



Dear Parents

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

Thank you 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 2014 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 2014

Following a successful Christmas Bazaar, members of the PA are meeting on Tuesday 21st January (7.00pm at school) to plan events and activities for 2014. It is important to stress that although 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.

'Governor of the month' update

James Barber 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.

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 2014. Our focus remains on the further improvement of writing and 'reading for enjoyment'. We are planning a 'Young Authors' 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. 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. A key factor, of course, is the role played by parents and the extended family to work with us and support our young achievers.

We have many extended projects during terms 3 and 4 including, working with our secondary colleagues as part of a science initiative, strengthening existing links with primary schools outside our immediate locality and getting out and about as part of our planned programmes of study.

Later in the term, we look forward to welcoming students from Japan, who will spend a morning with us sharing their language and culture. We are, once again, participating in the 'Stroud Schools Mock Trial competition' and entering a number of sporting events with neighbouring schools.busy (and exciting) times ahead!

(continued overleaf)

Cakes for tea

A reminder that the PA are holding their monthly cake sale on Friday 31st January at the end of the school day. Contributions are gratefully received and will undoubtedly be eaten!

Musical Tuition

A reminder that music tuition continues for those learning flute, clarinet, piano and guitar.

Dates for your diary

January

- Fri 10th - Year 6 Science lecture at Rednock School
- Thurs 21st - PA meeting 7.00pm (School)
- Fri 31st - Monthly Cake Sale (3.15pm under the ladybird!)

February

- Mon 3rd - Class 4 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Mon 10th - Class 5 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Tues 11th - Visit from the Welsh Birds of Prey society
- Fri 14th - Final day term 3

Mon 17th - Fri 21st February - Term break

- Mon 24th - Term 4 commences
- Fri 28th - Monthly Cake Sale (3.15pm)

March

- Mon 3rd - Class 2 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Thurs 6th - Japanese students visit (am)
- Mon 10th - Class 3 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Wed 12th - Parents consultation (pupil progress) evening
- Thurs 13th - Parents consultation (pupil progress) evening
- Swimming sessions for Years 5 and 6 commence (Stratford Park LC)
- Mon 24th - Class 1 Assembly 10.00am (parents welcome)
- Tues 25th - Stroud Country Dance Festival (Stratford Park LC 6.30pm)

April

- Wed 2nd - Children's Easter Egg Hunt (1.30pm)
- Fri 4th - Final day term 4
- Whole school Easter service (St Michael and All Angels Church)
- Grand Easter Egg Draw including the monthly Cake Sale and PA supported stalls etc. (3.30pm school playground)

Mon 7th April - Mon 21st April (inc. Easter Mon) - Term break

- Tues 22nd - Term 5 commences

I will inform you of further events, educational trips and class based activities once these have been confirmed.

Let's hope for some improvements to the weatherwith 'dry' playtimes!

Yours sincerely

M J Strang
Headteacher



'Aiming high.....together'