



Steam Mills Primary

17.12.21



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of term.....

I would like to thank our staff, parents/carers for their support and understanding, as always, but particularly during the last few weeks. The school has faced many challenges to keep classes open and the school operating as it should with many staff going above and beyond their normal responsibilities with some working extra-uncontracted hours to help. Thank you!

Please enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming children back on Wednesday 5th January 2022!

Christmas Carols & Hot Chocolate

What a lovely time the children had performing their Christmas Carols on Wednesday after school. Many thanks to the staff for all the rehearsals and coaching to enable the children to perform so well. Many thanks to FoSM for the wonderful cakes and hot chocolate and thank you to parents/carers for supporting this event.



Christmas Dinner

A big thank you to Mrs Molyneux and all the lunchtime staff for a wonderful Christmas Dinner yesterday – the children enjoyed the food and the lovely Christmassy atmosphere.



Diary Dates



December

17th Last Day of Term 2 –
FoSM non-school
uniform day & Class
Christmas Parties

January

4th Inset Training Day
5th Children start Term 3
24th Bikeability Training
for Year 5 (letter to
follow in January)
26th Rags to Riches
Collection

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children. The school raised an amazing £109!



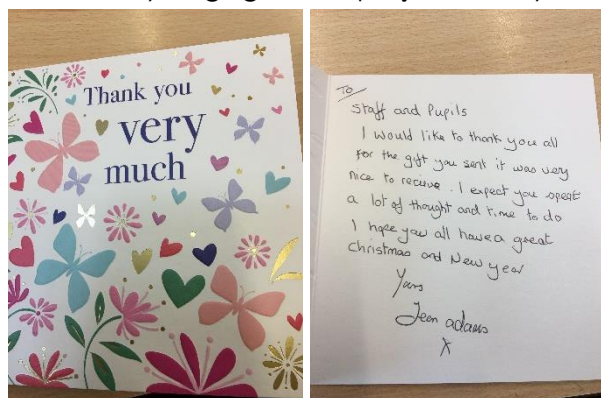
Pre-school Trip

Well done to our Pre-school who went to Cheltenham on Tuesday to see Santa's Best Ever Christmas! They all behaved so well and enjoyed the show and meeting Santa.



Thank you

Class 3 received this lovely thank you card from one of the recipients of the gift they made as part of the community engagement project for Wyldwood Arts. Well done again Class 3!



Class 3 Christmas

Here are some photos also of some of Class 3's Christmas activities. Christingles and cards were made and they did carol singing while the candles were lit.



Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Information received again from HAF to update you on our Holiday Activities & Food programme (HAF) and our Holiday Activities Programme (HAP) offers, to let you know about some exciting activities available for children and young people.

COVID-19 update:

The Department for Education has updated its COVID-19 Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus outbreak ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)) <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>>.

We are encouraging all of our participants to read through this in the lead up to 20 December to reduce the risk of infection. We are also working closely with our providers to make sure their provision is safe for families to attend.

HAF/HAP Provision:

There is just one more week for families to book their HAF/HAP activities. For more information and to book, visit gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

Below we have highlighted some of the county-wide HAP offers that are available to all families, not just those whose children are eligible for free school meals. These include details of an online yoga video platform that promotes health and mental wellbeing, which parents can access from now:

YogaBugs

Parents are now able to get free access to virtual healthy screen time until mid-February 2022.

Taking less than 60 seconds to sign up, YogaBugs virtual is a digital yoga and wellbeing platform that includes hundreds of children's & adult's videos for families to take part in from the comfort of their own home!

CLICK HERE <<https://yogabugs.com/parent-form/>> to watch a short video to find out why it's good! For all terms and conditions, please click here<<https://yogabugs.com/terms-conditions-2/>>
Why sign up?

It is free and has tonnes of benefits including improving sleeping patterns, helping everyone feel calm and relaxed, improving confidence, and keeping everyone active over the cold winter months. It is suitable for children with SEND. To begin the process to claim access to the site and sign up, parents will need to visit: <https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/event/120134>

STEM Activities for children and young people: We also have 2 very exciting STEM based activities that families can reserve tickets for that involve engineering and computer science. Please see details below:

Educraft: 6-16 year olds can travel back in time to discover what coding was like 40 years ago by using the very same computers, which were used back then! Children will be designing and animating their very own video game as well as having the opportunity to kick back and play some classic games. A great opportunity to learn and play for all the gamers out there! Click here for more information and to book.<<https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/event/120124>> You can also view a trailer they have put together to advertise their offer this December by clicking here<<https://youtu.be/G1cEIJNlJhY>>.

Bloodhound: 6-15 year olds will have the opportunity to see 'engineering in action'; learning about various science engineering technologies such as the Bloodhound Land Speed Record



Head Teacher Certificates



Pre-school

Brody - fantastic joining in and singing at the Christmas show

Tiago - brilliant listening and great participation at the Christmas show

All of Pre-School for being brilliant on our Christmas trip Tuesday!

Class 1

Elora - for being helpful and keeping to the class rules.

Annabelle - for being helpful and keeping to the class rules.

Class 2

Ruby - for determination and resilience in multiplication.

Harry - for a great improvement in gymnastics.

Class 3

Olly - for a creative stocking design.

Darcey - for working hard to develop sewing skills.

Class 4

Rily - great work on space fact file.

Annabelle - great work on space fact file.

Car. Afterwards, children will have the opportunity to build and race their very own prototype car! At the end of the day, you will be leaving with a souvenir from the day and activity pack for the family to take part in back at home. Click here for more information and to book.<<https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/event/120130>>

Breakfast Club and After School Club Bookings - January

Please could you ensure that you complete a new booking form for next term if you require either Breakfast Club or After School Club. There is a regular slot booking form and a single session booking form. Although we strive to provide parents/carers with a flexible service, as much notice as possible would be appreciated for all bookings. Some days have been close to our safeguarding limit and we may not be able to accommodate last minute requests. We have attached the forms for your information but these are also available from reception.

Rags to Riches

We have signed up to the Rags2Riches4Schools recycling scheme again, to help others around the world benefit from our good quality unwanted clothes and shoes. The school (FoSM) gets 40p for every kilo we collect of reusable items. Our next collection will be **26 January 2022** so please keep us in mind if you are planning to have a sort out.

Covid19 Update

The school's Covid-19 risk assessment has been reviewed for Jan 2022 and is available on the website.

Forestry England – Wellbeing

Forestry England have forwarded their December update, this month focuses on [Forests for Wellbeing](#).

Research shows that spending time in forests can improve our health and wellbeing. They are especially restorative environments with the sounds, sights and smells of the forest helping to reduce stress by stimulating the senses. Just think of the scent of pine needles crushed under-foot. Studies show that people relax best while seeing greens and blues.

Heading for the trees is the perfect way to take time out. So if you're planning to visit one of the nation's forests over Christmas, why not download and print our free [Forests for Wellbeing booklet](#)? This includes tips for forest bathing, inspiration for adventure, Carol Ann Duffy's poem, FOREST, (commissioned to celebrate the centenary of the Forestry Commission), and a forest memories notepad.



Best Wishes
Mrs Davis