



Dear Parents / Carers,

### Covid update

On Friday this week the children break up for the February half term holiday after a busy 7 weeks. It has not been the easiest of half terms and since our return in January we have had higher numbers of Covid cases to deal with than at any other time since the start of the pandemic. I wanted to say **THANK YOU** to everyone for your support over recent weeks.

At various times, each year group has faced the issue of cases spreading within their class, which has impacted both members of staff and other pupils. This has meant additional testing as 'close contacts' for everyone in the class as well as supply staff having to be deployed at short notice to teach/support the children. This is not an easy situation but almost every family has followed our suggested precautions and for this we are very grateful. Many of you have gone above and beyond in trying to protect the Eastlea community, *e.g. by keeping children off school with any sign of illness, seeking PCR tests as a precaution at the first hint of any symptoms and keeping siblings off school due to positive cases within your household.* **THANK YOU!**

The range of symptoms leading to a positive COVID case has been diverse to say the least – we have seen the 'standard' symptoms of cough/high temperature/loss of taste...but more commonly something outside of this list such as a sore throat, headache, stomach pain, sickness or in many cases NO SYMPTOMS at all. This has made it especially hard to spot cases and we have been reliant on the vigilance of not only the staff, but also you as parents overseeing your children taking regular lateral flow tests.

We do not yet know what changes to national guidance we may face in the coming weeks and how this will impact on the risk assessments and procedures in school, but we will let you know as soon as we have clear guidelines.

### Fundraising 'thank you'

- Remembrance poppy day – we received notification last week that the Eastlea community had raised **£219.56** for the Royal British Legion in November. Thank you!
- Our NSPCC Number Day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February was a big success and we raised **£145** which has been split between the NSPCC and school maths funds. I know the children had great fun with their Maths Week and especially enjoyed the dress up Number Day – with some very inventive maths based outfits. Thank you for your support.

### PE kits

Brainwaves suggestion for pupils to come to school dressed in their PE kit on days they have PE seems to have been well received by almost all parents and children. Remember **PLAIN** dark navy/black tracksuit bottoms and school sweatshirts are required on PE days (if these days are going to alter after half term your child's class teacher will let you know!) We have been asked by several parents whether we are going to look into getting some Eastlea tracksuits as a PE kit option for these days. This is something that the Brainwaves **ARE** now looking into and we will let you know when we have further details.

### Parking concerns

There are still some problems being caused for local residents due to parking on streets surrounding the school. We realise that it can be hectic at the drop off and collection times, but some cars are being parked on either side of very narrow roads which means that other vehicles simply cannot get through. This is of concern to local residents and other families but also a real issue of safety as if there was the need for access by an emergency vehicle I fear that they simply would be unable to get through.



Please can we again ask that those **who come to school by car park responsibly, without blocking residents access to their homes or on narrow roads and do not leave cars unattended for extended periods.** Thank you for your support with this.

## Well done Eastlea!

- Earlier this half term Year 3 were delighted to represent 'Cramlington and Seaton Valley' in the **school games Year 3 multi-skills finals**. This was a virtual event which involved the whole class. Year 3 had done an amazing job to win their area competition and they did themselves proud in the county finals – well done!
- Last week **Year 6** did a super job of 'showcasing' Eastlea in their '**Our School**' page published in the Evening Chronicle. This was the culmination of their journalistic writing project and they were very excited to see their names in print! The articles written were superb!
- **Year 1** are starting out on their project to be **Young North East Naturalists**. The rangers who will be leading this topic visited Eastlea last week and in March we will be able to share more details with you about this exciting project – we are the only Northumberland school who were chosen to take part!

## FSM vouchers

We have again been informed by the county that food vouchers will be available over the half term holiday for those families eligible for benefit based free school meals. Please look out for an email notification which will be sent out this week so that you can activate and use the vouchers over the holiday period.

## School Uniform and Food Bank referrals

We are very much aware of the increased costs of living, e.g. energy prices etc which are impacting everyone at the moment. If you or anyone you know requires additional support then a reminder that:

- **School Uniform can be obtained FREE of charge from the HOPE CENTRE in Cramlington.** Clean, good quality school uniform such as sweatshirts/cardigans, trousers, skirts, shoes, PE kit, coats etc for all the local schools (including Eastlea and CLV) can be obtained and there is lots available. The Hope Centre is open for uniform to be collected on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 10am – 2pm (and now Wednesdays too). There is no need for a referral – you can just turn up or contact them by email to see what they have on offer.
- **Cramlington Foodbank parcels** are also available to those who may find this useful. A referral from school can be made so please talk to a member of staff in confidence if this would be helpful and we will do our best to support you.

## Book Fair, Reading challenge and World Book Day

- Thank you to the many families who have chosen to send money in for their child to buy a book from the **Scholastic Book Fair**. There is still time to purchase books, and due to the demand we are having to place a follow up order with Scholastic to receive the additional copies which children have 'wished for'. We hope to receive these as soon as possible after the half term break.
- Reading continues to be very popular with our Eastlea children and families. This week we will be presenting the first of the silver awards for the whole school '**Music Reading Challenge**'. If your child reads over the half term break and has their reading record signed then this will count as a sticker on their latest bookmark. Please encourage them to keep reading!
- Sticking with reading, at the end of the first week back after the half term break it is **World Book Day** which we will be celebrating on **FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. At Eastlea we will be adopting our Book at Bedtime theme and children are encouraged to come to school in their pyjamas/dressing gowns and/or onesies together with their favourite book for some reading themed activities in school on that day. A reminder will be sent out after the holiday.



The poster for the Hope Centre Uniform & Baby Bank features a blue border and a white background. At the top, there is a row of logos including 'Peter Ss Paul', a yellow circular logo, a red and white crest, a blue and white crest, a circular logo with a tree, and a red circular logo with 'SPS'. The main text in blue reads 'HOPE CENTRE UNIFORM & BABY BANK'. Below this, in red, is 'Keeping It Local'. In black, it says 'Serving Cramlington and District', 'Forum Way, Cramlington', 'NE23 6SJ', 'Email: hope1uniform@gmail.com', 'Monday, Tuesday and Thursday', and '10:00-14:00'. A white box with a red border contains the text 'Nursery Furniture, Equipment and Baby Wear Referral only'. At the bottom, there is a row of logos including a red and white crest, a blue owl logo, a green circular logo with 'H', a red circular logo with 'T', a red circular logo with 'S', and a blue crest.



### Residential visits for Year 5/Year 6

This half term we have been able to look ahead to planning residential visits for children in Year 5 (to Hawkhurst/Kielder) and Year 6 (to York). The response so far has been very encouraging and the Year 5 visit is confirmed.

A final decision on the viability of the York visit for Year 6 will be taken at half term. Any remaining permission slips and £25 deposit payments must be received by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you!

### Platinum Jubilee bank holiday – advance notice

As you will be aware the Queen is this year celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. An additional bank holiday has been awarded for the whole country but as this day falls during the schools' May half term holiday an extra day has therefore been agreed. In Cramlington this will be on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. Please note that on this day Eastlea will therefore be closed for all pupils and staff. It is an extra day of holiday!

### Holiday activities

- During the February half term break there are various holiday activities on offer for the children in the local community. When we have been made aware of anything taking place that week we have advertised them on our school Facebook page, so look out for Cramlington Town Council camps at Eastfield Pavilion, Concordia or Seven Oaks Park and Family cycling sessions at CLV.
- **ADVANCE NOTICE:** During the first 4 days of the Easter holiday (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April) there will also be another **Grassroots sports activity week** based at Eastlea for children from reception to Year 6 – see attached flyer for more information. A general advert for this will not be circulated until after February half term so Eastlea families have priority booking for a few days in advance – please contact Grassroots directly if you wish to book for your child(ren) in for the 'Easter Sports and Activity Week'.

### Golden Day reminder

Please remember that on Thursday this week (17<sup>th</sup> February) we are hosting our **Winter Olympics** themed Golden Day. The day is a non-uniform day with either a sporting or 'red' theme - no fine to pay! On Golden Day, the school lunch will have a Chinese theme, so if your child wants to have a **Chinese meal** on Thursday then money (£2.30 for Y3 to Y6 children who pay; or £2 for Nursery) should be paid as normal. See the previous Golden Day letter for further details. We are looking forward to another day of fun!

**This half term finishes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February at the usual time.** Please enjoy a break over the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone for the start of the second half of the spring term on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Stay safe everyone!

Yours sincerely,

**Miss E Beeston**  
Head Teacher



*Happy Half Term!*

# GRASS ROOTS

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## EASTER SPORTS & ACTIVITY WEEK

**VENUE:** Eastlea Primary School - Cramlington

**DATE:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**TIME:** 10am – 3pm each day

**COST:** £45



### **YOU WILL NEED:**

- A PACKED LUNCH
- CHANGE FOR THE TUCK SHOP
- A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN CASE WE PLAY WATER GAMES!
- TO BE COLLECTED FROM SCHOOL PROMPTLY AT 3PM

### **COURSE DETAILS:**

The week will involve various sports, including football, cricket, gymnastics, rounders, tennis, hockey etc and will involve fun based activities such as water games/fights, crash mat tournaments and tug of war competitions.

Children will be grouped loosely according to age & ability. The course will be taken by qualified coaches/teachers. The staff/pupil ratio will not exceed 1:20 & all of our coaching staff have been through a recent police clearance.

Children should be between the ages of 5 (4 is fine if in reception) and 12 (Yr 7)



### **BOOKING INFORMATION:**

To book onto this course, please visit [www.grassrootssports.co.uk](http://www.grassrootssports.co.uk) where you can pay by debit/credit card.

On the website you will also find our full Easter programme; detailing ALL the courses we run throughout the holidays.

Any queries please call Keith (07703 533 556) or Sarah (07725 128 717)



[www.grassrootssports.co.uk](http://www.grassrootssports.co.uk)



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