



Dear parents,

Welcome back. I hope you have had wonderful family time together in the holiday. We were blessed with good weather which always helps-long may it continue! It is wonderful to be back at school, learning together and seeing friends. We have a great term ahead.

Reception children

What a wonderful start to school. The new Reception pupils are settling well under the guidance of Mrs Parsons, Mrs Williams and Mrs Toms. Thank you for making the transition to school smooth by arriving on time and offering positive words when needed. Parting in the morning might be difficult (for you and your child!) but children start smiling when they become engaged with their learning activities. Be reassured we will always contact you if we have a concern. Eastington has a strong and committed staff team and I know we will work together to ensure the best outcomes for your child.

Welcome to the team

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Andrea Mills as Inclusion and SEND leader for our school. Mrs Mills is an experienced teacher who has background of working in the LA team to support pupils in achieving. In addition, Mrs Rymer (presently our cleaner in charge) has joined our mid-day supervisor team. Happily, our children & family worker, Mrs Matarazzo, continues to work with us this year.

Reflection times

As a school we have thought carefully about how we can support children in developing their reflection skills. In daily assemblies there will be a short quiet time where children will be guided to think about themselves, their relationships and the world. As part of this the children have been asked to think about the skills and talents they naturally have and to identify an area they want to work on this term. Some of their suggestions were: being a better listener, taking more risks or getting better at mental maths. Do ask your child about their target and how they will achieve it.

Sport for all.....

We continue to use our sports funding to target specific activities during 2016/17. These include 'Sports Leadership' for Y5. As part of this the Y5 will be learning how to plan, run and evaluate activities for younger pupils. In addition, some pupils will benefit from our 'Learning Through Sport' initiative—this focuses on specific skills such as cooperation, resilience, confidence, managing feelings etc. In addition all pupils and teachers will work together to develop 'Multi skills'. These sessions will be led by Jason Boon (professional sports coach).

Mathematics Parent Evening

As a school we have a strong focus on further developing the mathematics skills of our pupils this year. We trialled the use of 'Mathletics' with pupil groups last year. The response was overwhelmingly positive! As a result we will be purchasing logins for all our pupils. We would like to share the use of Mathletics at home and school with you and explain the methods we use to add, subtract, multiply and divide during a Mathematics Evening on **Wednesday 2nd November**—a date for your diary!

Parent Association

The AGM/first meeting of the Parent Association will be on **Thursday September 29th at 6pm** in the school hall. The PA is a friendly team who work together to fund raise and offer opportunities for children and the school community to have fun together. We are looking for people with a range of skills. Whether you have a lot or a little time to give, please come and support our school.

Musical tuition

A reminder that music tuition will commence **Monday the 12th September** for Guitar with Mr Watson and **Friday 16th September** with Mrs Stephens-Hudd for Woodwind and Piano.

Photograph Competition

Mr Dougan, our digital art teacher, has organised a photograph competition. The competition is open to Y4-Y6 pupils and the theme is 'nature'. The winners will have the opportunity of a practical learning day at WWT where Mr Dougan will explain in detail how to take photographs—the children also have the opportunity to use some of Mr Dougan's camera equipment. Just a reminder that the deadline for entries is **Friday September 23rd**.

Water bottles

We would like all children to bring in a water bottle to school and place them in their classrooms each am. This will make it easier for children to drink water in class and at break times. Please name the water bottle clearly and in permanent pen. Many thanks.

Important secondary transfer information (YEAR 6 pupils)

A reminder that applications (Common Application Form) for secondary education, whether made electronically or on paper, must be made no later than the closing date of **31st October 2016**. Further advice and support with this process is available from the Admissions and Transfer Team based at Shire Hall, Glos. (website: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>).

Book Week 2016...read on!

We are once again holding a BOOK FAIR, the week commencing Monday 3rd October. There will be the opportunity to view/purchase good quality books for all ages. The book 'shelves' will be open to everyone before and after school starting on **Tues 4th October** from 8.30am and again at 3.15pm in the hall. There will be additional time during parents consultation evenings for a further browse!

Extra Curricular Activities

The register forms for extra-curricular clubs available during terms 1 and 2 were sent home earlier this week. We have a stronger focus on sports in KS2 this year in response to pupil and parent requests. Many thanks to the teachers and TAs for volunteering to run clubs and Mrs Childs for organising.

Dates for your diary

We have listed below some of the key dates for your diary. In addition we have included the focus of our assemblies (2 weeks of exploration) so you can think about these values with your children—sometimes I will be asking them to talk to you and report back so be prepared! Individual class teachers will inform you of other activities including educational visits that are planned for terms 1 and 2.

Term 1

September

- Mon 5th - Value for learning and life: Resilience
- Fri 9th - French sessions begin with Mrs Lagoueyte for Key Stage 2
- Fri 9th - Digital art session with Mr Dougan begin for Key Stage 2
- Fri 9th - 'Sports Leadership', 'Learning through Sport' and multi-skill sessions begin with Mr Boon
- Mon 14th - Clubs for pupils commence for T1
- Tues 15th - Mrs Matarazzo (School children & family worker) begins sessions
- Mon 19th - Value for learning and life: Reflection
- Wed 21st - Phonics information eve. For parents of pupils in Rec, Y1 and Y2. (6pm)
- Mon 26th - Bikability for Y6 (Further information to follow)
- Mon 26th - Value for learning and life: Tolerance and Empathy
- Fri 30th - Class 4 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Thurs 29th - Parents Association AGM/first meeting with refreshments (6.00pm school hall—all welcome)

October

- Mon 3rd - Parents consultation evenings - share expectations and pupil targets
- Mon 3rd - Book week commences in the hall
- Wed 5th - Parents consultation evenings - share expectations and pupil targets
- Mon 10th - Reception pupils commence fulltime
- Mon 10th - Value for learning and life: Taking Risks and Being Courageous
- Tues 18th - School photographer (individuals and families - school hall)
- Wed 19th - Harvest Celebration led by C5 (2.00pm St Michael and All Angels church - parents welcome)
- Wed 19th - **Final day of Autumn Term 1 for pupils**
- Thurs 20th - INSET DAY (For staff)

Term Break - **Thurs 20th Oct - Sun 30th Oct (inclusive)**

Term 2

October

- Mon 31st - First day of Autumn Term 2 for pupils
- Mon 31st - Value for learning and life: Cooperation



Thank you for your support,

Zoe Avastu

Aiming high.....together