



Steam Mills Primary

13.02.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

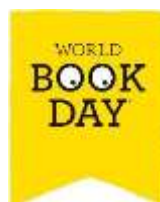
Forest School – Reception Children

Mrs Evans is planning to restart Forest School on Friday mornings after half-term from **Friday 27th February** (*apologies for the wrong month stated on last weeks newsletter!*). Please ensure your child comes into school dressed appropriately and also has wellington boots. We are also looking for 1 or 2 parent volunteers to come along and assist. Please let Mrs Evans or Miss Agg know if you can spare the time to support.



World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

World book day is on Thursday 5th March. To celebrate this year we will be wearing pyjamas to have a hot chocolate and story. We will also be running a book swap on this day. Please wrap a book up at home and write 3 clues on the front of the paper e.g. The Gruffalo- preschool/ EYFS book, animals, forest. Children will be able to bring these books into their classes and swap as a mystery book. They will then keep the book that they have chosen from the swap. Children will be completing other book themed activities during the school day.



Parents Evenings – Tuesday 24th March and Wednesday 25th March

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 24th March and Wednesday 25th March. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 are made via our eSchools system which is open for booking from 3:15pm today. The meetings are in 10 minute slots, please adhere to this time limit. Appointments start at 2:30pm (except for C2 on Tuesday due to Gymnastics) on both days; this is to ensure there are enough slots for all parents to attend. If you do not book on the parent evening days, please do not assume an appointment will be available on another day as this will not be possible before the end of term. The booking window closes on **Friday 20th March at 3:15pm**. Please let Miss Agg know if you would like to see Miss Barber (SENCO) or if you are experiencing any difficulties making bookings. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.



Diary Dates

Spring Term 2026

5th January-27th March

Summer Term 2026

13th April-20th July

Half Terms

25th May-29th May

INSET days: 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

February

23rd Start of Term 4

SATS Booster sessions start for Y6

24th C2 start Gymnastics

March

5th World Book Day

18th In the Net – Y4's to St. Whites

20th Y1&Y2 Trip to Slimbridge

24th Parents Evening (details to follow)

Federation PE Morning Y1/2

25th Parents Evening

27th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – bottles for Summer Fayre

Tombola

End of Term 4

April

13th Start of Term 5

15th- Class 4 Residential Trip

17th

May

7th Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

11th SATS week
Rags 2 Riches

20th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – Tombola for Summer Fayre

21st Sponsored Walk

22nd Inset Training Day and last day of Term 5

June

1st Start of Term 6

12th Sports Morning

18th Federation Day (Sports)
Y3/4am, Y5/6pm

19th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – Sweet Donations

26th FoSM Summer Fayre

July

15th Leavers Disco

Track – Reminder to all Parents/Carers to please adhere to the one way system and 5mph speed limit for the track. We have had another near miss this week.

Class Snippets

Pre-School – we have had a lovely week, baking love heart biscuits and decorating them, making love heart cake pops, playing Valentines bingo and using lots of lovely collage to create heart pictures to take home. We have also enjoyed lots and lots of dancing!!



Class 1 – this week we have continued learning about the first moon landing; the children have created fact files and fact posters as collaborative pieces of work. The children have enjoyed making junk model rockets and using bingo dabbers to make pictures. Reception sound this week is the Yellow I 'igh' trigraph, and HFW's are (like, by, when, what). In maths we have been practising our counting and practising the skill of adding 1 more.

Class 2 had another brilliant week. I am seeing such wonderful handwriting and lots of the Y2 children are starting to join their letters. In maths, the Y2 children have moved onto a new unit of work on length and looked at scales using times table knowledge. In geography, we created weather forecasts and presented them to the class. The children have worked so hard this term and celebrated winning class stars on Wednesday afternoon. In phonics Y1 have covered ear in bear and y in happy. They have some sounds to consolidate in book bags following recent assessments. Y2 have recapped gn in gnome silent g. Have a fantastic half term break and remember we have gymnastics starting on the first Tuesday back.

Class 3 - what a fantastic final week it's been in Class 3! We finished our guided reading with *Zombierella*, which was a huge hit with everyone. In English, the children proudly published their instructional writing before forming a judging panel to review six beautiful books sent to us by The Royal Society. They were very excited to take on this important role and look forward to exploring the books further in the coming weeks. To celebrate the Winter Olympics, we enjoyed a lively session of New Age Kurling in the hall. The competition between the two year groups was fierce — and ended in a well-deserved draw! In Maths, Year 3 completed their unit on column addition, while Year 4 wrapped up column subtraction. In Art, the children finished their striking watercolour Viking seascapes inspired by J.M.W. Turner. We also marked Children's Mental Health Week by reflecting on what it means to belong. Well done, Class 3, for a wonderful week and a fantastic term! ✨

Class 4 have been working on their art this week and they are very proud with how this work is coming along - the children have worked hard to reflect the vibrant colours of Rousseau in their own pieces with some lovely details. In Science, the children have been finishing their unit of work on Animals including Humans and they have conducted an investigation into growth rates across the school, which showed some interesting data. There has been lots of learning this term so we hope the children enjoy a week off! Just a quick reminder that SATs Boosters start for Y6 the week we come back 😊



**Star of the Week Certificates**

Pre-school
Joey - for showing interest in mark making and forming letters from his name.
Izzy - while exploring the magnetic letters, Izzy found all of the letters from her name.

Class 1
Daisy - for writing a whole sentence with an adult.
Ella - for working hard on her letter formation.
Star readers: Noah, Locke & Harrison

Class 2
Reggie - for continuing more confidently in class discussions.
Luca - for an enthusiastic attitude towards geography when comparing climates.

Class 3
Lewis - for being a super mathematician.
Sybil - improved confidence and accuracy in maths.

Class 4
Serenity – for a great art piece.
Bertie – for great explanations in Science.

Attendance Snippet

Where can I get help if my child is too anxious to go to school?

Attending school usually helps to protect your child's mental health, for a range of reasons including giving them a chance to be with friends and to benefit from learning. However, some children can be anxious or worried about going to school, particularly around the start of the new year or joining a new school or class. It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes.

Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, school work or sensory problems.

If their anxiety continues and becomes an attendance issue, you should speak to your child's school together with your child about why they are anxious and what can be done to help them. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, it might be good to talk to your GP or school nurse. You can also find some useful advice from the NHS on anxiety in children and at Young Minds. These sites will help you work through likely reasons together with your child, what to do and how to make sure that you get the right support if there are more serious issues.

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