



## Steam Mills Primary

03.03.2023



Dear Parents/Carers

### FoSM – Football Goalposts

You may well have noticed our lovely new Football Goalposts in the playground. Thank you to FoSM for purchasing these for the school and thank you to parents/carers for contributing to events to enable these purchases to happen. Past pupils are very envious that we now have actual goalposts for the children's football games! (Article 31- children have the right to relax and play)

### Class 1 & 2 Trip

Parents/carers of children in Classes 1 & 2 should have received an emailed trip letter for a trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please let Miss Agg know if you have not received this letter. We asked for parent volunteer helpers for this trip and would like to thank the many parents/carers that put their names forward. We have now informed the parents who have been asked to help. (Article 29- education should develop a child's talents and personalities)

### Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 with a non-school uniform/wear something red day. A donation of £1 per child is requested. Unfortunately this day clashes with the Class 1 & 2 trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, please note that children going on this trip must wear their school uniform. The school have taken the decision to not sell Red Noses this year due to the complication of age restriction safety.



### Coronation Fundraiser – Artwork

The school is taking part in the Artwork scheme again like we did at Christmas, run by Xmas4schools. Children will be creating a design in class and will be bringing this home on or before 17<sup>th</sup> March, ready for parents/carers to submit orders for mugs and/or tea towels by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. (Article 30- Children have the right to their own culture)



### Parents Evenings

Parent's evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March (all classes), Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March (Class 2 only) and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March (Classes 1, 3 and 4), between 3:30pm and 6:15pm in the School Hall. The booking system will go live on eSchools at 5pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and closes the day before each Parents Evening. If you have any issues booking your child a slot, please contact Miss Agg. Please also note that appointments are strictly limited to a maximum of 10 minutes per child.

### School Calendar 22/23

#### Term 4

27<sup>th</sup> Feb to 31<sup>st</sup> March

#### Term 5

17<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### Term 6

5<sup>th</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### **Inset Days:**

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July

### Diary Dates

#### **March**

17<sup>th</sup> Class 1 & 2 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park (Article 29- Education should develop talents)

Red Nose Day

21<sup>st</sup> Parents Evenings – all classes

27<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings – Class 2 only

28<sup>th</sup> Parents Evenings – Class 1, 3 & 4

31<sup>st</sup> Last Day of Term 4

#### **April**

3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Holidays- (Article 30- children have the right to a religion)

17<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 5

#### **May**

5<sup>th</sup> Coronation Celebrations – details to follow from FoSM

12<sup>th</sup> School Class Photos & Leavers Photos

16<sup>th</sup> Rags to Riches- (Article 27- the right to clothing)

26<sup>th</sup> Sponsored Walk (details to follow)

If you would like your appointment to include a discussion with Miss Barber (SEN), we would be grateful if you could send an email to [admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk) to request this.

Pre-school have recently sent out a letter to all Pre-school parents detailing the arrangements for their Parents Evenings on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the School Hall including details of how to book. (Article 5- Family guidance as children develop)

### 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.

The strike days that are may affect schools in this area are:

- **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. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

### 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

### Charging Policy Review

The school has updated and reviewed the Charging Policy to bring both Woodside and Steam Mills Schools in alignment under the Federated Governing Body. This has resulted in a slight increase for some of our services here at Steam Mills which will help towards increased costs for Heating Oil, Electricity, Food and bought in Professional Services etc. There is a copy posted on the school website. Here is an overview of the main changes which take effect from **1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**:

Breakfast Club                      from 7:45am                      £4.00

Skills for Learning, Learning for Life

### Head Teacher Certificates

#### Pre-school

**Freya** – fantastic imagination with small world play.

**Thomas** – engaging in play with his peers.

#### Class 1

**Winnie** - for her new attitude towards maths.

**Billy** - for his new attitude towards his writing.

#### Class 2

**Jasmine** - amazing work in maths, using our method to partition numbers.

**Blair** - wonderful effort and attitude to learning, particularly in maths.

#### Class 3

**Eva** - a great understanding of features of non-fiction text.

**Jack De** - participating well in guided reading discussions.

#### Class 4

**Willow** - for taking care with her presentation in her work.

**Cohen** - showing and modelling autonomy and agency.

### Reading Certificates

For completing Reading Challenges in class

#### Class 1

Maddison

#### Class 2

Lily T - reading 25 times

Harry - Reading 25 times

Rowan - completing the year 2 reading challenge

#### Class 3

Frankie and Sofia

#### Class 4

Evie, Norah, Finley, Max and Woody.

	from 8:00am	£3.00
After School Club	3:15pm-4:15pm	£4.00
	4:15pm-5:30pm	£5.00 (this is used for care after other payable Clubs)
	3:15pm-5:30pm	£9.00

**Late Fee:** The schools have introduced a late fee for any parents/carers who are late collecting from ASC. The school will allow a few minutes buffer and has set the late fee at £2 for each completed 5 minutes over the collection time of 5:30pm. This fee will be added to the ParentPay account and is payable immediately.

