



Friday 17th April 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back

It was good to welcome everyone back for the new term this week ready for the summer term! As you can see from the list below we are all set for another action packed half term at Eastlea!

What's going on this half term

What's on	When and who?
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 14 th April (pupils from Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 14 th April (Year 6)
NUFC Football coaching during PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 14 th April (Year 1 and Year 2)
After school football club	Tuesdays from 3.15pm – 4.15pm starting from 14 th April (Girls from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
FA Tesco football skills PE coaching	Wednesday mornings from 15 th April (PE lessons for Year 4 and Year 5)
After school 'Eastlea Singing club'	Starts again Wednesday 15 th April 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Starting dates for new intake in Nursery	Wednesday 15 th , Monday 20 th , Wednesday 22 nd and Thursday 23 rd April
'Fiddles' tuition – part of our continuing traditional music project	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 15 th April (Year 4 and Year 5)
Hockey School Games tournament	After school on Wednesday 15 th April (2 teams from Year 5 and Year 6)
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Thursday morning before school Literacy sessions from 16 th April (Year 6)
Before school 'Street Dance' club	8am Thursday mornings from 16 th April (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)
Lunchtime running club	Continuing on Thursday lunchtimes from 16 th April (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Year 13 CLV students present an 'Audience Animation Project'	Afternoon of Friday 17 th April (Year 5)
Tag Rugby lunchtime club	Monday lunchtimes from 20 th April (team of players from Year 4 and Year 6)
Parent appointments for Year 5 parents/carers	Tuesday 21 st April from 2.30pm – 6.30pm (see separate letter)
Class photos taken by H. Tempest	Wednesday 22nd April - morning
Tri Golf School Games Competition	Wednesday 22 nd April - morning (2 teams of pupils from Year 3/Year 4 at Craggside Primary)
Under 11 girls football league match	Monday 27 th April – after school at Ponteland
Eye screening	Tuesday 28 th April – morning (Reception pupils)
Local returning officer/governor to speak to pupils about process of 'elections'	Wednesday 29 th April – morning (Year 5 and Year 6)
Tennis 'taster' sessions	Thursday afternoons on 30 th April and 7 th May (Year 3)
Rocket Rounders competition starts	Friday lunchtimes from 1 st May (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 rocket group teams)
May Day bank holiday – school closed	Monday 4th May – school closed
KS1 SATs assessments	During May – these will form part of the overall teacher assessment judgement made by Eastlea staff (Year 2)
ICT suite used as a polling station for general election – school open as usual	Thursday 7th May – school open as usual

What's on	When and who?
'SATs Saturday' (A fun day to revise maths and English inside and outside the school building!)	Saturday 9 th May (Year 6)
KS2 SATs week	Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th May (all Year 6 pupils – we wish them the very best of luck!)
Vikings history workshop to support context work in school	Tuesday 12 th May (Year 4)
<u>Proposed</u> Year 4 Science and Technology event? (more details to follow)	Friday 15 th May (Year 4)
Children's Cancer Run	Sunday 17 th May – Gosforth Park race course – a group of staff and Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 pupils take part in this charity event
Science week	Week beginning Monday 18th May (whole school)
Tag Rugby School Games competitions	Wednesday 20 th May (Morning = 2 teams from Year 3/Year 4 at Astley Afternoon = 2 teams from Year 5/Year 6 at Astley)
Year 6 Student Voice Conference at CLV	Thursday 21 st May (2 pupils selected from Year 6)
Golden Day	Friday 22nd May (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 22 nd May
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 1 st June

Uniform – PE kits

We should hopefully be due some better weather this term which means that the PE sessions for most classes will be taking place outside. It is therefore important that pupils have their PE kits in school each week and this should include black shorts, plain white t-shirt and trainers. Plain dark tracksuits could also be brought to wear. It is very important that all PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name – as this will save lots of delays and frustrations at the beginning of PE sessions!

Punctuality and attendance

Thanks to your continuing support we are continuing to have real success in terms of encouraging good punctuality and attendance at Eastlea. Here are the 'headlines' from last half term:

- The weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the five weeks of the second half of the spring term are included in the table below:

Attendance (One winner per week)		Year 3 – 3 times	Year 4 – twice	Year 5 – twice	
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception – 3 times	Year 3 – once	Year 4 – twice	Year 5 – once	Year 6 – once

- Year 3** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the spring term – they reached 100% twice. Their average for the half term was 98.08% – well done!
- Reception** were awarded with the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – only 5 'lates' was recorded during the half term. This is the first time that Reception have won either of the half term awards – congratulations!
- Our analysis has shown that **the total of 'lates' was again reduced** across the whole school during the previous half term – which we are delighted about!
- We also had some individuals from across the school who managed to maintain full attendance and excellent punctuality for a whole of the spring term. I am delighted to announce that the total for last term was once again very high with **51 pupils being awarded with special certificates for 100% attendance in the spring term**. 22 of them are on track for a full year of 100% attendance having not missed a day in either the autumn or spring terms...good luck!!

- In terms of what is currently classed nationally as 'persistent absence' the number of pupils at Eastlea with **attendance below 85% has been kept to a minimum...** there are only 5 pupils (currently attending Eastlea) out of the whole school. This is a great achievement and we are working with these families to reduce the figure even further!
- For your information, from September, the national classification for 'persistent absence' is going to change to **below 90%** and it has been our policy in recent years to alert parents when attendance falls below this figure (currently we have an additional 10 children with below 90% attendance).

Eastlea school Lunches – new menus

The new 'summer menus' for school lunches will be starting in the week beginning Monday 27th April. The new weekly menus will be available for your reference when they begin. Until then the previous menus are continuing – it will be 'week 2' next week.

Parking

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you again about the importance of parking carefully around the vicinity of the school. It is important not to block paths and driveways with cars as this can cause problems for local residents and other pedestrians. We have contacted the council to see what can be done about the overgrown bushes which are also inhibiting access to paths near the carpark areas – but request your help to ensure that the pathways are not blocked by cars. Thank you again for your support in this matter.

ICT update – School360

I have been asked by Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Powells (ICT coordinators) to explain that the new learning platform for ICT in school has been launched recently with the children. The older 'Nortle system' is now no longer available. In order for School360 to run successfully then **Google Chrome** is required. If you have the facility to access this at home then it is free and safe to download and will mean that your child can access the School360 learning platform via their password which they have been/will be allocated in school.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher