



Steam Mills Primary

17.02.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

FoSM – Disco's

Thank you to FoSM for organising, and to everyone who supported the school discos last night, including the members of staff who were in attendance. It was lovely to have this event back in school for the children after such a long break.

Breakfast Club and After School Club Bookings

We are finding that our wrap around care clubs are currently quite full on some days. Please could you adhere to protocol to enable the school to continue to be flexible and support parents/carers when they need to access this provision. Current issues are impacting on staffing levels required to maintain our safeguarding ratios. Please could we ask that you:

- Complete a booking form if you know that you require BC or ASC in advance (copies available from reception).
- Contract the school if you require a last minute place at BC or ASC (preferably by phone).
- Cancel your regular or booked place should you no longer require either BC or ASC.
- Neither BC or ASC are drop in sessions, your child's place must be booked. Thank you.
(Article 24- access to food and water)

Charging Policy Review

The school has updated and reviewed the Charging Policy to bring both Woodside and Steam Mills Schools in alignment under the Federated Governing Body. This has resulted in a slight increase for some of our services here at Steam Mills which will help towards increased costs for Heating Oil, Electricity, Food and bought in Professional Services etc. We have attached a copy and there is a copy posted on the school website. Here is an overview of the main changes which take effect from **1st April 2023**:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------|
| Breakfast Club | from 7:45am | £4.00 |
| | from 8:00am | £3.00 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---|
| After School Club | 3:15pm-4:15pm | £4.00 |
| | 4:15pm-5:30pm | £5.00 (this is used for care after other payable Clubs) |
| | 3:15pm-5:30pm | £9.00 |

Late Fee : The schools have introduced a late fee for any parents/carers who are late collecting from ASC. The school will allow a few minutes buffer and has set the late fee at £2 for each

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

27th Start of Term 4

March

2nd World Book Day – Bedtime Stories (**Pyjama Day**)

17th Class 1 & 2 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park (Article 29- Education should develop talents)

Red Nose Day

21st Parents Evenings – all classes

27th Parents Evenings – Class 2 only

28th Parents Evenings – Class 1, 3 and 4

31st Last Day of Term 4

April

3rd Easter Holidays- Article 30- children have the right to a religion

17th Start of Term 5

May

5th Coronation Celebrations – details to follow from FoSM

12th School Class Photos & Leavers Photos

16th Rags to Riches- Article 27- the right to clothing

26th Sponsored Walk (details to follow)

completed 5 minutes over the collection time of 5:30pm. This fee will be added to the ParentPay account and is payable immediately.

Prostars Club 3:15pm-4:15pm £4.00

Day Visit/Trips Parent contribution is to be capped at £12.50 per pupil.

Nursery 3 year old unfunded or extra hours will be charged at £4.50 per hour.

Lunches £2.40 per meal. This charge remains the same from the increase in Sep 22.

Please contact Miss Agg if you have any questions or queries.

(Article 18- parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child).

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**

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

Pre-school – The children have loved learning about our last wonder – The Bee! They have created hand printed bees and Oreo Bees – which we enjoyed for snack. We have also tasted honey, looked at Beehives and the hexagon.

Class 1 - This week the children have been continuing with their caption writing for Jack and the Beanstalk. They have all been fantastic with their writing, being super independent, sounding out all their own words! This week's sound is 'oa', found in words such as 'goat' and 'toad' and they have been working really hard to identify different 'oa' words. In maths, we have been comparing and measuring height, the children have had lots of fun measuring the height of dinosaurs and dragons.

Class 2 – This term, Class 2 have been swimming and they have all made such a great improvement from where we started 7 weeks ago. They are very sensible in the pool and on the poolside, they try

their best even when it is difficult and I can't wait to see them progress next term as swimming continues. This week, we have been using our geographical skills to understand the terms 'north, south, east and west'. The year 1's used this knowledge to move around the playground and go in different directions. The year 2's used maps of Australia and compasses to write directions. We also were very lucky to do Now Press Play this week, which also helped with our directional skills. I would also like to say how proud I am of Class 2 and their improvement in maths this term! They have all made such a great leap in their knowledge and understanding of our topics. The year 2's have been looking at multiplication this term and their understanding has amazed me, they have all come into every lesson with a can do attitude!

