

Steam Mills Primary

29.1.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you

We fully appreciate everyone's efforts with provision for home learning and school learning. Please stay in close contact with staff. Just to remind you that your child can message directly via eSchools to your child's class teacher, but only from the **child's eSchools login**. Thank you also to all our staff, as provision for all children is great even through this very difficult time.

Huge thanks also go to our Governors for their work for the school and for their unwavering support; it is very much appreciated.

Between home and school; between parents, carers, staff and governors, we are all doing an amazing job for the children, so well done everyone! Keep going!

Half Term

The DfE have confirmed that schools will close to all children at half term.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, Gloucestershire County Council are providing vouchers for families. This programme has been in place over the October and Christmas holidays and will also be available over this February half term. Please read the letter from GCC that accompanies this newsletter.

Lateral Flow Testing for Staff in Primary Schools.

Lateral Flow Tests have been made available for staff testing in Primary Schools. This is intended to identify positive cases of coronavirus from staff who are asymptomatic. 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't have any symptoms.

We warmly welcome the introduction of rapid testing for our staff. The DfE does not have plans currently for the regular testing of primary school children. Tests will be taken on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. If a staff member tests positive:

- Their bubble and close contacts will be contacted that evening and informed that they need to isolate immediately.
- The member of staff would then book and take a PCR test.
- If the PCR test is negative, the bubble will re-open.
- If the PCR tests is positive, the bubble would remain closed with all members of that bubble needing to isolate for the full 10 day period.

Currently, this ONLY applies to children who are attending school, because their parents are critical workers, or they are vulnerable. I am informing all parents about this procedure, so that all parents know what actions we are taking to keep everyone in our community as safe as we can.

The more children we have in school the more families are at risk of catching Covid-19.

Diary Dates

February

12th End of Term 3

22nd Start of Term 4

April

1st End of Term 4

19th Start of Term 5

Currently we have around 30 children at school compared to 9 children during the March 2020 lockdown. This provision should only be used by critical workers when they are working, as all parents are encouraged to keep children at home with them whenever possible.

Please only put a request in if it is a last resort and/or you are leaving home to go to your place of work. If we get a positive case, Critical Workers eg those working for the NHS, will be affected as their children will be sent home.

Children's attendance

If your child is accessing school and does not come in on a day we expected them (eg. if your shift has changed); please remember to phone us to say they will not be in. This is because we need to account for children we expect in school.

Loan of devices

We have now taken delivery of a limited number of DfE Laptops. Please contact us if you do not have access to a device and would like to borrow one or if you have already been issued with a Chromebook and would like to change for one of the laptops.

admin@steammills.gloucs.sch.uk.

Pre-school

To assist the pre-school with forward planning, please could you make contact if you are considering registering your child with us from September 2021. We take children from 3 years and currently have places available. You can find further information here :

<https://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk/website/pre-school/224026>

Healthy Start Vitamins

Gloucestershire County Council have a new process for eligible families to access Healthy Start Vitamins. Please find attached information that explains about the Healthy Start scheme and how to apply for vouchers.

Snow Plan

Q. How will I know if the school is closed?

A. If it has snowed overnight and you think school might close, please look at the school **website** - from 7:15 am onwards. A message will appear on the front page (we have now amended this so that it will appear clearly on all devices) to say if the school is closed.

<https://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk/website>

The same message will be put on the **GCC school closure website**.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/

Our full Snow Plan can be found here:

https://www.steammillsprimary.co.uk/website/snow_plan/338223

Best Wishes

Mrs Davis