



Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half term of the school year comes to an end tomorrow and we have had a very successful 8 weeks. This letter contains some reminders and information updates before we break up.

Thank you

We have had lots of events in recent weeks which have been extremely well supported by parents/carers and families – THANK YOU:

- The launch of our **Computer reading challenge and Times Tables Rockstars maths challenge** saw **£150** raised from contributions made by the children for our reading and maths resource funds. *Everyone seems very keen to get their stickers on their bookmarks for weekly reading – and remember that all children are asked to read over the half term holiday next week (or practise their letter sounds in Reception) – and this will ensure they get their next star on the bronze bookmark!*
- Our 'Active October' activities have been well received – including the **Jiu-Jitsu and skateboarding taster sessions** which took place at the end of September/start of October as well as our **Great African Welly Walk** which raised **£82** for the Farm Africa charity. We also had lots of tins, packets and jars of food donated for the **Cramlington foodbank** – all gratefully received.
- The sponsored **Eastlea Enterprise events** last week were a big success. We had a super day and were extremely lucky with the weather which allowed us to complete everything we had planned. We will be able to let you know the final total raised after half term, as we know that there is still some money due to be sent in. THANK YOU!
- Lots of families supported us by bringing in **ALDI vouchers this half term**. To complete the massive poster seemed a daunting challenge, but we have done it (300 stickers in all) and as they have kept coming in then we have started a second poster! Any remaining vouchers that you have over the half term can be brought in – but the promotion stops in early November.
- We hosted a very well attended **parents' evening** on Monday this week with a really positive atmosphere in the school hall. Analysis of the parental questionnaires will be shared next half term – please can I ask that any remaining copies of these questionnaires are returned as soon as possible and if anyone else would like to have one – please ask at the school office.

Sporting Success

Our sporting clubs this half term have been well attended and enjoyed by those who have taken part. We have received positive feedback from coaches about the progress children have made. Staff have also been made aware that as a result of these clubs and some of our whole school taster sessions, several pupils are now exploring opportunities to follow these up with clubs in their spare time, e.g. joining the Jiu-jitsu club, signing up to do boxing, or putting a 'skateboard' on their Christmas lists!

We had 4 pupils selected from Year 5 and Year 6 to join the Cramlington and Seaton Valley **Dance Academy** – joining the two Eastlea children who are already part of this group. Well done to them and we look forward to the performance they will give later this school year.

Our **girls football team** were also the unbeaten winners of the Cramlington and Seaton Valley school games Shield competition last week. Very well done to them!

Golden Day tomorrow – last day of the half term for pupils (staff training day on Friday 25th)

Tomorrow we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year and almost every child has earned the right to take part which is great. All pupils will be in school all day with usual finishing times and normal arrangements for lunch. It is a **non-uniform day** with no fine to pay and each class will be completing their 'transform a trolley' challenge and 'wheels' themed events as the final part of our Active October month. **Children can also have their bikes/scooters in school again** (weather permitting) if they want the opportunity to 'bling their bikes' or 'make their scooters snazzy'. We are looking forward to a fun day of Eastlea activities!

Year 5 and Year 6 residential visits

After half term letters about the proposed residential visits to Hawkhurst (Year 5) and York (Year 6) will be distributed. £25 deposit will be required in November to secure your child's place so this is advance notice. We are in the process of finalising the likely total costs and looking into what subsidies we can secure to make the costs as reasonable as we can.

School Lunches

We will be starting new 'winter menus' for our popular school lunches a few weeks after the half term break. Final consultations are needed with pupils before orders of food can be made and when we know the new choices then we will send out the new menus in November.

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2020 – a reminder

If you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is 31st October). **It is essential that you apply before the deadline so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or the school of your choice.** Any queries please contact the school office. *You will receive confirmation of places on 2nd March 2020.*

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens on 1st November and closes on 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16th April 2020.* Please note that **even if your child is currently attending our Eastlea Nursery then you must make an admissions application for Reception** in September 2020. The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions).

