

Dear parents,

Brrr! We have hit the cold and drizzly season. However there is lots of warmth and brightness in school with children practising for Christmas performances, experimenting with electrical equipment and using Mathletics. I have been delighted this week with the number of children coming to my office to share their great learning in maths problem solving too—there is always so much to smile about in school.

Class 3 assembly

Class 3 led a fascinating assembly about Ernest Shackleton and his crew on his 1914 adventure to explore the 'mysterious South' of Antarctica. Unfortunately Shackleton hit trouble and their ship Endurance sank. However, Shackleton had planned diligently and took good care so all his crew returned safely. The children shared times when they had been diligent at home and in school and the positive impact it had — what amazing role models you are.

Family Worker

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Ms H Matarazzo, our school family worker, as she leaves the Hill and Vale Centre for a new post in Stroud. We thank her for the support and help she has given our children and families and wish her well. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Louise King to our team who will be taking on the roll of family worker. Mrs King has a wealth of experience working with families for many years.

Community Spirit

It is great to know the community spirit in Eastington is alive and strong. We were delighted to receive two donations this week: one from the local Bonfire Committee and one from two local residents, Trevor Davis and Jo Jackson. The money will be spent on the purchase of a Christmas tree, which we know the children will delight in during this festive season and a new play box to store the play equipment for lunchtimes as our present box has broken. Many thanks to our benefactors.

School Council

The school council enjoyed a breakfast meeting recently. Part of the discussion centred around how to use any donations offered by the audience of the Christmas performances. The representatives discussed and decided on two possible charities, presented the charities to their classmates before class votes were held. The results were collated and this year any money collected will be shared between the school and Retinitis Pigmentosa Fighting Blindness. This is a charity that was founded by people with RP blindness and uses it's funds to support cutting edge research into causes and treatments of the condition. It also helps patients live with RP. A great choice—thank you.

Christmas Bazaar

Our amazing PA team have organised the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday December 3rd, at the Owen Harris Hall, at 12pm. There will be activities and stalls. Each child has made something to contribute to the fund raising: C1 decorated baubles, C2 treat baskets, C3 home made truffles (my father's favourite so I'll be in the queue), C4 pompom baubles and C5 snowmen sweet jars. In addition the school singing club will be leading a few Christmas songs at 1pm. Of course, we are expecting a visit from Father Christmas too! Come and join the fun.

Governor Visits

It has been lovely to welcome Mrs Colley, our Vice Chair of Governors, into school this week. Miss Naphine, our LA Governor, will be joining us next week too. During their time on site Governors talk with children, teachers and leaders about some of the focus areas for our school. They do a fantastic job of supporting the school in our strive to be even better. We are grateful for their expertise and time.



Bags2School Collection

The PA plan to run another Bags2School collection on the 25th January. We thought it would be an ideal time to declutter wardrobes after receiving stylish, new clothes as Christmas gifts (hopefully not too many camera testing Christmas jumpers). Please send the clothes you wish to recycle into school in the bags provided (they will be sent home nearer the time) by 9am on the 25th January as they will be collected that morning. The clothes are sold to wholesalers and importers inside and outside the EU. They will benefit those who rely on 2nd hand clothes as their sole option for good quality items, promote the REUSE of clothes while earning money for our school. Our thanks are extended to Mrs Hudd for organising the collection.

Walking Home Safely

Clubs have now finished due to the nights drawing in. Many thanks to all the staff for running such a great array of opportunities for the children this term: choir, recorders, digital art, knitting, maths 24, nature club, football, netball/basketball, gymnastics and cross-country. A couple of parents have asked about pupils walking home alone after school. Best advice is that it is a parental duty to assess the risks of the route home and balance it against their child's confidence and road awareness. To ensure children are safe we would expect children up to and including Year 4 to be picked up by an adult. If your child is in Year 5/Year 6 and you want them to walk home alone then please agree this with the class teacher in advance so we can work together.

Photographs for the Xmas performances

Thank you for updating your photograph consent slips recently—the information you gave us will be treated as confidential. We would ask the audience of the Christmas performances not to record or take photographs to ensure children are kept safe and parents wishes are respected. We do understand that many of you will want photographs of your child in their costumes and as such we are delighted that Mr Dougan, our digital art teacher, has volunteered to take photographs of the children within a school time rehearsal—he will endeavour to create some memorable photographs for you. He will put these on dropbox for you to access and enjoy—instructions will follow later.

Dates for your diary

We have listed some of the key dates for your diary.

Term 2

November

- Mon 14th - Value for learning and life: Diligence
- Fri 25th - Class 3 Assembly (10am school hall - parents welcome)
- Mon 28th - Value for learning and life: kindness

December

- Sat 3rd - School/PA Christmas Bazaar
- Thurs 8th - KS 1 Lights, Camel, Action (2.00pm and 6.00pm - school hall)
- Wed 14th - Christmas Lunch—see special school lunch menu
- KS 2 The Match Girl's Christmas (6.30pm—school hall)
- Thurs 15th - KS 2 The Match Girl's Christmas (2pm and 6.30pm—school hall)
- Fri 16th - Final day of Autumn Term 2 for pupils**

Term break - Sat 17th Dec - Tues 3rd Jan 2017 (inclusive)

January

- Tues 3th - INSET Day (For staff)
- Wed 4th - First day of Spring Term 3 for pupils**
- Tues 10th - Reflection Day (with parent opportunity after school)—TBC

Enjoy preparing your seasonal celebrations,

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together