

## Dear Parents

I hope you enjoyed the sunshine at the weekend. Let's hope it is an indication of what's to come during the remainder of the school year.

As we approach the final week of term 5, it has, indeed, proved a busy time in school. Many Year groups are involved in national assessments to support our judgements as to the progress the children have made to date. The school has recently been externally moderated by the Local Authority to confirm these judgements are in line with other schools and national benchmarks. All procedures and practices were deemed to be accurate. I am always impressed with how the children apply themselves to more formal tasks and continue to take pride in everything they do. Parents of pupils in Years 2 and 6 will receive their child's results as part of their end of year report. Pupils in Year 1 will shortly participate in the statutory Phonic screening tests and parents informed accordingly. Whilst formal assessments are integral to the learning process and confirms what children know and can do, we recognise a whole range of achievements and continue to celebrate the development of the whole child.

## May Queen 2014

I am delighted to announce that Méabh Proctor (Year 6) is the 2014 May Queen. Elected by the children, Méabh is the 105<sup>th</sup> representative at this special event to be held after school this forthcoming Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The May Queens 'elect' have also played their part and chosen Florence Watkins, Nel Beach (Class 1), Jorja Pillinger and Poppy Jones (Class 2) as attendants with Ben Smith and Jon Davies (Class 3) as Pages for the occasion. Our country dancers will perform traditional Maypole dancing followed by the crowning ceremony at approximately 3.40pm. Members of the Parents Association will be on hand to provide refreshments. Any cake donations will be gratefully received and undoubtedly eaten! Thank you. Let's hope for some fine weather (in the event of unsettled conditions the crowning ceremony will take place in the school hall). We look forward to seeing you all.

## Welcome

Parents of pupils who begin their Reception Year in September join us on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May (6.00pm) for an information/Welcome evening in the school hall. Eastington Playgroup continue with their pre-school sessions on Wednesday afternoons as part of their induction programme.

## School Meals from September

As you are aware the government have confirmed that every child in the Reception/ Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a free school meal from September 2014. 'Edwards and Ward' (LA approved contractor) has been appointed to provide this service. The school is busy preparing for this change and further information will be with you shortly. As previously mentioned, this service is also available for pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 as a parent pay provision. Again, details will be with you as soon as the online 'Parent Pay' facility is available if you wish to take advantage of this service. A reminder that the system is flexible and parents may still provide their children with a packed lunch as and when required. Our aim is to ensure that all children have a balanced and nutritious lunch every day whether it's free, hot or a packed lunch!

## Out and about

We will be using the school field (Cotswold Avenue) for sports activities during the coming weeks and to avoid sending home letters on each occasion, please be assured that the children will be supervised at all times and all activities will take place during the normal school day. It is important, however, that PE kit is in school and ready to use. Thank you.

*(continued overleaf)*

### **Special Educational Needs - Important changes**

The government have recently announced important changes regarding SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability). Firstly, if your child receives additional support with their learning - nothing will change in line with current legislation and we will continue to work closely with parents and pupils to ensure they are fully involved in the process and every child receives the support they need. There are some changes, however, regarding how external agencies (Health, Care Services etc.) operate with schools and parents to provide a more cohesive level of involvement. If your child is on the SEND register, information from the DfE (Dept for Education) will be sent to you shortly. A further requirement for all schools is that any SEND provision is clearly known and understood by parents. Again, the school governors are working with the LA to ensure this is in place and will be available on the school website from September 2014.

### **'Your PA needs you!'**

With the Quiz Night postponed to ensure we have our usual fantastic support, the next major event of the year is the **'Summer Duck Races' on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. Members of the PA are meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May to begin planning. I know they will be in contact shortly to ask for your help, whether running a stall, providing donations, buying duck race tickets or simply turning up on the day – your support is greatly valued and all monies raised helps to provide even more resources for the children. Thank you.

Finally, a reminder that term 5 concludes this forthcoming Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May with **Term 6 commencing on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**MJ Strang  
Headteacher**



*'Aiming high.....together!'*