Handwriting pens

We still have some issues with school handwriting pens for our older children going missing. Despite the best efforts of staff who try to encourage the pupils to store and use their pens sensibly, some are still going 'missing'. To try to tackle this, while we will still replace pens which run out/have been used up free of charge, after half term we are going to continue the system we started last year of charging pupils a '50p contribution' towards the cost of a replacement if a child loses their pen. We hope this will encourage them to be more careful with pens and hope you will support us with this!

Early Years equipment

Just a reminder that if families are waiting in the Early Years area to collect pupils from Nursery, Reception or Year 1 towards the end of the school day or on their way off site, it is not appropriate for younger/older children to be climbing on or using the outside Early Years equipment. It is not safe and could lead to accidents. Please can we ask for your support in reminding your children about this when they are waiting!

Breakfast club

Our 'breakfast club' facility has now been running for a year and is well used by several families. Booking forms are available from the school office if you wish to make use of this service. For £2.50 per day your child can come into school via the main entrance any time from 7.30am and have breakfast/join in with the planned activities in the school library – led by Eastlea staff. If your child wants to eat breakfast we ask that they arrive before 8.15am so that this can be served without a rush! We do have spare places and offer a flexible service to parents. You do not have to have a set pattern each week, attendance can be arranged on a needs basis.

Fitbits and smart watches

We have a few pupils in school who are wearing Fitbits (or equivalent). Following discussion with other schools and advice received from county we are happy for children to continue to wear such items in school as long as they are aware that they remain their responsibility. Any linked 'phones' should be left at home as is normal practice. **Due to potential E-safety issues pupils are not allowed to have smart watches or other Fitbit style 'devices' which can take photos/images in school.** If staff are aware that such devices are being worn then the pupils concerned will be asked to take them off and parents will be contacted to ensure that in future they are left at home. We thought early notification of this would be helpful as Christmas fast approaches!

Half term holiday information

We have been asked to share with you two updates about half term holiday activities/support which may be of interest:

1. Cramlington Library is holding a '**Little Inventors' Energy challenge** on Thursday 31st October from 10.30am – 12.00pm (see attached poster)
2. Cramlington Churches in cooperation with the Hope Centre in Cramlington are again providing **free packed lunches for children** on each day of the half term break – again see the attached poster for more details.

Advance notice of charity/school events after half term

- As usual, we will have poppies on sale to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion** in the first week back ready for Remembrance Sunday on 10th November
- This year we will also be supporting the **Reverse Advent Calendar** for the **Changing Lives charity**. Miss Fox will be taking a lead on coordinating this appeal and we are hoping that people can bring in items to go into our advent calendar 'box' to support local men and women in refuges or recovery centres.
We will share more information about this after the holiday, but the sort of items we will need to support this scheme will include new/unwrapped toys, sleep wear, warm hats/gloves/socks, toiletries and 2020 diaries.
- Children in Need takes place on Friday 15th November and we will have our annual '**Pennies for Pudsey**' appeal
- Friday 15th November is also the Y5/Y6 basketball competition, and our annual pupils/staff/families **Eagles basketball 'night'**. **The letter about this went out earlier this week** and we still have some seats available on the coach for any who wish to attend – please contact the office for more information.

