



Dear Parents/Carers,

Tomorrow marks the end of yet another very successful year at Eastlea. We have said a sad farewell to Mrs Lambert this afternoon and all wish her health and happiness for her well earned retirement! It still hasn't fully registered that she will not be teaching here in September, but I know she will still be a regular visitor to school and remain part of the Eastlea family for many years to come!

We also have some other final updates and information which need to be shared before the summer holidays. See below:

- **Open Afternoons and Year 6 Leavers' Assembly**

Thank you to everyone who attended these events in recent weeks. The children have had another fabulous year and welcomed the chance to share this with you. There was a super atmosphere in school on all 3 occasions and we wish our Year 6 class the best of luck as they prepare to join the Junior Learning Village, Hillcrest or schools further afield in September.

- **Summer Fayre**

Our 'world cup' themed summer fayre was a huge success on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. We seem to say it every year, but this time around does seem to have been the best yet...the weather was kind, the stalls provoked lots of interest, crowds of people came and the money raised was phenomenal! As a result we have again beaten last year's total by some considerable margin. An amazing **£1478.02** was raised – which will go towards supporting our Golden Days next year and other school activities! Thank you once again for your tremendous support, without which such events just could not happen.

- **Brazil Carnival Golden Day**

What a super time we had yesterday in school for our final Golden Day of the school year. During the day we had workshops featuring samba drumming, South American dance and steel pans. Everyone looked fantastic in their 'original' carnival t-shirts and the carnival parade finale on the yard was fantastic. So much effort had been put into transforming ASDA trolleys into carnival floats...we had giant birds, fish, mermaids fruit bowls, rainforests, ships and football boots!! Superb! There are lots of pictures on our website – do take a look! Unfortunately not everyone earned the right to attend, but I'm sure those children who had been well behaved and followed our rules had a great time.

- **Champion Readers**

We have once again had huge success with our 'rainbow reading challenge' this year. Every child has had the chance to take part and more than ever have been well supported at home to gain their bronze, silver and gold reading awards. In total we managed 212 bronze, 165 silver and 104 gold. If your child came home with a champion reader gold balloon and certificate on Tuesday they were one of 48 who achieved this for never missing a reading week all year– well done! We already have ideas for our new reading challenge in September, but in the meantime don't forget the 'Mythical Maze' summer challenge being organised by Cramlington Library which is taking place throughout the summer holidays.

- **KS2 SATS results**

As was explained to the Year 6 pupils on Monday we were very pleased again with our KS2 SATs results – the national measures on which schools are judged in terms of pupil outcomes. **Every child in Year 6 did their very best and 100%** of them have made the progress we hoped they would make. This is a great achievement and comes as a result of the hard work of the pupils and the whole staff team at Eastlea who are dedicated to providing an interesting, enjoyable and successful educational experience for everyone in school. For more details of the results see our website.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

As you know we have continued to have a high focus on attendance/punctuality this year! Classes who have won the half term award certificates will be presented with these tomorrow. We will also be giving out awards to those individuals who have managed 100% attendance in the summer term as well as some special punctuality certificates for those who have never been late this year and for the small group of pupils who have managed full attendance for the whole academic year!!

Next year we have been advised by the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) that there could potentially be more cases in Northumberland of parents being issued with penalty notices for taking their child out of school for holidays in term time. I hope that this will not be a policy that I have to use at Eastlea, and ask that you continue to inform us if you require leave of absence and only take holidays in school time in exceptional circumstances. We have had real success with this approach this year.

## September

The start of the new term will come around quickly so it is worth reminding you that the autumn term for all pupils starts on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**. This morning your child had the chance to meet the adults who will be working with them next year. For the first half of the autumn term the new Year 6 class will be taught by Mrs Powells while Mrs Coleby undergoes some hospital treatment. Mrs Powells knows the class well and this will give them a settled start to the new academic year before Mrs Coleby's return. Mrs Weatherson will teach Year 4 full time during this period.

## School dinners

1. Although we have managed to keep the price of school meals the same for the last TWO years, we are unable to sustain this any longer and from September the price of a school meal has had to be increased to **£2.20** per day (or £11 per week). As always this money will be payable on the day/week that your child has a school dinner.

2. **All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be entitled to a FREE school dinner** as part of the government 'Universal Free School Meals' offer. You can still choose to provide your child with a packed lunch of course, but we hope that as many people as possible will take up the offer of the free meals for their children. You do not have to apply for these free meals – they can be taken automatically.

However, if your child would previously have been entitled to a free school meal under the 'old system' then please can we still ask that you speak to Mrs Johnson and 'apply' so that the Pupil Premium money can be accessed by school to support the education of your child. Thank you!

## School uniform – a reminder

Most parents who ordered uniform will have now received their order. Please be aware that the next order will not be sent off until the autumn term, but Mrs Johnson does still have a few items in stock.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you of the uniform requirements at Eastlea:

### Uniform list

- School sweatshirt/cardigan in navy blue (available from the school with the Eastlea logo)
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Grey/black trousers/shorts or skirt
- For girls - Summer dress – **blue** checks/stripes please (in keeping with the rest of the school uniform colour) and plain white/grey/black tights in the winter
- Black school shoes – **NOT** trainers please. We seem to have had more trainers appearing in school this term. However, black shoes are the required footwear in school other than for outdoor P.E. lessons (see below).

### P.E. kit

- Plain white t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black sandshoes or bare feet for indoor PE. (Trainers may be worn for outdoor P.E. and a dark tracksuit can also be worn)

### Jewellery/Hairstyles

- No jewellery can be worn in school. ***This includes earrings, so if you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced it needs to be done at the very start of the summer holidays so they can remove earrings before they come back to school in September.***
- As previously outlined 'extreme' hairstyles are not to be worn at Eastlea in common with other schools in Cramlington. Distinctively styled hair, designs shaved into the hair, shaved patterns and unnatural dyed hair should not be worn during term time. Long hair should always be tied back for school.

Please remember that the children **finish at 2pm tomorrow** – I'm sure they won't have forgotten!!

**Finally, I would like to once again thank everyone for their support this year and I hope that you have a restful summer holiday!**

Yours sincerely

**E Beeston**

Miss E Beeston  
Head Teacher