

# PRINCIPALS NEWSLETTER - NO. 53

21<sup>st</sup> December 2016

## School Motto

For some years we have had the motto, "Aspire, Learn, Laugh". It is on our school badge and so appears on our signage and on school uniform and book bags.

Earlier in the year I felt that it would be good to make a change to this to try and reflect more fully, in a short, memorable saying, what we believe contributes to our aim for children at Eastcote – that each of them becomes a knowledgeable and virtuous child. We discussed this as a staff and amongst the governors. The new motto that will gradually replace the old one is:

*Aspire*

*Learn*

*Love*

During the term I have been talking to the children about "Love" and to help focus this, I have used a portion of a very well-known bible passage:

*Love is patient and kind,  
it does not envy or boast;  
it is not arrogant or rude.*

*Love does not insist on its own way;  
it is not irritable or resentful;*

*it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never ends.*

Although coming from the Christian tradition, I am sure you will agree with me that these are ideas with which all can identify.

From now on, when you buy new book bags or school uniform with badges, whether for the first time or to replace worn-out items, you should see the changed wording. It may take longer to change signage around the school.

## Homework

Having spent the Autumn term trialing a new way of doing homework, could I invite you to let us have any feedback to enable us to decide how we go forward. Please send your comments to the office via e-mail or a letter. Once we have reviewed the feedback from parents, carers and children, we will let you know what we are proposing.

### **Miss Jones**

I am delighted to say that Miss Jones will be getting married during the holiday. We wish her every happiness for the day and for the future of her and her partner. When she returns, she will be Mrs Jones.



### **Miss Davies**

Our best wishes also to Miss Davies who will be taking maternity leave after the holiday. From January, class 4 are being taught by Mrs Blackburn for three days and by Mrs Whitaker for the other two. Mrs Appleby will be taking over from Mrs Blackburn in class 2.

### **Performances**

It was good to see so many parents, grand-parents and others at our Christmas productions, and from your comments and reactions I know you enjoyed what the classes produced.

I was impressed by the fact that the children were so obviously enjoying themselves and this meant that they performed really well. Much credit to the children for the way they practiced and performed and to all the staff involved for their work in bringing out such performances from the children. Thank you also to parents for your efforts to provide costumes.

### **PACE**

PACE have worked so hard this term with very successful fundraising events. We would like to thank Mrs Wilkinson, the Chair, all the committee and all those that help them and to also say it is very much appreciated by everyone at Eastcote. In our ongoing development of our library to support our promotion of reading for pleasure, PACE are helping us in providing funds towards the installation of a Micro Librarian management system.

### **House points competition**

Eagles have been declared the winner for this term - well done to all children in Eagles.

### **Dinner Money**

As previously mentioned, we need to receive dinner money in advance on a Monday morning for the week. It may be easier, to avoid debt building up, to pay by half term or termly. From January, the half term amount will be £59.40 and for the term it will be £125.40. Please do not leave non-payments build up.

### **And Finally...**

Can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff of Eastcote Primary Academy, and from myself and Mrs Ball and Thor – whose favourite time of year this is as he just loves ripping open his presents.

