

**Dear Parents**

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 and support for young people in need in and around the Stroud area. I know that all the items will be gratefully received and make a huge difference to those in challenging circumstances. Thank you.

Our first term of the 2013/14 academic year has proved very busy and enjoyable with children involved in a whole range of activities in support of their learning. With the Reception Year now enjoying a full day we are up to capacity and looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

**Books and more books!**

Following our successful Book Week (and your purchases!) we have secured commission of £130 per class group to spend on even more books! Thank you.

**Sports news**

Our Years 5 and 6 football team gave a really spirited performance against Minchinhampton Primary but unfortunately lost in a well contested game. We hope to pick up points in the league during our forthcoming matches against Nailsworth and Amberley (Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Nov). Our Year 3 and 4 tag rugby team are playing this week (Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct) in a mini tournament at Leonard Stanley Primary. Good luck to all our sporting achievers.

As part of the school's commitment to providing high quality sport for all, we are offering more multi sport sessions for all class groups throughout the year with Jason Boon (professional tennis coach). Jason already leads our 'Learning Through Sport' programme and is currently working with Year 5 pupils as part of the 'Junior Sports Leader' initiative.

**Rights Respecting School 2013-14**

I am delighted to confirm that representatives have been elected by their class mates as part of the Steering group for the RRS team;

Year 2 Tyler Watson/Esme Clutterbuck  
Year 3 Lily Kimber/Mae Hedges  
Year 4 Arthur Freebrey/Barty Godsell  
Year 5 Florence Fuller/Isabelle Warner  
Year 6 Zac Ellis/Tennyson Godsell

The group will work with staff and governors to 'champion' initiatives that help us recognise our responsibilities as global citizens.

**Eastington Parents Association and Friends**

A new committee has been formed and will help plan events for 2013/14. The Chairperson is Neil Wood (Eleanor's dad). Thank you to all who have offered support. All the committee members are looking forward to working with you and have already confirmed their first event: **Children's Halloween Night Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** (6.00pm—8.00pm) at the OHMG (Owen Harris Memorial Ground) Community Centre, Snakey Lane, Eastington. This is a children's party/disco with an opportunity to dress up and have some spooky fun. **Tickets (£2.50) are available from the school office.**

An early date for your diary is the **School Christmas Bazaar – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 12.00pm onwards** (The PA will no doubt be in touch with more details). The next PA meeting is on Tues 5<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm Old Badger pub in the village to confirm arrangements for the Halloween Party and thereafter on Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> November (7.00pm) at school to discuss the Christmas Bazaar.

(continued overleaf)

### **Musical 'Connections' project**

Pupils in Year 5 have been working hard to create their 'contribution' to this fantastic project involving 3 other primary schools who are celebrating our rich local heritage. Focusing on the 'connections' between canals and the railway, each school will have the opportunity to perform during a very special concert held at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud this forthcoming Thursday (24<sup>th</sup> Oct) 7.00pm. This unique project has involved professional musicians working within each school to compose a song that represents the children's interpretation of local history. The schools have only one session together on Thursday morning before they perform to a packed audience on the same evening....(no pressure!). We look forward to what promises to be a very memorable evening.

### **He's back.....another musical exclusive!**

We are delighted that John Mills has offered to perform at Eastington Primary again. Those of us who were fortunate enough to listen to John last year were mesmerised by his talent. John is a world renowned performer and current Head of the Royal Welsh College of Music. He has played all over the world including a performance to HM The Queen during a special reception in New Zealand. His remarkable career has spanned some 45 years and has given over 3000 concerts around the world. He has studied with John Williams and Julian Bream. He was recently interviewed on BBC Radio 3 as part of a project to celebrate the works of Sergovia (which he recorded in our school hall!). John is about to embark on a series of concerts in Singapore and has agreed to a 'one-off' special recital just for Eastington Primary on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November (7.30-9.30pm)**. This is not a published performance and all ticket sales will support the school. Further details (and tickets) will be on sale from the school office after the term break. Wow!

### **Our friends from London**

We are very excited about the visit from our friends from Charles Dickens Primary School, London. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are linking up with their 'pen friends' during a special visit from their London buddies on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. It is so inspiring to see children from very different environments and cultures sharing experiences and engaging at all levels.

### **Time is important**

As you may be aware, governor representatives have been at the front of school prior to the start of the school day to monitor attendance. Please make every effort to ensure your child(ren) arrive at school on time (gates close at 8.50am) and ready for the day ahead. Thank you.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> October**). As usual, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

**A reminder that term 1 concludes this forthcoming Thursday (24<sup>th</sup> October) with term 2 commencing on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.**

Thank you for your continued support—busy times!

Yours sincerely

**MJ Strang  
Headteacher**



*Aiming high.....together'*