



Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to the 2014/15 academic yearit'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. In line with statutory guidance all Year groups are following the 'new' primary curriculum apart from Years 2 and 6 who are required to continue with elements of the previous scheme in order to complete the national assessments in the summer terms 2015.

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 **Wed 24th and Thurs 25th Sept.** Details have already been sent home in order for you 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. There are many new educational initiatives for all schools to consider during the next 2 years including the withdrawal of 'levels' which schools currently use to determine pupils progress on the national curriculum. Eastington has been invited to work closely with a number of schools across the county to identify good practice and to support Local Authority guidance regarding the age related expectations. This is an exciting time and an opportunity to support the development of children and young people in preparation for the world in which they live.

As mentioned in the final newsletter of 2013/14, one of our key priorities for this academic year 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 once again planning 'writing days' where the children draw upon their experiences, 'crafting' their ideas to produce high quality results for everyone to enjoy. How children apply their understanding of number when problem solving is another whole school focus during 2014/15. There will be an opportunity to find out more at the forthcoming parents consultation evenings.

Musical tuition

A reminder that music tuition (Woodwind/piano/guitars) has now started for those children receiving peripatetic sessions with either Mrs Stephens-Hudd or Mr Watson.

Extra Curricular Activities

Many children have returned completed request forms for the extra-curricular clubs available during terms 1 and 2. Where activities are over-subscribed we will endeavour to include everyone at some point throughout the year.

Sport for all.....

Our 'Learning Through Sport' initiative continues during 2014/15. Led by Jason Boon (professional tennis coach) we have organised a range of in-school activities including 'Sports leadership', 'Multi skills' and, of course tennis!

Book Week 2014...read on!

We are once again holding a BOOK FAIR, the week commencing Monday 22nd 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 **Tues 23rd Sept.** from 8.30am and again at 3.15pm. There will be additional time during parents consultation evenings for a further browse!

(continued overleaf)

Important secondary transfer information (YEAR 6) September 2015

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 2014**. 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>).

School lunches

Whilst it is still early days.....the children have commented very positively on the hot lunch option. If any parents in KS 2 (juniors) requires any support or further information as to the 'ParentPay' facility please contact the school office.

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 5th - French and photography sessions begin for Key Stage 2 (Junior groups)
- 'Learning Through Sport' sessions (inc. Sports Leaders and multi sports) commence
- Wed 17th - Years 5 and 6 to Wick Court Farm to meet 'buddies' from Charles Dickens School (Southwark)
- Phonics (Letters and Sounds) information eve. for parents of pupils in Rec Year (6.00pm)
- Fri 19th - 'Jeans for Genes Day' - pupils to wear their jeans (normal school uniform above the waist) and donate a £1 in support of research into genetic disorders at birth
- Mon 22nd - Book Week commences (school hall)
- Class 4 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Wed 24th - Parents consultation evenings (share expectations and pupil targets)
- Thurs 25th - Parents consultation evenings (share expectations and pupil targets)
- Tues 30th - Parents Association AGM (7.00pm school hall—all welcome)

October

- Mon 6th - Reception pupils commence fulltime
- Thurs 9th - Harvest Celebration (2.00pm St Michael and All Angels church - parents welcome)
- Fri 10th - School photographer (individuals and families - school hall)
- Mon 20th - Class 2 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Thurs 23rd - Years 5 and 6 pupils from Charles Dickens School to visit Eastington
- Term 1 concludes
- Fri 23rd - INSET Day (school closed - staff only)

Term Break - Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct

Term 2

November

- Mon 3rd - Term 2 commences
- Mon 10th - Class 3 Assembly (school hall - parents welcome)
- Tues 11th - Remembrance Service 11.00am

December

- Tues 2nd - Musicians to perform for the Bluebell Club (village hall)
- Thurs 4th - KS 1 (Infants) Nativity performances (2.00pm and 6.00pm - school hall)
- Sun 7th - School/PA Christmas Bazaar (12.00pm school hall)
- Wed 10th - KS 2 (Juniors) Christmas performance (6.30pm school - school hall)
- Thurs 11th - KS 2 (Juniors) Christmas performance (1.30pm and 6.30pm - school hall)
- Fri 19th - Final day of term 2

Term break - Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan 2015.....

January

- Mon 5th - INSET Day (school closed - staff only)
- Tues 6th - Term 3 commences

Thank you for your continued support

MJ Strang
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together