



Dear Parents/Carers

### First full newsletter of the new school year

“Welcome back” as we start a new school year – especially if you are part of a ‘new’ family at Eastlea. By now you should know the name of your child’s class teacher and will have perhaps heard your child mentioning the other adults who are working with them in school. I hope your child is settling in well in their new class and that you feel happy with how things are going.

For those of you who were ‘with us’ in July, you will know that we celebrated Eastlea’s ‘birthday’ before the summer holiday. After 10 years on the Skipton Road site, our aim of providing the very best educational experience for the children in our care continues. Our dedicated team of staff and governors ensure that this remains our core purpose. **We are still awaiting the final report following the visit from Ofsted in July 2019.** Due to the timing of the inspection so near the end of the school year, they have to wait until this term to publish the report.

### School uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children returned looking so smart in their school uniform. A PE kit is the other essential part of our school uniform and it is best to have these in school all week, so that they are available whenever required. If you have any queries about this, then please see your child’s teacher. **All uniform/PE kit needs to be clearly labelled with your child’s name please.**

Thanks also for your support for our request to ensure that earrings are not worn in school. Almost every family followed our advice and any newly pierced ears were done at the start of the summer holiday. Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery in school. 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.

### Attendance/Time of arrival at school

The importance of good attendance and punctuality is always a high focus for us at Eastlea. The class attendance champions trophy and punctuality plaques will be awarded each week at the assembly on Friday morning and you will receive a letter if your child’s class wins the attendance trophy. Last year we worked hard improve the punctuality figures and had some real success with this. We will continue with this in 2019-20 and **our aim once again is to encourage everyone to arrive on time in school every morning.** Your support with getting the children here on time at the start of the day is much appreciated. Please remember that the school doors open at 8.50am and children are encouraged to arrive on site between 8.40-8.50am (not too early!!). **If they arrive after 9am, their usual entrance doors will be closed and they are ‘late’ which is something we are trying to avoid.** Pupils then need to come in through the main entrance and their time of arrival noted in the ‘late’ diary.

As you know if a child’s attendance falls below 90% this is classed as ‘persistent absence’ and is referred to the Education Welfare Officer. Parents will be alerted by letter at the end of each half term if attendance has fallen below or is getting close to this figure so that we can work together to improve the situation. Thanks to support from parents/carers we have very few children who are deemed persistent absentees.

### Access doors and gates *[apologies for the closure of the side gate – it will be reopened tomorrow]*

For ease of ‘flow’ in the mornings please make use of both our entrance gates. The gates leading towards both entrance doors are padlocked after 9am and before collection times for safety and the gate on the steps to the Kids Club access ramp near the Reception/Y5/Y6 entrance is a reminder that these are ‘out of bounds’ to our pupils. This year we will continue to allow older children (Y5/6 only) into school from approx. 8.45am so that congestion is eased for the Reception pupils/families at their entrance door.

### Bikes and scooters

We love to see the children coming to school on a bike or scooter and have storage racks at both sides of the building. 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 cycle to wear one to keep them safe. Please can we also remind you that children who come to/leave school on their bike or scooter should get off when they arrive on the school premises and wheel them to the storage racks. This is especially important on the path around the car park for Year 5/6 pupils.

### Dogs at the gates

Please can I give my annual reminder about dogs at or around the school gates in the mornings and at the end of the school day. Dogs which are barking, 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 near to the school site for the safety of all concerned.**

### **Parking, smoking and vaping – a reminder!**

- **As you are aware there can be no smoking in or around the school building/grounds.** For those who do smoke/vape I would be grateful if this could **only be done away when well away from the school site and not anywhere near the school gates** so that families who are entering either at the start or the end of the school day do not have to walk through a cloud of smoke when they arrive/leave from school. We had very positive support from all parents/carers with this last year and I'm sure I can rely on your continued support once again.
- For those who drive to school, please can I also take this opportunity to remind you again about the importance of parking carefully around the vicinity of the school and being courteous to other road users. It is important not to double park, block paths and driveways with cars or park on pavements as this can cause problems for local residents and other pedestrians, especially when it makes it very difficult for them to get past safely. Thank you.

