



## Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to the 2013/14 academic year .....it's great to be back!

Firstly, thank you for your support that ensured a smooth start to the new term with children arriving on time, smartly dressed and with a smile! It has been a real pleasure listening to the children sharing stories about their adventures during the holiday break. With term 1 now underway there is a great deal planned in support of their learning. We continue to implement our revised curriculum in preparation for the proposed 'new' primary curriculum in 2014. As usual parents will shortly receive information about the programmes of study including your child's individual targets. Please play an active part in supporting your child's learning, whether sharing a book, asking about their day or undertaking activities to extend their experience. If you would like to know more, there will be an opportunity to share information and expectations during the forthcoming consultation evenings on **Tues 24th and Wed 25th Sept**. Further details will be with you shortly in order to secure an appointment with your child's class teacher.

We maintain our focus on 'Assessment for Learning'. Our 'WAGOLL' (What A Good One Looks Like) character is well known in the school and helps the children to 'see' the steps that make learning relevant and most importantly, enjoyable.

As mentioned in the final newsletter of 2012/13, one of our key priorities for 2013/14 is the further development of writing. We will look to strengthen and extend the children's approach to ensure they are confident, happy writers. We are planning 'writing days' where the children draw upon their experiences, 'crafting' their ideas to produce high quality results for everyone to enjoy.

We have recently taken receipt of £5000 worth of high quality reading books! They will support our phonic programme and guided reading scheme for all children. Whilst this is part of a government matched funding scheme, a huge thanks to the Parents Association who contributed over 50% to make it happen!

### Musical tuition

A reminder that music tuition begins On **Friday 13th Sept** (Woodwind/piano) and **Mon 16th Sept** (Guitars). Children receiving peripatetic support have been informed and need to bring their instruments to their sessions accordingly.

### Extra Curricular Activities

Information will be with you shortly detailing the extra curricular activities on offer during terms 1 and 2. Whilst we aim to offer as many activities as possible throughout the year this will depend on the hall/play space available and the time and expertise of club leaders.

### Raising the profile

As part of the Olympic legacy, schools have been awarded some additional funding to support the further development of PE for all children. We are, therefore, extending our 'Learning Through Sport' initiative to provide specific sessions for all class groups. Jason Boon (professional tennis coach) will be working with all Year groups throughout the year focussing on 'multi-skills', 'Young Leadership' and of, course, tennis!

### Book Week 2013

We are once again holding a BOOK FAIR, the week commencing Monday 23rd Sept. 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 **Tuesday 24th Sept**. from 8.30am and again at 3.15pm. There will be additional time during parents consultation evenings for a further browse!

*(continued overleaf)*

## Year 5 'Connections' Music project 2013

We have been working for many months with 3 other schools, professional musicians and external consultants to plan a joint music project for Year 5 pupils. 'Connections' takes its inspiration from our local rail and canal heritage with the aim that the children will create new and original musical material during a series of school-based workshops in the early autumn term. A final concert will be given at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on **Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Oct** for parents, family friends and special guests. The children will perform their songs and other musical material together with a team of professional musicians including the internationally renowned Carducci Quartet (half of whom are otherwise known as 'Charlie and Daisy's mum and dad!'). How exciting!

## Important secondary transfer information (YEAR 6) September 2014

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 2013**. Further advice and support with this process is available from the Admissions and Transfer Team based at Shire Hall, Glos. (website: <http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>).

## Dates for your diary

I have listed below some of the key dates for your diary/kitchen notice board/fridge door! Individual class teachers will inform you of other activities including educational visits that are planned for terms 1 and 2.

### Term 1

#### September

- Fri 6th - French and photography sessions begin for Key Stage 2 (Junior groups)
- Fri 13th - 'Learning Through Sport' sessions (inc. Young Leaders) commence
  - Years 1 and 2 education visit to The museum in the Park (Stroud)
- Tues 17th - Phonics (Letters and Sounds) information eve. for parents of pupils in Rec Year (6.00pm)
- Fri 20th - Year 5's 'Inspirational music day' (linked to the 'Connections' project) Sub Rooms Stroud
- Mon 23rd - Book Week commences (school hall)
  - Class 4 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Tues 24th - Parents consultation evenings (share expectations and pupil targets)
- Wed 25th - Parents consultation evenings (share expectations and pupil targets)
- Mon 30th - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 educational visit to The Steam Museum (Swindon)

#### October

- Tues 1st - Parents Association 'AGM and Welcome' evening (7.00pm school hall)
- Thurs 10th - Harvest Celebration (2.00pm St Michael and All Angels church - parents welcome)
- Fri 11th - School photographer (individuals and families - school hall)
- Mon 21st - Class 2 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Thurs 24th - Year 5's musical performance (Connections project) Sub rooms, Stroud (7.00pm)
  - Term 1 concludes
- Fri 25th - INSET Day (school closed - staff only)

#### **Term Break - Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov**

### Term 2

#### November

- Mon 4th - Term 2 commences
- Mon 11th - Class 1 Assembly (school hall - parents welcome)
- Mon 18th - Class 3 Assembly (school hall - parents welcome)

#### December

- Thurs 5th - KS 1 (Infants) Nativity performances (2.00pm and 6.00pm - school hall)
- Sun 8th - School/PA Christmas Bazaar (12.00pm school hall)
- Wed 11th - KS 2 (Juniors) Christmas performance (6.30pm school - school hall)
- Thurs 12th - KS 2 (Juniors) Christmas performance (1.30pm and 6.30pm - school hall)
- Wed 18th - Children's Christmas party 2.00pm
- Thurs 19th - Final day of term 2
- Fri 20th - INSET Day (school closed - staff only)

#### **Term break - Mon 23rd Dec—Fri 3rd Jan 2014**

Finally, may I welcome our latest 'additions' in the Reception Year and all those who have joined Eastington in other Year groups. It's great to have you in the team!

**MJ Strang**  
(Headteacher)



'Aiming high.... **Together**'