



Dear Parents,

I have loved working with and for your children this term. Their kind-heartedness, creativity and desire to learn make our school a special place to be. Thank you for offering your warm wishes and continued support too- the strength of Eastington is in the whole school community working together. Long may it continue in 2016. On behalf of the staff and children, may I wish you a merry and peaceful Christmas with your family and friends.

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success on Sunday 6th December. Many children and adults enjoyed the food, games and opportunity to stock up on Christmas gifts. Father Christmas visited the school and was a big hit as usual! Congratulations to those who won raffle prizes and will be enjoying the sumptuous hamper and the jumpstastic party over the holiday break. Many thanks to everyone who donated items and especially to the PA team for bringing our community together for a fun filled afternoon. The total raised this year was £1100 which will directly support your children through being shared between the classes to buy resources.

Sharing music in our community

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 with skill and confidence. The children enjoyed having time to talk about Christmas and share stories with the senior citizens over squash and a mince pie too. Our thanks to the Bluebell group for making us feel so welcome and for their hospitality.

Nativity: Children of the World

The children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One enjoyed the opportunity to share the nativity story with us in December. The children performed incredibly well and clearly enjoyed singing and dancing. The music was varied and induced much toe-tapping and humming from the audience! We learned lots of fascinating facts about how Christmas is celebrated in China, Australia, Ireland, Malawi, USA and Poland. In addition the children reminded us of the importance of recognising our differences and similarities while working together for good. Thank you children.

Mary Poppins

Key Stage Two children led a wonderful production of Mary Poppins. We watched Mr Banks transform as he recognised the importance of family and fun due to the influence of Mary Poppins and his children. The solo and group singing was moving and enthusiastic - much of the audience enjoyed joining in with the well know choruses too. Clearly there are many talented stars in our midst. Fantastic job Key Stage 2! The collections from the Nativity and Mary Poppins raised over £800 which will be shared between School Funds and Longfield (who support people with life-limiting illness in Gloucestershire). Thank you for giving generously.

Nativity and Mary Poppins Photographs

Thank you for keeping children safe and respecting the wishes of parents by not filming/ taking photographs of the productions. Many thanks go to Mr Dougan for giving his time and skill generously supporting us in this area. We request that you do not share the photographs on social media but enjoy them as a family. Mr Dougan has given me these instructions to enable you to access the photographs he has taken of the productions:

Please send me an e-mail. graemedougan@btinternet.com You will then get an e-mail with an invite from me. Click on the invite link within the e-mail and it will open dropbox. All the photographs can be downloaded, individually or as a group, in the normal way. Please do not delete photographs from drop box.

Our Christmas 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! The children enjoyed decorating it with me and after the end of term it will be passed on to be reused in our community. Our thanks to Mr Davis.

Parent Pay request

For those of you who have school lunches can you ensure your ParentPay account has sufficient funds at all times please. It will make Mrs Lester's administration more efficient. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

I have listed below some of the key dates for your diary. We will add to these next term.

Term 2

Fri 18th - Final day of term 2

Term break - Mon 21st Dec - Mon 4th Jan 2016.....

Term 3

January

Mon 4th - INSET Day (For staff)
- Miss Ashton, final year teacher placement student, joins our teaching team in EYFS and KS1
Tues 5th - Term 3 commences for pupils

February

Fri 12th - Last day for pupils

Term 4

February

Mon 22nd - Term 4 commences for pupils

March

Wed 16th - Parent Evening
Thurs 17th - Parent Evening
Friday 18th - Visit from Students from Japan
Wed 23rd - PA led Easter Egg hunt in school
Thurs 24th - PA led Easter Egg Draw after school
- Last day for pupils

Term break - Fri 25th March - Mon 11th April 2016.....

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher



Aiming high.....together