

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.

Inspirational

Pupils in Year 5 inspired us all as they performed their musical interpretation as part of the 'Connections' project involving 3 other schools at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud during the final week of term 1. A special thanks to all the professional musicians including the Carducci Quartet, who worked with the children to celebrate our rich local heritage. It was truly inspiring.

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!

On the sporting front...

Well done to our Year 3 and 4 tag rugby team who played against Leonard Stanley Primary recently. Whilst the result did not go in our favour, they should be congratulated for their team spirit, tenacity and sense of pride representing the school. Given it was their first outing, the future looks bright and we can't wait for further matches during 2014. Our thanks to Mr Organ (parent) who gives his time and expertise to coach the team. It will be the turn of Years 5 and 6 in the spring Terms attempting to go one better than last season when they reached the semi finals of the Stroud schools area championships.

Congratulations to our Years 5 and 6 football team who participated in a mini tournament at Nailsworth Primary. All games proved a close contest with Eastington playing some super football during a very competitive afternoon. Thank you to those mums, dads and grandparents who provided support from the touchline including Mr Thomas (parent) who played his part as one of the referees.

Additional funding for sport

The government have 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 have been fortunate to secure the expertise of Jason Boon (professional tennis coach) who has been working with us for some time. The funding allows us to extend this to offer multi-skills sessions and further develop our own 'Learning Through Sport' programme. The school website has further details as to how we will allocate this funding to benefit all our pupils during 2013/14 and beyond.

A time of reflection

The school observed 2 minutes silence during a special 'Remembrance' assembly on Monday 11th November. The names of former pupils from Eastington who gave their lives during the 1914 -18 war were read out and remembered. Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal as we also consider those men and women in the armed forces who are currently involved in conflict around the world. A collection of £67.00 has been forwarded to the Appeal.

Children in Need 2013

It proved a furry day when the bears came to school as part of our support for Children in Need. With your generous donations, pupils in Class 5 organised a 'Bring and Buy' sale at break time. A staggering £240 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. A special thanks to Mrs Underdown (parent and school governor) who supplied over 90 slices of pizza which (not surprisingly) sold out in less than 15minutes! 'Well done' to all involved.

(continued overleaf)

Eastington Parents Association.....whatever next!

Following the children's Halloween Party the next event is the **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on SUNDAY 8TH 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. Thank you.

Sadly, we have postponed the John Mills concert as it appears that it is a busy time for everyone at the moment. We are hoping to persuade John to visit Eastington during the summer in order that as many people as possible will experience his remarkable talent as a world renowned classical guitarist. Watch this space!

A party for grown-ups!

On Saturday 14th December the village are holding a Christmas Party (Drinks Reception, Food, Live Band etc.) at the Eastington Community Centre (Owen Harris Memorial Ground, Snakey Lane). Tickets are £15 and all proceeds will be divided between the School and Eastington Playgroup. For tickets and further information please contact parents Victoria (07741 254386) or Kim (07775 332929). It should be great night!

Christingle candles

As part of the Christingle service at St Michael and All Angels church, donation candles are available from the school office. Please see Mrs Lester

'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 efforts. 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 all after school clubs have now ceased 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

Russell Warner is the Governor of the month for November 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!

If the latest weather predictions are true, may I remind parents that our 'snowline' contacts system is in place. Whilst details have already been sent home, a copy of all the class contacts are on the school's website; <http://www.eastingtonprimary.co.uk/home.htm>. Hopefully, this is a precautionary measure but 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

M J Strang
Headteacher



'Aiming high.....together'