



Dear parents,

It's great to be enjoying a little sun after the recent rainy days. The children have been busy as usual. Class 1 have been baking gingerbread men linked to their class writing, Class 2 have been enjoying learning Kenya songs with Mrs Hynes and are planning to build a shamba aboma with Mr Dougan (no dung involved!), and Y5&6 have enjoyed a visit from a local author and story teller. An active and positive start to the year for all.

Author visit

As part of our focus on reading in KS2, it was wonderful to be joined by the author Bill Church recently. Mr Church is the resident Story Teller at the Wick Court Farm near Arlingham and our partner school, Charles Dickens Primary, London, visit Wick Court yearly to work with him and our children. He read part of his spine tingling book which is set in London and Gloucestershire with our Y5 & Y6 children. The children had the opportunity to ask questions about story writing and enjoyed generating ideas for their own stories. The children were enthused after the visit: "I was impressed with how he retold the story rather than just reading it." -Martha, "He taught us to use family stories to help us write." -Edward, "I like the way he used such amazing voices when he read."-Gabbie, "I learned to use characters and settings that we already knew in our stories." -Anna. Many children have bought copies of 'Don't Look at Me Like That', the story Mr Church read from. All profits go to the Farms for City Children charity that was set up by Clare and Michael Morpurgo.

Spanish Dance

Children in Class 4 had the fantastic opportunity to create a dance around their theme of Spain with Sarah Shaw (Advanced Skills Teacher). They devised and shared ideas based on holiday, Dali's art, bull fighting and flamenco. They created powerful shapes working on their own, in pairs and in large groups. It was wonderful to see children concentrating to master the flamenco toe lead step and cooperating with others so well. Some of the children's thoughts: I enjoyed the bull fight section and working with my partner—Jack, I liked learning new ways to dance and working with Mrs Shaw-Matilda, I enjoyed creating the melting clock-Sam, I loved making shapes with our bodies in the bull fight section—Ramarni.

Class 5 Assembly

As you know Eastington is a 'Rights & Respecting' school. This means we encourage our children to think about their rights and their responsibilities to ensure the rights of others are met—we explore these during assembly times and on R&R special days. Our school golden rules tie in with this: Be kind, Be fair, Be respectful & polite, Be honest and Try your best. The playground charter was also created looking at the rights and responsibilities children have and classes make charters together at the start of the year thinking about their rights and responsibilities too.

The children in Class 5 led a thought provoking assembly on UNICEF article 27: Children have the right to a good standard of living (food, water, clothing, a safe place to live). The class shared some fascinating information about Malawi. Did you know: it is the 7th poorest country, 7/100 people in Malawi have electricity, 4/100 people have a tv, 4/100 children go to secondary school (because they have to pay), 50% of people are able to read. They made us realise how families work together to overcome challenges and provide for their needs with children helping to grow crops, cook, collect water and look after younger children in the family. It made us reflect on how important it is to work together in our families as well as at school.

World Book Day

The school will be celebrating World Book Day on March 1st. Children will hear a range of children and adults in the school community read and talk about why reading is important to them. We are asking the children to dress up as a favourite book character and bring in their favourite book to share with friends (named please). The School Council will be collecting small donations and the money will support ReadForGood, a charity that works to provide books and story tellers for children in hospital. ReadForGood work nationally but their outreach includes Bristol and Gloucester hospitals. In fact a couple of our children have received books from them during stays in hospital.

Bags2School

Thank you for creating such a colossal pile of black bags at the front of the school last week! We were overwhelmed with your efforts at sorting items and clothing to be re-used. I'm sure it must be easier to find clothes in wardrobes and cupboards up and down Eastington now! The items raised over £100 towards school funds this year. A huge thank you to Mrs Hudd for organising the collection on behalf of the PA-a cracking job.

Driving Safely

Concerns have been raised about cars driving quickly down the lane at the start of the school day. Walking children and parents are being splashed on wet days and young children, who are not yet fully road aware, are vulnerable. We want to reduce traffic and encourage as many people as possible to walk to school. If you do drive to school please drive slowly to support the safety of all. We have informed the local police who will monitor the situation.

Dates for your diary

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

January

- Tues 2nd - INSET DAY (For staff)
- Wed 3rd - Start of Spring Term 3 for pupils**
 - Value for learning and life: Going for Goals
- Mon 8th - Value for learning and life: Cooperation
- Tues 9th - C4 Creative Dance day (parents welcome to the performance at 2.45pm)
- Mon 22nd - Value for learning and life: UNICEF article 27: Children have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live.
- Tues 23rd - PA Bags2School collection
- Fri 26th - Class 5 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Fri 26th - PA KS1 Popcorn Night, School Hall
- Mon 29th - Value for learning and life: Sense of fun

February

- Fri 2nd - PA KS2 Popcorn Night, School Hall
- Thur 8th - Y3/4 Museum in the Park trip
- Fri 9th - Class 1 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Fri 9th - Last day of Spring Term 3 for pupils**

Holiday for children: February Saturday 10th-Sunday 18th 2018

February

- Mon 19th - First day of Spring Term 4 for pupils**
 - Value for learning and life: Respect
 - Clubs start this week
- Mon 26th - KS2 Marathon Run
- Tues 27th - Rec & KS1 Marathon Run

March

- Thur 1st - WORLD BOOK DAY: Pupils dress as favourite character & bring a favourite book
- Mon 5th - Value for learning and life: UNICEF article 12: Children have the right to give their opinion.
- Mon 12th - Value for learning and life: Friendship
- Thur 22nd - Y5 & Y6 Swimming—First lesson
- Fri 23rd - Class 4 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Mon 26th - UNICEF article 15: Children have the right to meet friends and join groups
 - Creative day
- Tues 27th - Creative day
- Wed 28th - Last day of Spring Term 4 for pupils**
 - Rights & Respecting Day
- Thur 29th - INSET for staff

Holiday for children: March Thursday 29th-April Sunday 15th 2018

April

- Sat 14th - Easter Egg Hunt: Playgroup & School PA
- Mon 16th - **First day of Summer Term 5 for pupils**



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

Aiming high.....together