#### Dear Parents/Carers

#### Welcome back!

The new term started well last week and I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we begin our next school year. We have been joined by several new families in Nursery and Reception and I hope you feel happy with the way your child is settling in and are getting used to any new routines and procedures. This quite 'weighty' newsletter includes lots of information – some of which will be 'reminders' for those who have been part of Eastlea for a while!

# Staffing update

This year we have no new staff at Eastlea, but Miss Betham has returned to her role as Year 2 Class Teacher and we are delighted to have her back with us! There have been some changes to where support staff are deployed across the school and I am sure that your child will talk to you about the adults they have working with them in their classrooms. We are fortunate to have several support staff who are qualified teachers and so are willing to take on this role when needed. This year, one example of this is on Fridays when Mrs Thompson will be leading the learning in Year 4 as Mrs Thirlwell will not be in school on that day.

# School uniform, PE kits, footwear and jewellery

As I seem to say each year, we were so pleased with how smart the children looked in their uniform when they returned last week. Thank you! We are aware that the new system of online ordering of uniform directly from Emblematic has caused a few teething problems and are sorry for any issues this has caused. As the Eastlea uniform becomes available in the Bedlington store things should be easier, and hopefully families can also avoid the delivery costs to home by placing orders in term time to allow for free delivery to school. We have very few items of uniform left in stock in school now and the link for ordering items is: <a href="https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school./">https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school./</a>

**Remember**...pre-loved, high quality items of school uniform can be obtained from (or donated to) the **Hope Centre** in Cramlington. Other items of clothing (not school uniform) can be 'recycled' in the Eastlea **Clothes Bank** which is on site alongside the bin store (near the Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4 entrance gate). Every kilogram of clothes helps raise money for the school. Thank you!

Can we remind you that it would really help if all uniform/PE kit/coats are clearly labelled with your child's name. This is so important and helps to avoid things going missing.

Children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' <u>ONLY</u>— which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). **Hoodies and tracksuits should <u>NOT</u>** be worn on other days. Remember that if your child has **plain totally black trainers** then these can be worn to school on any day as part of school uniform in an effort to keep down the costs of having to have different footwear.

The current PE days for each class are as follows. If other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers so you know if PE kit is required at other times:

- \*Reception Monday (\*starting later this half term)
- Y1 Wednesday
- Y2 Wednesday & Friday
- Y3 –Tuesday & Wednesday
- Y4 Wednesday & Friday
- Y5 Thursday & Friday
- Y6 Monday &Thursday

Please remember that your child is <u>not allowed to wear earrings</u> or any other jewellery in school. Thanks for your support with this. For those with pierced ears, clear plastic spacers must be worn rather than earrings which keeps them safe in school. These can be easily purchased, but **if anyone is stuck we can offer sets of these spacers from the school office.** 

It is also important to ensure that your child's hair is tied back as this helps to avoid problems which can occur when hair is left loose.

#### **Arrival/Departure times**

Staff will be on hand at the wooden gates/entrances to greet your child when they arrive, and the school day starts at <u>8.45am</u>. Work/activities will begin as soon as your child enters the classroom so it is important that your child arrives at 8.45am ready for a prompt start to learning each day.

Our school day finishes at **3.15pm**. To try to avoid congestion we do tend to dismiss Year 1 and Year 2 a few minutes earlier than this – to make space for Year 3 and Year 4 at 3.15pm who leave from the same exit doors. As soon as you have collected your child please make your way home to avoid congestion on site/in carparks. We have some little people in Y1/Y2 who are looking out for their families/carers and can't see past tall adults!! THANK YOU.

Nursery and Reception children will be dismissed from their gates and Year 5 and Year 6 will be brought out from the main entrance at 3.15pm and can be met from the main gate, or head home independently.

#### An update on illness/absence and attendance

We all know that the importance of regular attendance cannot be emphasised strongly enough. Last year, nationally and in Northumberland the pattern of attendance improved. At Eastlea we had <u>much</u> better attendance and this was due to the support from our families who worked with us to make sure that wherever possible their child was in school every day. A copy of the Eastlea attendance guide for parents is attached to this newsletter for reference.

If your child is unwell they will need time off school, e.g. if they have a high temperature or sickness and/or diarrhoea. If your child does have sickness or diarrhoea then they are required to be off school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had the runs. This protects everyone in the school community. The NHS website 'Is my child too ill for school?' is a good reference point to let you the protocols to follow if something chicken vour child has like pox https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Please can we ask that if you need to inform us about absence that you do so by ringing the school office. Messages on Tapestry/Seesaw/Facebook cannot be monitored during the school day due to staff teaching in class, so if you have an urgent message it is important that the school office is informed directly.

