

Steam Mills Primary

12.03.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

National restrictions

We are very lucky to be able to return to some sort of normality at school and know that you are appreciative of this too. It is essential that all of us continue to abide by the Hands, Face, Space rule at drop off and collection times. It is essential that all abide by the national restrictions regarding households, to minimise the risk of further partial closures. You will be aware that play dates after school are not allowed. The National restrictions are clear that mixing of households indoors is not allowed, except where a childcare bubble has been formed to enable parents to work. You should not make arrangements for your child to be picked up by a friend, unless this is a formal childcare bubble arrangement and we have been informed. Thank you for your co-operation as this helps other families to feel supported and safe on the full opening of school.

Celebrations!

We have celebrated every day this week, as we are so happy that everyone is back in school! The 'buzz' around the school is wonderful. Thank you very much for all your positive feedback about the remote learning and provision over the last few months. It is lovely to welcome you all back.

We are able to hold whole school Celebration Assemblies on Zoom now, as our internet access has been improved. This means that all classes can see each other regularly and we can enjoy our special whole school ethos, even though we are in bubbles.

This week's Celebration Assembly was our first one on Zoom and the very first one for our pre-school and reception children. Well done to them for their brilliant listening! Each teacher gave out two Head Teacher certificates per class, explaining why they were awarded. Reasons this week included:

Kindness, Having a go and being brave, Fantastic maths, Helping friends, Spreading a smile, Amazing reading and Saying 'bye bye' to mummy with a smile.

Fantastic reasons for awards, we are sure you will agree! Congratulations to Riley and Bailey in Class 4; Aurelia and Freddie in Class 3; Arlo and Tallulah in Class 2; Jax and Rhea in Class 1 and Chester and Freddie in Pre-school.

Car arrival and parking

The staggered drop off and collection times should mean that congestion and parking problems are alleviated. If you are parking at the front of school (roadside), please park at an angle to the road rather than parallel, so that more cars can fit in. Please make good use of the car park at the back. Could pre-school, Class 1 and Class 3 parents please leave promptly as this should help with the arrival of Class 2 and Class 4 parents. Please do not stay to chat in groups; the LA have asked schools again to discourage congregations of parents, due to Covid-19.

Diary Dates

March

19th Red Nose Day
Reception screening
- weight/height &
vision

April

1st End of Term 4
19th Start of Term 5

May

3rd Bank Holiday
28th Inset Day & End of
Term 5

June

7th Start of Term 6

July

21st Inset Day & End of
Term 6

Key stage 1 and key stage 2 statutory tests and teacher assessments

In January, the Department for Education (DfE) announced that primary statutory assessments could not continue as intended in 2021. The statutory key stage 1 and key stage 2 tests and teacher assessments planned for summer 2021 are cancelled.

This includes:

- year 1 phonics screening check
- year 4 multiplication tables check
- key stage 1 teacher assessments
- key stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics
- key stage 2 teacher assessment of writing

There will be no new tests published for key stage 1 or key stage 2 this year. The DfE has further confirmed that in 2021, the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile is not mandatory and that practitioners should use their best endeavours to complete it and provide the information to year 1 teachers and to parents.

Please be assured that we will continue to assess children carefully and the information will be used internally to ensure children progress as they move through the school. Assessment information for Y6 children will be transferred to their secondary schools and we will ensure that good transition takes place for those children moving on in July.

Reception Screening

The school nurse has booked a day with us on Tuesday 30th March to come into school to carry out the Reception year screening. This was postponed from last year when you should have received details and an option to opt your child out if you so wish. If you are concerned that you have not seen the information sent and would like to opt your child out, please contact Miss Agg and she will arrange for the form to be sent to you again.

Red Nose Day

On Fri March 19th, we will mark Red Nose Day with a mad hair or hat day and encourage children to wear something red. So, start thinking of how to use hair gel and spray creatively or decorate a cap/hat in a crazy way! There are some fabulous ideas online – just google 'mad hair day ideas' or look on Pinterest. Lots of ideas could be adapted into hats or wigs! Suggested donation £1-£2 per child.



Please remember

Please practice social distancing whilst at school, wear a face covering, remain very vigilant for symptoms and do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college (from DfE):

A new community-testing site to serve people **without** Covid-19 symptoms in the Forest of Dean has opened at Cinderford's Miners Welfare Hall. They offer Lateral Flow Tests to help identify the virus in the community. This link will take you to the Gloucestershire County Council web page to book a Lateral Flow test: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/covid-19-testing-in-gloucestershire/testing-for-those-without-covid-symptoms/>

Best Wishes
Mrs Davis