



Dear Parents

It has been an exceptionally busy year so far. Term 1 involved many planned activities 'beyond the classroom' with term 2 proving to be just as industrious as we approach the festive period.

Thank you

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Harvest celebration and thank you again for your kind donations to the local Foodbank who support those in need within the Stroud area. I know that all the items were gratefully received and will make a huge difference to those in challenging circumstances. Thank you.

Our friends from London

We thoroughly enjoyed the visit from our 'buddies' from Charles Dickens Primary, Southwark who experienced a morning at Eastington cementing their friendships, sharing ideas and simply having fun! As part of our 'learning links' we are planning to undertake a joint writing project between the schools later in the academic year....watch this space!

On the sporting front...

Our Year 5 and 6 football team are currently undefeated so far this season having won 7 games and drawn 1 (and yet to concede a goal!). Whilst it is always good to experience that winning feeling all the players should be congratulated for their team spirit, tenacity and sense of pride when representing the school. With the evenings becoming increasing darker, our remaining matches in this particular competition conclude this Thursday at Callowell Primary in Stroud. Thank you to all the mums, dads and grandparents who provide support from the touchline including Mr Thomas (parent) who has helped with transportation to all our matches to date.

Additional funding for sport

The government have once again allocated additional funding to further develop PE and sport in all primary schools. We have always acknowledged the importance of an active lifestyle and will continue to provide a comprehensive programme of Physical Education with opportunities to extend this beyond the school day. We are very fortunate to have secured the expertise of Jason Boon (professional tennis coach) who has been working with us for some time. We are continuing with our multi-skills sessions for all groups and to further develop our own 'Learning Through Sport' programme which highlights key aspects of learning (e.g. 'communication', 'decision making', 'confidence', 'positive attitudes' etc.) through physical activity.

A time of reflection

The school is planning to observe 2 minutes silence during a special 'Remembrance' assembly on Tuesday 11th November. The names of former pupils from Eastington who gave their lives during the 1914 -18 war will be read out and remembered. Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal as we consider all those men and women in the armed forces who have been affected by conflict past and present. The school collection will be forwarded to the Appeal.

What a super response.....

Last Friday, a group of Year 4 girls organised a cake sale in support of Cancer Research and thanks to all those who bought (and ate) the cakes, they raised a staggering £135 during the morning break period and a further £57.38 at the PA Halloween Party! A special thanks to all those mums and dads (and children) who very kindly made the cakes. I know that Lily and her friends in Class 4 wanted to say 'thank you'.....

Classical fun!

We were delighted, inspired, and entertained when the Carducci Quartet very kindly performed to the whole school recently. It was simply....brilliant!

(continued overleaf)

Children in Need 2014 (non uniform day) Friday 14th November



In support of this worthwhile cause, we are suggesting a 'non uniform day' when the children can wear their everyday clothes to school on Friday 14th November. For this 'privilege' the children are asked to donate £1.00. to those in need.

Eastington Parents Association.....whatever next!

Following a very successful children's Halloween Party the next event is the **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER (12.00pm onwards)**. Members of the PA committee are asking for your help and support to ensure it is a 'Christmassy' and successful occasion. Please make every effort to support the event, whether it involves helping out on stalls, donating an item or simply buying and selling Raffle tickets. I am aware of some fantastic prizes that are 'on offer' this year. The PA will be in touch shortly with further Details

'Write on.....'

As part of the school's focus on developing pupil's writing, we ask the children to share their work during our Friday assemblies. It is such a pleasure to hear the children's results and to see the pride they have in their work. Please make every effort to support your child's learning, whether helping with spellings, reading, writing etc. – it really does make a difference.

Extra-curricular activities

A reminder that this is the final week for after school clubs (apart from Hockey club which finished last Friday) due to the failing light and the importance of ensuring those who walk or cycle etc. arrive home safely. All lunchtime activities, however, continue as per usual.

Governor of the Month

Sarah Underdown is the Governor of the month for December and will visit classrooms to discuss with children and teachers the school's priorities for further development. Governors continue to play an important role and to provide the appropriate challenge and support to ensure Eastington remains a great place to learn.

Let's hope we don't have to use it!

Whilst we are still experiencing autumnal conditions it is well to be prepared for further changes as we approach a potential wintry period. Please find attached the usual 'severe weather line' information with parent contacts if conditions deteriorate and affects the school day. Hopefully, this is a precautionary measure however, in the event of adverse weather conditions – 'communication is all'.

It's good to know

With many visitors to the school so far this year, the feedback has proved overwhelmingly positive including prospective parents complimenting us on the community atmosphere and excellent relationships seen between the staff and children. Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events including the children's Christmas performances.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

MJ Strang
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together