



### **Steam Mills Primary School**

Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3JD  
Tel/Fax: 01594 822567 Email: [admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.steammillsprimary.co.uk](http://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk)  
Head Teacher - Mel Davis

18/2/2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Last term was quite busy and short few weeks but the children crammed in lots of activities

We looked at the cold weather, investigated ice and talked about changes in the environment. The children tested their thoughts and ideas, making ice baubles – using coloured water, natural resources and sparkles and then leaving their creations out over night to see if the water would freeze.

We talked about birds in the colder weather and how they may struggle to get food with the ground being so hard. We carefully threaded cereals on to pipe cleaners and proudly placed them on the trees. We also shared bird stories which inspired us to look at different forces- push and pull- which lead beautifully to magnets and lots of play and investigation with them.





Next, we looked at Spiders and Bees-

Creating models, linking our number and sound of the week-8 and s, making chalk webs. We used potato mashers and other kitchen utensils to create bee pictures, we watched slow motion clips of spiders spinning their webs and bees collecting pollen. The children explored patterns using the peg boards and used tweezers to collect and add pom pom pollen from numbered flowers.



The children also loved being measured by the Year 6 children!





We then moved on to Snails..... We shared fiction and non-fiction books to find out more about them.

We then looked at the artist Henri Matisse and some of his well-known paintings including The Snail. The children enjoyed cutting and sticking coloured paper, like Matisse, to create their own version of the famous picture. We also experimented with Numicon, to create snails- finding different ways to make 5.



We celebrated Storytelling week- shared a different story each day, from each class in school

We have enjoyed Rhyming bingo, finding rhyming pairs and strings

We looked at the celebration of Chinese New Year. The children watched The Great Race story- told by shadow puppets, explaining why each year is named after a different animal and how the order was chosen. We loved looking at what animal we were!!

The children created blossom trees, red Chinese lanterns and enjoyed some watercolour painting.

We created dragon pictures using our handprints too.



As we begin the new term could we please ask if you could help your child by not bringing toys from home.

From this term if children do bring things in they will be put back in to their bags. This is also to prepare them for the transition to school.

If you require your child to start earlier or stay later than these times please speak to one of us or Ms Agg about our Breakfast club and Afterschool wraparound care provision.  
Thankyou

### **Tapestry**

You should of all received a Tapestry observation with your child's photos of the term. If you are yet to access Tapestry please let one of us know.

### **Pre-School Charge**

We have increased the cost per hour of the Pre-School setting to £5.50 per hour for all non-funded hours from January 2024. This is in-line with Gloucestershire County and the Steam Mills/Woodside Federation. We hope that you find this increase still offers excellent value for money and reflects the high level of provision that the school provides.

### **We are looking for.... Do you have.....?**

- Clean paint rollers/ brushes
- Off cuts of guttering, flexi hose, tubes- to help with our plans to create a water wall
- Clean 500ml type pop bottles (with lid)
- Newspapers
- Washing powder scoops

### **Important dates for your Diary**

**Monday 19th February** - Start of Spring term 4

**Thursday 7th March**- World Book Day

**Friday 15th March**- Red Nose Day

More details will follow on main school newsletter

**Friday 22nd March**- End of Spring term 4

**Monday 8th April**- Start of Summer term 5

**Thursday 23rd May**-Last day of Summer term 5

**Friday 24th May**-Inset Day

As always, if you have any questions, please mail [kstevens@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:kstevens@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk)

Many thanks.

Kelly and Laura ☺