



Dear parents,

Welcome back. I hope you have had good family time together in the Summer holiday. It is wonderful to be back at school, learning together and seeing friends. We're all looking forward to working with your children and the teachers have been preparing for a positive year of fun and learning.

Reception children

What a wonderful start to school. The new Reception pupils are settling well under the guidance of Mrs Parsons and Mrs Williams. 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 or they remain unsettled. Eastington has a strong and committed staff team and I know we will work together to ensure the best outcomes for your child.

Music

We are delighted to have secured a music specialist to teach Class 3 and Class 4 over this term. This is an exciting opportunity where children will explore rhythm patterns, a variety of percussion instruments and playing as a group. It should be fun for all! We will invite parents to celebrate the children's learning at the end of their session towards the end of November.

Sport for all.....

We continue to use our sports funding to target increased activity and competition during 2018/19. Some pupils will benefit from our 'Learning Through Sport' initiative—this focused on specific skills such as cooperation, resilience, confidence etc. In addition we are delighted that our Sports Coaches, Miss Mills and Mr Meloscia will be working with us for two days this year. They will be leading a range of after school sport clubs over the year, working with children in KS1 to increase activity during lunch and break times as well as organising performances, matches and competitions. At the beginning of October we say a fond farewell to Mr Boon who will be leaving the area to work for Bristol University. He will take up the post of Tennis Development Officer which is an exciting, professional opportunity. He has said how much he has enjoyed his time working here and how wonderful the children have been. We feel sad but also excited for Mr Boon, knowing his passionate for tennis and need for a challenge. We wish him the very best and will miss him. We are exploring some exciting options on how to move forward with sport in January—more information will follow.

Rec & KS1 Word Skill Parent Information Evening

We will be holding an evening to share the expectations and program of work for Reception, Y1 and Y2 children. There will be the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about how we teach reading and spelling. Do come along so we can work together to support your child.

KS2 Reading Parent Information Evening

As a school we have had a strong focus on further developing the reading skills of our pupils. We would like to share the approach to reading we have and some of the core skills we develop with your children at school. The PA have been wonderful in supporting the update of class libraries too—with children choosing books to ensure they are motivated. We were planning the evening on October 1st but it has been changed. We will confirm the date on the next newsletter.

Parent Association

The AGM/first meeting of the Parent Association will be on the evening of **Thursday September 27th** in the school hall. The PA is a friendly team who work together to fund raise through offering opportunities for children and the school community to have fun together. You will be welcomed warmly to the meeting and our team of volunteers. We are looking for parents who can contribute in a range of ways from baking a cake, to giving a couple of hours to run a stall to organising an event. Whether you have a lot or a little time to give, please come and support our school.

Reading Challenge

We are delighted with how many children took up the reading challenge with the local libraries over the Summer Holidays. It has been wonderful to hear how they enjoyed reading so many books. Mrs Burns was thrilled at the amount of certificates that the children have brought in to share with her too. Well done to you all.

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 2018**. 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>).

Gardening

Do you have green fingers? Are you a fan of flowers and vegetables? We have a small area of raised beds which the children use to grow vegetables etc.. There was a huge marrow which they were delighted with on their return to school. We are looking for a volunteer to help with this area for an afternoon each week/every other week—supporting and guiding the children as they weed, plant, pick over the seasons. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Mrs Birch in the school office.

Pollution and parking

There has been concern raised from local residents at car drivers keeping their cars running while waiting during pick up and drop off time and the impact this has on air quality for the children and locals. Please help by turning your engine off when waiting. In addition, can we ask that you park considerately in relation to local residents too. We know it can be tricky at busy times but residents need access to their drives. Many thanks for your help in these matters.

Dates for your diary

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

September

- Mon 3rd - INSET for staff
- Tues 4th - **First day of Autumn Term 1 for children**
- Mon 17th - Bikeability training week for Y6
- Wed 19th - EYFS and KS1 Parent Information Evening: reading and word skills 6pm
- Mon 24th - Class 5 creative dance day linked to theme. 2.45pm parents welcome
- Tues 25th - KS2 trip to STEAM to study WW2

October

- Mon 1st - Book Fair all week
- Tues 2nd - Parent Evening
- Thurs 4th - Parent Evening
- Fri 5th - Y5/6 trip: Anthony Howowitz—Cheltenham Literary Festival
- Tues 9th - Y1/Y2 trip to Nature in Art
- Thurs 18th** - Harvest Festival 2pm: parents welcome
- **Last day of Autumn Term 1 for children**
- Thurs 19th - INSET for staff

- Mon 29th** - **First day of Autumn Term 2 for children**

November

- Tues 13rd - School Photographer: individual & siblings

December

- Fri 21st** - **Last day of Autumn Term 2 for children**

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together