



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 2014/15.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you for such a super response. Apart from the novelty of wearing 'non-uniform' for the day, it resulted in £150 donated to this special organisation who provide support for children with genetic disorders. 'Well done everyone and ...Thank you!'

Read on.....Book Week 2014

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!

It's Harvest 'TIME'

A reminder that the children's Harvest celebration takes place on this forthcoming **Thursday (9th October) at 2.00pm** in the church. Each class will provide a short contribution to our theme, 'Harvest TIME'. We are once again 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 celebration you are most welcome to join us in the church. **If you are bringing younger children, please be mindful as their voices and cries can occasionally prevent everyone from enjoying the experience. Thank you.**

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.

'Smile please'!

A reminder that family and individual photographs will be taken on **Friday 10th 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.

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. Our first matches are on Thursday 9th October against Leonard Stanley and Haresfield Schools. Meanwhile Mr Organ (parent helper) is coaching the Years 5 and 6 tag rugby players in preparation for the Stroud Schools tournament in term 3.

Cakes for tea

Members of the PA are once again holding monthly cake sales after school. The next sale is planned for our final day of term 1 (**Thursday 23rd October**). As usual, your contributions are greatly appreciated...and happily eaten!

(continued overleaf)

Eastington Parents and Friends Association 2014/15

Thank you all who came to the recent PA AGM. The Association has formed a working committee and elected Officers for 2014/15. Karen Hayes is the Chairperson, ably supported by Emma Owen (vice Chair), Katy Smith (Treasurer) and Sam Jenner (minutes secretary). Whilst the working committee will take the lead in organising events, they do need your help so please get involved and support in any way you can. Thank you.

The Governing Body

We are very fortunate to have an active Governing Body who support the school in so many ways. Following their first full meeting of the academic year, Kay Davis has been elected as Chairperson with Martin Elliot acting as vice Chair for 2014/15.

Pupils voice...

In keeping with the above, the children have also had their say with representatives from each class forming the Rights Respecting School group and the pupils School Council. I look forward to hearing their views and working with them to ensure that Eastington remains a great place to learn.

We welcome our friends from London

Pupils from Charles Dickens Primary, Southwark are spending a morning with us on Thursday 23rd October. Our Years 5 and 6 pupils have already exchanged letters and met with their friends when they visited Wick Court Farm earlier in the term. Whilst our special link with Charles Dickens Primary provides an opportunity to establish friendships, it also helps us to understand our different environments and the wide range of cultures that we share. I am sure the morning will prove as inspiring as ever.

It's Parish Apple day...

As many of you will know the Eastington Community Orchard project has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Tom Low (Eastington resident) and his merry band of fruit pickers. With bumper crops predicted this year, the ECO group are celebrating 'Parish Apple Day' on Saturday 18th October. Mr Low has been invited to share his knowledge (and enthusiasm!) for this project at a forthcoming assembly. If you and your family would like to be involved with collecting, crushing and bottling please see the latest edition of the Eastington Community News or pop into school and we'll put you in touch with Tom and his team.

'Thank you'

Some of you have already noticed that we have a replacement planter in the porch area of the front entrance. Our thanks to Mr Gardner (Jack's dad) for his time and handy work!

A spooky date

The Parents Association are organising a children's Halloween party at the Owen Harris Community Centre on **Friday 7th November**. Further details will be with you shortly.

A reminder that term 1 concludes on **Thursday 23rd October**.

Thank you for your continued support—busy times!

MJ Strang
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together