



Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year

For anyone I have not spoken to yet already, please can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very 'Happy New Year'.

As always at the start of the new term this newsletter contains information about key events which are planned as well as reminders/updates about policies and procedures at Eastlea:

Parking / road safety

Following the resurfacing of the approach road to Eastlea and the road markings which were renewed in December, I need to clarify that we have been advised by the county Highways department that as before, parking should be avoided in the cul-de-sac near the approach to the school. This will avoid causing problems for local residents by blocking drives or parking illegally. I realise it can be busy at the start and end of the school day, but your consideration and support with this is much appreciated.

Bikes and scooters

It is lovely to see so many children cycling to school or coming on their scooters – a great form of exercise! The number of new bikes was clear when the children returned with their Christmas gifts on 4th January but can we please remind everyone that if these items are to be left on the school premises then they need to be locked on the bike/scooter racks provided. We would hate any bikes to be taken which would be upsetting for all concerned. Staff are also happy to look after cycle helmets in school and we would encourage pupils to wear these as they travel to and from school each day. Please speak to staff if there is a problem with locking up bikes or scooters – several can always be locked together if this makes things easier.

Staffing update

It is with regret that I need to inform you that Mrs Scholey will be unable to return to Eastlea due to ill health. She has taken early retirement from her role here as both a member of support staff and a midday supervisor. Mrs Scholey has been unwell for some time but always hoped she would be able to return. Sadly, this will not be possible. She has worked at Eastlea for many years and will be much missed. Her role as a midday supervisor is now being taken by Mrs Coyne who joins the Eastlea team last week.

School uniform

The vast majority of our pupils have returned to school looking very smart and tidy in their Eastlea school uniform. However, as we mentioned before the Christmas break, we do have some ongoing concerns regarding footwear and trousers. May I remind you that trainers, jeans or leggings are not to be worn in school. **Children should be wearing black school shoes and trousers.** If the weather is particularly bad, then boots can be brought into school to be changed into at breaks/lunchtimes but they are not suitable to be worn all day and must not have high heels as this is dangerous. It is likely to be cold and wet this term and to enable the children to keep warm and dry please could you ensure they have a suitable coat and gloves/hats/scarves as appropriate to be worn when they are outside.

We also have some children who are 'forgetting' to remove their nail varnish before they come into school. If your child uses nail varnish at a weekend, please make sure it is removed before Monday morning!

P.E. kits

Everyone now should be fully aware of the need to have PE kits in school so that children can take part fully with the lessons that are going on. Items should be named and suitable footwear is required for outdoor sessions.

Hair

May I remind you that long hair must be tied back in school and hair should be thoroughly checked if problems with headlice occur even when you think the infestation may be over (this needs to be done every night for at least two weeks otherwise the problem can reoccur).

School meals/packed lunches

The winter menus started in November will be continuing this term. This is week 2 of the menu cycle and if you have any queries linked to this please contact the school office where copies of the menus are available.

For those pupils choosing to opt for packed lunches can we remind parents that nuts should not be brought to school. You will understand that this is to secure the well-being of some pupils here who suffer from diagnosed nut allergies. I hope this will not prove to be too inconvenient. Thank you!

Attendance and punctuality

Before the Christmas holiday I told you the latest information with regard to the weekly winners of our attendance and punctuality awards. Here are some further updates:

- **Year 5** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the autumn term – in total they won the weekly award four times during the half term and have retained the best class attendance certificate for the whole term – quite an achievement!! With an average attendance of 98.39% they beat Year 3 and Year 4 who came 2nd and 3rd in our competition – congratulations!
- **Year 5** also retained the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term with only 5 'lates' in total during the 7 weeks. Last half term they had to share the prize, but this time the class won it outright, beating Year 1 who were their closest rivals with 12 lates – well done!
- I am also pleased to announce that there were **52 pupils** who were awarded with individual certificates for achieving **100% attendance** in the autumn term.

Attendance and punctuality will again be closely monitored this term together with support from the EWO. Competition remains fierce for both the weekly attendance champions trophy/punctuality plaque and the children have been set the challenge of helping to use more party poppers for class 100% attendance this term!! Your support with this and in getting them to school on time is much appreciated.

Reading

Our Around the UK reading challenge continues this term. We now have 136 children with their pictures on the UK maps display and hope to get more 'faces' in the hall in the coming weeks! Class teachers will be in touch with you if your child is not yet into a regular routine of reading at home and it is never too late to get the bronze award so the incentive is there for all children to get started! Thank you for your support!

Maths

We awarded our autumn term maths awards just before the holiday. Congratulations to all our winners! A display of their work is being put up in the school hall. If your child was a winner and you wish to come into school to see their work on display just pop in at the start or end of a day and your child can take you to the hall!

