



Dear Parents

It was lovely to see so many of you during the parents' consultation evenings. It always proves such a valuable time to exchange information and share expectations for the year ahead. Thank you for all your positive comments and we look forward to working with you during 2013/14.

'Connections'

Pupils in Year 5 recently attended a special 'Inspiration day' at the Subscription rooms in Stroud to launch a unique music project. They are working alongside pupils from Tredworth Primary, Chalford Hill and Stroud Valley Schools to create a musical performance celebrating our rich heritage and the 'connections' that exist between our communities. Each school will participate in a short series of school based workshops with professional musicians under the direction of David Ayre. This will culminate in a 'one off' celebration evening on Thurs 24th October at the Subscription rooms in Stroud, bringing together their own ideas and talents. What an experience!

Jeans for Genes

Thank you for such a super response. Apart from the novelty of wearing 'non-uniform' for the day, it resulted in £156 donated to this special organisation who provide support for children with genetic disorders. 'Well done everyone and ...Thank you!'

Read on.....Book Week 2013

It was great to see the children (and grown ups!) delving into the book shelves. Whilst the aim is to raise the profile of reading for enjoyment, it also means that for every book purchased the school receives a small commission enabling us to buy even more books for the children to enjoy in their classrooms and at home. A 'win, win' situation!

An invitation to 'YOU'

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are very fortunate to have an active Parents Association who provide much needed funds for the school. They also play an important role as representatives within the community. The current team would like to tell you all about what they do and how we can work together to support the school during this forthcoming academic year. As parents you are automatically members of the Parents Association and are warmly invited to share a glass of wine and some nibbles on **Tuesday 1st October from 7.00pm** in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Harvest celebration

A reminder that the children's Harvest celebration takes place on **Thursday 10th October at 2.00pm** in the church. Each class will provide a short contribution to our theme, 'A Harvest Pizza!' This year we are supporting the 'Foodbank' operation based at Stroud who provide much needed resources to a large number of individuals and families in difficult circumstances. We are, therefore, asking for any items that you wish to donate. Non perishables (tins, dried food, packets etc.) can be brought to school as soon as you wish. Obviously, fresh produce (fruit, vegetables etc.) may be handed in nearer the time or on the morning of the Harvest to be included in a display in the church. My understanding is that the Foodbank centre is currently very low on resources, so please give what you can to those in need. Your support is greatly appreciated. Whilst this is the children's Harvest, we look forward to you joining us in the church to celebrate this special time of year. **If you are bringing younger children, please be mindful as their voices and cries can occasionally prevent everyone from enjoying the experience. Thank you.**

(continued overleaf)

Safety first

It is my usual plea for everyone to be mindful at the start and end of every day when approaching or leaving the area in and around the school. Given the amount of traffic on our roads today it is hardly surprising that most schools experience considerable congestion during 'dropping off' and 'collection' times. We constantly remind the children about their safety and with your help and consideration for fellow drivers and their precious cargo we can ensure this remains a top priority.

School photographer—Friday 11th October

A reminder that the family and individual photographs will be taken on Friday 11th October. If you wish younger members of the family (who are yet to start school) to be included please see Mrs Lester in the office and we will arrange for a time at the start of the school day.

'Bag 2 School' collection – time for a clear out!

A reminder that the collection day is **Monday 30th September**. All contributions need to be in the bags provided and left at the front entrance at the start of the school day ready for weighing and collection.

The challenge begins

We wish our football team 'good luck' as they are scheduled to compete in the forthcoming Stroud area 8-a-side football league. We also have high hopes for our Year 3 and 4 tag rugby team who are hoping to emulate the achievements of their older friends in Years 5 and 6, who reached the area finals last season under the watchful eye of Mr Organ (parent helper).

Cakes for tea

Members of the PA are once again holding monthly cake sales after school (under the playground ladybird!). The first sale is planned for our final day of term 1 (**Thursday 24th October**). As usual, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

'Back in time....'

All junior classes are visiting the STEAM museum in Swindon on Monday 30th September as part of their historical focus on 'Life in Britain during World War 2'. With many school based activities already underway, this valuable experience promises to further enhance the children's understanding of this challenging time in our recent history. Do ask them about it.

A 'spooky' date for your diary

The Parents Association are organising a children's Halloween party at the Owen Harris Community Centre on **Friday 8th November**. Further details will be with you shortly.

A reminder that term 1 concludes on **Thursday 24th October**.

Thank you for your continued support—busy times!

Yours sincerely

MJ Strang
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together'