



Steam Mills Primary

10.10.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Funding

Did you know? For every child that is entitled to free school meals the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for children (Pupil Premium). Examples of this are: free Breakfast Club, some help with uniform costs, free school milk, subsidising certain trips and residential trips for the older children. So please apply even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal. **You can still apply if your child is currently young enough to qualify (YR,1&2) for Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) as you will then have access to the other help listed above under the FSM scheme.** You can apply here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>



What are the qualifying criteria for Free School Meals?

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 per year / £616 per month, as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 14th October and Wednesday 15th October

Final reminder to book Parents Evening appointments for next week. 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.



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

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

9th Charlotte Taylor Author Visit & after school book sale

17th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day

19th Christmas Carol Service– 1:30pm

A Message from Tempest Photography

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Tuesday 14th October 2025**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3). Many thanks

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.



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.**



Star of the Week Certificates



Pre-school

Izzy - for independently forming a few letters from her name in the sand.

Class 1

Rosie - for always trying her best at everything.

Layton & Reggie - for always being engaged in his phonics learning.

Star reader - Brodie

Class 2

Oak - for great contributions during class discussions.

Daphne - for beautiful presentation of her work

Star reader – Oak for reading 25 times.

Class 3

Brody - for trying hard to improve his writing.

Jasmine - excellent contributions to class discussions.

Class 4

Ruby - for a positive attitude when doing long multiplication.

Mollie - for having resilience and a mature attitude towards all learning.



Steam Mills Fireworks/After School Club – Thursday 6th November

Cinderford Town Council have informed the school that the annual firework display will be taking place on the Steam Mills playing field this year. Please note that **After School Club will only run until 5:30pm on this day** as firework attendees will be using the carpark from 5:45pm. Thank you.



Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November

We are hoping to mark Remembrance Day with the sale of Poppies and other Poppy Appeal merchandise again this year. We will hopefully let you know the details after the half term break. Thank you



Children in Need – Friday 14th November

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 14th November with a non-school uniform day and, if possible, by wearing something spotty! We have limited amounts of Pudsey Ears (£2.50) and Pudsey Wristbands (£1) to purchase if children would like to support the charity. No other donation is required for this day.



Reception & Y6 Health Screening – Friday 21st November

All children in Reception & Year 6 year groups have received a letter giving details of this upcoming NHS Health screening.

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 – following the children's interests last week we have continued with hairdressing role play and extending on from making cakes with playdough, we have explored silicone cake cases, sand, acorns, chestnuts and twigs to make cakes, complete with candles. The children have created acorns using their hand prints and have really enjoyed the story Foggy, Foggy Forest.



Class 1 – this week, Class 1 started a new book called 'Coming to England' which is a story inspired by true events for the author Floella Benjamin. This book encouraged lots of language as we discussed the key events in the story and the different experiences that Floella had during her childhood. The reception phonics sounds are (o, c, k, ck) and HFW's are (no, go, to, into, the). In maths reception have been looking at the number for and the different shapes we can make using 4 objects. As geographers we have been looking more at where we live and the different amenities in our local area.

Class 2 have been busy learning about an artist called Kandinsky in art. They have explored how to make colours lighter or darker by adding black or white to primary colours. Today, they have used their brilliant knowledge of shapes to make artwork inspired by Kandinsky. In writing, we have been reading Billy and the Beast. We wrote an ingredients list using plurals and created our own characters using adjectives to describe. We had lots of fun in geography using blocks, 3D shapes and Lego to make physical and human features such as beaches, forests, bridges and shops. In phonics this week, Y1s have learnt e-e, i-e and o-e split digraphs. Y2s have learnt homophones e.g. see/ sea or hear/ here and al in petal.

Class 3 – Another fantastic week in Year 3/4! In maths, Year 4 wrapped up their place value topic by exploring Roman numerals and have now jumped into geometry—learning all about equilateral and isosceles triangles. Year 3 have been diving into tenths, discovering how dividing by 10 links to fractions and decimals, and practising writing them in different forms. In writing, we've been exploring past and present tense, including the tricky *past progressive*—and I was really impressed with how confidently the children tackled it! We ended the week planning an exciting information leaflet all about bandits. In RE, we had a thoughtful discussion about the Ten Commandments and their importance to Christians. We're all looking forward to our trip to the Cheltenham Literature Festival on Monday—see you bright and early.

Class 4 have had a busy week. Some children have been lucky enough to represent Year 5 and 6 at football tournament and they have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to represent out school - we know lots of children are keen for this so we look forward to further opportunities through the year. In English, we have started to look at Poetry by Langston Hughes and linking it to our learning about Hidden Figures. In Art, the children were learning how to scale up their pictures and lots of them did a really good job - there was some great teamwork to support each other with this and they were proud of their results. As a reminder to Y5, if children have lost their homework, please encourage them to ask for a spare - we always photocopy more!

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers – October 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 October Half Term 2025 will be open from midday 7 October until midday on 14 October. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 20 October. Please check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by 27 October, please encourage them to submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)



This October 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 please visit 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 October Half Term holiday vouchers – you 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.

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.

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