



### **Dear Parents**

A very Happy New Year to all and welcome back to term 3.

Thank you again for all your supportive comments, cards and tokens at the end of the Christmas term - it is greatly appreciated.

Term 3 has started smoothly and we are looking forward to the challenges and adventures that 2015 will undoubtedly bring.

### **What's happening in the classrooms?**

Information about what your child(ren) will be learning should be with you shortly. This includes key elements of the provision that will be covered during the spring terms and the targets they are working towards. As usual, parents consultation evenings are planned during term 4. Whilst this is a more formal occasion, we do support an open door policy and your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss your child's progress throughout the year at a time convenient to all parties.

### **Parents Association 2015**

Following a hugely successful Christmas Bazaar, members of the PA are meeting this forthcoming Thursday (15th January) at 7.00pm at school to plan events for 2015 including a **Quiz Night on Friday 27th Feb**. Apart from the fun questions, the evening includes Thai food and some super prizes. Further details will be with you shortly....in the meantime, keep the date free and start gathering your team.

It is important to stress that whilst there is an elected committee, every parent is welcome to come along and share their ideas. It is always great to see 'new' faces and strengthen the commitment to supporting all that we aim to achieve at Eastington.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

After school activities will commence towards the latter part of term 3 when, hopefully, the weather and dark evenings show signs of improvement. Details of all after school clubs for the spring terms will be with you once the activities on offer have been confirmed.

### **Looking forward**

Whilst the extended autumn terms are replaced with the slightly shorter spring terms there is, nevertheless, much to do and we are very excited about our forthcoming projects in 2015. Our focus remains on the further improvement of writing and 'reading for enjoyment'. We are once again planning a 'Young Writers' day when the children will complete the whole process from idea to end result using a whole range of writing skills. In mathematics, we are placing greater emphasis on 'calculation' and how children apply their knowledge and understanding when problem solving. This will be extended during a 'problem solving morning' later in the year when the children will put their knowledge and skills to the test!

Whilst the implementation of the new primary curriculum has enabled us to review the provision for all learners, a key focus during this transitional year will be 'assessment' and how progress is measured now that levels have been withdrawn (apart from Years 2 and 6 whilst they complete the end of Key Stage programmes of study). As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Eastington is part of an invited group of Gloucestershire schools who are currently reviewing national guidance in line with the requirement to report pupil progress. This is an exciting initiative and one which sees Eastington well placed to ensure that all pupils reach their potential. Naturally, any effective curriculum also requires a broad base whereby all the creative skills including the arts, music and sport play an important part in a child's development. This is underpinned by positive attitudes to learning and how the children engage with each other in and around the school.

### **What else?**

We continue to work with our secondary colleagues as part of a science initiative. We aim to further strengthen our existing links with Charles Dickens Primary in Southwark and our friends at Langalanga Primary in Kenya. As 2014 winners of the Stroud Mock Trial competition we are looking forward 'defending' our title in 2015!

*(continued overleaf)*

### **And on the sporting front...**

Our Year 5 and 6 team are currently top of the Junior football league and have qualified for the 'play offs' in the Stroud Schools finals to be held later in the term. We are also hoping to do well in the Riddiford Shield indoor tournament next week (20th Jan). Meanwhile, we are looking to enter the Years 3 and 4 football league which takes place during the spring terms and our Year 5 and 6 tag rugby team are hoping for success in the Stroud schools Championships under the guidance of Mr Organ (parent helper).

### **'Governor of the month' update**

Carol Trim is the 'Governor of the month' for January and will be visiting the school to gain an insight into the range of strategies the children use to support their learning. Apart from providing an 'external' view, it enables governors to deepen their own knowledge of the school and supports their decisions concerning any improvements to the provision we offer.

A reminder that the PA are holding their monthly cake sale on Friday 30th January at the end of the school day. Contributions are gratefully received and will undoubtedly be happily eaten!

### **Musical Tuition**

A reminder that music tuition has already started for those learning flute, clarinet, piano and guitar with Mrs Stephens-Hudd and Mr Watson.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **January**

- Tues 13th - Year 6 Science lecture at Rednock School
- Thurs 15th - PA meeting 7.00pm (School)
- Tues 27th - Years 3 and 4 visit to the Corinium Museum, Cirencester
- Thurs 29th - Years 5 and 6 visit to the Corinium Museum, Cirencester
- Fri 30th - Class 5 'Stem works' (IT and Design Technology) workshop
- Monthly Cake Sale (3.15pm under the ladybird!)

#### **February**

- Mon 2nd - Class 4 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Mon 9th - Class 5 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Fri 13th - Final day term 3

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#### **Mon 16th - Fri 20th February - Term break**

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- Mon 23rd - Term 4 commences
- Fri 27th - Monthly Cake Sale (3.15pm)
- PA Quiz Night (7.00pm school hall)

#### **March**

- Mon 2nd - Class 1 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Mon 9th - Class 3 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Year 6 Science (physics) workshop with Rednock School
- Mon 23rd - Class 2 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Tues 24th - Parents consultation (pupil progress) evening
- Wed 25th - Easter Egg Hunt (1.30pm) in school
- Parents consultation (pupil progress) evening
- Thurs 26th - Swimming sessions commence for Years 5 and 6 (Stratford Park LC)
- Fri 27th - Easter Service (St Michael and All Angels church)
- Grand Easter Draw including PA supporting stalls etc. (3.30pm)
- Term 4 concludes

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#### **Mon 30th March—Friday 10th April - Term break**

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**April Mon 13th - Term 5 commences**

*Meanwhile.....let's hope for some improvements to the weather .....and 'dry' playtimes!*

Yours sincerely

**MJ Strang**  
**Headteacher**



*'Aiming high..... Together'*