



# Steam Mills Primary

29.09.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

## Wye Valley Music Workshops

We were very lucky to have Wye Valley Music visit us yesterday. The children enjoyed listening and clapping along to various musical instruments from around the world! Thank you to Mrs Evans for arranging this lovely experience for the whole school and for the follow-on Workshop for Class 3. We had amazing feedback from the Wye Federation Chair of Governors who said that our school has as lovely feel to it and the children really impressed him in the hall with the participation and musical skills. Well done Steam Mills!



## Tempest Photography

Our school photographer will be visiting this coming Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. This visit is for sibling and individual photos of the children. If you have a younger sibling who is too young for Preschool, not in our Pre-school on this day or does not attend our Pre-school setting; you are welcome to come into school with them between 8:30am and 9:00am for a sibling photo to be taken. Proofs of these photos will be printed and handed to parents at the time. Any children with siblings in School/Pre-school, will have their sibling photos taken later during the morning. Any queries, please contact Miss Agg.

## NHS Illness/COVID-19 Guidance

With the increase in COVID-19 illness, please could we remind you of the current NHS guidance for school children, this is also a useful site for other illnesses that could impact decisions regarding school attendance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/#:~:text=COVID%2D19,have%20a%20high%20temperature>

## Start of the School Day & Drop and Go

**The KS1 and KS2 gates** are still being used as "Drop and Go", this causes congestion and backing up on to the main road, which could cause an accident. Please use the designated "Drop and Go" at the main car park. Thank you.

## Term Dates 2023-24

### Autumn Term

4<sup>th</sup> Sept —22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct—3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

### Spring term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> January—22<sup>nd</sup> March  
Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Summer Term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> April—22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Half Term: 27<sup>th</sup>—31<sup>st</sup> May

### INSET days:

6<sup>th</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> December,  
24<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> July

## Diary Dates

### October

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tempest Individual/Sibling photos
- 4<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Virtual Egypt Event
- 10<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings 3:30-6:15pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Konflux Theatre visiting C3
- 13<sup>th</sup> Nasal Flu Immunisations
- 17<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings 3:30-6:15pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Phonics Workshop for parents in Pre-school, Class 1 & 2 (2:45pm)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Class 4 Trip to Birmingham Museum
- 25<sup>th</sup> Coram Life Education Visit (PSHE) whole school
- 26<sup>th</sup> Provisional date for FoSM School Disco
- 27<sup>th</sup> Last day of Term – FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – donation for Xmas Tombola/Hamper
- 30<sup>th</sup> Half-term Holiday

### November

- 6<sup>th</sup> Inset Training Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 2
- 24<sup>th</sup> FoSM Wreath Making Event
- 28<sup>th</sup> Panto Workshop Classes 1, 2 and 3

### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pantomime – Classes 1-4 (details to follow)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Pre-school Christmas Play Trip (details to follow)
- 15<sup>th</sup> FoSM Christmas Fayre
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Training Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holidays

### January

- 24<sup>th</sup> Rags 2 Riches Collection

## Childhood Nasal Flu Programme – Reception-Y6

The NHS school vaccination team will be visiting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. All Parents/Carers should have received letters home in book bags. **All forms are required to be returned**, even if you do not wish your child to have the vaccination.

## Free School Meals/Universal Free School Meals

If your child has recently started in Reception and would like to try our school meals, we have lovely meals brought in each day from our Caterers, AiP. These meals are bookable through our ParentPay system (you should have received login details when your child started with us). Please note that there is a 48 hour cut-off for booking meals.

All children in Year R, 1 and 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) and some families may qualify for actual Free School Meals (FSM) depending on family circumstances. Under the UFSM system the school receives funding to cover the cost of

meals and under the FMS system, the school also receives an additional amount per child that can be used by the school in other areas to support learning and some extended school services. Please could we ask all parents who have children in Classes 1 and 2, who have not already done so, to follow the link below and submit an application, this will mean that the school receives the necessary funding for either **FSM or UFSM?** It may be useful for you to know, if you don't already, that FSMs are granted for the current phase of education, so if you find your circumstances change on a temporary basis in the future, then please apply again, as your child may qualify and will hold on to that qualification for the duration of Primary education. Thank you. Please submit your application here: [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/citizen-portal/sign-in)

## Parents Evenings

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are made via our eSchools system which is now open for booking. 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 for assistance.

Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff from Monday.