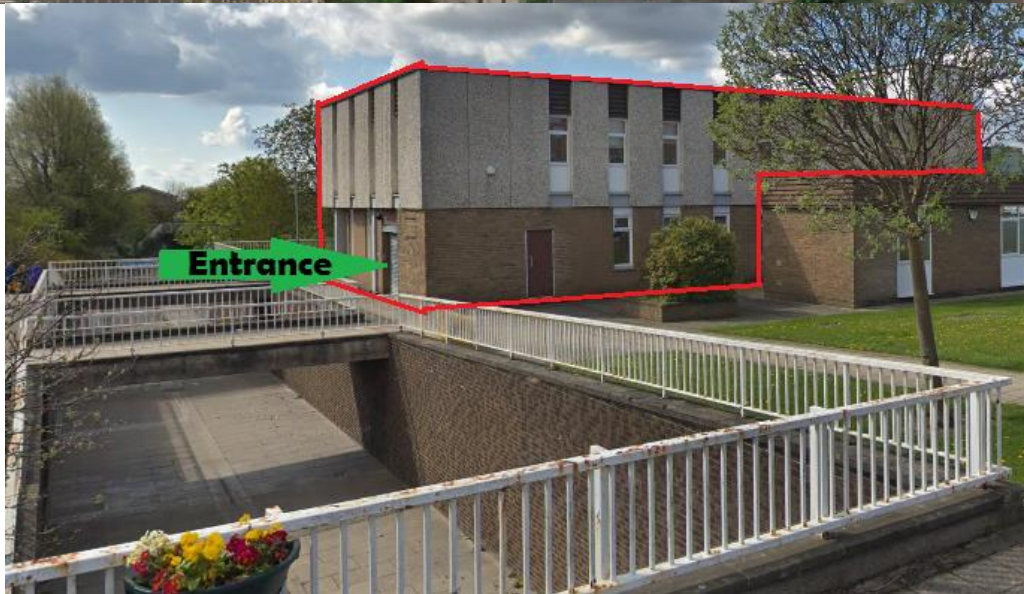
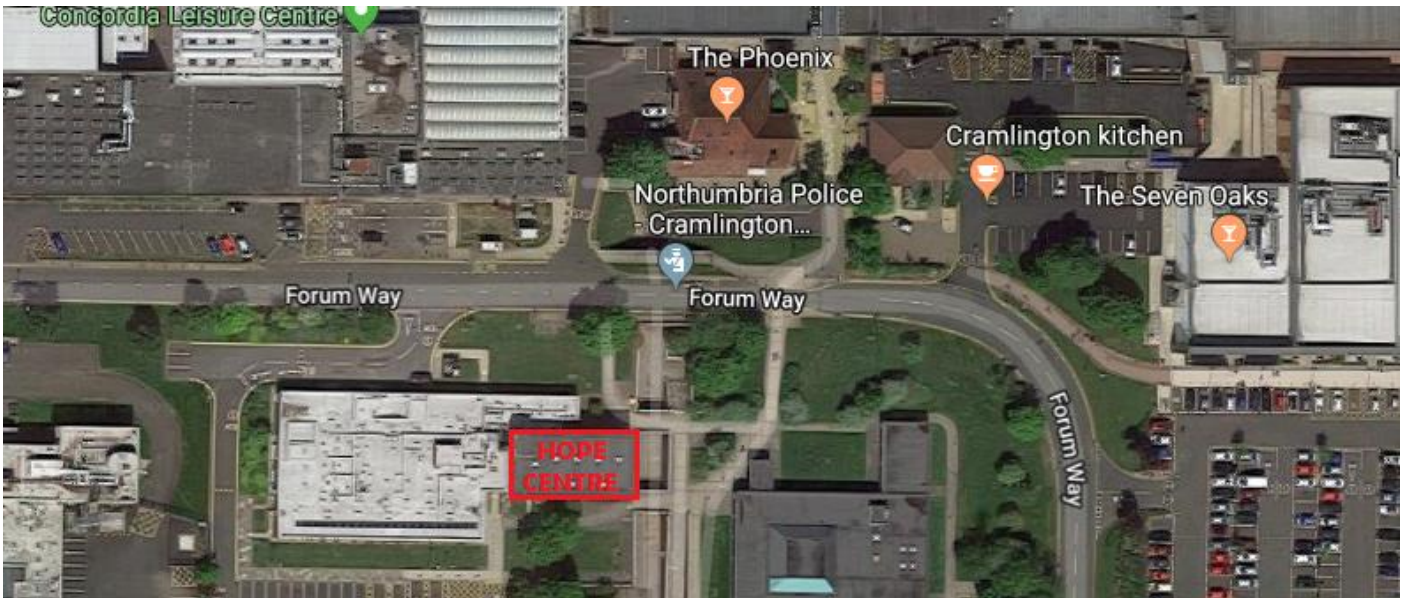
And finally... don't forget that the children break up on Thursday this week at 3.15pm. Have a good half term holiday and we will see everyone again on Monday 4th November.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher

October Half-Term Lunch Scheme

From Monday 28th October, and for the duration of the Half-Term holiday, the Cramlington Churches in cooperation with the HOPE Centre
(Forum Way, to the rear of Concordia, next to the GP surgeries)



will provide packed lunches for pupils who normally receive free school meals.

These will be available each week-day from 1200
For further information call
Hope Centre on **01670 737808**