



### **Dear Parents**

Whilst the unsettled weather continues we are thankful that the impact on the school day has proved minimal unlike a number of schools in the worst affected areas of Somerset and the Thames Valley. The flooding in Millend Lane has undoubtedly not helped the general circulation of traffic and is causing more congestion than usual during 'dropping off' and 'collection times'. Please remain considerate to all when using Churchend Lane. I have reminded all the children about remaining safe and in particular, to stay away from the extremely high and fast flowing rivers in and around the locality. The school has been notified of further weather warnings for the next few days so we will be keeping a close eye on the water levels.

### **Out and about**

Year 6 pupils enjoyed a super morning at Rednock School as part of a series of science lectures, assemblies and workshops involving a number of neighbouring schools to extend pupil's scientific knowledge. Classes 1 and 2 visited the STEAM museum in Swindon in support of their topic on 'Trains, Planes and Automobiles'. This was a super experience and clearly enthused the children who are now applying this to their writing and investigative work.

### **And in Class....**

Whilst we continue to cover the complete range of subjects, our focus remains on writing. Children in Class 4 have thoroughly enjoyed putting their own spin on 'The Highwayman' story to extend their vocabulary and engage the reader with their interpretation of a well known plot. Class 3 used the animated story of 'The Shirt Maker' as the inspiration for their creative writing and produced some wonderful results which are proudly displayed outside Class 3 and in the hall. Class 1's focus on non fiction writing has really captured their imagination. I thoroughly enjoyed reading their booklets on a whole range of different topics. Following Class 2's visit to the STEAM museum the children have written their recounts of their day which confirms the value of first hand experience. The older children in Class 5 have also used an animated story entitled 'The Piano' to demonstrate reflection and interpretation in their writing. Our Friday morning assemblies continue to include contributions from all classes who share their fantastic writing with the whole school. I do urge you to take a look at some of the displays in the hall and around the school during parents evenings....and celebrate our young writers!

### **Parents consultations in term 4**

A reminder that there is the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher on 12th/13th March. A letter with further information and appointment times will be with you the week commencing 24th February.

### **Well done**

Our footballers came out level during the Stroud schools 5-a-side indoor tournament. After a rocky start we won all our remaining games to finish strongly against schools much larger than Eastington. 'Well done' indeed and we can't wait for our next outing in term 4. With so many sporting fixtures cancelled due to the weather— we are hoping for some dry pitches!

Our Years 5 and 6 tag rugby team will soon be in action again with an inter schools tournament scheduled for Tues 4th March. Mr Organ (parent/coach) will notify all those involved when we return after the term break.

### **Special visitors**

We all enjoyed some very special visitors to the school recently. As part of their presentation, the Welsh Birds of Prey Society brought with them a number of rare birds for us to marvel at. Arabian eagle owls, grey and tawny owls, falcons, kites, kestrels and buzzards were displayed with an opportunity for the children to ask questions and find out more about these magnificent wild hunters.

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### **Preparing for our day in court**

As past winners of the Stroud Schools Mock Trial competition our team is currently rehearsing their scripts, researching the evidence and preparing questions which (hopefully!) will prove, beyond any doubt, that the defendant is 'not guilty'! This is a unique opportunity for young people to gain first hand experience of the judicial system and demonstrate their powers of persuasion under considerable scrutiny. Good luck!

### **Whatever next from your Parents Association?**

Following a very successful Christmas Bazaar, the Parents Association are currently planning events for the spring terms. A **children's party/disco is planned for Friday 7th March (6pm-8pm)** at the Eastington Community Centre (Snakey Lane). The theme is linked to World Book Day (6th March) and the children are invited to dress as a book character (similar to our own book week held during term 1). Further details and ticket availability to follow from the PA. There is a special Book voucher (£1.00) attached to this newsletter which can be redeemed for one Free £1.00 World Book Day book or £1.00 off a book of your choice worth £2.99 or more in all participating bookshops. The offer is valid from 3rd—30th March 2014.

We are already thinking about our Grand Easter Egg Draw and members of the Parents Association committee are meeting on Tuesday 25th February at 7.00pm in school to confirm arrangements for all our forthcoming events. Meanwhile, a reminder that our next **Cake Sale** is after school on **Friday 28th February**—all contributions gratefully received (and no doubt eaten!). Thank you.

### **Extra curricular activities**

A reminder that extra curricular clubs continue in term 4.

### **Additional sports funding**

As mentioned in previous newsletters we are fortunate to have the services of Jason Boon (professional tennis coach) who is supporting pupils participation in PE and sport. It is the turn of Classes 3 and 4 in term 4 who will be working on a multi-skills programme to extend their development. Jason is also leading our 'Learning Through Sport' initiative.

### **'Congratulations' and 'Welcome'**

Our very best wishes and congratulations to Mrs Taylor (Teaching Assistant in Class 4) who is leaving at the end of term 3 to begin her maternity leave. I am delighted to introduce Miss Jacka-Slater who will replace Mrs Taylor for the remainder of the academic year in Class 4. Miss Jacka-Slater has been working in China and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our team. I am sure you will provide the usual warm Eastington welcome when you see her in the playground!

### **Keep them coming**

Thank you for the Sainsbury's 'Active kids' vouchers collected so far...please keep them coming. With your help, we are hoping to add to our resources.

### **Finally....**

A reminder that term 3 concludes this forthcoming Friday (14th February) with **term 4 commencing on Monday 24th February**.

Returning to the topic of weather....I do hope everyone enjoys a dry and safe term break

Yours sincerely

**M J Strang**  
**Headteacher**



**'As for the extra water.....  
someone's happy!'**