Prostars Club	3:15pm-4:15pm	£4.00
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Day Visit/Trips	Parent contribution is to be capped at £12.50 per pupil.
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Nursery	3 year old unfunded or extra hours will be charged at £4.50 per hour.
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Lunches	£2.40 per meal. This charge remains the same from the increase in Sep 22.
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Please contact Miss Agg if you have any questions or queries.  
(Article 18- parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child).

### **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** – It was so nice to see all the children after the half term break. We have been very busy creating sun catcher rainbows to cheer up the rainy days! On Wednesday Elodie brought in Daffodils and Welsh cakes to share with all her friends to celebrate St David's Day and that she was born in Wales. The children have painted lovely pictures of the Daffodils and today, World Book Day, we enjoyed a visit from Mr Wildin (Chair of Governors), who read "10 Little Superheroes".

**Class 1** have had a great first week back. We have been looking at signs of spring and writing about what we expect to see when spring is here. Reception started their gymnastic sessions this week. They all had a lovely time and engaged well with the session. This week's sound is Tricky Witch 'er'. We have been discussing how this sound is a digraph and how we often see this sound at the end of words.

On Monday, **Class 2** found some animal footprints in the class. With the help of a spotter guide, they worked out that an Elephant, a Panda, a Polar Bear, an Orangutan and an unknown bird had been inside the class! On Tuesday, they made missing posters to find out if anyone knew what the bird was. These posters helped us to find out that the footprints were from a Dodo! On Wednesday we wrote questions to find out more about this animal. They asked lots of great questions; for example, what do Dodos eat? Where do Dodos come from? Why are they so feathery? On Friday, we created a fact file for the Dodo, using the answers from our questions.



**Class 3** have been continuing their work on volcanoes and this week have been learning how they are formed. They have been impressing me in maths with addition in Y3 and multiplication in Y4. In writing we have started a new book called, 'Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book' and the children will be writing their own fairy-tale in a few weeks. They are working brilliantly and should be very proud of themselves.

**Class 4** have hit the ground running this week and have shown some great learning behaviours. They are starting a new text in English, The Viewer, and they are very intrigued to know what is in store for the character... they had some very interesting predictions earlier this week. World Book

day is going to be lots of fun; they are looking forward to coming into school in their pyjamas and for the boom swap. We are looking forward to seeing Mrs Taylor again this week during her author visit!

### **Rights Respecting – Article of the Week**

International Women's Day- 8th March. The day is aimed at demonstrating gender equality. It would be great to learn about Malala Yousafzai at home to find out how she stood up for women's rights to education in Pakistan.

Article 2- The right to non-discrimination.

### **School Lunches**

We have had a few instances this week of meals not being booked for children. Please could we remind you to check that meals have been booked on Parentpay for your child. We are aware that sometimes bookings are not saved and would like to suggest that after making bookings, you log back into Parentpay to ensure the bookings have been saved. If you do remember that you have not made a booking and it is too late due to the 48 hour cut-off period, please contact the school office and we can order an emergency meal for your child, or alternatively, you provide a packed lunch from home. (Article 24- children have the right to nutritious food)

### **Snacks at After School Club**

Please could we ask parents not to send in food for their children at ASC. The school provides toast to all who are attending as part of our service. If your child does have any dietary requirement that means they cannot have toast, please contact Miss Agg. Thank you

### **Smoking and Vaping on School Site**

To clarify the school's position, as already stated, the school does not allow smoking on the school site and this is now updated to include vaping. This decision has been taken after feedback from parents who attend the school site. We will update our Parent Handbook to reflect this policy. (Article 24- the right to a clean environment)

### **Parking/Access**

Please could parents/carers be mindful when parking. We have had a report this week of a car being parked across and obstructing the KS2 gate. Thank you

### **Birthday Cakes**

Due to allergies and in the interest of fairness to all, we request that birthday cakes/treats are no longer to be sent in to school. Thank you.

### **Cinderford Litter Pick**

In conjunction with Forestry England and Cinderford Town Council, the Forest of Dean District Council have arranged a Community Litter Pick in Cinderford on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April to celebrate the end of the Great British Spring Clean 2023. It is a free event and all equipment is provided and we would love to see as many people as possible attend. Please see attached flyer. (Article 24- the right to a clean environment)

### **Beezee Bodies – Gloucestershire**

Please find attached a newsletter from Beezee Bodies.

### **Community Event**

Attached are details of an Open Morning on Sunday 12th March 2023. 10.30am - 12.30pm

*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.*