### **Outdoor equipment in Early Years and storage containers**

For the benefit of parents who are new to the school I offer my annual reminder to ask that you continue to help us with looking after our outdoor Early Years equipment by making sure that it is **not** used by younger children when you come to pick up children from other classes at the end of the school day. As we have mentioned before, we realise it is tempting for younger brothers and sisters to climb on the climbing 'castle'/slides etc or play on the bikes/tyres etc but we are not insured for them to use the resources and therefore this equipment is 'out of bounds' for all children (including school children) after 3pm and before school starts. Children should also not be accessing the storage containers on the yard as this is clearly a potential danger especially when unsupervised. Thank you for your support with this.

### **'Operation Encompass' and 'Operation Endeavour'**

For the last few years Eastlea has been 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.

You will be aware that 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).

For the benefit of any parents new to Eastlea copies of letters which were sent to parents when these initiatives were launched are attached to this newsletter. If anyone requires more information then please contact me in school.

### **School Lunches – and payment**

Our new Reception/30 hour Nursery children have made a great start to managing the school lunch system and, by the end of the week I'm sure they will really be getting into the swing of things!! 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.

30 hour Nursery meals are charged at £2.00 per day and for children in the older classes, remember that paid meals remain at £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week) and Mrs Clarke coordinates the collection of dinner money. Unfortunately, we are aware that some dinner money payments from the end of the last school year remain unpaid. **It is important that any money owed is paid as soon as possible.** If money is not paid for dinners, we would not want debts to increase and will advise that packed lunches would be a better option until any money owed has been paid. **Any dinner money which is not paid by parents/carers has to be found from school funds and this means that we are less able to use these funds to support the educational experiences of the children.** This is something we are understandably keen to avoid. If there are problems with paying lunch money, please contact me in confidence to discuss the issue.

**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 parents can continue to access free meals for their child even if government policy changes and so they have the option to order free milk. At the same time Eastlea will also receive the pupil premium funding to which we are entitled.

The summer lunch menus remain the same for the autumn term. Copies are available for new parents if they wish to see the choices on offer – either from Mrs Atkinson in Reception class or the school office.

As is always the case at the start of September, this is a 'bumper' newsletter with two other documents attached which need to be returned by everyone...and five to be returned for Reception and other pupils new to Eastlea!) Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response!!

### **1. Medical information [for everyone]**

If your child has a medical condition it is vital that you complete the attached medical information sheet – even if you feel that we 'already know' about the issue. So many changes can occur with medical information that you will appreciate that we need an annual update. ***Please also be aware that Eastlea has a policy in place of not having nuts/seeds in school for the benefit of any pupils on roll who have nut allergies.***

### **2. Permission for school visits/food tasting [for everyone]**

- 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 for every individual visit we have attached the annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all 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 send a permission slip back to us.** Separate permission slips will still be required for residential visits, 'out of hours' visits and for class educational visits for which payment is required. Letters about these KS2 visits will be coming out soon so that the deposits can be collected in good 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. Information sheet/contact form [for new pupils]**

As always it is important at the beginning of the new school year to ensure that we have the correct and most up-to-date contact information for your child. **For all children new to Eastlea a copy of the information sheet is attached and we would request a speedy return of these documents.** The contact names/telephone numbers/address details from last year will continue to be used for current pupils. I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it is for us to have accurate contact information, so **please make sure you inform us if there are any changes to the address/phone number/contact names which we currently have in school.** If the numbers we have are incorrect and we need to contact you in an emergency then this can cause added anxiety for your child as well as the staff trying to deal with the situation.

### **4. Computing and Internet agreement [for new pupils]**

Our updated computer and e-safety policy combines the acceptable use and school 360 policies and streamlines it with GDPR requirements. Parents/new pupils need to read, sign and return the new agreement.

### **5. 'Consent for images and videos' (GDPR) [for new pupils]**

This is a consent form linked to taking photographs/videos of children in school or for use in newspaper articles and on websites. We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations. Please complete and return the attached permission slip to your child's class teacher. Consent forms for other pupils have been retained and we will follow the permissions you indicated last year unless you inform us otherwise. Thank you!

