



Dear Parents

It was lovely to see so many of you at sports day and thank you to all those who helped with the activities. It was great to see the children giving their all and having fun!

A great team effort

Our athletes have been in action competing in the Stroud and District Area Championships. We congratulate all our jumpers, throwers and sprinters who gave their all with some outstanding performances. Everyone played their part and we finished overall 5th out of 20 schools. A very 'well done' to every athlete and to all those parents who cheered them along.....(sore throats and palms all round I believe.....but worth it!).

Sports Award 2014

We have many talented youngsters who excel in a whole range of sports and have represented both the school and the region this year. The Robinson Cup is awarded each year to someone who shows potential and maintains a positive attitude in their chosen activities. I am delighted that Zac Ellis (Year 6) is the 2014 recipient. Zac captained the school football team who won the Stroud small schools tournament and represented Eastington at the Area sports championships. Previous winners include a national swimmer, a member of the Royal Ballet company and current member of the GB ski team. Our heartiest congratulations to Zac who received the Award from Mrs Robinson during a special assembly last week.

Take a bow!

We all enjoyed a super evening of music when our young musicians shared their wonderful talents to a very appreciative audience. Clarinets, Flutes, recorders, guitars, saxophone and the piano were some of the instruments on show with children (and teachers!) performing together. Our thanks to Mrs Stephens-Hudd and Mr Watson (peripatetic staff) and to all the teachers who support the children on a regular basis to ensure that music remains such a strong feature of the school. (*applause!*)

Alex Fryer Music Award 2014

I am delighted to announce that Oliver Cousins (Year 5) is the 2014 recipient of this very special Music Award. Alex was a former pupil at Eastington who sadly died a number of years ago. His memory lives on through this award given by his parents during a special assembly. Congratulations to Oliver and our thanks to Mr and Mrs Fryer for their continued support for music..

You only get out what you put in!

This is certainly true when it comes to gardening! The Bill Fletcher Gardening Award has been won by Class 4. Mr Fletcher cast a critical eye over the Class gardens and praised the children's efforts. A special thanks to Mr Fletcher who continues to support many gardening events in the village.

Leavers Assembly

A reminder that parents of pupils in Year 6 are invited to a special 'farewell' assembly and presentation on Friday 18th July at 6.00pm in the school hall.

School lunches...September 2014

You should have received information regarding the lunch service that will be operated from September. Parents of pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who wish their child to receive a hot meal will need to activate their 'ParentPay' account before the start of the term and ensure there is adequate funds to cover the cost. (Instructions and account details previously sent home in a sealed envelope). Parents of pupils in the Reception Year, Year 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal and therefore simply need to inform the school on a daily basis their choice of meal. A reminder that the system is flexible and parents wishing their child to continue with sandwich lunches may do so or opt to have a school meal on a day to day basis. Thank you.

(continued overleaf)

Looking back.....

As another academic year draws to a close, we have much to celebrate. It seems only yesterday that Classes 1 and 2 enchanted us with their version of the Christmas Nativity and (not to be outdone), the junior Classes transported us to a chocolate factory where we followed Charlie's dream of finding the golden ticket! Sporting successes have included the school teams reaching the finals of the 6-a-side and our tag rugby teams just being pipped at the post for a place in the Stroud finals. The country dancing festival early in the year and (more recently) an inspirational musical evening reflects the wide opportunities for children to excel.

Throughout the year, a whole range of educational visits have supported the children's learning including a number of special guests, who helped bring topics to life by sharing their expertise and experiences. It was lovely to see our friends from Charles Dickens Primary (London) who visited Eastington in October and once again our visitors from Japan provided a much broader cultural experience for our children when they visited in March. Heart warming letters from our friends at Langa Langa Primary School in Kenya highlighted the importance of global awareness and celebrating diversity. Winning the Stroud Schools Mock Trial (again!), the success of the Business Enterprise and all the traditional whole school events help to make Eastington the place it is. We should also remember the hard work and additional time given so willingly by members of the Parents Association. Thank you to the team for their fantastic support this year, enabling the school to purchase new computer equipment. 2013/14 also saw the return of Mrs Wood following her maternity leave and new additions to the Taylor and Childs families.

Looking forward.....

2014/15 promises to be another busy and exciting year for Eastington. As with many schools, we see the introduction of the 'new' curriculum in line with national guidance. There are changes to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) incorporating a more holistic approach within an Education, Health and Care Plan for pupils requiring additional support. We await further guidance from the DfE regarding the use of levels' to determine pupil progress and the school inspection process is currently under review. Whilst there will always be educational evolution, there are constants in the day to day provision we offer the children. Maintaining high expectations through quality teaching and learning, celebrating achievement, valuing what everyone brings and ensuring a safe and positive environment where children enjoy learning.

One of our key priorities for 2014/15 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. We are also organising a 'problem solving day' to extend the children's use and application of Mathematics. With technology now a part of everyday life, we are hoping to provide additional resources (ipads/tablets etc.) to support the introduction of 'coding' and computer science. We, will however, continue to support the children with making informed and sensible choices when using the internet so they remain safe at home as well as school. We are using the additional PE funding to extend our multi skills programme and sports leadership initiative with Jason Boon (professional tennis coach). French and digital photography continues for all pupils in KS 2 with educational visits planned throughout the year for all Year groups. Above all, we aim that learning is purposeful, challenging, and engaging.

'Goodbye' and Good luck'

We say farewell to pupils in Year 6 who leave us to begin their secondary education in September. We wish them every success and hope that a 'little of Eastington Primary' remains with them always
.....good luck and take care.

HAVING COMPLETED ALL THE REQUESTS FOR PLACEMENT, ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AUTUMN TERMS HAVE NOW BEEN CONFIRMED WITH;

.....**IN CLASS**.....

WITH.....**AS THEIR CLASS TEACHER(S)**

Finally,

Term 6 concludes this forthcoming Friday 18th July at normal time and we look forward to seeing you on;
TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER...when the new academic year commences.

Thank you, as always, for all your continued support – enjoy a safe and restful break with your family and friends.

MJ Strang
Headteacher