Spelling

This year we have a particular focus on spelling and have been delighted with the response from pupils who are eagerly trying to improve their ability to spell words accurately. We have a special list of 'Eastlea words' which all children are encouraged to learn as well the common exception words which Year 2 have a special focus on as part of their assessments (see below). If you want to know more about this and can support your child with knowing these 'tricky' spellings then please speak to staff in your child's class!

Advance notice for parents/carers of pupils in Year 2 and Year 6

- Miss Betham has asked me to remind parents that the KS1 SATs assessments take place in May 2017. Unlike the KS2 SATs, the Year 2 children will be involved in several different assessments (or quizzes as we like to call them!) during that month so it is important that the children are in school for those weeks in May so that they can have the best chance of showing off what they can do!
- Mrs Coleby has asked me to mention that the KS2 SATs week this year takes place in the week beginning **Monday 8th May 2017**. The format of the KS2 SATs changed last year as part of the new national curriculum agenda and we will share information on any further changes with Year 6 pupils/parents if any occur. We know that in common with every other year, our Year 6 pupils will do us proud with their efforts in this important week. It is vital that all the Year 6 pupils are in school every day that week, so I hope that this advance notice of the date is helpful.

Reminder for Nursery parents

We have again been asked by county to remind parents that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15th January 2017**. Any children born between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013 need to apply for entry to Reception 2017. Parents need to make an application for their child to join Eastlea Reception class in September, even if they already attend our Nursery. Information, Handbooks and application forms are available online at: www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Alternatively, paper forms are available on request from: School Admissions Team, Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

Residential visits

Letters with information about payments for the 3 residential visits to Ford Castle (Y3/Y4), Hawkhurst (Y5) and York (Y6) have already been sent out for those taking part. It is important that payment deadlines are noted and adhered to so that the bills can be paid to the various venues and activity centres. Thank you!

Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline of all the many events and activities which are planned for the Eastlea pupils so far for the first half of the spring term.

What's on	When and who?
Specialist French input and pen pals project led by Madame Taylor	Wednesday afternoons from 4 th January (Year 5 and Year 6)
Lunchtime running club	Thursday lunchtimes from 5 th January (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Attendance certificates, 'light green' letters and autumn term commendations are presented	Friday 6 th January
New Nursery pupils join Eastlea	Monday 9 th and Wednesday 11 th January (new intake begin their Nursery sessions)
Specialist dance input in PE lessons led by Cheryl Day	Monday afternoons from Monday 9 th January (Year 2 & 3)
Reception hearing rechecks	Monday 9 th January – afternoon (Reception)
Educational Class Visit to 'BBC studios' in Newcastle	Tuesday 10 th January – morning (Year 6 – funded by the pupils' Enterprise fund)
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 10 th January (pupils from Year 3, 5 and 6)
Swimming sessions at Concordia	Tuesday afternoons from 10 th January (Year 4)
'Fiddles' tuition/specialist music input – part of our continuing music project	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 11 th January (Year 6 and Year 3)
After school 'KS2 Eastlea Singing club'	Starts again Wednesday 11 th January 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Before school 'Street Dance' club	Thursday mornings at 8am from Thursday 12 th January (Reception/Year 1/Year 2)
Dance academy auditions at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 13 th January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (selected pupils from KS2)
Lunchtime tag rugby club	Monday lunchtimes from 16 th January (Year 5/Year 6)
After school Netball club	Mondays after school from 16 th January (Year 5/Year 6)
After school KS2 Computing 'Code Club'	From Monday 16 th January 3.15 – 4.30pm (Year 5 and Year 6)
Steel pan after school music club	Tuesdays after school from 17 th January (group from Year 4 and Year 5)
Multi-skills academy selection event at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 20 th January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 24 th January (Year 6)
Year 6 Evening Chronicle journalism Enterprise project	Wednesday 25 th January – deadline for the 'Our School' Evening Chronicle page to be submitted <i>The Eastlea page will be published on Thursday 2nd February!!</i>
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Thursday morning before school Literacy sessions from 26 th January (Year 6)
Reception dental checks	Thursday 26 th January – afternoon (Reception)
Warburtons Healthy Eating workshops	Wednesday 1 st February – morning (Year 3) Thursday 2 nd February – morning (Year 2)

What's on	When and who?
Spring term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 8 th February 4pm
School Games Gymnastics competition	Thursday 9 th February – morning (team from Year 4)
Robotics Computing workshops	Thursday 9 th February – afternoon (Year 4) Thursday 16 th February – afternoon (Year 5)
Golden Day	Friday 17th February (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 17 th February
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 27 th February

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher