



# Steam Mills Primary

23.01.2026



Dear Parents/Carers

## Please Don't Forget - Rags2Riches Collection – Tuesday

Our next collection for Rags2Riches is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The school receives so much per kilo and this money is always gratefully received by FoSM. Please leave bags in the playground, opposite the gate or in the library depending on weather. You can find details of what is collected here: <https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/what-we-collect/> Thank you.



## Reading Café – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

There will be our next reading taking place on Tuesday. All parents/carers and children are welcome to come along and enjoy a book together and refreshments.



## National Grid Works – 2<sup>nd</sup> February

We have been informed that work will commence on the removal of overhead power cables in the vicinity of the school w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The work will start over in the Branch area but will later impact the lane to the school with temporary traffic lights. National Grid have agreed to use the February half-term to carry out the work across the lane, so as not to impact access to the school carpark.

## Bikeability Training for Year 5's – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

All Year 5 children should have received a Bikeability Training letter during the last week. If you would like your child to take part, please return your signed permission by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. There is also a letter offering a free bike check the week before, please let Miss Agg know if you would like to take up this offer, it will be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** and bikes that have a check are welcome to stay in school until training starts on Monday. Thank you.



## Breakfast Club and After School Club Booking & Payments

Please could all parents/carers using Breakfast Club and After School Club ensure that payment is made in **advance**. The school has a no Debt Policy and Miss Agg will be chasing up any outstanding debt. Please could we also ask that bookings are made in advance, wherever possible. We are very close to our maximum safeguarding numbers on a few days and need to ensure that we have the required staffing levels in place. Thank you.



## Diary Dates

### Spring Term 2026

5<sup>th</sup> January-27<sup>th</sup> March

### Summer Term 2026

13<sup>th</sup> April-20<sup>th</sup> July

### Half Terms

16<sup>th</sup> February-20<sup>th</sup> February

25<sup>th</sup> May-29<sup>th</sup> May

**INSET days:** 22<sup>nd</sup> May & 20<sup>th</sup> July

### Diary Dates (incl. Federation events)

#### January

27<sup>th</sup> Rags2Riches Collection  
Reading Café

#### February

2<sup>nd</sup> National Grid to start work on Electricity Cables around the school

Bikeability Free Bike Checks

9<sup>th</sup> Y5's Bikeability Training  
Mental Health Week

11<sup>th</sup> Federation Mental Health Afternoon Y5/6

13<sup>th</sup> FoSM Non-school Uniform £1 donation  
Last day of Term 3

23<sup>rd</sup> Start of Term 4  
SATS Booster sessions start for Y6

24<sup>th</sup> C2 start Gymnastics

#### March

5<sup>th</sup> World Book Day (details TBC)

24<sup>th</sup> Federation PE Morning Y1/2

27<sup>th</sup> FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – bottles for Summer Fayre Tombola  
End of Term 4

#### April

13<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 5  
15<sup>th</sup>- Class 4 Residential Trip

17<sup>th</sup>

#### May

7<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography – Class photos and leavers photos

11<sup>th</sup> SATS week  
Rags 2 Riches

20<sup>th</sup> FoSM Non-school Uniform Day – Tombola for Summer Fayre

21<sup>st</sup> Sponsored Walk

22<sup>nd</sup> Inset Training Day and last day of Term 5

#### June

1<sup>st</sup> Start of Term 6

12<sup>th</sup> Sports Morning

26<sup>th</sup> FoSM Summer Fayre

## Attendance Snippet

My child has a short term illness. Do they have to go to school, and will I be penalised if they don't?

If your child is ill, read the NHS's 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice to help you decide whether they can go to school. If they are too ill to attend, you are not breaking the law and will not be penalised. You should let the school know as soon as possible on the first day of absence and schools must record such absences as authorised. If the absence due to illness is ongoing or frequent you should speak to your child's school to see what support can be put in place.

## Class Snippets

**Pre-School** – the children have been thoroughly enjoying watching the builders progress as the Preschool building has been knocked down, we have taken photos and cheered as the last part came down on Wednesday! We have continued looking at birds, spotting them and making bird feeders. The children have used their fingerprints to make spiders and practiced their fine motor skills tracing webs. We have also watched in awe, a time lapse of a spider weaving its web.



