



### Dear parents,

What a wonderful term of learning and fun! Your children's kind-heartedness, creativity and desire to learn make our school a special place to be. Thank you for your continued support - the strength of Eastington is in the whole school community working together. Long may it continue in 2017. On behalf of the staff and children, may I wish you a merry and peaceful Christmas with your family and friends.

### Christmas Bazaar

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. There was lots of fun with popping balloon games, wonderful singing from the choir with Mrs Wood and of course a visit from Father Christmas. My understanding is that approximately £1300 has been raised for the school. A special thanks to Emma Owen, Katy Smith and all the PA team who either helped on the day or donated many of the items on sale....Thank you!

### KS1 Christmas performance: Lights, Camel, Action!

Strictly came to town last week as the nativity play was performed by Classes 1 and 2. The performance was full of fun from start to finish—who will forget Caesar Augustus and donkey as judges? The children turned their hand (or should that be legs?) to a funky camel dance, an innkeeper's tango and even a line dance. What a wonderful start to the festive season. Thank you children and staff.

### KS2 Christmas performance: The Little Matchgirl's Christmas

The older children drew a tear (or even two!) in their performance of 'The Little Matchgirl's Christmas'. The children sang with real sensitivity to the mood, sometimes with feeling and sometimes celebratory as the story unfolded. The soloists and small group singing was wonderful too—what talent we have at Eastington. The penultimate song reminded us all that at the centre of Christmas is the opening of hearts to care and give to others. Thank you to Mrs Wood and all the teaching team for choosing such a heart-warming story and using their creativity in staging the performance.

The retiring collections from all performances will be divided between school funds and the charity chosen by the children, RP-Fighting Blindness. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

### Performance 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 using his great skills to take some cracking photos and put them on Drop Box for you. We request that you enjoy the photos as a family but do not share the photographs of other children on social media without seeking parental permission first. Mr Dougan has given me these instructions to enable you to access the photographs:

*Please send me an e-mail. [graemedougan@btinternet.com](mailto: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.*

### Attendance

There has been some recent guidance from the Department for Education around attendance and as a result we are updating our Attendance Policy—when completed a copy will be found on the school's website and in the front entrance. More detailed information will follow next year. Here are the key points around keeping children safe in education and the responsibility of parents and agencies in working together to achieve this:

- If your child is moving to a new home, discuss this with us and inform the school office of the parent they will live with, the new home address and the date of move.
- If your child is moving to a new school, discuss this with us and inform the school office of the new school name/address and the date started/planned date to start.
- The school will inform the LA if a child is at risk of being 'missing in education'.

## Governors

Mrs Underdown and Mr Elliott, who have been part of our Governing team for many years, have come to the end of their terms of office. Mrs Underdown has played a significant role in ensuring pupils with SEND have been supported well. Mr Elliott has helped the school with ensuring the property is safe and supports indoor and outdoor learning for an amazing 20 years! We pass our sincere thanks on to Mrs Underdown and Mr Elliott for their commitment to the children and school—they have made a real difference through serving the community. We send you both our thanks, love and best wishes.

## Norovirus—Information sharing request from the NHS

Norovirus causes viral gastroenteritis, which is characterised by the sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, it can spread rapidly in closed environments such as schools, childcare settings, hospitals and nursing homes. However, most people do not require treatment and recover at home within one or two days. Norovirus is easily transmitted from person to person and by consuming contaminated food or water or by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Please help by following this advice. Children with symptoms of norovirus should:

- Keep hydrated by drinking fluids as tolerated.
- If symptoms persist (more than 48 hours), phone the GP or the NHS non-emergency number 111 for advice.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Alcohol hand gel is not effective against norovirus.
- Stay away from school until they have been free of symptoms for at least 48 hours and avoid contact with others where possible.
- Do not visit friends or relatives in hospital or residential care homes as there is a real risk of introducing the infection to the establishment.

## Dates for your diary

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

### Term 2

#### 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  
Wed 25th - Bag2School (Please bring in clothes for recycling by 9am)

### February

- Fri 10th - Final day of Spring Term 1 for pupils**  
**Mon 20th - First day of Spring Term 2 for pupils**

### April

- Fri 7th - Final day of Spring Term 2 for pupils**  
**Mon 24th - First day of Summer Term 1 for pupils**

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas. Hoping your hearts are as full as your stockings.

**Zoe Avastu**  
**Headteacher**



*Aiming high.....together*