



Dear Parents / Carers,

On Friday the children break up for the February half term holiday, which marks the end of a very successful and busy 7 weeks at Eastlea. Since January we have been ranked **TOP of the league** of Northumberland state primary schools as well as having a **very successful Ofsted inspection** as we explained in the letter sent out earlier this week.

This Friday also marks the 'half way' point of the school year and this newsletter contains some feedback on recent events as well as some advance notice of activities due to take place early in the next half term.

NSPCC Fundraising 'thank you'

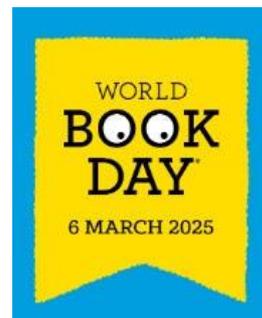
Our NSPCC Number Day on Friday 7th February was a really good way to complete our Maths focus week. The non-uniform day once again was very well supported and we raised **£180** which has been split between the NSPCC and funds for equipment needed by our newly qualified team of Year 5 Peer Mentors.

'Mission to Mars' STEM workshops

The children gave very positive feedback about the Y4/Y5 STEM workshops. Liz Ferguson who led both the class based and family workshops was again delighted with the response from Eastlea parents/carers who attended these events in such large numbers. I know that several families have 'signed up' for further STEM activities with Liz at Woodhorn Museum. Thank you for your support.

Reading Challenge and World Book Day

- Last week we presented the first of the silver awards for the whole school '**Castles Reading Challenge**'. **118** children now have their next certificate and a 'crown' badge. Well done! If your child reads over the half term break and has their reading record signed then this will count as a sticker on their current bookmark...bronze, silver or gold! So, please encourage them to keep reading!
- On the Thursday of the first week back after the half term break it will be **World Book Day** which this year Eastlea is celebrating on **THURSDAY 6TH MARCH**. We have a choice of options for this national dress up day. Children can either come to school in their pyjamas/dressing gowns and/or onesies OR they can come in a book character/themed outfit. Whichever they choose, please also encourage them to bring in their favourite book for some reading themed activities in school. A reminder and further details will be sent out after the holiday.



Residential visits for Year 5/Year 6

The response to the Year 5 residential visit to Robinwood has been excellent and their visit is confirmed for 2nd – 4th April. A reminder that final payments are due for this visit by Friday 7th March. Thank you!

A letter about the York visit for Year 6 (booked for 23rd – 25th June) will be distributed after half term.

HUGGG vouchers

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

Hope Centre reminder

At this half way point in the school year, there may be some items of uniform that need 'refreshing'.

A reminder that, for anyone who needs it, clean, good quality school uniform such as sweatshirts/cardigans, trousers, skirts, pinafores, shoes, PE kit, coats etc for all the local schools (including Eastlea and CLV) can be obtained **FREE OF CHARGE** from the Hope Centre in Cramlington. There is no need for a referral – just turn up on Monday to Friday 10am – 2pm to see what is available. Any pre-loved, good quality items of school uniform can also be donated to the Hope Centre. Items can be taken there directly or we can have them collected from school.

HOPE UNIFORM & BABY BANK

As well as the logoed clothing for all our local schools we can supply all uniform items needed by our students. We have trousers, skirts, pinafores, shirts, polo shirts, sportswear, shoes, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, tights, bags and socks from nursery to Y11. All free from charge or referral. Hope to see you soon.

Keeping It Local

Monday to Friday 10:00–14:00
Nursery by appointment please.
Email: hopeuniform@gmail.com
Follow us on

Garden repairs and funds to replace the damaged poly-tunnel – THANK YOU!

It was in February last year that we were explaining about the loss of our poly-tunnel in the early spring gales. Unfortunately, despite a new poly tunnel being purchased with the structure concreted in for what we thought was protection, Eastlea was again the victim of the bad weather in late January caused by storm Éowyn. Miss Fox has decided not to have another poly tunnel but instead replace it with some different structures and equipment which will mean that we can keep on gardening but do so hopefully without risk of storm damage. The garden area will be redesigned and we hope to make good use of it again as part of the 'Roots and Shoots' project at Alwick Garden which Year 5 have been lucky enough to be selected to get involved with again this academic year.

We have received two 'gardening' donations so far totalling £400 – from the Rotary Club of Cramlington and also from a family of the school for which we are really grateful. Other funding streams are also been looked into by school Governors and we will inform you of further plans when we know more details.



Looking ahead to the next half term – advance notice of dates for the diary

- **Monday 3rd March** – first visit to Alwick Garden for **Year 5** (Roots and Shoots Project). Miss Fox will send out details of what is needed for this full day visit.
- **Monday 3rd March** – second visit to Nissan for **Year 6** (Eco-school session). Mrs Stafford will be in touch with Year 6 pupils/parents about arrangements for this day.
- **Wednesday 4th March** – morning workshop in school for **Year 4** based on 'resilience' led by our link Education Mental Health Practitioners
- **Thursday 6th March** – whole school **World Book Day** (dress up day – either pyjamas/onesies or a book character outfit) – see above
- **Friday 7th March** – **FA's Biggest Ever Girls Football sessions led by Cramlington United** for all girls from Reception to Year 6 at Northburn Sports Centre (plus Futsal football coaching sessions for the boys at Eastlea). Mrs Stafford will share more details about the arrangements for this after half term – but it will be a day for everyone to wear PE/football kits!
- Plus advance notice that our next planned **Mental Health and Wellbeing sessions for parents** will be focused on **ANXIETY**. Having listened to the feedback from the introductory session we have two dates/times planned for this - **Tuesday 11th March at 5pm** and **Wednesday 12th March at 9.15am**. Miss Fox (Senior Mental Health Lead) will share more information about these sessions after half term.

Golden Day reminder



Please remember that on Friday this week (21st February) we are ending the half term with our '**STEM**' Golden Day. This is a non-uniform day for everyone who has earned the right to attend (with no particular theme and no fine to pay) and these children will be taking part in a Circus science show and hands on workshops throughout the day.

On Golden Day, we will be serving a 'fast food' style school lunch so if your child wants to have chicken nuggets, chips, juice and a chocolate muffin on Friday then money (£2.50 for Y3 to Y6 children who pay; or £2.20 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 21st 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 3rd March 2025.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

Happy Half Term!