# Equates to: 4 SCHOOL DAYS off each year 98% MPRESSIVE 7 SCHOOL OAYS off each year 96% 96% NEARLY THERE 11 SCHOOL OAYS off each year 94% NEEDS TO IMPROVE 90% SCHOOL OAYS off each year SERIOUS CONCERNS

**Attendance Ladder** 

# Holidays and other planned absences

As you know, national guidelines regarding school attendance mean that leave of absence during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. Holidays in term time should be avoided wherever possible, but if there is an exceptional circumstance where your child needs to be absent from school then please inform us in advance. A leave of absence form should be completed before the intended absence. These are available from the school office. Failure to notify school will mean that planned absences are automatically unauthorised. There is space on the form to indicate why the absence may be deemed an 'exceptional circumstance'. Each case will be considered individually and we ask that these forms are also completed for Nursery pupils to keep our absence records accurate.

We have been well supported by parents in recent years with our common sense approach to this situation and are confident that this can continue in the coming year..

#### A reminder of the holiday dates for this school year is listed below for your reference:

HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE
October Mid-Term 2025	Thursday 23 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025
Staff training Day	FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2025	
Christmas/New Year 2025/2026	Friday 19 December 2025	Tuesday 6 January 2026
Staff training Days	MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026	
Spring Mid-Term 2026	Friday 13 February 2026	Monday 23 February 2026
Easter 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026	Monday 20 April 2026
May Day	Monday 4 May 2026	
Summer Mid-Term 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	Monday 1 June 2026
Summer 2026	Friday 17 July 2026	Wednesday 2 September 2026
Staff training Day	TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2026	

# 'Flu Immunisations - please complete the online booking form

Children from Nursery to Year 6 are now able to have their annual nasal 'flu immunisation in school on the morning of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Parents/carers must book this online with the school immunisations team. The online consent can be accessed via any online device. Please click on the following link <a href="https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu">https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu</a> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using the following school code NB122191

<u>Please do this ASAP</u>. A letter with a link was shared before the summer and was also sent out to **Nursery/Reception on Tapestry last week.** If you have any problems then speak to someone in the school office or Miss Beeston.

#### Bikes and scooters

We continue to encourage pupils to come to school on a bike or scooter and have storage racks at both sides of the building. Bikes/scooters should be wheeled to the storage racks when on the school site. It is very important that any bikes/scooters which are left on the school premises are locked in order to keep them secure. Helmets can be kept in school, and we would strongly urge all children who have a bike/scooter to wear one to keep them safe.

#### Dogs at the gates

Please can I give my annual reminder about dogs at or around the school gates. Dogs, even if they are on leads, can be intimidating to younger children (and some adults too) so we must insist that **no dogs are allowed on the school grounds/premises and also no dogs should be brought too near to the school site for the safety of all concerned**.

#### Another reminder about parking

As you know, traffic congestion and parking difficulties are problems at all schools. At Eastlea the issues we face tend to centre around double parking/blocking narrow estate roads, inability to access driveways for residents in the local neighbourhood and hazards caused to pedestrians with cars parked on pavements.



These are some of the things we can all do to help alleviate the problems with parking:

- If it is possible, please try to walk to school or encourage your children to use their bikes or scooters. Bikes/scooters can be safely locked up on site on the cycle/scooter racks provided.
- We would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the 'park and stride' scheme which is in
  operation and allows you to park at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and then complete a short walk
  to school. This hugely reduces parking problems and the families who use it say it is MUCH EASIER
  and FAR LESS CONGESTED.
- If you have to use your car due to the distance needed to travel to and from school then **please park as considerately as you can.** The community police / council staff will be continuing their periodic patrols of all school sites to offer advice and monitor the situation.
  - The estate roads are narrow and if cars are parked on both sides then this can block the road for other vehicles and make access to local houses/driveways difficult. This would cause a major hazard if an emergency vehicle needed to get through.
  - A particular bottle neck is where the road narrows on Silverdale Road as it goes over the cycle track leading towards Northburn Park. Please can you take extra care not to leave vehicles near here which will block the view of drivers and cause problems for pedestrians. The Skipton Close 'cul-de-sac' should also be kept clear of cars. Thank you!
  - Where single white lines are in place on smaller estate roads this indicates that the narrow roads could be easily blocked by cars, so avoid parking here and do not park on the 'Keep Clear' zone at the school gates.
  - o Try not to block pavements in the surrounding area leave space for pedestrians to pass
  - And finally, please try not to hang around once you have dropped off/collected your child so that spaces are cleared quickly for others to use where possible.

