



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we start our next school year, and especially to any families who are 'new' to Eastlea. I hope you feel happy with the way your child has settled and are getting used to any new routines and procedures.

School uniform and PE kits – don't they look smart!

All the staff commented on how smart the children looked in their uniform when they returned last week. Whether it was the 'normal' school uniform or their PE kits, everyone looked fantastic. **All uniform/PE kit needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name please.** This is so important especially as many of the items this year are new, we have some large classes and we would hate for things to go missing.

Remember that children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' ONLY– which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). **Hoodies should NOT be worn on other days.**

The current PE days for each class are as follows – if other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers if PE kit is required at other times:

- Reception – Monday
- Year 1 – Monday and Wednesday
- Year 2 – Monday and Wednesday
- Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday
- Year 4 – Monday and Thursday
- Year 5 – Monday and Thursday
- Year 6 – Monday and Tuesday

Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery in school. Thanks for your support with this. Almost every family ensured that any newly pierced ears were done at the start of the summer holiday and plastic spacers are being worn rather than earrings which keeps them safe 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.

Arrival/Departure times

The arrival and departure times will remain the same this year. **Please note that children in Year 5 and Year 6 should be coming into school at 8.45am (through the main entrance).** Nursery staff will also open the gates to welcome children in from 8.45am. For all other year groups the staff will open the gates to greet the children at 8.50am.

The school day finishes at 3.15pm. To try to avoid congestion we do tend to dismiss Year 1 and Year 2 a few minutes earlier than this – to make space for Year 3 and Year 4 at 3.15pm who leave from the same exit doors.

Nursery and Reception children will be dismissed from their gates at 3.15pm as will Year 5 and Year 6 who will be brought out from the main entrance and can be met from the main gate, or head home independently if this has been arranged.

An update on illness/absence

Now that we are all learning to 'live with Covid' just a reminder that that the guidance in place since April 2022 remains the same. If your child does develop Covid-19 then they should remain off school for 3 full days and only return when they are well enough to do so after this time (and not if they still have a temperature).

If your child is not well enough to be in school for any reason please keep them at home. *e.g. if they have signs of a respiratory infection, a high temperature or sickness and/or diarrhoea.*

If your child does have sickness or diarrhoea then they are required to be off school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had the runs. This protects everyone in the school community.

Please can we ask that if you need to inform us about absence that you do so by ringing the school office. Messages on Tapestry/Seesaw/Facebook cannot be monitored during the school day due to staff teaching in class, so if you have an urgent message it is important that the school office is informed directly.

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 have a bike/scooter 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.

Dogs at the gates

Please can I give my annual reminder about dogs at or around the school gates. Dogs, 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 too near to the school site for the safety of all concerned.**

Parking

As you know, parking at all schools is difficult and at Eastlea the issues we face tend to centre around double parking/blocking narrow estate roads, problems with access to the school, inability to access driveways for residents in the local neighbourhood and hazards caused to pedestrians with cars parked on pavements.



Here is a reminder of some of the things we can all do to help alleviate the problems with parking:

- If it is possible, please try to walk to school or encourage your children to use their bikes or scooters. Bikes/scooters can be safely locked up on site on the cycle/scooter racks provided.
- We would strongly encourage you to take advantage of our **'park and stride'** scheme which is in operation and allows you to park at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and then complete a short walk to school. Several families use this system and it works really well, causing less congestion at the school gates. Permits for this can be collected from Miss Beeston or the school office.
- If you have to use your car due to the distance needed to travel to and from school then **please park as considerably as you can:**
 - The estate roads are narrow and if cars are parked on both sides then this can block the road for other vehicles and make access to local houses/driveways difficult. This would cause a major hazard if an emergency vehicle needed to get through.
 - Where single white lines are in place on smaller estate roads this indicates that the narrow roads could be easily blocked by cars, so avoid parking here
 - Try not to block pavements in the surrounding area – leave space for pedestrians to pass
 - And finally, please try not to hang around once you have dropped off/collected your child so that spaces are cleared quickly for others to use where possible.

School Lunches, break time fruit and water bottles

The school lunch menus remain the same as before the summer holiday and are on a 3-week cycle. Copies can be obtained from the school office or are on the school website. 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, and also have fruit provided at break times.

Remember that 30-hour Nursery meals are now charged at £2.20 per day and for children in the older classes, paid meals are now £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week). Children are asked to bring their dinner money to school in an envelope clearly marked with their name/class/amount. Mrs Bainbridge be in touch if money is owed.

Fruit can be brought in by older children for break times if they wish. All children should have a named water bottle with them each day – this should contain WATER. **Please also remember that Eastlea has a policy in place of not having nuts/seeds in school for the safety of pupils who have nut allergies.**

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.

'Operation Encompass' and 'Operation Endeavour' – annual reminder

Eastlea continues to be 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.

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).

Copies of letters outlining these details, recently updated by NCC, can be found on the school website [*About Us – information and policies – safeguarding policy*]. If anyone requires more information then please contact me in school.

Events planned for this half term

As I said to the everyone in our assembly on Friday, we could not have predicted that within a few days of the start of the new school year, we would be coming to terms with the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. You will have heard at the weekend that the state funeral will be taking place on Monday 19th September and that this will a national Bank Holiday. Eastlea will therefore be closed on this day.

