



Steam Mills Primary

10.03.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

World Book Day (Article 29- Education should develop a child's talents and personalities)

Last week, children enjoyed wearing their pyjamas to school and settled down with a biscuit and story by a cosy fire. Children all really enjoyed this day and were also able to take part in a book swap. It was lovely to see the children excited about books!

On Friday, we had a special visitor- Mrs Taylor. She came to Steam Mills to run two workshops about her books. The children in KS1 and EYFS had a sneaky peek at a new book that is waiting to be published called 'The Sun that didn't want to set' and KS2 listened to a chapter of her third book, also waiting to be published. Children completed activities and engaged well during the afternoon.

Mrs Taylor would like to use some photographs for her website and social media from her visit. Children without permission are not on any photos, however, if you do not wish for photographs of your child to be on her website or social media, please let the office know by Friday

17th March. **(Article 16- The right to privacy).**



School Calendar 22/23

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

March

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

Red Nose Day

FoSM Meeting – 3:15pm

21st Parents Evenings – all classes

27th Parents Evenings – Class 2 only

28th Parents Evenings – Class 1, 3&4

31st FoSM Non-school Uniform Day

Last Day of Term 4

April

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

17th Start of Term 5

19th Class 3 Trip to Caerleon Roman Fortress (Article 29)

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) (Article 31- relax and play)



Head Teacher Certificates

Pre-school

Harvey – forming a H for his name.

Poppy – forming the letters of her name independently.

Class 1

Maddison - for being amazing at her tricky words! (Can read and write her tricky words with ease).

Brody - for being amazing all of last week! (Following instructions, making good choices and having his listening ears on).

Class 2

Chester - amazing effort in writing!

Lily M - great work in everything she does! Especially in maths.

Class 3

Sam - putting 100% effort into everything he does.

Oliver - a keen interest and excellent participation in geography.

Class 4

Olly – for using astute prediction skills in Science.

Lily – for effort and focus in maths.

Class 1 & 2 Trip

Further to our email yesterday to Parents/Carers, there has been a marked improvement today. We are continuing to monitor the situation for the trip to go ahead next week. Parents will be spoken to if their child is found to be one of the children urinating on the floor.

Visit from White Horse Federation (Maths)

Well done to all the children today who behaved so well when we had our visitors in observing from the White Horse Federation.

British Science Week

As part of British Science Week we will be sending some conversation starters home via eSchools email for you to discuss as a family at home. There's no real right or wrong answers, it's just a chance for you to get talking at home about Science. Keep an eye out on Monday for the first one!

Friends of Steam Mills

FoSM are holding their next fundraising meeting on Friday 17th March at 3:15pm at school. Please so come along if you are able to, all welcome!

Reading Certificates

For completing Reading Challenges in class

Class 1

Charlie and Bella

Class 2

Sybil and Freddie

Class 3

Beatrice, Isabelle and Eva-reading 50 times.

Class 4

David



Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 17th March 2023 with a non-school uniform/wear something red day. A donation of £1 per child is requested. The school have taken the decision to not sell Red Noses this year due to the complication of age restriction safety.

Coronation Fundraiser – Artwork

The school is taking part in the Artwork scheme again like we did at Christmas, run by Xmas4schools. Children will be creating a design in class and will be bringing this home on or before 17th March, ready for parents/carers to submit orders for mugs and/or tea towels by Friday 24th March. **(Article 30- Children have the right to their own culture).**



Parents Evenings

Parent's evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 21st March (all classes), Monday 27th March (Class 2 only) and Tuesday 28th March (Classes 1, 3 and 4), between 3:30pm and 6:15pm in the School Hall. The booking system is now live and closes the day before each Parents Evening. If you have any issues booking your child a slot, please contact Miss Agg. Please also note that appointments are strictly limited to a maximum of 10 minutes per child.

If you would like your appointment to include a discussion with Miss Barber (SEN), we would be grateful if you could sent an email to admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk to request this.

Pre-school have recently sent out a letter to all Pre-school parents detailing the arrangements for their Parents Evenings on Tuesday 21st March and Tuesday 28th March in the School Hall including details of how to book. **(Article 5- Family guidance as children develop)**

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.

The strike days that are may affect schools in this area are:

- **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 children have been busy creating their coronation picture – choosing from using hands or pom-poms to paint or using crayons and coloured paper. They have also decorated a crown using a variety of sparkly resources. We have loved playing in the snow – experimenting with coloured water and pipettes.

Class 1 - we have had a busy week in Class 1 this week. We have been learning about King Charles and his coronation, and we have been doing our coronation pictures ready to go home next week. We have revisited measuring length and height, and have been measuring our classroom toys with cubes. The sound we have been learning this week is 'igh', with the HFW's of 'like, what, by, when, little'.

This week, **Class 2** have been working really hard in everything! They have been doing a few challenges in maths and reading and have been super stars in these! Always trying their best and working hard. We started reading our class book - The Journey Home- and the class are enjoying this a lot. The first character we met was a polar bear who was upset about his ice melting. We are very lucky that it snowed this week as we had the chance to go and collect some snow and think about why it melts. We also completed an experiment to see how long it takes a cup of snow to melt indoors. Some cups took 1 hour and others took 2 hours; we discussed why some cups would take longer and Class 2 decided if it had more snow in it, it would be slower to melt.

Class 3 writing - As part of our writing unit, class 3 children will be writing their own fairy tales. There is a competition called 'Cook up a fairy tale' through the British Library with the chance to win book tokens for your school. Children will all be writing fairy tales as their writing unit and we are hoping to enter these into the competition. See link. [Cook up your own fairy tales | The British Library \(bl.uk\)](https://www.bl.uk/learning/primary/competitions/cook-up-a-fairy-tale)

If you do not wish for your child's writing to be entered, please let myself or the office know by Friday 17th March.

Class 4 have worked hard this week! They won class stars so a treat will be coming soon and they have done well to earn lots more since. It has been a busy week because of assessments and the children have tried very hard to achieve their best, all showing agency and respect towards their work. In Science, the children enjoyed learning about refraction and conducting two investigations – the illusions created by water surprised them! In art, they have been working to try and create colours they will be able to apply in their paintings. We also had some visitors into their Maths lesson today and they were AMAZED with children's work ethic and effort!

Rights Respecting – Article of the Week

Article 17- Children have the right to access information. Have a think about all of the ways in which you access information.

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. 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 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).

Debt Policy

In addition to the updated Charging Policy, we have updated and created a new SMWF Debt Policy which you can find attached and also on the school website.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

We would like to give every eligible family the opportunity to experience the fantastic support available from the Holiday Activities and Food programme, so making sure they're HAF ready when booking opens on 16 March is really important to us.

Previously, most activity bookings have been taken up in the first few days of bookings going live and we don't want any families to miss out. It is available for children who receive benefits related free school meals and are in reception to year 11.

We have attached a flyer for your information, there are fantastic opportunities available this spring holiday. **(Article 24- the right to food, clothing and clean air.)**

Gloucestershire Families Magazine

Here is the **link** to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine](#).

The **Mar/Apr 2023** issue is loaded with useful information for parents including:

- Family walk downloadable challenges
- Mother's Day gift ideas
- Hosting an egg hunt
- Top Easter Eggs 2023
- Top value family holiday destinations
- Engaging your child with history
- and loads more.....

To view the magazine simply click on the link

Home Start

We have been asked to share the attached flyer about Home Start. It is a get together for families with a child under the age of 5 years of age.

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.