



Dear parents/carers,

School is full of songs and music at the moment. I hope you will all be able to make it to one of the Christmas shows over the next couple of weeks—they should be a treat!

The School Council have decided the Christmas Play collection money will be shared between school and Teckels this year. Teckels is a local charity that supports the rescue of animals, especially cats and dogs—a great choice. Thank you to Mrs Yorke and Mrs Bedwell for leading the School Council and their work over the year.

Harvest Thanks

Just to say thank you for your wonderful generosity at the Harvest Celebration in November. We have been told we collected over 67KG of food! Stroud Food Bank were incredibly grateful. Together we've made a difference to a few people's lives.



Educational trip to Synagogue

The children in KS2 have enjoyed educational visits to a Jewish Synagogue in Cheltenham. They had the opportunity to explore the synagogue, see the Torah being read, listen to a special apple story which explained the values that are important to - trust, honesty & kindness.

The children were respectful and the team at the synagogue commented on their positive behaviour and brilliant questions.

Thanks to the children for making the most of the opportunity and to Mrs Burns for organising the visits.



Imam Hassan

We were delighted that Imam Hassan visited school last month. He led an interesting assembly on Islam to KS2. Class 3 have been learning about Islam this term and they had an additional learning session on the 5 pillars of Islam: Profession of Faith, prayer, fasting, alms giving and pilgrimage to Mecca. Imam Hassan explained that pilgrims usually wear white during pilgrimage because Mecca is hot and also because it shows everyone is the same before Allah. Class 3 children asked some thoughtful questions and were particularly impressed that Imam Hassan knew several famous footballers too.

Football Tournament

Selected Year 5 and Year 6 children were invited to compete in a Football Tournament at the Oldends Lane Playing fields. Our team of 12 children played 7 aside football matches against other schools in the area. There were different groups - Eastington were in group 2. We had to play 4 matches.

The children played amazing football and worked well as a team, drawing one match 0-0 and winning their three other matches 2-0. With a score of 26 we won the group! Huge congratulations to the team for doing so well. We are proud of the positive way you played and that you supported each other so well in the games.

Thanks to Miss Bingle for organising the team and school sport so well.





School Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas post box will be in place from Tuesday 10th December until Thursday 19th. This will allow children to send cards to others in school if they want to. If your child wishes to do this please ask them to write the full name and class of the recipient on the envelope so Class 5 know who to distribute the cards to. Many thanks.

Staffing

We are pleased to have appointed Ms Heatly to teach Class 4 when Mrs Pandya moves to maternity leave in January. Ms Heatly is an experienced KS2 teacher who has supported local schools as a teacher and Governor. She has a strong interest in writing. Mrs Rome and Ms Heatly will be meeting this term to ensure a smooth transition.

We are also happy that Mr Barnett will be joining the team again to teach Class 5 on Fridays for the duration of the maternity leave. Mr Barnett is an experienced teacher with strong skills in maths, DT and science. Mr Barnett has worked with us before which also aids continuity for our children.

Finally, Mrs Redpath is expecting a baby—we are delighted for her and her family. Mrs Redpath will begin maternity leave in Summer Term. We will seek to recruit at the start of next year and share with you when we have appointed.

Clubs

As clubs come to an end this term, I'd like to thank the teachers, Mr Watts and Mr McLaughlin. It is kind of them to give up their time so all children can access a club without cost. Thank you all.

Christmas Fair

Our wonderful PA, are holding a Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December after school. There will be stalls, refreshments and some excellent raffle prizes. The children will contribute by making crafts/treats which will be sold at the fair and Mr Vidgen, who is a police officer, will supervise a fire pit so s'mores can be made. We believe Father Christmas may make a special visit to Eastington that day too! Come along and join in the fun.



Thank you to Mrs Bennie (Chair), Miss Hicks (Treasurer), Mrs Hussey, Mrs Winch, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Pickernell and all the team for leading PA events and giving their time to support the school—they do an amazing job.

DIARY DATES:

Autumn Term 2

November 25th:	All clubs finish this week
December 3rd:	Rec/KS1 Christmas Nativity 2pm
December 4th:	Rec/KS1 Xmas Nativity 5.30pm
December 6th:	PA Christmas Bazaar 3.15pm
December 10th:	KS2 Christmas Performance 2pm/5.30pm
December 11th:	KS2 Christmas Performance 5pm
December 16th:	10am KS2 Glockenspiel Performance—parents welcome
December 19th:	Christmas Dinner—please wear Christmas jumpers
December 20th:	Final day of Term 2

Spring Term 3

January 6th	Staff Inset
January 7th	First day of term for children
January 9th:	C5 swimming starts
January 17th:	Y4-Y6 Sea Music with Bournemouth Orchestra at Bristol Beacon (details to follow)
January 24th:	Multi-skills Festival Y1 (information to follow)
January 28th:	Life Education sessions with Coram (links to PSHCE curriculum)
January 29th:	Life Education sessions with Coram (links to PSHCE curriculum)
January 31st:	PA Cake Sale after school
February 10th:	School Nurses visit—Year Rec and Y6
February 11th:	Y6 Online Safety session with BEAT OFFICER PC Coll
February 14th:	PA Friendship Disco—TBC



Thank you for your support,
Zoe Avastu

Aiming high.....together