



# Steam Mills Primary

09.02.2024



Dear Parents and Carers

## Lunches

Please could we remind all parents/carers to order their children's lunches in advance via ParentPay. The school are only supplied with food from our Catering company to order. If you haven't been able to order food, please contact the school office by 9:30am on the day to order an emergency meal or please provide a packed lunch from home. Thank you.

## Reminders for Term 4

- Prostars Clubs commence on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February for KS1 and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for KS2.
- Gymnastics at the Gymnastics Centre in Coleford start for Class 2 on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February in the afternoon.
- Swimming continues for Class 4 on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February in the afternoon.
- **Please ensure lunches are pre-ordered on Parentpay by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February, ready for our return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.**

## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

### Bedtime stories

World Book Day is upon us in the next term- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. To celebrate this year, we will be celebrating 'Bedtime stories'. We will encourage children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas for this day and they are welcome to bring a small teddy bear. If children do not wish to wear pyjamas, they are encouraged to wear comfy clothing. This is instead of dressing up. We will be reading a bedtime story in front of a 'cosy fire', drinking hot chocolate and eating biscuits. Hot chocolate and biscuits will be provided by school.

### Book swap

Children are also invited to take part in a very special book swap. In each school, a table will be set up in the hall for children to bring in a book to donate and swap for another book of their choice. It will be really lovely for the children to all be able to take a different book home at the end of the day to encourage reading for pleasure. Please ensure books brought in are in good condition for the swap.

### Book Tokens

Each child will be given a World Book Day token with a value of £1. This can be exchanged for any one of the books below. These can be redeemed from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## Term Dates 2023-24

### Autumn Term

4<sup>th</sup> Sept —22nd December  
Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> Oct—3rd Nov

### Spring term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> January—22nd March  
Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Summer Term 2024

8<sup>th</sup> April—22nd July  
Half Term: 27<sup>th</sup>—31<sup>st</sup> May

### INSET days:

24<sup>th</sup> May and  
22<sup>nd</sup> July

### Diary Dates

(including Federation activities)

### February

19<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 4  
20<sup>th</sup> C2 Start Gymnastics  
C4 Continue Swimming

### March

7<sup>th</sup> World Book Day – Pyjama Day etc.  
12<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings  
Federation activity Y3/4 with a Reading theme  
13<sup>th</sup> C2 Trip to Slimbridge  
Federation activity Y5/6 with a Well-being theme  
15<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day  
Reading Café  
19<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings  
20<sup>th</sup> Federation activity Y1/2 with an Easter theme  
21<sup>st</sup> FoSM Easter Egg Competition  
22<sup>nd</sup> Non-School Uniform Day – £1 to FoSM  
End of Term 4

### April

18<sup>th</sup> Scholastic Book Fair

### May

23<sup>rd</sup> Sponsored Walk

### June

14<sup>th</sup> Sports Day morning

They are redeemable from the following stores:

- Your local independent bookseller
- Asda
- Blackwell's (selected stores only)
- Sainsburys
- Tesco
- The Works
- Waterstones and WHSmith

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Best wishes,

Mrs Gibbs (Reading Lead for the Federation)

### Parents Evenings – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

We are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Bookings for classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are made via our eSchools system which is now 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 for assistance.

Pre-school Parents Evenings will be on the same days and bookings can be made with the Pre-school staff.

### Red Nose Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March



We will be celebrating Red Nose Day this year with a "Wear something Red Day". We are not asking for donations for non-uniform but we will have a limited number of Red Noses for sale. Please note that they will be £2 per Nose on the day, with sale initially be limited to 1 per child. If we have lots left, children may have the opportunity to purchase more.



### 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** – this week we have been looking at Chinese New Year. We found out it is the Year of the Dragon and we looked at that animal we would be from the year we were born. We have made lanterns using red paper and gold pens to decorate, blossom tree's using a tree outline and the bottom of bottles to make pink petals. We have also made hand print dragons and made money purses with chocolate coins in. We have watched dragon dancing and listened to the story of 'The Great Race'. We have also touched on Valentines Day and have done some beautiful heart crafts and colourings. The children have also engaged in role play, looking at books, making number 10 using numicon, playdough and outside play (when it was nice and dry!)

**Class 1** – very busy week in Class 1, the children have been finishing their stories in English and have been designing and making their junk model rockets. We have been working on lots of composition of numbers (5 & 6) and have been using lots of mathematical language to describe their mathematical thinking. Reception sounds are 'igh & air', the children have been learning about these two sounds being trigraphs, (3 letters that make 1 sound) and have been applying these sounds into their writing. HFW's 'come, some, were & one'.

**Star of the Week Certificates**

**Pre-school**  
**Reggie** - for using resources to support his imaginative play.  
**Riley** - for being kind and caring towards his peers.

**Class 1**  
**Calypso, Robert & Harper** - for their wonderful writing of a story.  
Star readers - **Luca and Tate**

**Class 2**  
**Carla** - fantastic explanations in maths.  
**Isla** - impressive vocabulary when writing.

**Class 3**  
**Alfie** - for excellent work on fractions, when ordering and comparing.  
**Sam** - for an excellent piece of independent writing about Anglo- Saxon jobs.

**Class 4**  
**Amelia** – for some lovely ideas in writing.  
**Beatrice** – for a conscientious approach to her work.

**Class 2** – this week, Class 2 have been writing their own Little Red Riding Hood stories. We changed the character of Little Red to our own ideas – such as little blue or little rainbow. They also innovated the wolf character to be another animal. The children have made such great progress in their writing and their stories. It will be lovely to share these at parents evening. The children also created their own weather report in groups and shared these with the rest of the class. They used a map of the UK to present their weather. They created symbols and told us about what we should wear when facing these weathers.



**Class 3** had a brilliant trip to St Fagans this week. They listened really well to instructions and engaged by asking lots of questions about how homes/life has changed over time. They particularly enjoyed exploring the cottages that move forwards 50 years each time, beginning in 1805. They saw how life changed with the introduction of electricity and running water. Children were particularly fascinated by the school that had a fire place to keep the children warm and that the whole school was in one classroom, being taught by 1 teacher!



**Class 4** - the children have been working really hard on their final writing piece, based on Rudyard Kipling's classic Just So Stories. They have created their own characters and developed a plot where the main character has to learn a lesson; they have tried to incorporate word play, humour, characterisation through dialogue and a range of sentence structures in their work. Lots of them were really proud with what they have achieved and were keen to self-assess against their writing grids. The children have also been enjoying learning more about South America and climate. They were surprised to see how much variation there is across the continent from warmer tropical climates such as in Brazil to cooler temperate climates in Argentina. They are now moving on to researching biomes in this area, discovering what they are and how this effects the animals and vegetation found in each one.

*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**