

Dear parents,

What a wonderful month of learning and fun we had in December. Your children's kind-heartedness, creativity and desire to learn make our school a really special place to be. Thank you for your continued support - the strength of Eastington is in the whole school community working together. On behalf of the staff and children, may I wish you a very Happy New Year—I look forward to seeing you all in 2020!

Christmas performances:

Prickly Hay

Yeh-ha! What a fantastic nativity. The children shared wonderful songs that ranged in style from samba to country—all were sung with smiles and great enthusiasm too. We loved the actions and the message that Christmas is for everyone. Thank you for a wonderful start to Christmas children.

Aladdin

The older children drew much laughter in their performance of 'Aladdin'. The dancing and acting was brilliant and the cheesy jokes were plentiful. The children sang with obvious enjoyment and the soloists and small singing groups were wonderful too—what talent we have at Eastington. A brilliant Christmas treat children—thank you.

Thank you to all our parents and grandparents for being so supportive of the children. The costumes were wonderful and the children really appreciated you clapping them after the songs and joining in with the cheers. Most of all they loved the comments you shared about their performances and I know many will treasure them—thank you.

Mrs Parsons, Miss Child, Mrs Burns, Miss Pates, Mrs Rome, Mrs Mifflin and all the amazing TAs have worked incredibly hard too, using their creativity in staging and props. Thanks go to them for giving their time so generously.

The retiring collections from all performances will be divided between school funds and the charity chosen by the children: Clic-Sargent. This is a fantastic charity that does wonderful work supporting children with cancer and leukaemia. (Mrs Rome will be running the London Marathon in aid of Clic-Sargent later this year.) Thank you to everyone who contributed—your kindness and generosity will make a difference to a child.

Performance photographs

Thank you so much for keeping children safe and respecting the wishes of parents by not filming/taking photographs of the productions. Many thanks go to Mr Dougan for using his photographic skills to take photographs this year and put them on Drop Box for you. We request that you enjoy the photos as a family but do not share the photographs of other children on social media without seeking parental permission first. Mr Dougan has given me these instructions to enable you to access the photographs: *Please send me an e-mail. graemedougan@btinternet.com You will then receive an e-mail with an invite from me. Click on the invite link within the e-mail and it will open dropbox. Many thanks.*

Forest School

We are delighted that Class Two enjoyed outdoor learning with Ms Levan this term. They learned about animal groups, insects and took time to use natural materials to create. Here are some of their thoughts:

Otto: I learned about animal groups: birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals. I also learned that insects have an abdomen, head and thorax. They always have six legs too.

Sophia: I enjoyed finding out how strong an ant was. I tried to lift a bag of flour and it was really hard—I did it for a longer time on my second go. Ants can carry heavy weights for their size.

Callum: I enjoyed making a snowman out of wood and string. I've hung it on my Christmas tree.

Addy & Amelie: We liked the story of the Oak King and the Holly King. They had a battle of words each year—they never made friends.

Emmy: I liked making a Christmas tree out of twigs. It was fun.

Many thanks to Ms Levan for sharing her skills and teaching the children so much.



Congratulations

We are delighted to share that Mrs Mifflin is expecting a baby. The heartfelt good wishes of the school team are with her and her husband. Congratulations.

We will be organising maternity cover for Mrs Mifflin and will keep C5 parents informed when the interviewing process has been concluded.

PA

Huge thanks go to Mrs Hyde, Mrs Wheeler and all the brilliant volunteers who organised the end of term cake sale and tombola for the last day of term. Many delicious treats were bought and won. They did a great job on a wet day and without much time to organise. Class 5 children sang wonderfully well too. Thank you all!

Parent Helpers

We are fortunate to have a few regular parent helpers who come to work with children in the afternoons in school who do a fantastic job. If you enjoy reading, can give a regular afternoon to help, please do contact Mrs Birch with your name. The teacher will offer you guidance on how to approach reading with the children you work with so don't feel you need special skills. Many thanks.

Governor Visits

It is always lovely to welcome Governors to school. During the Autumn Term, Mrs Smith, our Chair of Governors, had an update on Mathematics in the school with the Mathematics leader, Mrs Mifflin. Mrs Trim will be joining us this term to discuss English with Mrs Burns. During their time on site Governors talk with curriculum leaders about the focus areas for our school. Our Governors do a fantastic job of supporting the school in our strive to be even better. We are grateful for their expertise and time.

We are delighted that Mr Chatterley and Mrs Hussey have joined the Governor team too. Both have visited the school to discuss their role already and we thank them for being willing to contribute.

Dates for your diary

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

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
- Fri 31st - PA Cake Sale (C5)

February

- Tues 4th - Y6 Internet Safety with Beat Officer PC Weedon
- Thurs 13th - Rec & KS1 Fire Safety - visit from local firefighter
- Fri 14th - C1 Assembly 10am—parents welcome
- Fri 14th - last day of term 3**
- Mon 24th - First day of term 4**
- Fri 28th - PA Cake Sale (C2)

March

- Thurs 5th - World Book Day
- Fri 6th - C3 Creative dance/drama day. Parents welcome at 2.50pm
- Fri 13th - C5 Assembly 10am—parents welcome
- Thurs 19th - Japanese day
- Fri 27th - C2 Assembly 10am—parents welcome

April

- Thurs 2nd - last day of term 4**
- Fri 3rd - INSET— Staff only

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu



Aiming high.....together