**Class 1** – Receptions sounds this week, Angry Red A 'ai' and Black Cat 'or'. HFW's (it's, do, so). In maths we have been looking at the composition of 5, more specifically, the number bonds of 5. We have been using 5 speckled frogs to support this concept, which the children have enjoyed. In science we have been identifying and group animals into their groups. We have been discussing the specific characteristics of each group, such as mammals having hair/fur and are warm blooded. The children were very surprised that humans belong in the same group as dolphins.

**Class 2** amazed me with their knowledge of animals this week. They practically sorted them into their groups and explained the features of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish. In geography, we have been thinking about what to wear in different types of weather. They had lots of fun making their own summer themed dance in PE by working in groups to make wave movements. They have written manuals in writing to explain how to look after a cloud and they have generated some fantastic ideas. The children had lots of fun in music exploring different types of music including blues and baroque styles to compare them and in art have been using chalks and oil pastels to create swirls in the style of Van Gogh. Sounds for the week are Y1- or- torch, ore- more and aw- tricky witch straw. Y2- g tricky witch revision as j in gentle giraffe.

**Class 3** – another busy and exciting week in Class 3! In maths, Year 3 have begun their new unit on fractions, exploring both unit and non-unit fractions, and I have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and understanding. Meanwhile, Year 4 have been powering through their multiplication and division work, focusing on the 11x and 12x tables. We have continued reading *Zombierella* during guided reading sessions. The children are thoroughly enjoying the story and have been making some excellent predictions about what might happen next. In science, we carried out another hands-on experiment, investigating whether the type of chocolate affects how quickly it melts — and yes, there was a little taste-testing involved too! Finally, in PSHE, we discussed what it means to be a 'Super Surfer' and explored ways to stay safe online. A fantastic week of learning!



## Star of the Week Certificates



### Pre-school

**Billy** - for settling so well into Preschool and showing such great confidence.

**Lottie** - for showing more confidence when mark making and forming letters from her name.

### Class 1

**Tommy** - for his brilliant knowledge of animals in science.

**Benahim** - for working more independently in English.

**Star readers** – Brodie, Noah, Locke, Layton

### Class 2

**Josie** - settling in well.

**Bella** - beautiful presentation using joined handwriting.

### Class 3

**Annabelle** - great contributions to class discussions.

**Charlie** - working well in maths.

### Class 4

**Brooke** - for resilience and bravery in swimming.

**Lily** - for greater understanding and independence in maths.

**Class 4** – this week Class 4 had a visitor from Forest High School – Mrs Willis. She is the Spanish teacher there and has been to visit Class 4 twice this year so far. She has been teaching Spanish based around a different topic for each visit! The children have loved getting to know a different language and also seen how they can make links to the languages they already know. This has helped to develop understanding quicker than expected! They were also once again complimented on how good their pronunciation is – well done class 4! In art, we have been honing our sketching skills by looking at Henry Rousseau's 'Surprise! Tiger In A Storm' and trying to sketch a tiger. Their focus and determination have been brilliant and some wonderful pieces have been drawn so far.

### **Childrensfund FSM for Half-term**

We would like to make you aware of the holiday Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme that Gloucestershire County Council is currently offering to families in Gloucestershire.



Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the February half-term 2026 will be open from midday 19 January until midday on 26 January. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 9 February. Please check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If you have not received vouchers by 16 February, please submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)

This February half-term, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of **£15 per child for one week**.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, those wishing to find out more about eligibility and the scheme can do so by visiting our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the February half-term vouchers**  
- they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school does not currently use this method, we will require confirmation from the relevant school for the child's eligibility for Free School Meals. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

**Using vouchers** – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) by the end of the holiday period.

**For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please submit an update existing details request via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#) so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.**

## 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.

**DENE MAGNA**  
**SEN Y5 OPEN MORNING**

**TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 9AM - 11AM**

School Tours, Meet our SEN Team

To book, and for more information please call us on 01594 542370 Option 6

[denemagna.co.uk](http://denemagna.co.uk)  
[sen@denemagna.glos.sch.uk](mailto:sen@denemagna.glos.sch.uk)

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CHLOE.TUBMAN@FORESTPULSE.CO.UK

THURSDAYS TERM TIME - VANTAGE POINT BUSINESS VILLAGE,  
6.30PM - 8.30PM  
MITCHELDEAN  
GL17 0DD

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**