# School Lunches, break time fruit, NO NUTS PLEASE and water bottles (for water only!)

Our school lunch menus remain the same as before the summer holiday and are on a 3-week cycle [w/b 8 $^{th}$  Sept = Week 2]. Copies can be obtained from the school office or are on the school website. We will be considering some updates to the menus during the year and you will be informed of any changes as and when they are made.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can still take advantage of the FREE meals available for all children thanks to the government's 'Universal' offer. Nursery meals for children who are in all day are charged at £2.20 per day (£11 per week) and for children from Year 3 to Year 6, paid meals are £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week).

Children are asked to bring their dinner money to school in an envelope clearly marked with their name/class/amount on the day or in the week that the meals are taken.

If parents are in receipt of benefits and are entitled to 'Free School Meals', even if your child is in Reception/Year 1/Year 2, it is important that these are applied for in the usual way so that families can continue to access free meals for their child even if government policy changes, have the option to order free milk and are able to receive any holiday food vouchers. At the same time Eastlea will also receive the pupil premium funding to which we are entitled. If you have any questions about this then please speak to Mrs Johnson in the school office.

For those who bring packed lunches, please can sweets, multiple chocolate biscuits etc be avoided as we wish to promote healthier options. Can we also remind everyone that due to allergies experienced by some children at Eastlea we need to reinforce our **NO NUTS in school policy**. Children who bring in food for packed lunches need to ensure that these are nut free at all times to protect the health and safety of everyone in school (this includes anything with Nutella and some cereal bars). Thank you for your support with this.

For KS2 classes we will be continuing with our 'fruit/vegetables' only policy for break time snacks. This was a real success in the summer term and it was lovely to see the range of healthy items brought in by the children as well as significantly reducing the amount of litter on the school site. Thank you. For pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 free break time fruit/vegetable snacks will continue to be provided. Nursery snack items are organised by Early Years staff for a small charge and parents can get details of this from Mrs Shimmin.



Water bottles: Can we again remind everyone that water bottles should be brought to school each day containing WATER only and not transported in reading folders to protect pupil books. Having juice instead of water is not good for dental health and also makes a real mess if there are spillages in the classrooms. If there is a particular reason why this will be a problem for your child then this will need to be discussed with your child's class teacher and we will see what we can do to support. Metal water bottles tend to last longer and are less easy to break, although we are aware that they are a little more expensive. Also, please can we ask that water bottles are of a standard size! Some of the newer brands of water bottles are enormous and we do not have space to store them. Thank you for your support with this.

#### Non-Payment of money for Breakfast Club and School Dinners

As we mentioned before the summer, we are facing some issues with non-payment of dinner money and/ or breakfast club money. Money must be paid on the day/week that lunches are taken or breakfast club sessions are attended.

- If dinner money is not paid each week then parents will be asked to provide a packed lunch for their child/children until the balance is paid off.
- Remember the charges for Breakfast Club are £3.00 if a booking is made a day or more in advance and £3.50 if children just turn up on the day with no advance booking made. If Breakfast Club payments are not paid then future bookings will not be possible.

I hope you understand the difficulties we face with this and why we are having to ensure money is paid on time. Please come and talk to us if there are financial issues which we may not be aware of to see if we can provide further support.

#### **Year 5 Residential Visit**

Just a quick reminder to parents of Year 5 pupils that the deadline for final payments for the Robinwood residential visit is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September. It is important that all monies are received by then – if there is an issue with this then please speak to Miss Fox or Miss Beeston. Thank you.

#### **Summer Libraries Reading Challenge**

We are in the process of collating names of all the pupils who completed the summer holiday libraries 'Story Garden' reading challenge. For those who finish the challenge then medals/certificates are available from your local library and if the challenge was done digitally then a certificate can be downloaded. Please make sure your child's class teacher knows if they have completed the challenge so they can be invited to our school celebration event in a few weeks' time. Thank you!



#### School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2026)

I know it seems a long way off, but if you have a child due to start Year 7 <u>next</u> September the admissions portal opens on 12<sup>th</sup> September and applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October). The portal can be accessed via the link on the Northumberland School Admissions website: <a href="https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\_LIVE/en">https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\_LIVE/en</a>

It is essential that you apply in good time so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or another secondary school of your choice – you will receive confirmation about places on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. Any queries, please contact the school office.