## Harvest Festival Collection – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

This year we are again donating items to the Forest Foodbank as part of our Harvest Festival celebration, supporting people in our local community. We have been asked by the Foodbank to request the following items if possible:



*Fruit Juice, Smash, Sponge Puddings, Jelly, Angel Delight, Jam, Packet Soup, Instant Noodles, Multipack Crisps, UHT Milk. Toiletries are also useful.*



The children will be having an assembly with Forest Foodbank on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October to explain what they do and how we can help. Please bring items into school on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. *Article 24- the right to nutritious food*



## Star of the Week Certificates



### Pre-school

**Tilly** – being kind and caring towards her peers.

**Beatrix** - settling so well into Pre-School.

### Class 1

**Robert, Joules & Calypso** - for their super effort with their independent writing.

### Class 2

**Bella** - always having a brilliant attitude to learning, especially in her writing.

**Evie R** - becoming confident and having a can do attitude.

### Class 3

**Fergie** - an amazing attitude towards learning in all areas.

**Jax** - for an excellent missing part of a story.

### Class 4

**Amelia** - for generating great questions, using her success criteria.

**Lily** - for persevering when she has found things tricky.

## **Phonics Workshop**

Our Phonics Lead, Mrs Fawkes will be holding a Phonics Workshop for parents/carers of children in Pre-school, Class 1 and Class 2 on Wednesday **18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2:45pm**. This is a chance for you to learn about how the school delivers its Phonics sessions and how you can support your children with their Phonics work.

## **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 we have carried on looking at autumn. We have looked around the environment for the changes that are starting to happen. We have been using tools like scissors and hole-punch to build up our fine motor skills, looking at the effect these tools have. We have also started to touch on the subject of Harvest.

**Class 1** have had a very busy week! We have been learning about the history of Steam Mills Primary School and making observations of the changes over time for our school. We have been learning new historical vocabulary and using that vocab to support our learning. Reception are really engaging with their phonics learning, the sounds we've revisited and learnt this week are (s,a,t,p,i,n) and our tricky words are (a, is, as, an, it, at). Year 1 have blown me away with their independent writing, using all of their previously learn skills to support their ideas and sentences.

**Class 2** – you may have already heard that on Monday, while the children were out to play, a big green monster came into Class 2. It wrecked the book corner and left some of its fur around the room. The children painted a picture of Miss Chamberlin's description and then we went on a monster hunt around the school to see if we could find it. On Tuesday, the children wrote wanted posters to warn other people about the monster and used wonderful adjectives to describe it. This was all to introduce our new class book - Billy and the Beast.

**Class 3** had an enjoyable week taking part in a music workshop learning to play samba patterns. They have also been writing diaries in the role of the character Hortense from our book and impressed me with their use of adverbs and use of character feeling using show don't tell. Well done Class 3!

**Class 4** have had another busy week. They have practiced their writing skills this week: writing questions that had to have different structures; a diary entry; and slow writing. They have also been working hard in Art and were creating some complex tessellations. The children have really impressed Mrs Thomas this week with their Haka's; the children are considering the beat to the Ka Mate and are producing some great routines - this week they had to include two athletic throw motions (shotput/hammer throw/javelin) and their ideas were really creative - we are looking forward to the final performances in a few weeks.

## **Friends of Steam Mills (FoSM) Non-school Uniform Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

FoSM are holding a non-school uniform day on the last Friday of this term. Please could you send in donations for the Christmas Fayre, something suitable for a hamper/tombola (sweets, chocolates etc).

## **Uniform**

We have lots of second hand uniform at present. Please come into the school office if you would like a look through the items, £1 each with money going to FoSM for children's events. Please could we also remind parents/carers to name items so that they can be easily reunited with children. Thank you.

## **Illness**

Please report any absence due to illness before 9:30am via the absence option on the school answer machine. When doing so, please state the reason (ie. Cold, sickness, migraine etc.), just saying they are ill or not well is not sufficient for our absence records. Thank you.

## Xmas 4 Schools

We are again offering the Xmas 4 Schools scheme for children to create a picture to turn into a mug/ calendar etc. The forms will be distributed to children over the next few days to produce their designs. The forms will be sent home on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and need to be returned back to school by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October if you would like to order items.

## Dogs on the School Site

Please remember that the school has a no dog on site policy, even if you are carrying them. This is due to safeguarding and mental health issues, to protect all children.



## Try an Instrument Day – Gloucestershire Music

Attached are details of our 'Try an Instrument Day'. We know that lots of children would like to start playing a musical instrument but are not sure where to start. So Gloucestershire Music are running a FREE session for anyone to come and try out a variety of instruments.

Where: **Sir Thomas Rich's School** – main hall (go through car park gate 1)

When: **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 – 12.00**

Cost: **Free**

The instruments on offer to try will be:

Violin	Cello
Flute	Clarinet
Alto saxophone	Trumpet
Cornet	Tenor horn
Euphonium	Percussion

To sign up, please go to [LIVE Portal \(paritor.com\)](http://LIVE Portal (paritor.com)). Attached is a flyer with more information.

## Free Drama Workshop

Please find attached details of a Drama Workshop taking place during the half-term break.

## Ribston Hall & Denmark Road Open Events

Please find attached a flyers for Open Events.

## Newent Community School

Newent School are holding an open morning/evening on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October. The morning session is 10am - 12pm and the evening session is 8pm. There is no need to book.



6pm -

*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**