

16<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Dental Survey  
FoSM School Disco (details to follow)

17<sup>th</sup> FoSM Non-school Uniform  
Last day of Term 3

27<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 4

### March

2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day – Bedtime Stories (**Pyjama Day**)

17<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day

21<sup>st</sup> Parents Evenings – all classes

27<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings – Class 2 only

28<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings – Class 1, 3 and 4

31<sup>st</sup> Last Day of Term 4

### April

3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Holidays

17<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 5

### May

12<sup>th</sup> School Class Photos & Leavers Photos

16<sup>th</sup> Rags to Riches

25<sup>th</sup> Sponsored Walk (details to follow)

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains the reasons for strike action. It can be found here:

<https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view>

Clearly this is a difficult situation; I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those who wish to strike will have thought long and hard about their decision.

One of the key issues will be to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

### How will strike action affect our school?

At this point, it is likely that we will be open. If this changes, it may be at short notice so please check the website on the dates above, as any information about partial closure will be posted there.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Davis

### Class Snippets

**Pre-school** – we have continued to look at snails and have recreated our own versions of Henry Matisse's famous art work "The Snail". The children have torn, cut and placed coloured paper to create their snails just like Matisse did! We have also used Numicon to look at number bonds of numbers up to 10, looking at the different ways we can create the same number.

**Class 1** -this week, we have started the Fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk and the children have been working very hard to write their own captions for the story. We have also been looking at what plants need to grow and stay alive and they have put together a very clear diagram. In Maths we have been looking at measuring length and have been discussing the different vocabulary we use to describe length (short, shorter, shortest, long, longer, longest). The children have been very engaged in this concept and have enjoyed measuring a variety of objects from around the classroom with cubes. In phonics this week, we have been working on the Black Cat 'or' sound and have been using this sound in our independent writing, which is fantastic! HFW's for this week are 'do', 'so', and 'it's'.

**Class 2** – this week, we have been continuing with our science topic and have been looking at animals and their habitats. We recapped on our knowledge of which animals and plants live at the seaside and then continued to deepen our knowledge by thinking about lots of different habitats. The class did very well in their drawings of the animals. Ariana, in particular, produced a very beautiful piece of work! Hopefully we will keep building on this knowledge, in preparation for our trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park next term! We might even know more than the animal keepers.

**Class 3** have had an incredibly busy week this week. We first had a reply from Zana Fraillion, the author of Wisp and she said how amazing the children's sequels to Idris's story were. We started a new book called 'Greta and the Giants' and have been focusing on complex sentences in writing.

### Head Teacher Certificates

#### Pre-school

**Harper** – using small Numicon to make large numbers to 10.

**Bobbi** – settling in so well at Pre-school.

#### Class 1

**Robert** - for his hard work on his independent writing.

**Zia** - for her effort in Maths every day.

#### Class 2

**Bella** - beautiful writing, always including lots of detail.

**Harry** - being an outstanding member of Steam Mills, always being polite and kind.

#### Class 3

**Arlo** - working hard in all areas.

**Pacey** - an excellent use of evidence in Guided Reading.

#### Class 4

**Cadi-Mai** – for being a supportive learning partner in Maths.

**Ben** – for taking more responsibility of his learning (with marking and improving).



In maths, Y3s have been comparing and ordering fractions and Y4s have been working on column subtraction, which they have amazed the adults with their knowledge! In music, we have been singing 'Blackbird' by 'The Beatles' and playing glockenspiels. The children also really enjoyed Frisbee golf with Mr Yearly in PE.

**Class 4** - Class have enjoyed their Science lesson about light and how learning about how we see. They created models for how light travels in straight lines and reflects off objects to their eyes – they were particularly surprised to see how their pupils dilate in response to how much light is in the classroom. In Art, they have been practicing their still life drawing and learning about the impressionists and their style of painting, in particular, Monet. Play times have been good this week with team work, cooperation and listening skills.

### **Rights Respecting - Article of the Week**

The Right to speak out (Article 13). Every child must be able to freely express their thoughts and opinions and be given access to all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

### **World Book Day – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

On World Book Day, children are invited to bring in an unwanted book from home and they will have the opportunity to swap it with another book provided by children. This was an idea put forward by the Student Council to improve sustainability, which links to the Rights Respecting articles about Climate Change. Please ensure books donated to the swap are in a 'swappable' condition and that it is a complete book, without any scribbles inside and the cover is attached. The theme of the day will be Bedtime Stories and children can come into school wearing their pyjamas! Please see attached poster.

### **Author Visit – Toadstool Tales**

As part of our World Book Day celebration, we are very lucky to have a visit booked from our past Teacher, Mrs Taylor, who is now a multi-award winning Author. Mrs Taylor will be talking to the children on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** and signing/selling her books after school. Please attached poster.

### **Pupil Absence/Illness**

The expectation when children are absent from school due to illness is that they rest and recuperate. The school is not able to provide work for children to complete during this time. If parents would like their children to do a little school work, you are welcome to encourage children to read and use the on-line platform already provided (eSchools).

### **Medication in School**

Just to remind parents that children should not be bringing any medication into school to be kept in their bags as this is a safeguarding issue. Parents must come to the school office with any medication that needs to be administered during the school day and complete the necessary form. It is the school's policy that only prescribed medication that is needed more than 3 times a day will be administered by the school.

### **Plastic Storage Containers**

We still have a number of storage containers left in school that belong to parents/carers from our cake sales. If you are missing a container please ask at the school office. Thank you

### **Artspace, Cinderford**

Artspace are running free creative workshops for 7-12 year olds this half-term. Details can be found on the attached flyer.

*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.*