N.B. For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception <u>next</u> September the admissions portal will open from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 15<sup>th</sup> January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.* 

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# Items which need to be returned to school please...

As is always the case at the start of September, there are three documents which will be sent home with your child and must to be returned by everyone (other than those new to Eastlea who have just completed them!) Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response...and we ask that all forms are back with us by Friday!!

#### 1. Medical information

Whether or not your child has a medical condition please complete and return the medical information sheet – **even if you feel that we 'already know' about an issue**. So many changes can occur with medical information that you will appreciate that we need an annual update.

#### 2. Permission for school visits/food tasting 2025-2026

- School visits are an important part of our broad and rich curriculum at Eastlea and as you know we
  aim to go 'out and about' as much as possible, as well as taking part in sports events and making links
  with other schools etc. To help to reduce the number of times we need you to complete permission
  slips we have attached the usual annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all nonresidential school visits for this school year for which no cost/voluntary contribution is required.
  - If you grant permission for your child to take part in school visits we will continue to inform you when a visit is due to take place and provide you with the usual letter so that you know where your child is going, what they need and any special arrangements for the day it will just remove the need for you to sign and send a permission slip back to us every time.
- There are also times when teachers provide opportunities for children to try different foods as part of their class work for example in relation to their topic work. As always Eastlea follows the usual food hygiene requirements when doing work of this nature. If you give permission for your child to taste food as part of their school work this year, this will save the need for separate letters/permission slips during the year. We will take notice of any allergies which you alert us to and be sensitive to requests if there are certain foods which you do not wish your child to taste for religious or cultural reasons. If your child has a new diagnosis of a food allergy or medical condition during the year it is very important that you let us know.

# 3. 'Consent for images and videos' – photo permission

We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations and this year, to simplify things we have amended the permission form which is being sent to all parents/carers so Mrs Atkinson (our E-safety Coordinator) has an updated list of any pupils who cannot have their photos shown on the school website/Facebook page and any who are unable to be included on class photographs when the professional photographer comes to Eastlea in the summer term.

# 'Operation Encompass' and 'Operation Endeavour' - annual reminder

Eastlea continues to be part of initiatives promoted by Northumberland County Council together with Northumbria Police to support better communication between key agencies to promote the safeguarding of children.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to (Operation Encompass). The same procedure also happens if for any reason a child goes missing from home. As a result of better multi-agency communication, information about this will be shared with schools (Operation Endeavour).

Copies of the most recent letters outlining these details from NCC, can be found on the school website [About Us – information and policies – safeguarding policy]. If anyone requires more information or would like a paper copy of the letters then please contact me in school.

#### Clubs for this half term - before school, at lunchtime and after school

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day).  N.B. Pupils to arrive between 7.30 – 8.15am to allow time for	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> (£2 per session)	KS2 Gardening Club on <b>Mondays</b> [while the weather holds]
breakfast to be served.		Irish Dancing Club for Y1/Y2 on Mondays [this finishes at 4pm]
This costs £3 per day if booked/paid for in advance or £3.50 if children just turn up on the day		Multi-skills for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b> <b>from 8am</b> in the school hall	KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b> ( <i>from 17</i> <sup>th</sup> September)
	(£2 per session)	Violin Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b> (from 17 <sup>th</sup> September)
Owlets toddler group for preschool children and their parents/carers/ childminders: Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am in the school hall Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.	Running Club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>	Dodgeball club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays

#### **Events planned for this half term**

On the final page of this 'bumper' first newsletter you will find an outline of the usual wide range of events and activities planned so far for the Eastlea children for the first half of the autumn term. There will be further information sent out about some of the events a little nearer the time.

**AND FINALLY...** we are continuing to reduce the number of paper copies of letters that are sent home this year. Following this initial letter, future newsletters and general updates on school events will be shared electronically via Tapestry/Seesaw and the school website. **Letters requiring the completion and return of a 'reply slip' will still be sent home with pupils in the usual way.** We can also arrange to have a spare paper copy of letters provided from the school office if needed – please let your child's class teacher or Miss Beeston know if this is required.

