



Dear parents,

A KS1 child came to me and said excitedly, "I've seen some more cockroaches". My face fell - I was taken aback and a little concerned as I didn't know we had any cockroaches on site. "Can you show me where you saw them?" I asked. The child took my hand and led me over the playground and pointed at one of the planters with purple crocuses popping out! Cockroaches, crocuses—pretty similar phonetically! I hope you have a little time to stop, look and enjoy the changes in nature with your children this Spring.

Class 5 Assembly

It was lovely to see so many parents at the recent Class 5 assembly on friendship. The children acted out a great play about Soppo the sky giant (brilliantly acted by Ben) who didn't have any friends—through others helping him he learned how to be a friend and the people below were grateful he stopped crying! The children also shared their thoughtful reflections on what was important in friendship and the qualities needed to be a good friend. Here are some views and thoughts about the assembly from children & parents: I was impressed with their confidence and how it's grown over the years, I thought the children playing instruments did well to keep a steady beat—it's not easy to do, I liked Ben's stompy walk, I like the ingredients list in the poem on the qualities needed to be a good friend. Thank you Class 5— you did a great job.

World Book Day

We had a wonderful day together celebrating World Book Day. The school was full of characters from traditional and modern books—the staff were particularly impressed with children who worked in pairs and groups to represent a book with their costumes—impressive! We had a delightful treat in assembly as Flossie shared part of her favourite book, Olga Da Polga, and explained reading was a pleasure for her. Mr Blomfield, one of our parents who is undertaking a degree in literature at present, led an animated and fun reading of Burglar Bill. Burglar Betty (Mrs Wood) added to the drama of the reading too! True love, a change of career and a happy ending ensued—as did much laughter! Thank you to the School Council, Mr Blomfield, Mrs Wood, Mrs Burns and everyone who made it such a fun day.

Japanese Culture days

The children had a fantastic day learning about Japan this Monday. They loved learning Japanese greetings, devising fact files, undertaking number calculations using Japanese symbols and creating cherry blossom art work. On Tuesday we welcomed 40 students from Japan. Our Japanese friends sang a beautiful Buddhist song, explained what school life was like and even gave a judo demonstration. Our Class 5 children were wonderful, giving them tours of the school and enjoying origami and calligraphy workshops together. A huge thank you to Mrs Hedges and Mrs Mifflin for organizing such a wonderful visit.

Cross Country

Congratulations to the 25 runners who entered the Y3/4 and Y5/6 Stroud District Cross Country Trials at Archway. Particular congratulations go to Rosie Fuller who was placed 12th, Daisy Denton who was placed 11th and Jessica Spence who was placed 2nd. The resilience of every child in running such a long distance was amazing—everyone was impressed. The children enjoyed the experience and we were proud of them all. A big thank you to Mrs Childs for organising cross country in the school and leading her ever growing running club. Thanks to Mrs Williams for supporting and encouraging the children on the day too.

Easter Egg Raffle

The amazing Eastington Easter Egg Raffle will be on Friday 7th April straight after school. Last year I was amazed with your generosity that led to an array of Easter eggs and bunnies second to none—the table was laden! The collection has started for this year in the front entrance—please make a donation. The PA team have generously provided small eggs so every child will have a chocolate treat as they take part in their class counter/egg hunt within the day too.

USA Quiz Night

The hall was awash with flags and bunting while burgers sizzled at the recent quiz night. The parent teams worked hard between drinking the odd glass of ginger beer! Much fun was had by all. Thank you to the members of the PA for organising the event, especially Mr Owen for creating such fiendishly challenging questions and fun Picture rounds to puzzle us all.

In the Net—internet safety play

The Y4 pupils recently enjoyed a play about how to keep themselves safe online. They were joined by pupils from other schools and learned three key ideas:

- Never to give out personal details
- People on line are not always who they say they are
- Not to be mean, unkind or bully online—it's just as hurtful as saying it in person

Our children were wonderfully behaved, mixed well with other children and enjoyed the play. Well done Year 4.

Easter Treasure Hunt

A reminder: the Eastington Playgroup are working together with the school PA to organise a wonderful Easter Treasure Hunt on Saturday **April 22nd**. Families can work together to walk the village to find eggs –each of which will carry a clue. The clues will work together to make a sentence. If the sentence is correct children receive a small chocolate egg. The Hunt will start at the school where there will be a snugly reading area and refreshments. En route there will be a stop at the village hall where there will be activities, refreshments and a bouncy castle! It should be a great day of family fun—come along and enjoy it together. Tell your friends too—all are welcome. Maps needed for the hunt will be available for purchase next week from playgroup and school.

Car Seat Safety—Message from GCC

Regulations around car seats for children are changing. The changes apply to new car seats only—existing child car seats used by parents that comply to safety standards will continue to be suitable child restraints in law.

Please find out more at: <https://roadsafety-gloucestershire.org.uk/travelling-young-children/>

When carrying young children in the car GCC say drivers should think about:

- Setting a good example, wearing your seatbelt and keeping calm.
- Being consistent in the way you do things eg making sure that the child enters or leaves the car from the pavement side.
- Stopping the car and taking time out if the child's behaviour is affecting you as the driver.
- Praise your child for good behaviour in the car.
- Remember, even a low speed collision can kill, so make sure they are strapped in every time!

Dates for your diary

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

March

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| Thurs 2nd | - World Book Day—dress up as a favourite book character. |
| Mon 6th | - Value for learning and life: Friendship |
| Fri 10th | - Class 5 assembly-10am, school hall, parents welcome |
| Mon 13th | - Value for learning and life: Respect |
| Mon 20th | - Japanese Day: finding out more about the culture and life in Japan
- Value for learning and life: Respect |
| Tues 21st | - Welcoming and working with young people from Japan |
| Wed 22nd | - KS2 workshops with Hrothgar the Viking |
| Fri 24th | - Red Nose Day—wear red and bring in your favourite joke to share with a friend |
| Mon 27th | - Value for learning and life: A sense of fun |
| Fri 31st | - Class 4 assembly-10am, school hall, parents welcome |

April

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| Mon 3rd | - Value for learning and life: A sense of fun
- Vision & hearing checks for pupils in Reception |
| Fri 7th | - Easter Egg Raffle
- PA cake stall
- Final day of Spring Term 4 for pupils |
| Sat 22nd | - Eastington Easter Treasure Hunt for families. (Playgroup & School PA event) |
| Mon 24th | - First day of Summer Term 5 for pupils |



Thank you for your continued support.

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher

Aiming high.....together