Our usual wide range of events and activities planned for the children will still go ahead on the other days and below you will find an outline of what has been arranged so far for the first half of the autumn term:

What's on	When and who?
Basketball coaching/PE lessons	Thursday afternoons from 9 th Sept (Y4/Y5) Tuesday afternoons from 14 th Sept (Y3/Y6)
Specialist French tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y5 from 7 th September
Ball skills	Wednesday afternoons from 8 th September (Y1 and Y2)
'Brainwaves' elections	Friday 9 th September (whole school elect Y5 and Y6 representatives)
Sports Leader interviews and training	Friday 9 th and Monday 12 th September (Year 6)
KS2 Street Dance Taster sessions	Morning of Monday 12 th September (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 13 th September (class rota and participation to be confirmed)
Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II – Eastlea closed for all pupils	Monday 19th September – Eastlea closed
H. Tempest individual/family photos <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Wednesday 21 st September (morning)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 21 st September led by Miss Midgley and Ms Hedley
Launch event for the 2022-23 Reading Challenge	Friday 23rd September <i>[further details to follow]</i>
Hoopstarz class 'skill builder' sessions	Mondays for all classes from Reception to Year 6 (26 th September and 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th October)
'Germ Buster' hand hygiene workshop	Tuesday 27 th September – afternoon (Year 1)
Bikeability training sessions	Thursday 29 th and Friday 30 th September (Year 5)
Nasal 'flu immunisations <i>[further details to follow – needs to be booked online by parents]</i>	Friday 30th September (Reception to Year 6)
Summer Library Reading Challenge celebration 'picnic'	Friday 30 th September (any children who completed the summer library 'Gadgeteers' reading challenge)
ACTIVE OCTOBER BEGINS <i>[there will be lots of activities going on and more details will be shared by Brainwaves]</i>	From Monday 3rd October
Educational Visit to Life Science Centre, Newcastle	Thursday 6 th October (Year 6)
Autumn term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 12 th October (4.30pm)
Parents appointments <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Thursday 13 th October (afternoon/evening)
Dog safety workshops	Friday 14 th October
GOLDEN DAY (and end of half term)	Thursday 20 th October
Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils	Friday 21st October
Pupils return for second half of the autumn term	Monday 31 st October

Eastlea Clubs for this half term

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). <i>This costs £2.50 per day.</i> 	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (£2 per session)	Y5/Y6 Gardening Club on Mondays
		Multi-sports for Y1/Y2 on Tuesdays
		Bike club for Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (from 4 th October)
		Grassroots Gymnastics club for Reception to Y6 on Tuesday evenings (5.30 – 7.00pm) . Please note that this now costs £6.00 per session
Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders: Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am in the school hall Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child. 	KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£2 per session)	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays (from 21 st September)
		Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays
Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays from 8am in the school hall	Running Club for Y4, Y5, and Y6 on a rota basis on Thursdays	Rugby club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays

Holidays

As you know, national guidelines regarding school attendance mean that leave of absence for holidays taken during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. Any family holidays/absence should wherever possible be taken during the designated school holidays.

If you do 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. 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 we can still 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 2022 Staff training Day	Thursday 20 October 2022 FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER 2022	Monday 31 October 2022
Christmas/New Year 2022/2023 Staff training Days	Thursday 22 December 2022 FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER 2022 and MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023	Tuesday 10 January 2023
Spring Mid-Term 2023	Friday 17 February 2023	Monday 27 February 2023
Easter 2023	Friday 31 March 2023	Monday 17 April 2023
May Day	Monday 1 May 2023	
Summer Mid-Term 2023	Friday 26 May 2023	Monday 5 June 2023
Summer 2023 Staff training Day	Friday 21 July 2023 MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023	Tuesday 5 September 2023

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2023)

I know it seems a long way off, but if you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal opens on 12th September and applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31st 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 1st March 2023.** 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 on 1st November and closes on 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 17th April 2023.*

Two attached items which need to be returned to school please

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 (*other than those new to Nursery who have just completed them!*) Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response!!

1. Medical information

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.

2. Permission for school visits/food tasting 2022-2023

- 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 we have attached the usual annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all non-residential 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.

- 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.**

'Consent for images and videos' (GDPR)

We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations and for those who have not already done so we therefore ask that our consent form linked to taking photographs/videos of children in school or for use in newspaper articles, websites or Facebook is completed and returned – this will be sent home separately by Mrs Atkinson (our E-safety Coordinator).

Most parents have already completed this form and the permissions we had in place in previous years will be followed unless a newly updated form is received. Thank you!

AND FINALLY... we are considering reducing the number of paper copies of letters that are sent home this year. At the moment Eastlea letters are brought home by the children AND shared electronically via Tapestry/Seesaw and the school website. **In future we are looking to distribute half termly newsletters or updates on school events via electronic means only. Letters requiring the completion and return of a 'reply slip' would still be sent home with pupils in the usual way.** We would also still have some spare paper copies of letters held in the office which could be collected if required.

We would welcome any feedback about this proposed change. Please feel free to come and talk to me about it.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher