



Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid update – and ‘remote learning’ reminder

I'm sure there will be further things to come to terms with following any announcements made today by the government, but we will deal with this once we know the details! At the time of writing though, we are 6 weeks into the new school year and have still not had to face the situation of having a positive Covid test outcome which has led to the closure of a class ‘bubble’. This is great news, but I am realistic enough to know that it really is only a matter of time before we have to face this scenario. I am grateful for the way that the vast majority of people are responding to the situation we find ourselves in and are being vigilant, considerate and careful in order to protect themselves and the whole Eastlea community.

We will follow the procedures outlined in earlier updates when we do have to ask a class of children/staff to self-isolate. If you are asked to do this, then it is important that you follow the guidelines and keep your child in your own house/garden and do not let them play out or be out and about in the wider community. This is the only way to contain the spread of the virus.

Work will be set for your child to complete if they need to self-isolate and staff have been delighted with the response of those individuals who have been in this situation so far. Online tasks set via Tapestry/Seesaw have been completed consistently by those not in school and it has meant that when children return they are ‘up to speed’ with what their class have been doing and have been able to pick up where they left off. Thank you.

Almost every child in KS1/KS2 is now accessing Seesaw successfully which is brilliant. **If you are still uncertain about how to access the parent/class apps on Seesaw (Year 1 – Year 6) then please get in touch so that any issues can be sorted out before remote learning becomes a necessity!**

Eastlea life continues

In the meantime, the staff are working very hard to ensure that Eastlea life goes ahead in as usual way as possible for the children in school. Your support with this has been superb. We have lots of children attending breakfast club and after school sports/singing clubs, several who are taking part in the weekly Rocksteady band music sessions, lots having school lunches and almost everyone very excited to earn the right to attend our Halloween Golden Day on 22nd October! The vast majority are also eagerly joining in with our Pilates/Little Movers/Tennis/Athletics coaching, Daily Mile challenge, Rainbow reading challenge, Times Tables Rock Star battle (Y2 to Y6) and whole school Active October events. Life at Eastlea remains busy – but in a socially distant and Covid secure way!

This week of course ‘Active October’ continues, coordinated by our Year 6 Brainwaves, with a ‘bike/scooter to school’ focus, and a ‘bling your bike, snazzle your scooter’ challenge on Thursday (see earlier letters). Wednesday is also our Harvest Welly Walk event and we are grateful for the donations for the Cramlington Foodbank which have been received so far. I'm sure we will have the usual generous response when we deliver the items to Revd Wullie on Wednesday.

Some changes in the weeks ahead

Although as much as possible is being done to keep Eastlea life going, there have obviously had to be some changes to our annual cycle of events:

1. Our ‘**Owlets toddler group**’ has not yet restarted. We had discussed the risk assessment and had plans for getting going again, but with the current local restrictions we felt we should ‘pause’ the restart – but will keep looking at this and will have these sessions again in the school hall when we can.
2. **October parents appointments initially scheduled for next week are also unable to take place.** This is a real shame because the staff like to have the opportunity to meet you and talk about how your child has settled into their class and what they need to focus on in the coming months. Instead of face to face meetings, the staff are instead busy preparing a written ‘settling in’ report which we aim to distribute next week. *[Nursery ones may be delayed as Mrs Shimmin has just been diagnosed with chicken pox and is off work ...nothing Covid related thank goodness!!]*

School Admissions for Year 7(2021) reminder

Just a reminder that if you have a child in Year 6, the school admissions portal is open for a couple more weeks and applications need to be submitted straight away for a place at **Cramlington Learning Village or another secondary school of your choice** (the deadline is the end of October).

For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens in November.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher