



### **Dear parents,**

Christmas songs, dances and lines are the focus of afternoons at present as the children are learning their parts for the wonderful performances in December. Christmas performances take a huge amount of time to prepare for everyone: parents organising costumes, teachers making props and creating dances and children learning parts—a real team effort. Thank you all for helping create the sparkle of Christmas at school.

### **Class 3 Assembly**

Class 3 led a wonderful assembly on our school value of co-operation. They shared examples of how they cooperated in school and at home and dramatized some of these situations. After, they re-enacted the fable about the fox and the stork—in the end the fox realised his mistake, cooperated and became friends with the stork. We were delighted to hear the recorder club play in and out of assembly too—fantastic job!

### **PC Weedon**

Last week we welcomed PC Weedon, our School Beat Officer from Gloucestershire Constabulary. PC Weedon has already visited our school to discuss how we can work together to support our children with regard to keeping safe in a range of ways. PC Weedon delivered a special interactive assembly on the role of the police to all our children. It included a jewellery shop theft 'crime' scene—Max and Jess (and a toy sniffer dog!) helped to solve the crime brilliantly. He also shared the many roles of the police and when to call 999 and 101. PC Weedon told all the children it was a good idea to learn their home address in case they ever needed to make a call. The children asked some thoughtful and detailed questions after too.

Later in the year, PC Weedon will be leading learning sessions with our Y6 children on Internet Safety (January 9th) and Safe Relationships Online (June 10<sup>th</sup>) to support our Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. PC Weedon also works with children in Year 7, 8 and 9 in secondary school and so many this will be the start to building positive relationships.

### **Open Days for new reception parents**

We were delighted that so many potential new parents enjoyed looking around the school recently. They were offered a tour by the Year 6 children and the opportunity to meet Mrs Birch and myself. The comments on leaving the school were incredibly positive with regard to the warmth, the calm feel in classrooms, the happy children, the politeness and good manners of children. Several parents said they felt the work we had done on well-being and health was very evident and the children they saw spoke about how they enjoyed learning. Thank you Year 6 for giving such wonderful and detailed tours of the school and to Mrs Birch for organising the sessions brilliantly.

### **School Council**

The School Council team are working hard with Mrs Yorke to create a Christmas Tree ready for the Eastington Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael and All Angels church. The team are exploring how to create a tree using recycled materials—a lot of newspapers and old books are being collected and used apparently. Intriguing!

The Christmas Tree Festival will open on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December between 2pm-4pm to coincide with the School Run. It will also be open on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December between 10am-4pm. There will be a £2 adult admission (children are free) which will go to Eastington Church funds. There will be refreshments available too.

Some of the School Council worked with Mrs Lord to share some new play equipment with the school: two person skis, balance boards, hairy rubber balls and ankle skippers. The School Council explained how the equipment was to be used: cooperatively by taking turns, responsibly by using the items in the proper way and resiliently by not giving up if the equipment was hard to use. Brilliant School Council—you explained your ideas really well.



## Clubs

As school clubs have ended now, it is a great opportunity to say a huge thank you to the staff who have led clubs since September. The children have enjoyed and improved their skills in a range of areas: tag rugby, maths 24, running, recorders, gymnastics, puzzle club, street dance, art, lego and cricket. It is fantastic the staff love to share their interests, encourage children and give their time so generously to lead them.

Over last year 89% of Y1-Y6 children attended at least one club and 89% of KS2 children took part in an active club. As a school we work hard to provide clubs without fees so all children have access. This can only be provided due to the staff running the clubs—thank you to you all for doing such a brilliant job.

## Uniform

We are proud of our school uniform. This comprises of grey skirt/trousers, white shirt and a red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan. In warm Summer weather (we can but dream at the moment!) we advise red and white check dresses or grey shorts with a white shirt.

For PE and sport clubs we wear red shorts and a white t-shirt. In cold or wet weather children can wear black leggings or tracksuit bottoms. Children with longer hair need to tie it back during PE lessons to ensure their safety so please remember a hair tie if needed. We do not allow jewellery or nail varnish to be worn to school. Watches are allowed as are stud earrings (though these need to be covered/taken out for PE).

Uniform can be purchased from Batemans in Stroud. (Mrs Birch also has a little stock left at school). Please name **all** items of uniform – this helps us to relocate items with their owners promptly.

A reminder that if your child/ren are eligible for Free School Meals (not including Universal Infant Free School Meal), our wonderful PA will fund one set of uniform per child. Please talk with Mrs Birch about this—she will make all arrangements.

## Homework

In light of the parent survey we have reviewed homework in the school. We have sent information to you about this and it is also available on the school website. We sustain our strong focus on Maths and English as these core skills underpin many other subjects and help you know what your child is learning week on week—which we know many of you are interested in. We will include a piece of homework linked to a different area of learning once a term from January 2020. We will try to avoid large art projects as we know these can be difficult for working parents and parents who have several children. Many thanks for your continued support in this area.

## Dates for your diary

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

### Autumn Term 2

#### November

- Mon 4th - First day of Autumn Term 2 for pupils
- Tues 5th - C5 educational visit to Ashmolean Museum (Egypt focus)
- Thurs 7th - Open afternoon for new parents 1:45-3:15pm (please phone Mrs Birch to arrange time)
- Tues 12th - School photographer (individuals and families - school hall)
- Fri 15th - C4 assembly—parents welcome 10am  
- C5 Children In Need: 'Bring and Buy' and cake sale
- Tues 19th - Open morning for new parents 9:30-12:00 (please phone Mrs Birch to arrange time)
- Wed 27th - PC Weedon (local School Beat Officer) : Role of the police assembly for all children
- Fri 29th - C3 assembly—parents welcome 10am  
- Tag Rugby Festival Y5/Y6 TBC Mr Meloscia will inform those involved

#### December

- Tues 3rd - Flu immunisation
- Fri 6th - School Council enter Christmas Tree Festival in St Michael and All Angels church
- Thurs 12th - KS1 Nativity 2pm and 6pm
- Mon 16th - Christmas Dinner—children welcome to wear Christmas jumpers-£1 donation to PA welcomed.
- Weds 18th - KS2 performance 6.30pm (updated evening performance time of 6.30pm)
- Thurs 19th - KS2 performance 1:45pm and 6.30pm (updated evening performance time of 6.30pm)
- Fri 20th - Final day of Term 2**

### Spring Term 1 : 2020

#### January

- Mon 6th - INSET — For staff
- Tues 7th - First day of term for children**
- Fri 10th - C4 Creative dance /drama day. Parents welcome for performance at 2.50pm
- Thurs 16th - Y3 and Y4 swimming weekly lessons commence
- Tues 28th - Y3/4: Skillzone Educational Visit: Fire Safety—1.00pm-3.45pm
- Wed 29th - Y5/6: Skillzone Educational Visit: Fire Safety—1.00pm-3.45pm



Thank you for your continued support,  
**Zoe Avastu**

*Aiming high.....together*