Class 3 have worked incredibly hard this week. In writing, they have been inspired by Greta and the Giants and a WWF webinar to create their own information leaflets about the problems caused by climate change and how we can help reduce it. In maths, the Y4s have completed their subtraction unit of work and are moving onto formal multiplication and the Y3s have impressed us again this week with work on comparing fractions as chocolate bars! The children have been very keen to learn more about volcanoes this week in geography and we looked at locating them around the Ring of Fire. Have a great half term break, Class 3!

Class 4 have had a great week. On Monday, they took time and effort to write up their Highwayman stories and got to take part in Now Press Play outside. This week, the class also went to the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester where they learnt about the purpose of canals and how they link to rivers, in particular, the River Severn, which was called Sabrina in Roman Times. The children had a guided museum tour, a workshop to learn about erosion and water testing, lunch on a barge and then a guided tour of the whole docks - they were very lucky! Thank you to the parents that came along to help - we would not be able to go on trips without kind people volunteering their time.



Head Teacher Certificates

Pre-school

Mason – good understanding of rhyming words and sounds.

Caillin – being creative with a purpose in mind.

Class 1

Bertie - for being fantastic for the whole of last week. He was kind, made sensible choices and worked really hard in every subject.

Ada - for being fantastic for the whole of last week. He was kind, made sensible choices and had his listening ears on all week.

Class 2

Chester - wonderful independent writing! A great attitude to writing this term.

Isla D - Lovely ideas for your writing, trying to spell things correctly as well!

Class 3

Elsa - a good use of grammatical features in writing.

Primrose - good focus and effort in all areas.

Class 4

Max - for improved efforts in Maths.

Alyssa - for improved organisation in class.



Rights Respecting – Article of the Week

The best interests of the child are put at the heart of all decisions- Article 3.

At Steam Mills, all policies and decisions made put the child at the centre of them to ensure their best interests are met. Explore policies in the parents' section of the school website.

People who help make decisions for children are called **Duty Bearers**. Please help your child understand this term at home.

Reading Newsletter

Attached to this Newsletter is Mrs Gibbs' termly Reading Newsletter.

Half Term Free Children's Meal Offer (Article 24- Children have the right to nutritious food)

Please inform us of any allergies before booking

Free meals for children

We are providing a free meal on
Tuesday the 21st and Thursday the 23rd of February
for any child who needs it this half term!

Pasta with our tomato sauce topped with cheese,
then a delicious cookie to follow!

Collection point's :

COLEFORD @ sixteen cafe
CINDERFORD @ Candi
LONGHOPE & MITCHELDEAN @ Hart's barn cookery school
LYDNEY @ Town hall
NEWENT @ Sheppard's house

please collect your meal between 11am and 1pm

To book your child's free meal, you can call us on
01452 649824

Email
enquiriesdfk@gmail.com
or via our Facebook page

A big thank you to
the wiggly worm for
their food donation!

DEAN FOREST KITCHEN

The Wiggly Worm

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd 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 (Article 29- Education should develop children's talents and personalities)

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 3rd March** and signing/selling her books after school. Please attached poster.

Red Nose Day

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 17th March 2023 with a non-school uniform/wear something red day. Unfortunately this day clashes with the Class 1 & 2 trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, please note that children going on this trip must wear their school uniform. The school have taken the decision to not sell Red Noses this year due to the complication of age/restriction safety.

Dogs on the School Site

Please could we remind Parents/Carers that the school does not allow dogs onto the school grounds. This is part of our safeguarding responsibility to the children on-site. Thank you.

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.