## Clubs and activities

Our varied and well supported programme of clubs either before school, at lunchtime or after school will take place each week. This half term the following clubs are taking place – most starting next week:

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day)	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>	Futsal club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
Street Dance for Reception/Y1/Y2 on <b>Thursdays</b> from 8am	Rugby Rocket Tots for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Basketball club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
<b>Plus...</b> <b>Owlets toddler group</b> for pre-school children and their parents/carers/childminders on <b>Thursdays from 9am – 10.30am in the school hall</b>	Woodland Walk club for various year groups on <b>Wednesdays</b>	KS2 Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays (from 18<sup>th</sup> September)</b>
	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>	

## Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline showing the things which are already organised for the first half of the autumn term:

What's on	When and who?
Rocket group meetings – elections for Brainwaves	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September (Reception to Year 6 pupils)
<b>Cycling Tour of Britain event</b> (see separate letter)	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September – afternoon/after school (KS2 pupils)
Gymnastics coaching in PE lessons	Weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 10 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 3/Year 4)
Basketball coaching in PE lessons	Weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 10 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 5/Year 6)
Specialist French and music lessons led by Mme Taylor and Ms Smith	Wednesday afternoons (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
<b>OWLETS TODDLER GROUP in the school hall</b>	Restarts on Thursday mornings from 12 <sup>th</sup> September 9.00am – 10.30am
Library reading challenge presentation event at Cramlington Library	After school on Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September (any pupils who took part in the summer library challenge)
Reading 'Picnic'	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September (those who took part in the library reading challenge)
Presentation of badges to Brainwaves	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September – school vote the Friday before
Author visit to meet Sophie Anderson at Cragside Primary	Afternoon of Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 5 and Year 6)
Nissan Monozukuri Caravan workshop	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
Assembly led by Revd Wullie	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September (whole school)
<u>Free</u> Bikeability training course	Week beginning Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September (Year 5)
Jiu-Jitsu 'taster' sessions	Morning of Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September – for Y3/Y4/Y6 Morning of Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September – for Y1/Y2/Y5
<b>Individual and family photographs</b> by H. Tempest	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> (morning) [more details will be sent nearer the time]
<b>Launch of our Reading and Times Tables Challenges</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b> [more details will be sent nearer the time]
Skateboarding – 'try a new Olympic sport' – workshops	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September (all classes – taster sessions)
<b>School based 'harvest' activities</b>	<b>Early October in school</b> [more details will be sent nearer the time]

What's on	When and who?
Autumn Term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 4pm
Educational visit to Jarrow Hall	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October (Year 4)
Digital Leader training session	Morning of Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October (KS2 Digital Leaders)
<b>Parent Appointments for all classes</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October: 2.30 – 6.30pm</b> [more details/appointment times will be sent out later for parents/carers of all pupils]
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for the half term holiday	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>School closed for staff training day</b>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November

### Holidays

As you know, the national guidelines still mean that leave of absence for holidays taken during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays/absence should therefore wherever possible be taken during the designated school holidays. If you need to take your child out of school during term time it is vital that we know in advance when your child is not going to be in school so a leave of absence form should be completed at least two weeks before the intended absence in the usual way. These are available from the school office. **Failure to notify school will mean that holidays are automatically unauthorised.** There is space on the form to indicate why the absence may be deemed an 'exceptional circumstance' and each case will be considered individually.

We have been well supported by parents in recent years with our common sense approach to this situation and I hope I can rely on your continued support with this matter.

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

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
October Mid-Term 2019 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Thursday 24 October 2019 <b>FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2019</b>	Monday 4 November 2019
Christmas/New Year 2019/2020 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 20 December 2019 <b>MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2020</b>	Tuesday 7 January 2020
Spring Mid-Term 2020	Friday 14 February 2020	Monday 24 February 2020
Easter 2020	Friday 3 April 2020	Monday 20 April 2020
<b>May Day</b>	<b>Friday 8 May 2020</b>	
Summer Mid-Term 2020 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 22 May 2020 <b>MONDAY 1 JUNE 2020</b>	Tuesday 2 June 2020
Summer 2020 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 17 July 2020 <b>TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2020</b>	Wednesday 2 September 2020

### School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2020)

If you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal will be open in the next few days and applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is the end of October). **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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.** Any queries please contact the school office.

For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens in November and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020.*

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher