

Steam Mills Primary

03.10.2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As children are now settled well into the school year, we thought it would be useful again to send out our Parent Handbook for your information. Please find the latest copy attached to this newsletter. We have amended our uniform section to include a clause about skirt length for the girls' uniform. Very short skirts are not appropriate for school; they ideally should be just above the knee. Staff will ensure children are aware of this rule if very short skirts are seen in school. Thank you.

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 is 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. Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days, bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.



Xmas 4 Schools

Your child should have brought home information regarding this year's Xmas 4 Schools campaign. The children are invited to draw their own Christmas design which then needs to be returned to school by **Monday 20th October**. The designs will be sent to Xmas 4 Schools and parents will be sent details of how to order items for Christmas.

Harvest Festival Food Bank Collection w/c 20th October

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we will once again be collecting donations for the Forest Food Bank. Please send donations into school w/c 20th October, the Food Bank find that the following items are particularly useful:

Tinned Tomatoes, UHT Fruit Juice, Smash, Sponge Puddings, Jelly, Angel Delight, Jam, Packet Soup, instant Noodles, Multipack Crisps, UHT Milk, Tinned Spaghetti and Pasta Sauce. Toiletries and household products such as Washing Powder, Toilet Rolls and Washing-up Liquid are also useful.



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: 24th October, 5th

January, 22nd May & 20th July

Diary Dates (incl. Federation events) October

10th Y5/6 Football Tournament (for 10 chosen children in team)

13th Y3/4 Federation Trip to Cheltenham Literature Fest.

14th Parents Evenings

15th Parents Evenings

16th Reading Café

21st Y1/2 Harvest Crafts for Federation at Steam Mills

20th Harvest Festival Food Bank Collection

22nd FoSM Halloween Discos

23rd Harvest Festival Assembly – Parents welcome 2:45pm

FoSM Non-school Uniform Day

24th INSET Training Day

27th Last Day of Term 1

November

3rd Start of Term 2

10th Anti-bullying week

7th FoSM Meeting (Christmas Planning) 3:15pm

11th Remembrance Day

12th C2 Trip to Aerospace Bristol

14th Children in Need Day

20th C4 Trip to Birmingham Think Tank

28th FoSM Non-school Uniform Day
FoSM Wreath Making

December

3rd FoSM KS2 Panto Trip

4th FoSM EYFS & KS1 Trip to Raglan Farm Park

5th Christmas Fayre - 1:30pm

8th Short Reports to Parents/Carers

17th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day

Friends of Steam Mills Halloween School Discos!!!

FoSM have set the date for the next school disco for **Wednesday 22nd October**.

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. Year 1&2 parents to drop children off and leave, please ensure you are back promptly to collect.

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 £1 on the door (please bring exact money). Tuckshop will be available; please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

Please can we ask, if at all possible, if you have siblings in the two different key stage groups that arrangements are made for them to be brought to their discos separately? We have very limited space in the school hall. Thank you

Harvest Festival Assembly/FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – 23rd October

We will also be holding a Harvest Festival Assembly on Friday 23rd October at 2:40pm, all Parents/Carers are welcome. Collection of children will then be at the normal time (3:00pm for Pre-school and 3:15pm for C1-4) from your usual collection point.

This day will also be a non-school uniform day and FoSM are asking for donations of bottles for the Christmas Fayre bottle tombola please, rather than the usual £1.

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 the children have been very busy creating some Autumn inspired crafts and exploring different media and materials to create their own master pieces. They have made Hedgehogs - adding a variety of leaves and printed spikes using forks in paint and Handprint Trees - adding colourful finger print leaves. The children initiated and have shown a real interest in hairdressing role play so we have embraced lots of hair appointments and various styles, clips, bows... you name it!!

Class 1 – this week in Class 1, we have been discussing where we live. The children shared some wonderful answers collectively about how we all live in England, most of us live in the Forest of Dean, but in different areas. We have been using the classroom resources to build houses, following a discussion of where we all live and the features of our homes. The children have also been sharing about their families and have drawn family portraits for you to see at Parents' Evening on our class display. Reception sounds this week are (m, d, g) and HFW's (am, and, dad).

Class 2 have had a brilliant week with lots of great learning taking place. We have been learning about shapes in maths. The Y1s have been recognising squares, rectangles, triangles and circles. The Y2s have been recognising pentagons, hexagons, octagons and naming 3D shapes. The children had lots of fun using lolly sticks to make 2D shapes and the polydron to make 3D shapes. In geography, we explored the UK and names countries/ capital cities. The children even drew some flags to show these. We did an experiment in science to find out which materials were waterproof



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Jay - for always using such beautiful manners.
Sienna - for being super helpful and kind to both adults and peers.

Class 1

Noah - for practising his name every day.
Daisy - for trying her best to follow school expectations.
Star readers - Logan, Locke & Layton.

Class 2

Theo - for amazing effort in all areas of learning.
Luca - for showing enthusiasm in maths when adding and subtracting 10.

Class 3

Austin - great effort in all subjects and improved handwriting.
Piper - Great effort and contributions.

Class 4

Xander - for excellent slow writing homework.
Blake J - for fantastic effort and thoughtful choices when writing his memoir.



and we have been doing lots of activities to find materials in our classroom. Phonic sounds to practise this week are: Y1s- ai and a-e (angry red A) e.g. train, plain and make, cake. Y2s: le, el and il as tricky witch e.g. bottle, tunnel and pencil.



Class 3 – we've had another brilliant week in Class 3! In writing, the children took on the role of Hortense to write letters to the shadow, cleverly using compound sentences in their work. In maths, Year 3 have been exploring 100 more and less with 3-digit numbers, while Year 4 have been rounding 4-digit numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. Science was all about food chains and energy transfer – the children loved creating and labelling their own. In *My Happy Mind*, we discovered three different parts of the brain and how they help us stay calm, relaxed and happy.

Class 4 have completed their computing unit about E-safety this week. As always, they were very knowledgeable of our SMART rules (Safe, Meet, Accepting, Reliable, Tell). They have a solid foundation of which to build upon of how to stay safe online and how to act when they see or hear something that they are unsure about - well done class 4; keep using your fantastic skills. In English, they have now completed writing their memoirs. There were some thoughtful word choices and sentence types used and they also drew upon the knowledge they have of these historically influential women. The children have been given a stanza to learn for their group poetry performance; can you please make sure they take some time to learn this. They can even perform it to you at home!

Newent School

Upcoming Open Days at Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre:

As Headteacher of Newent Community School, I am delighted to invite all Year 6 parents and carers to our upcoming Open Events. These occasions offer a wonderful opportunity to explore our vibrant school community, meet our dedicated staff, and discover the wide range of academic and enrichment opportunities we provide. Whether you're joining us for a daytime tour or an evening presentation, we look forward to welcoming you and sharing how Newent Community School nurtures ambition, celebrates individuality, and supports every student to thrive.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/AOUvx8MGjAc?feature=share>

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.

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.

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