If your contact details change during the year (new mobile phone number, address or email) then please let us know as soon as possible so that our records can be updated.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

# **Events planned for the first half of the autumn term 2025**

What's on	When and who?
Basketball/dodgeball coaching in PE lessons	Wednesday mornings from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept (Y3/Y4) Thursday afternoons from 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Y5/Y6)
Specialist French tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y3/Y5 from 3 <sup>rd</sup> September led by Mme Taylor
Specialist Computing tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y6 from 3 <sup>rd</sup> September led by Mrs Powells
'Brainwaves' elections	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September (whole school elect Y5 and Y6 representatives)
First Aid training workshops	Friday afternoons in September/October for Year 6
Sports Leader interviews and training	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> / Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 9 <sup>th</sup> September (groups from different classes)
'Roots and Shoots' celebration visit at Alnwick Garden	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
Phototronic individual/family photos [further details to follow]	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September (morning)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 17 <sup>th</sup> September led by Mrs Rowell and Mrs Hedley
Launch event for the 2025-26 Reading Challenge [information will be shared in a letter later this week with an invitation for a family member to join us at a 'time slot' in the afternoon (or morning for some in Nursery) to get your child started on this year's challenge.]	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September (whole school)
Summer Library Reading Challenge celebration 'picnic'	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September (any children who completed the summer library 'Story Garden' reading challenge)
Eastlea hosts a 'Pearl of Africa' Dance / Choir Event / concert	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September (whole school)
ACTIVE OCTOBER BEGINS [further details about activities for this 4 week event to follow]	From Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October
Safety Works visit	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October (Year 6)
RE Day	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September (Reception to Year 6)
Nasal 'flu immunisations [see letter sent via Tapestry/Seesaw – parents need to complete on online booking]	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October (whole school)
Parents appointments [further details to follow]	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> and Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October (afternoon/evening)
GOLDEN DAY	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Pupils return for second half of the autumn term	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Year 5 residential visit to Robinwood	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November

#### **Eastlea Attendance Guide for**



#### **Parents**

Our Designated Attendance Lead is Miss Beeston, the Head Teacher.

Parents/Carers will receive regular updates on attendance from school and the Head Teacher and all the staff monitor attendance daily, weekly, half termly and termly. Children are encouraged and rewarded in school for classes/individuals who have high levels of attendance and the staff make it clear why excellent attendance is so important:

- Weekly attendance trophy/letters home for the class with the highest percentage attendance each class aims for 96%+ attendance
- Assembly 'Party poppers' for any class achieving their target of 100% attendance
- Punctuality plaques for classes who have no 'lates' recorded or fewer 'lates' than the week before
- End of term certificates for any child who has not missed a day of school
- Special rewards for children who have 100% attendance for the whole school year!

# Why is regular school attendance so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships. A regular and punctual attendance pattern will help your child when they go to secondary school and later enter the world of work.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear: the more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.



## **Attendance Ladder**



# **Every School Day Counts**

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. At Eastlea we think that 96%+ attendance is what every child should really aim for.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

#### **Punctuality**

Schools are legally required to take a register of pupils twice a day. At Eastlea the day begins at 8.45am and the register is taken first thing in the morning and again at the start of the afternoon session.

Good punctuality is important because if, for example, a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year! Patterns of poor punctuality are something that is also discussed with the school's Education Welfare Officer.

#### Holidays during term time

No term time leave of absence for holidays is routinely authorised at Eastlea.

Parents/Carers who choose to take their child out of school without written permission from the school may be issued with a fixed penalty fine.

Only in exceptional circumstances may a head teacher grant permission for leave of absence in term time.

# How can I help my child attend school regularly?

- Talk to your child about school.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Keep in touch with school staff by telephone or Tapestry/Seesaw if there is an issue.
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason.
- Attend parents' evenings and other school events.

# What should I do if I'm worried about my child's school attendance?

The first thing to do is to contact the school to discuss your concerns so that we can see if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

#### What are my responsibilities regarding my child's school attendance?

As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to ensure that any child of compulsory school age attends school both regularly and on time. The local authority has a duty to make sure that all parents/carers fulfil this responsibility.

# What will happen if my child does not attend school regularly?

School staff will contact you if there are concerns about your child's attendance. Support will be offered where we can. If we see no improvement, or there are particular difficulties involved, a referral can be made to the Education Welfare Service to see what help they can provide.

#### What if I do not seek support and my child's school attendance does not improve?

Parents whose children are on a school register and fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren), may be guilty of an offence under Section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996 and the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice or take enforcement action through the Courts to secure regular attendance.

#### How will regular school attendance help my child?

Eastlea gives your child a wide range of opportunities and experiences in the form of academic lessons, educational visits, activities and school clubs allowing them to develop their interests and achieve their full potential. Regular school attendance means that your child can make the most of their education and the opportunities Eastlea has to offer.

If you need any more information about the systems in place to monitor attendance at Eastlea please just ask Miss Beeston and if there is any further support that you feel we can offer then talk to your child's class teacher.