



Dear Parents

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Bazaar which, as always, provides an opportunity for the school and the community to come together at this special time of year. My understanding is that following the necessary expenditure £1570.30 has been raised for the school. This is a fantastic effort and will support the funding of additional IT resources including a set of learning tablets which we hope to purchase later in the New Year. A special thanks to Emma Owen (PA Chair) and to everyone who either helped on the day, donated many of the items on sale or simply came along and supported the eventThank you!

'Mr Potts was recognised for his thoughtfulness and the man cub survived the jungle!'

'Well done' to all the children and staff in Classes 1 and 2 for such a splendid infant nativity tableau. Mr Potts, the kind caretaker reminded everyone of the true meaning of Christmas. The infant nativity really does herald the beginning of the festive season. The older children did more than raise a smile with their interpretation of 'The Jungle Book'. This well known Disney Classic was given a little Eastington 'make-over' whilst reminding us all about true friendship and hope for the future. What talent we have at Eastington! The retiring collections from all performances totalled £916, which is overwhelming, thank you. This will be equally divided between the children's chosen charities this year; Winston's Wish and the Haemophilia Society.' Thank you so much.

A Christmassy sing-a-long

Some of the older children 'entertained' members of the Eastington 'Bluebell Club' at the village hall recently, playing their instruments and singing traditional Christmas carols. Apart from the usual communal sing-a-long, it was lovely to see young people sharing the moment with our more senior citizens. Stories were exchanged of life many years ago and the expectations of what tomorrow holds...it was simply, wonderful. Our thanks to Mrs Anne Shill, Mr Bill Fletcher and all at Bluebells for making us feel so welcome.

Our special tree

Many of you have commented on the super Christmas tree that stands proudly near the entrance to the school hall. Every year Mr Trevor Davis, former parent donates the tree to the school for all to enjoy. Mr Davis' son (Brian) left the school over 20 years ago! During our final assembly the tree is 'un-decorated' and we leave just one present underneath to remind us of those, who for whatever reason, are unable to be with their loved ones at this time of year. Our thanks (again) to Mr Davis.

Happy achievers...take a bow

The recent publication of primary schools performance tables highlights the importance of maintaining the balance between high standards and the progress the children make in many areas of learning whilst at Eastington Primary. Whilst we are naturally delighted and share in the children's success, it is just one indicator of how schools are measured. We endeavour to provide a curriculum that excites and challenges pupils in an environment that values achievement at all levels. Thank you to all who have offered their congratulations to the school—it truly is a team effort!

Musical tuition

Instrumental tuition has now concluded for term 2 with sessions beginning again in January 2015 (Fri 9th for woodwind/piano and Mon 12th for guitars) with Mrs Stevens-Hudd and Mr Watson respectively. Children are reminded to bring their instruments accordingly.

Christingle Candles

A reminder that Christingle donation candles are available from Mrs Lester in the school office, if you intend to join the Christmas Eve Service (6.00pm) at St Michael and All Angels church, Eastington.

(continued overleaf)

Keeping safe

Whilst I appreciate this is a very busy time of year for most of us, we all need to remain safety conscious especially when approaching or leaving the school. I have reminded the children about their responsibilities particularly at the start and end of the school day. It is important, therefore, that we as vehicle owners, play our part. Please be mindful of all road users whether arriving, parking or leaving the school. The police are aware and will, no doubt, visit us from time to timejust to help remind us to keep safe.
Thank you.

Looking forward..

Following the implementation of the new primary curriculum in September the school will maintain its focus on a range of activities to support the children's learning. As usual the 'parents curriculum information' will be with you after the Christmas break highlighting what the children will be covering in the spring terms.

Eastington is part of a selected group of schools from across Gloucestershire who are reviewing how pupil progress is measured given the DfE have withdrawn 'levels' for all Year groups (apart for Years 2 and 6 during this transitional period). Linking with schools from very different settings is always professionally exciting and serves to reinforce effective practice so we are able to empower our young learners to reach their potential. There will be changes to the way schools report progress as the focus is now on the children's depth of understanding and how their knowledge and skills are applied across the whole curriculum in line with national standards. Naturally, I will keep you informed as a matter of course, in the meantime there are many exciting projects planned for 2015.

And finally....

The children's final day of term 2 is this forthcoming Friday 19th Dec (finish usual time) and term 3 commences on **TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2015**.

On behalf of the staff and children, may I wish you a very merry, restful and safe Christmas with your family and friends.

Yours sincerely

MJ Strang
Headteacher



*Aiming high.....**together***