



Steam Mills Primary

17.10.2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Practice Fire Drill

The children had their first Fire Drill practice yesterday morning and all did exceptionally well. Thank you to all the staff for ensuring children were prepared and walked safely to the assembly point in the car park.

Before & After School Health & Safety

Please can we ask that Parents/Carers ensure their children are waiting with them in the mornings and after school whilst on the school site. **Children are not to play on or with the School's equipment.** Thank you.

Debt Policy

We are experiencing a high level of debt for Breakfast Club and After School Club at different times. Our Debt Policy clearly states that the school has a no debt policy and that clubs must be paid for in advance. Please could those parents who are not so, credit their ParentPay accounts and adhere to the school's policy. We will be monitoring payments and considering next steps available to the school; on-line bookings as we do for lunches or introducing a late payment charge are both options if there are continuing issues. Thank you.

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

20th Harvest Festival Food Bank Collection

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

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

21st NHS Health Screening (YR&Y6)

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

18th Christmas Parties

19th Christmas Carol Service– 1:30pm (no Prostars or ASC)

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 Thursday 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.**

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. Please check that you have received this information as it contains information if you would like to opt out of this check.





**FIREWORKS
DISPLAY**

Steam Mills Playing Fields, Steam Mills,
Cinderford, GL14 3JD

6th NOVEMBER 2025

GATES OPEN 5.45PM – FIREWORKS 7PM



**A SPECTACULAR LOW NOISE FIREWORK DISPLAY
PRESENTED BY CHASE LANE FIREWORKS FROM
GLOUCESTER**

A resident, animal, child, noise sensitive, friendly display!
No loud bangs, but a pretty, colourful, spectacular display with
plenty of whizzes, pops and crackles.
Food Stall, drinks, sweets all available.

ADMISSION ON THE GATE
ADULTS £5.00 – CHILDREN U12 FREE
ADMISSION CASH ONLY
Any queries contact: Julie Kingston 07790560887
julie.kingston@crossroadsglos.org.uk

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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 – the children have been using their fine motor skills to hammer golf tees into a variety of different sized pumpkins, they have taken turns, worked together and problem solved. The children then initiated painting the pumpkins which got very messy!! We have explored lots of different media to create pumpkin pictures and have carefully traced some pumpkins too. The children enjoyed making chocolate apples, complete with sprinkles- noticing changes as the chocolate melted and set again. We also have had a lot of fun creating magic potions, adding ingredients and mark making our recipes.

Class 1 – this week's reception sounds are 'e, u, r' and HFW's are 'get, got, not, on, dog, can and cat'. In maths we have been exploring the concepts of more and fewer. The children picked up the concept of 'more' very quickly. In geography we were creating journey maps of our personal journeys to and from school. In history we have been comparing differences and similarities between pictures of Steam Mills Primary School, past and present.

Class 2 have enjoyed lots of extra choosing time this week for their fantastic effort in their learning. They designed their own beaches in geography, labelling the human and physical features they had drawn. They then built beaches using Lego, blocks and shape sticks. The children were very creative and designed some excellent structures. In art, they have continued to explore Kandinsky, painting their own version of different shapes. Sounds for the week are- u-e (cool blue), u-e (U-hoo) and ar (car) Y1. Spelling rules- dropping the e to add -ing (hope to hoping) and doubling the consonant e.g. hop to hopping. They have amazed me with their wonderful story writing of their own versions of Billy and the Beast. They retold their stories with such expression and have been authors, writing their very own books!

Class 3 – we began the week with an inspiring trip to the Cheltenham Literature Festival. The children loved hearing from author Cressida Cowell, and her story really sparked their imaginations. Back at school, we followed up with some fantastic dragon eye artwork! In maths, Year 3 finished their place value topic and moved on to horizontal and vertical lines. Year 4 explored the properties of parallelograms, rhombuses, and trapeziums. In writing, the children planned, edited, and published their own information leaflets — great effort all round! It was lovely to see so many of you at parents' evening — thank you for your support. We're looking forward to an exciting week ahead with special visitors and activities!

Class 4 have performed their poems this week; they all did a fabulous job with great voice projection, memorisation, group work and even actions! Thank you for supporting them with this. Due to their impressive work, each group earned a class star – well done Class 4! Continuing the theme of poetry, we have been looking at Langston Hughes poems over the last 2 weeks. Using this as inspiration, they have planned and written their own poems in English this week including themes of dreams, resilience and not giving up. In DT, the final stages of our space bags have happened with us hoping to complete them next week. This has been a tricky skill for many children in Class 4 but they have all shown great resilience and determination to complete them. 😊

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**

- 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.



Skills for Learning, Learning for Life