



Dear Parents

Let us hope for more settled and spring like weather as we approach Eastertide. School life continues to be very busy as we move swiftly into the second half of the academic year. We are looking forward to meeting you during the forthcoming parent consultation evenings when there will be the opportunity to discuss your child's development. Further information will be sent home this week in order for you to secure an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Curriculum news and how we know pupils are making progress

The staff have worked extremely hard to ensure the new curriculum provision, introduced in September 2014, is fully implemented and meets the needs of every child. As mentioned previously, the focus is not only on a curriculum that is 'balanced' with the appropriate subject coverage but that it engages and excites children to learn. During this transitional year when we have Year 2 and Year 6 pupils participating in the national assessments and still assessed against 'levels', all schools have been reflecting on how progress is measured for all other Year groups following the withdrawal of levels. We have been fortunate to be involved with a select group of schools across the county as part of a local authority initiative. This has enabled us to share practice and more importantly confirm our own approach to ensure pupils gain a greater depth of learning across the curriculum. The parent consultation evenings at the end of this term will provide an opportunity to share our approach with you and how we support the judgements against the new national standards. Whilst recognising that central government initiatives are part of the natural evolution within education, I believe this is also an exciting time and one that provides parents, teachers and most importantly pupils, the opportunity to celebrate what children know and can confidently apply in many areas of their learning.

A sporting update

'Well done' to our Year 5 and 6 football team for reaching 2 finals. Whilst not quite finishing in the top spot, they produced some super football and showed just what can be achieved with teamwork. Their final tournament is the Stroud Schools 6-a-side competition taking place at Callowell Primary this week. 'Good luck!' Meanwhile, the Year 3 and 4 football team earned a well deserved draw against Leonard Stanley Primary as part of their mini league. Our Year 5 and 6 tag rugby team enjoyed a super afternoon of rugby at Leonard Stanley Primary finishing in 2nd place. They have it all to do again in round 2 this forthcoming Friday (13th March). Thanks to Mr Organ who organises the tag rugby team and to all parents who continue to support our school teams.

'Guilty m'lud!'

Our mock trial team are hoping for this verdict when they act as the prosecution council in the case of 'R v Pip Harris and Sam Jones' on Friday 13th March at Ebley House. Miss Gulliford and the team have been working hard, establishing the facts, constructing their arguments and preparing questions for their 'opponents' from Randwick Primary, who are acting as the defence council. Our team have been well briefed and understand the roles and procedures involved in a real court of law. Serving Magistrates and police officers will be in attendance during the 'mock trial' to evaluate the children's contributions and to ensure all correct proceedings are adhered to. This valuable experience provides the children with a unique insight into the workings of our judicial system. As current holders of the Stroud Schools Mock Trial shield expectations are high and we will await the court's decision!

RED NOSE DAY 2015 – FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

We are once again supporting this national event by holding a non uniform day and asking the children to don 'Happy Headwear'. Hopefully, everyone has either a hat, cap, helmet, crown, beret or something similar to make us all smile and play their part to help others in need. Children are being asked to bring a £1.00 donation in aid of this worthy cause. Parents may, of course, wear their own 'happy headwear' on Friday morning or after school. Thank you.

(continued overleaf)

And the answer is.....

The recent Quiz Night organised by the Parents Association proved a really fun evening. Amidst the cheering (when we got it right) and the groans (when we all knew it really but the memory let us down!), the event was well supported, providing much discussion and laughter. Thanks again to Mr Owen (Quiz master), Mrs Gardner (who produced the delicious Thai food) and to all the PA team for their fantastic efforts. My understanding is that over £600 was raised to support the purchase of more IT equipment for the school. Brilliant!

Years 5 and 6 Swimming

A reminder that swimming sessions for Years 5 and 6 commence on Thursday 26th March at Stratford Park leisure centre. The children will be working towards national levels and skills badges. Thank you for the voluntary contributions – we really do need your support to ensure that both Year groups gain as much from this valuable experience as possible

Extra eggs...for the Eastington Easter Draw ...your help please.

The Grand Easter Egg Draw is only 15 school days away.....and we need your help! We are asking for your donations of chocolate Easter eggs to make this the best yet! Last year (thanks to you) we hit the target and 'raffled' 102 eggs—let's do it again in 2015! With shops now stocking up for Easter your donations can be brought to the front entrance in time for the Grand Draw which will be held after school on the final day of term. Raffle tickets will be with you shortly. The PA will also be in attendance selling refreshments to keep things moving along. Many thanks.

Promoting British Values – and 'pupils voice'

As mentioned in previous newsletters the school promotes British Values in line with government legislation. As a Rights Respecting School, we have always incorporated many of the key elements that help us to understand the needs of others and reflect upon our responsibilities as global citizens. A reminder that our school website highlights the areas we cover as part of our everyday curriculum. If you wish to know more please take a look at the display in the school hall when you attend the parents consultation evenings...I am sure you will find it very informative.

STOP PRESS.....

Children in Class 5 have been using their journalistic skills to create a School Newspaper. I have been informed by the 'Advertising dept' that it is suitable for all ages and contains both school and world news. There are quizzes, activities, a cartoon strip and costs only 20p. My understanding is that it will be out shortly...watch this space!

Finally, a reminder that term 4 concludes on **Friday 27th March** with term 5 commencing on **Monday 13th April**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

MJ Strang
Headteacher



'Aiming high.....Together'