



Dear parents,

What a cold snap! It has been lovely to enjoy the flurry of snow but equally lovely that it has melted so travelling to school has become safer. There is lots of warmth and brightness in school with Christmas performances and letters from Father Christmas arriving for Class 1 and 2. I have been delighted this week with the number of children coming to my office to share their great resilience in learning and improvement in writing.

I wish you a fun filled Christmas with your loved ones and look forward to working together again in 2018!

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 Trevor Davis and Ms Jo Jackson, former parents, donate the tree to the school for all to enjoy-a lovely gesture. The children enjoyed decorating it and after the end of term it will be passed on to be reused in our community. Our heartfelt thanks to Trevor and Jo.

Christmas Performance: When a King is Born

Wow! What wonderful performances by the children in Reception and Key Stage 1. The children sang beautifully as they retold the traditional nativity story. Playgroup, parents and grandparents enjoyed watching and hearing the message of giving and sharing at this special time of year. It was a real treat children-thank you!

Christmas Performance: Snow White

The school hall was full of laughter as Key Stage 2 children led a wonderful production of Snow White. The group singing was enthusiastic and we were all impressed with the courage of those who sang solos. Clearly there are many talented comedic actors in our midst too. A fantastic job Key Stage 2!

School Council

The School Council have been active this term by entering the local Christmas Tree Festival held at St Michael and all Angels Church. The children devised a plan based on 'The Night Before Christmas' poem. They created a marvellous tree, with wonderful knitted stockings (thank you Mrs Strang's knitting club), snowflake decorations, and a chimney with father Christmas disappearing down it. Lots of people in the community enjoyed seeing the tree over the weekend (and in our front entrance this week).

Overall the tree was voted into second place by the visitors-well done School Council, you did us proud!

Also, the school council have decided that any donations offered by the audience after the Christmas performances this year will be shared between the school and Clic Sargent-a charity that supports children with cancer and Headway-a charity that supports adults & young people recovering from serious brain injury. At a time when we will be celebrating it's lovely that the children will also be helping others.

A huge thank you to Mrs Lord and Mrs Yorke for leading the School Council over the term too.

Christmas Wreath Making

The school hall was awash with greenery last week! The PA held a Christmas wreath making evening, much to the delight of other parents. Instructions on how to make wreaths were given and the end results were wonderful. Everyone left happy and ready to adorn their homes. A huge thank you to Mrs Monkman and Mrs Blomfield for raiding local hedgerows and sharing their skills- you did a wonderful job.

Governor Visits

It has been lovely to welcome many Governors into school this term: Mrs Colley, our Chair of Governors, to discuss safeguarding, Mrs Davis, our Vice-Chair to discuss mathematics, Mr Dougan to discuss Science and Miss Naphine, our LA Governor, to discuss computing. Mrs Trim will be joining us next term to discuss reading. During their time on site Governors talk with children, teachers and leaders about the focus areas for our school. They do a fantastic job of supporting and challenging the school in our strive to be even better. We are grateful for their expertise and time.

Extreme Reading Challenge

As you will no doubt be aware, reading is a vital skill that supports children in their understanding and enjoyment of all subject areas across the curriculum, and we work hard to ensure that the children are supported and challenged in their reading skills. To celebrate our focus on reading and its importance, we would like to put a **CHALLENGE** to your child/children! Over the Christmas break, we are looking for children to read in **extreme places** and to record their achievement with a photo. The children have discussed this challenge with their teachers – the value of reading a book/part of a book not just looking at it (*and the importance of not putting themselves at unnecessary risk of harm during their reading activities!*) We really look forward to seeing the different places the children (and staff!) have managed to read their books.

Parking

We have received a letter by a concerned resident about parents parking in the passing places along Millend Lane (between Churchend and Millend). This has led to difficulties with access & congestion for other drivers. They were also concerned about access by emergency vehicles if needed. We know parking is a challenge at the start/end of the day and would ask you are mindful of local residents and their concerns. Many thanks.

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a tremendous evening of festive activity and entertainment. The children enjoyed making lots of products to sell. The school choir sang their Christmas songs wonderfully and Martha played the piano accompaniment with great skill and confidence. The children were delighted that Father Christmas was able to join us too. A huge thank you to Mrs Empson for organising the event and the amazing PA team who baked cakes, painted face, served chips, manned stalls and packed away—you are a fantastic team. Thank you to the wonderful group of children who braved the chilly weather to run some stalls outside too.

Dates for your diary

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

Term 2

November

- Mon 6th - Value for learning and life: Honesty and truth
- Fri 10th - School photographs (School Hall - Individuals and families - 8.25am for pre-school children)
- Fri 17th - Class 2 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Class 4 writing for next edition of Eastington News
- Mon 20th - Value for learning and life: Respect
- Wed 22nd - Life Education Bus: supporting positive physical & mental health and relationships
- Thurs 23rd - Life Education Bus: (Parent workshop 8.50-9.20am 20 max—Please book with Mrs Birch to attend)
- Fri 24th - Class 3 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Mon 27th - Football Tournament

December

- Mon 4th - Value for learning and life: Kindness
- Tues 5th - PA Wreath Making Evening—School Hall
- Thurs 7th - KS1 Christmas Nativity: 2pm/6pm
- Fri 8th - PA Christmas Bazaar (After school in the School Hall)
- Wed 13th - KS2 Christmas Performance 6.30pm
- Thurs 14th - KS2 Christmas Performance 1.45pm/6.30pm
- Fri 15th - Last day of Autumn Term 2 for pupils

Term Break - Mond 18th December - Tues 2nd January (inclusive)

January

- Tues 2nd - INSET DAY (For staff)
- Wed 3rd - Start of Spring Term 3 for pupils**
- Tues 9th - C4 Creative Dance day (parents welcome to the performance at 2.45pm)
- Tues 23rd - PA Bags2School collection
- Fri 26th - PA KS1 Popcorn Night, School Hall

February

- Friday 2nd - PA KS2 Popcorn Night, School Hall
- Thursday 8th - Museum in the Park trip TBC
- Friday 9th - Last day of Spring Term 3 for pupils

- Monday 19th - First day of Spring Term 4 for pupils



Thank you for your continued commitment and support. **Zoe Avastu**