



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week brings to an end the long 8 weeks of the first half of the autumn term. We have had a very 'active' time with such a lot happening since the new school year started in September and have been very grateful for the support you have provided for our many events and activities – **thank you!**

- The launch of our **Planets themed reading challenge** saw **£185** raised from contributions made by the children for our reading resources. It was fantastic to welcome so many of you to our launch event last month – THANK YOU! The reading challenge seems very popular this year and most children are in good routines to complete their reading at home and get their reading record books signed. The bookmarks are filling up with the weekly star stickers and we will look forward to our first Bronze awards being presented in early December. **Remember that all children are asked to read over the half term holiday next week (or practise their letter sounds in Reception) – and this will ensure they get their next star on the bronze bookmark!**
- Over the summer holiday we again surpassed our total of children who took part in the libraries '**Get, set, read**' summer reading challenge. **56** Eastlea pupils completed the challenge and as well as their certificates and medals received from the library they were rewarded with a reading celebration picnic thanks to Mrs Lister. Thanks to everyone who supported their child to 'keep reading' over the 6 weeks holiday.
- Our new team of Brainwaves planned a superb 4 weeks of activity for the rest of the school in the last month. Each week in October they have outlined their plans to the children which have given them a different activity or focus to look forward to. Thank you for taking part so enthusiastically in everything that has taken place throughout Active October:
 - Week 1: **Walk to school week** with stickers for those arriving on foot presented by Brainwaves dressed in animal outfits, our superb '**colour run**', the first of our **archery/axe throwing** workshops, and playground games activities and fruit cone making led by Gemma from Sainsbury's. Our '**step wars**' also started with different KS2 classes wearing Moki bands to record their daily activity and see which class were the most active.
 - Week 2: **Safety week** with a playground games festival for KS1 led by Year 6, more **circus skills** workshops and class based safety sessions including an internet legends assembly for KS2.
 - Week 3: **Bike/scooter to school week** with lots of children coming to school on bikes/scooters, a multi-sports workshop at CLV for Year 6, scooter workshops, a training session at Newbiggin for a group of 10 Y6 pupils and our whole school '**Wheels**' **sponsored enterprise fundraising events**. Thank you for the sponsor money that has been sent in to school (£1800+ so far...wow!) **If you still have some to return can we ask that this is brought in this week if possible. The children are keenly awaiting their final class totals so that they can begin to plan what to use their 'enterprise funds' for.**
 - Week 4: **Environment/community week** with our planned **Hike for Harvest**/welly walk/collection for the Cramlington foodbank plus the litter picking activity for KS2 and the last of our activity workshops. **Please remember that your children need wellies /old trainers/strong footwear for the walk tomorrow and thank you for the foodbank donations** which have already come into school. If there are any more items of food or cash donations then if we can have these tomorrow morning that will be great – thank you! Revd Wullie is due to collect them from us on Thursday.

N.B. We continue to encourage the children to keep active and are still keen to promote further use of the **Park and Stride facility from the Church of the Nazarene**. Parking is so much easier there and the children seem to enjoy the few minutes walk along the path, under the underpass and up to the school gates. If you have not used it yet, it really is worth a try to avoid parking headaches nearer the school.

- Last week we were pleased to welcome back '**Owlet**' our Shaun the sheep which formed part of the St Oswald's fundraising trail. Several families managed to get to see him in pride of place at the Biscuit Factory in Newcastle over the summer holiday. We were very grateful to the families who attend Owlets and the volunteers who lead this group for their fundraising efforts. **£361 was collected for St Oswald's – THANK YOU!** 'Owlet' will be placed in the reading courtyard over the winter and will then probably move to different locations around school as we move through the year. He is such a colourful and cheerful sheep!!
- Our latest **parent appointments** were extremely well attended and once again there seemed to be a really positive atmosphere in the hall on Monday. Thank you for making the time to come and see your child's class teacher.

RE theme day

This year our RE theme days will continue with a different focus each half term as part of our wider curriculum. In October we spent the first RE day this year focusing on world religions with each class looking at a different aspect of this very interesting topic. As we found last year, the children seem to thoroughly enjoy this approach to the subject. It always generates lots of questions and discussion!

Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

A couple of weeks ago we relaunched our TTRS challenge for KS2. The orange rocket group won the first 'battle' set by Miss Fox and well done to the first 3 children who have already achieved ROCK HERO status. Fantastic! Who will be next?



October 'Halloween' themed Golden Day – last day of the half term for pupils



On Thursday this week (26th October) we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year and I know everyone is looking forward to that!

Remember that Thursday is a non-uniform day – Halloween costumes can be worn, or something black/orange, or just something casual! There is no fine to pay. The children will be taking part in class based activities as well as the last of our active workshops and a silent disco in the hall.

The Golden Day lunch should be paid for in the usual way and the children will also finish the day at their normal time. This is their last day of term – as staff have a training day on Friday 27th.

HUGGG half term vouchers

Families entitled to benefit based free school meals will have received an email/link from school to enable them to access a £20 HUGGG voucher for groceries etc over the half term break. Supermarket vouchers can be used for groceries or uniform/clothing if these are available in store.

Please note that these vouchers have an expiry date (1st December 2023) and must only be used for buying the food/clothing.

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2024 – a reminder

As far as we are aware almost every Year 6 parent has now made an application on the Northumberland admissions portal to secure their child a place in Year 7 for September 2024. If anyone has not yet done this then the portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31st October). **It is essential that you apply before the deadline so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or the secondary school of your choice.**

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens on 1st November and closes on 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 17th April 2024.* Please note that **EVEN IF YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING OUR EASTLEA NURSERY then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception September 2024.** The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions).

Advance notice of charity/school events after half term

We will let you know full details of further events and activities when we return after the half term break, but here are just a few highlights to mention for November...

- As usual, we will have poppies on sale in the first week back to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion** ready for Remembrance Sunday on 12th November
- 'Children in Need' takes place on Friday 17th November and we will be having our usual dress up day and annual '**Pennies for Pudsey**' appeal...so now would be a good time to start collecting coins. (*Even though 'cash' is not in circulation as much now, hopefully your children will still have some coins to bring in for the Children in Need charity on that day.*)

And finally... don't forget that the children break up for half term after Golden Day on Thursday at their usual time.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 6th November.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston, **Head Teacher**

