



Dear Parents

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. My understanding is that approximately £1200 has been raised for the school. This is a fantastic effort given that many are still feeling the pinch in this current economic climate. Much of this additional funding will support the further development of literacy throughout the school. A special thanks to Neil Wood (PA Chair), Emma Owen (vice Chair) and to everyone who either helped on the day or donated many of the items on sale....Thank you!

'A crisis was averted and Charlie's dream came true'

'Well done' to all the children and staff in Classes 1 and 2 for such a splendid infant nativity tableau. The midwife and her trusted donkey (who 'no one ever listened to!') ensured that all was in order in Bethlehem. The infant nativity really does herald the beginning of the festive season. The older children did more than raise a smile with their interpretation of Roald Dahl's famous story of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. A heart warming story of trust and relationships was brilliantly portrayed by Classes 3, 4 and 5. What talent we have at Eastington! The retiring collections from all performances totalled £1007 which is overwhelming, thank you. This will be divided between the school fund and the children's chosen charity, the Cotswold Care Hospice. Thank you so much.

A Christmassy sing-a-long

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. Apart from the usual communal sing-a-long, it was lovely to see young people sharing the moment with our more senior citizens. Stories were exchanged of life many years ago and the expectations of what tomorrow holds...it was simply, wonderful. Our thanks to Mrs Anne Shill and all at Bluebells for making us feel so welcome.

Our special 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 20 years ago! During our final assembly the tree is 'un-decorated' and we leave just one present underneath to remind us of those, who for whatever reason, are unable to be with their loved ones at this time of year. Our thanks (again) to Mr Davis.

Happy achievers...take a bow

The recent publication of primary schools performance tables highlights the importance of maintaining the balance between high standards and the progress the children make in many areas of learning whilst at Eastington Primary. Whilst we are naturally delighted and share in the children's success, it is just one indicator of how schools are measured. We endeavour to provide a curriculum that excites and challenges pupils in an environment that values achievement at all levels. Thank you to all who have offered their congratulations to the school—it truly is a team effort!

Musical tuition

Instrumental tuition has now concluded for term 2 with sessions beginning again in January 2014 (Fri 10th for woodwind/piano and Mon 13th for guitars) with Mrs Stevens—Hudd and Mr Watson respectively. Children are reminded to bring their instruments accordingly.

(continued overleaf)

Children's Christmas Party

As usual we are planning a Christmas party for the whole school on **Wed 18th Dec.** during the afternoon session. May I suggest the children bring a 'lighter' lunch on this day with the view that they will undoubtedly make up for it at the party! Once again we are asking for your help with contributions:

Class 1 - Crisps/nibbles (no nuts please as we have children who suffer from allergies and anaphylaxis)

Class 2 - Soft/fizzy drinks

Class 3 - Savouries (sausages rolls etc.)

Class 4 - Small cakes/biscuits

Class 5 - Fruit

All items can be brought to the school kitchen on the day. Many thanks.

Children are required to wear normal school uniform on Wednesday, however they may bring party clothes (in a named bag) to change into if they so wish.

Christingle Candles

A reminder that Christingle donation candles are available from Mrs Lester in the school office, if you intend to join the Christmas Eve Service (6.00pm) at St Michael and All Angels church, Eastington.

Keeping safe

Whilst I appreciate this is a very busy time of year for most of us, we all need to remain safety conscious especially when approaching or leaving the school. I have reminded the children about their responsibilities particularly at the start and end of the school day. It is important, therefore, that we as vehicle owners, play our part. Please be mindful of all road users whether arriving, parking or leaving the school. The police are aware and will, no doubt, visit us from time to timejust to help remind us to keep safe. Thank you.

Looking forward..

We have so many exciting projects planned in 2014 and maintain our focus on working together to ensure that every child reaches their potential.

And finally....

The children's final day of term 2 is Thursday 19th Dec (finish usual time) and term 3 commences on **MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2014.**

On behalf of the staff and children, may I wish you a very Merry, restful and safe Christmas with your family and friends.

Yours sincerely

MJ Strang
Headteacher



'Aiming high.....together'