



Steam Mills Primary

03.02.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who responded to the recent Parent Survey. We have looked through the feedback and as a result we are in the process of updating and re-issuing our Parent Handbook; this handbook should help address the questions/missing knowledge raised by parents/carers. Within the Parent Handbook, we will also sign-post some subjects to the school website, which holds a wealth of information for navigating and understanding school life.

School Books

Please note that school books which are loaned to the children are expected to be returned in a satisfactory state. Any books which are damaged beyond repair will be charged for.

School Disco's

The date has been set, **Thursday 16th February 2023**, the DJ has been booked and tickets will be on sale now!

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.

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 on sale **in class** and are **£1 each** (please send in the exact money to class).

Tuckshop will be available, please no more than £2 per child to bring on the day.

Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You will have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wish to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are may affect schools in this area are:

School Calendar 22/23

Term 3

3rd Jan to 17th Feb

Term 4

27th Feb to 31st March

Term 5

17th April to 26th May

Term 6

5th June to 25th July

Inset Days:

24th and 25th July

Diary Dates

February

14th Class 4 Trip to National Waterways Museum – Gloucester

16th Year 6 Dental Survey
FoSM School Disco (details to follow)

20th Half term Break

27th Start of Term 4

March

2nd World Book Day – Bedtime Stories (**Pajama Day**)

17th Red Nose Day

21st Parents Evenings – all classes

27th Parents Evenings – Class 2 only

28th Parents Evenings – Class 1, 3 and 4

31st Last Day of Term 4

April

3rd Easter Holidays

17th Start of Term 5

May

16th Rags to Riches

25th Sponsored Walk (details to follow)

- **Thursday 2 March 2023**
- **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
- **Thursday 16 March 2023**

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains the reasons for strike action. It can be found here:

<https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view>

Clearly this is a difficult situation; I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those who wish to strike will have thought long and hard about their decision.

One of the key issues will be to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike. If any teachers are absent on the strike days, but there are enough staff to supervise, their class will be open or partially open but will not be taught usual lessons. If we partially open, vulnerable children and those of key worker parents would be prioritised for supervision.

How will strike action affect our school?

At this point, it is likely that we will be open. If this changes, it may be at short notice so please check the website on the dates above, as any information about partial closure will be posted there.

Kind regards,
Mrs Davis

Class Snippets

Pre-school – this week we have read “Snail Trail” and “Matisse's Magical Trail” – which follows Matisse the Snail on his journey through modern art. We have explored spirals and enjoyed creating spirals and snail inspired crafts. We are also planning to re-create our versions of Henry Matisse's well known painting “The Snail”.

Class 1 - This week we have been exploring materials again and have been discussing their properties. We decided that it wouldn't be a good idea to build a house out of paper, as The Big Bad Wolf could easily blow it down. This week's sound is Angry Red A, 'ai', found in words such as rain and maid and lots of children have been using our new sound in their independent writing. The children have also been working very hard to find 1 more of a given number and showing this using Tens frames in Maths.

Class 2 – This week, Class 2 have started our new class book Grandad's Camper. We shared this book with the school for national storytelling week; however, we have also been using it for writing. On Tuesday we found a box of objects in the class labelled "Grandad's stuff". We were quite confused how it arrived there but we worked out that the objects inside must belong to a Grandad. We found a flag, a keyring, a map, a car air freshener and a packet of seeds. We used our inference skills to share some of our ideas about what Grandad likes and who he could be. On Wednesday we read the book and found out that lots of our predictions had come true! They have been brilliant writers this week and I can't wait to see them make more progress next week!

Head Teacher Certificates

Pre-school

Tate – labelling his work with his name.

Dela – settling into Pre-school so well.

Class 1

Evie - for her confidence in whole class learning.

Alfie P - for his recent effort and progress in his reading and writing.

Class 2

Sybil - beautiful artwork last week. A fantastic kangaroo picture.

Esmee-Rose - a great improvement in swimming, a wonderful attitude in the pool.

Alfie C - great effort and improvement in maths.

Class 3

Frankie - a well written diary in writing.

Kryspin - improved presentation of classwork.

Class 4

Matei – for showing enthusiasm for learning.

Elwood – for showing confidence and knowledge in Bikeability.

Class 3 have had an amazing week! They have written their own sequel for 'Wisp' and are going to contact the author to share their stories, all the way in Australia! The children have really impressed the adults with their focus in writing and their use of all of the features they have been taught. In maths, the Y3s have finished their subtraction unit and are moving on to explore fractions and Y4s are working hard on column addition and subtraction. Children have been enjoyed yoga and a film Thursday afternoon, as their class treat for winning stars.

Class 4 children played their flutes in a performance for Parents and Pre-school this week and they did really well. They have learnt so much in the 10 weeks they have had Miss Wilson and it was great for them to perform to a live audience – we were very proud of their performance. They have also been working on their writing this week, writing an alternative ending to The Highwayman which has encouraged them to use their imaginations.



National Storytelling Week

This week, we have shared a range of stories across the school along the theme of 'diversity', passing the books along to the next class each day. Children have all been able to talk about messages that they can take from each book.

Smeds and Smoods- Treat everyone equally, no matter what they look like or their skin colour.

The Day the Crayons Quit- Treat everyone fairly.

Grandad's camper- Treat everyone equally, no matter who they love.

The Invisible- Include everyone and understanding that every family has different amounts of money.

The Proudest Blue- Treating everyone the same, no matter their religion.

The children have really enjoyed these books... as have the adults!

Article 2- The right to non-discrimination

Article 29- Education should develop talents and personalities.

Term Dates with Inset Training Days

The school has published term dates for the next school year, attached is a copy for your information.

Flute Instrument/Lesson Offer

Class 4 have been enjoying their Flute music lessons so much that we have made enquiries about the possibility of further lessons for those who may be interested. We are told by Gloucestershire Music that they could provide a teacher to come into school during the school day, varying the time each week, so as not to impact other learning, to give music lessons.

This offer is open to children in Class 4 only. If your child is interested in taking up this offer, please see the following links for information and then contact Miss Agg to register your interest.

This link is all about free instrument hire for pupil premium children <https://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/youth-groups/help-with-costs/>

This link is about the £10 instrument hire for those who have had WCET lessons who aren't on pupil premium <https://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/instrument-hire/wcet-10-instrumental-hire-offer/> - this was the flyer that was sent out at the very start of the sessions.

Year 6 Dental Survey

If your child has been selected to take part in this survey, please ensure you return the permission form by Monday 6th February. Many thanks

Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers

Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for February half term are now open until the 7 February. Voucher emails will be sent out on 13 February. Please encourage parents to check their junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If parents have not received their vouchers by the 14 February please encourage them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so that we can look into it.

This February half term, Gloucestershire County Council are providing vouchers to eligible families who have signed up to our Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of our commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. 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 benefits-related free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, as well as children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2), as they are not eligible for this scheme.

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive £15 per child, for the February half term week.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, parents can visit our Holiday free school meal vouchers webpage<<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/meals-during-school-holidays/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/#main>>, seen below:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/meals-during-school-holidays/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/holiday-free-school-meal-vouchers/#main>

Parents who have signed up previously do not need to re-register, they will already have been included. 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.

For any parents wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

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.