



Dear Parents,

This has been a fun and purposeful term with lots of wider curriculum opportunities for children. Please enjoy reading about some of them. Can I take the opportunity to thank you for your positive comments and letters. It is a joy to be working with open-hearted children, a skilled community of staff and supportive parents and Governors. Our school motto: 'Aiming high...together' sums it up.

Jambo!

Our partnership with Langlanga school in Kenya continues. Last week a group of children from Class 3 enjoyed skyping the headteacher, Mr Anam Echakari, with children from his school. They performed a dance for us to show their happiness and welcome. We experienced some technical problems with sound but the children sent a video skype message asking questions about the Eastington Forest. The conversation will continue as class 3 start a writing project with Langalanga pupils to develop friendships and cultural understanding. Thanks to Mr Dougan, one of our Governors, in supporting this link.

Shakespeare at Maidenhill

Some of the Y6 pupils had a wonderful learning opportunity to join an interactive play/workshop at Maidenhill. The play was run by the Royal Shakespeare Company and combined some of the 'bards' greatest comedies and tragedies. Here are the thoughts of Faith, Jess, Arthur and Emily: "I enjoyed it. The actors made it more than a normal play. They translated some of Shakespeare's words into modern language so we understood. Sometimes they deliberately forgot their lines for fun-it made it relaxed. We learned a lot about Shakespeare in a really fun way." Well done to Amber for living out the values of kindness and thankfulness by deciding to write a letter of thanks at home to the performers-you are a great role-model.

Japan student visit

The children and staff loved the Japanese student visit last week. C5 pupils led the students on school tours (Toby was a natural at communicating and taking a lead), Class 3 led an assembly, the Japanese students shared information about their school and led workshops with C5 pupils involving origami, food tasting and games. The best part of the day for me was seeing the smiles of our children and the students playing together during play time. Our thanks are extended to Mrs Hedges for helping to organise the day.

Yeh ha!

Our children have been working hard to learn dance sequences and moves with Mrs Burns ready for the country dancing festival this term. Do you remember how to do-si-do? Our children do! The evening at Stratford Park was a great success and the children enjoyed the live band, caller and dancing with friends and family. I was impressed with the resilience of our children throughout the evening as they coped with the ever increasing temperature in the room -it is amazing how much heat is generated by 200 dancing children. It was a wonderful time to show learned skills and have fun. Thanks to Mrs Burns, Miss Dracup and you all for such an entertaining evening.

Sporting News

'Well done' to the team that represented the school this month at the football tournament: Barty G, Muhammed A, Oliver B, Tom G, Toby L, Jacob P. Although they lost their opening game to Haresfield they regrouped and convincingly won the following 2 games against Randwick and Uplands which placed them as runners up in our league. They only missed out on a semi final slot on goal difference to Uplands Primary. A great afternoon of competition with some fine football by all. Most importantly everyone played their part and enjoyed the tournament.

Mock Trial Team Win!

Well done to the Year 5-Y6 mock trial team who defended the court case involving cyber bullying. The case was heard at Ebley House-it was a formal proceeding and a little daunting at the start. However, our children spoke well, concentrated through-out to ensure they were ready to act/speak and listened with real attention which allowed them to respond well to the prosecution team. They defended their case successfully and the experience showed them a valuable insight into our judicial system. Well done to the team and Miss Gulliford for generously giving the time to prepare. The overall competition was won by Gastrells this year—our congratulations go to them.

Y1 Assembly: Forgiveness

Thank you to C1 and Miss Ashton for leading a wonderful assembly on forgiveness. The children acted out the story of 'I will always love you' and led a group recital of a poem about forgiveness which was fantastic. Best of all, the children shared times when they had been forgiven or had forgiven others so their friendships and family relationships were restored—what fantastic role-models you are for us all.

Easter Egg hunt

The children were delighted that the Easter bunny visited the school and left several bowls of golden eggs. Every class enjoyed hunting for their counters. Thank you to our wonderful PA for their support with this.

Dates for your diary

Some advance notice of key dates....

Term 5

April

- Mon 11th
 - Term 5 commences for pupils
 - School Nurse hearing & vision checks with Rec pupils
- Thurs 14th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Wed 20th
- Thurs 21st
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Thurs 28th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Fri 29th
 - Pie Corbett, Writing Specialist, to work with Rec-Y2 pupils

May

- Mon 2nd
 - Bank Holiday
- Wed 4th
 - Playgroup pre-schooler smooth transition sessions start on site
- Thurs 5th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Mon 9th
 - KS 2 Assessment week (**Please ensure children are in school for this week**)
- Mon 9th-20th
 - KS 1 Assessment weeks (**Please ensure children are in school for this week**)
- Thurs 12th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Thurs 19th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Wed 25th
 - Class & leavers Photographs (TBC)
- Thurs 26th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Fri 27th
 - 107th May Queen Celebration
 - Last day for pupils

Term 6

June

- Mon 6th
 - INSET for all staff
- Tues 7th
 - Term 5 commences
- Thurs 9th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Mon 13th
 - Y1 Phonic screening week (**Please ensure children are in school for this week**)
- Thurs 16th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Mon 20th
 - PGL week
- Thurs 23rd
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Sun 26th
 - 12-5pm: Duck Race (TBC)
- Thurs 30th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons

July

- Fri 1st
 - Music Celebration Evening
- Tues 5th
 - pm: Sponsored school marathon
- Wed 6th
 - Alex Fryer Music award (TBC)
- Thurs 7th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Fri 8th
 - Y6 Stroud High School Induction Day
- Wed 13th
 - Robinson Sports Cup award (TBC)
- Thurs 14th
 - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Fri 15th
 - Rednock Induction Day
- Mon 18th
 - Sports Day
- Thurs 21st
 - am: pupil class swap: meet 2016-17 class
 - pm: Leavers assembly
 - Last day for pupils
- Fri 22nd
 - INSET for all staff

I wish you all an adventurous, fun-filled and peaceful Easter.

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher



Aiming high.....together