



## NEWSLETTER 8

7th February 2022

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a productive term in school. Learning for all children has been as 'normal' as possible, although we are still not meeting together for assemblies/having large gatherings.

We are really pleased that we have not had another outbreak of covid-19 despite the rate continuing to be high locally – working in bubbles disrupts the provision we offer our children. Thank you to all our parents for your support with keeping your children home when they have a covid-19 symptom and for undertaking LF tests when needed. This has clearly helped us reduce the case numbers on site and keep the school open for face to face teaching – it is what we all want.

We know the country has moved to Plan A but we ask that masks are still worn on site. This is to protect staff so we can remain open/operational. We continue to monitor the local rate and review our RA and arrangements. When there are significant alterations we will share them with you. The most up to date RA can always be found on the school website.

### Handwriting

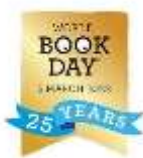


Legible writing that can be produced comfortably, at speed and with little conscious effort allows a child to focus on the higher-level aspects of writing composition and content. This is important in school daily and also when children face assessments in time-limited written examinations, which are still used in many formal qualifications as children grow older.

Due the lockdowns of the last couple of years, staff noted that the handwriting of our children would benefit from a little extra work.

We reviewed our handwriting policy as a staff and practically looked at the letters and joins that were causing difficulty. The children have responded well to working in this area and many have shown real improvement. We held a competition to link in with National Handwriting Day on January 23<sup>rd</sup> where all children in the school were asked to write a short poem in their best handwriting. Each winner received a certificate and a pen or pencil so they can keep practising! Congratulations to all the winners below:

	<b>Best Handwriting</b>	<b>Most Improved Handwriting</b>
<b>Reception</b>	Yasmin Fielding	Charlie White
<b>Y1</b>	Arohi Malik	Sullivan Sims
<b>Y2</b>	Angelo Critchley	Alex Bodman
<b>Y3</b>	Thea Messenger	Emmy Hanks
<b>Y4</b>	Amelie Livingstone	Henry Smith
<b>Y5</b>	Harry Coombs	Rio-James Arnett
<b>Y6</b>	Freya Bond	Harrison Hart



## World Book Day

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

At Eastington we value reading highly and work hard for every child to develop skills and pleasure in reading. We will be celebrating World Book Day again this year to support this. There are a range of live webinars which will be suitable for some classes to take part in over the week and I know the teachers/TAs will have activities planned too.

Please ask children to dress up in the costume of a favourite book character and bring their favourite book into school.

All children will receive a £1 World Book Day token which will allow them to purchase a book-see below. With books for beginning, early, fluent and independent readers, there is something for everyone.



### School Council and World Book Day

Our school values are really important to us as a school community: being responsible, being ambitious, being resilient, being co-operative and being kind. They help us to be the best we can.

We have decided to run a competition for children to create a story or picture for each value. The values have been shared as follows across the school:

Reception can create a picture of being kind.

Year 1 and 2 can create a story about being kind.

Year 3 can create a short story about being resilient.

Year 4 can create a short story about being co-operative.

Year 5 can create a short story about being ambitious.

Year 6 can create a short story about being responsible.

Children may wish to include the animals that represent each school value as a main character in their story.



The winner in each year group will get to share their story or picture with the rest of the school on the week of World Book Day. There will also be a £5 book voucher for the winner from each year group. Entries can be handed in to the class teacher anytime but the deadline is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March (first day of term 4).

### Taking Responsibility



We want to celebrate four wonderful children in Class 5: Adam, Jack, Harrison and Oscar. The four boys noticed the school field in the village was messy and so they decided to litter pick for two hours on Sunday. There were glass and plastic bottles which they recycled too.

Thank you children for your hard work at keeping our community tidy and safe. We are so proud of you and your community spirit.

### Governors

We are fortunate at Eastington to have governors with a wide range of skills and experiences that support the school's development. Governors act as a critical friend and help to provide a strategic view with the school senior leadership team to ensure the best possible provision for the children.

Mrs Hussey, our chair of Governors, met recently with Mrs Parsons to discuss EYFS. They focussed on new curriculum progressions and assessment.

Mrs Trim, our LA Governor who is a Reading Consultant, has recently visited school to discuss English with Mrs Burns. They discussed the school data for reading and writing and the training focus.

Mr Chatterley, one of our Co-Opted Governors, recently met with me to review our equalities and anti-bullying behaviour policy too. This was a really useful conversation and led to changes in both policies. Please do read our policies – they can be found on our school website and in the front entrance on site.

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to our school team. Mrs Charlotte Kemp and Mr Tom Coombs.

Mrs Kemp has been involved with Eastington School since her three children joined (now all in secondary school). Right from the beginning she was actively involved in our school community - supporting with technology and in other practical ways. Charlotte will draw on her experience as a parent and from a varied career in school, business and IT, working hard to ensure Eastington School continues to be a safe and forward looking place of learning.

Mr Coombs has a strong skill set in premises management and building projects. He has one child in our school at present. We have a large premises project to manage soon as we improve the school office area – we are delighted he will join the team to support & share his expertise.



### Parent Association

The Parent Association do a wonderful job of fund raising for our school. The activities they organise support community spirit and offer lots of fun too.

The PA are meeting to discuss fund raising for the rest of the year. The meeting will be in the school hall, at 6.15pm on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Please do come along. Everyone can contribute whether you have a lot or a little time to give. (The hall will be ventilated and chairs spaced so everyone feels safe.)

Thank you to everyone who has led PA events, written Risk Assessments, summarised the finances, packed sweet treats, made donations over the last year - the children benefit from the money you raise and the staff team want to pass on their sincere thanks to you for giving your time when everyone's life has been harder than usual.

### Families Gloucester Magazine



The January/February issue of Families Gloucester is out. It is full of useful information and advice for parents including winter boredom busters, Mental Well Being activities for children, parenting advice and loads more. Here is the link to the next issue of [Families Magazine Gloucestershire Magazine](#)

### Dates

The last day of Spring Term 3 is Friday February 18<sup>th</sup>. The start of Spring Term 4 is Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> for children.