



Eastlea update 12/2/21



Dear Parents / Carers,

May I start by wishing you all a **'Happy Golden Day'** and a **'Happy Chinese New Year'**! This is the first time we have tried to host a 'virtual' Golden Day but I know how much those I have seen are looking forward to it – whether in school or at home!

新年快樂
Happy Chinese New Year



I'm sure the activities planned by the staff will be great fun today. The resource packs have been well received by those who collected them from school and **I hope you all enjoyed the special 'celebrity' Eastlea Golden Day message from Danny and Mick** which we shared at 9am today!! Great fun and very happy 'pantomime' memories for those who have experienced one in previous years!!

We very much hope the **class zoom catch up sessions** are a success today, following the protocols which we shared last week. We are looking forward to seeing everyone who is able to join in using the class meeting ID/password which has been shared via Tapestry or Seesaw... Y2 at 9.15am, Y3 at 9.45am, Y6 at 10.15am, Nursery at 10.45am, Y5 at 11.15am, Y4 at 11.45am, Reception at 1pm and Y1 at 1.30pm. Fingers crossed!

The end of a long half term of lockdown...but still much to smile about and be grateful for!

I know how tricky this period of national lockdown has been for everyone. Understandably we have all felt gloomy or downhearted at times and found it hard going. The remote learning at home has been TOUGH – for pupils, parents/carers and staff, but we have still had plenty of opportunities to celebrate with the Eastlea children...and here are some of my own recent highlights:

- **Year 6 'bake off'** – what fantastic 'creations' were made by pupils in school or at home! Mrs Stafford was blown away by what was produced and prizes for everyone who took part were delivered/taken home this week – **well done to our Year 6 bakers!!**
- **Northumberland Castles walking/steps** challenge – as always pupils/families did us proud. All year groups took part; Year 2, Year 3 and Year 6 completed the challenge and **Reception absolutely smashed it...by visiting every castle twice!!** As a school we walked a total of 1184.5 miles over the last 3 weeks – wow!
- **Rainbow Reading Challenge** – even during the 6 weeks of lockdown we have had 5 new Bronze reading award winners, taking our whole school total to **167**. Well done to these children and also congratulations to everyone who has kept reading and is ready to receive their silver award. **We will be sharing virtual silver awards with them in the week after half term!**
- **Visits from pupils/parents this week** – the incentive of collecting a Golden Day resource pack meant that we have had the chance to see more children and families briefly popping into school this week. It has been super to see everyone and catch up face to face (behind a mask!) with how you have been getting on. It hopefully won't be long until we are fully open for everyone again!?
- **'Snow day'** – how lovely to have a chance to play in the snow on Wednesday. I think we all enjoyed a chance to have some childlike normality and I loved seeing the photos of the snowmen, snow angels, sledging exploits and snowball fights which were taking place at home and in school! Brilliant fun!

And finally...have a happy half term break!

Everyone has earned their half term break this February. So please, take time off from remote learning, Seesaw, Tapestry and other school based tasks for the coming week. Remote learning will start again from Monday 22nd February when hopefully we will start to hear more about the 'road map' to take us out of national lockdown, including plans for the reopening of schools.

In the meantime, take care, stay safe and keep smiling!

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

