



15th December 2015



Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of another busy term at Eastlea, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the many events which have been happening in the build up to Christmas and to thank you for the part you have played in making everything happen so successfully...and for your generosity, especially this half term.

Children In Need

Thank you for all your support with our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' fundraising activities. We raised a huge total this year with **£348.23** going towards this national charity event.

Sponsored Enterprise fundraising events

Many families provided great support for this fundraising initiative which took place just before the half term break. All of the sponsor money was collected in November and each class did extremely well for their various 'Enterprise funds'. The overall total raised for the whole school was £1279.20 - well done and thank you!

'Sweetalicious' raffle

Samantha, one of our Brainwaves, took the lead in organising and promoting this extra 'sweetie' raffle earlier this half term, which proved a real hit with the children. The aim was to raise money for the school and thanks to her efforts a super total of £93 was raised – well done to the Brainwaves!

Christmas Fair

On Friday 4th December the 'Friends of Eastlea' organised our annual Eastlea Christmas Fair. For the last four years we have raised fantastic totals at these events (£860 in 2011, £1145.71 in 2012, £1163.20 in 2013 and £1426.16 in 2014). Once again we did not think it possible to surpass this total – but thanks to your support we did!!! A fantastic total of **£1495** was raised which goes to support our Golden Day events! **A HUGE THANK YOU** for the support of everyone who came to the fair and/or bought raffle tickets.

Christmas shoe boxes

Thank you to everyone who supported our appeal for items for the Operation Christmas Child 'shoe boxes' appeal coordinated by Mrs Weatherson. Altogether we provided 14 shoe boxes which were delivered to the local appeal centre in Doxford Church. A certificate was presented to the group of children who helped to deliver the items and they welcomed the chance to stay and help the many volunteers who were busy at work putting more shoe boxes together. Our 14 boxes were part of over 4500 boxes sent from Cramlington to children in need in Romania. We wish all those children 'Craciun Fericit!'...Happy Christmas!

Outer Space reading awards

As you know, we successfully 'launched' our 'Outer Space Reading Challenge' in October. Many of the pupils have been eagerly reading at home and getting you to sign their reading records each week. So far we have been able to present certificates to **137** children who have achieved the **Bronze award** this term (our best total yet at this stage of the year!) These pupils are already starting on their silver bookmark! If your child hasn't yet received the bronze award, it is not too late! Encourage them to keep reading and more certificates will be awarded in the New Year! **Reading in the Christmas holiday counts as one sticker to convert into climbing one rung of the reading ladder!**

Year 6 Festive Lunch for parents

Parents and family members of our Year 6 pupils were invited to a Festive Lunch in the school hall on Tuesday 1st December as part of their 'Enterprise project'. It was the first time that we had arranged an event like this and it was a great chance for the Year 6 children to 'show off' their culinary skills following their visit to the Toby Carvery last half term as well as develop their team work as the whole class worked together to plan, prepare and serve the food on the day as well as provide the entertainment! The feedback we received from our guests was superb – thank you to everyone who attended!

Christmas productions

I must also put in writing my thanks for your huge support last week when each key stage performed their Christmas plays. The response as always was fantastic, but is not something that we take for granted. It was lovely for the children to have such a full audience for each one of their productions. The refreshments were also well received and **£120.39** was raised in donations for these and the Christmas items which were on sale. This goes towards our Golden Day funds.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair, coordinated by Mrs Lister also proved to be very popular again this year. We were delighted that so many of you found the time and money to purchase books last week. Once again your generosity meant that we sold **£536.80** worth of books. This total is 'matched' by our 100% commission deal so it means that we have been able to add another £536 worth of fiction and non-fiction books to our school library for all the children to enjoy.

Carol Singing

Our talented carol singers have been 'out and about' in recent days in Cramlington. Our singing club of pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 again enjoyed the Cramlington 'Big Christmas Sing' event which took place at CLV on Friday 11th December. The massed choir was made up of 180 pupils from almost all the schools in the town and they sang a mixture of traditional and some more modern Christmas songs for the audience of parents/families who braved the cold in 'the street' at the JLV!! Yesterday the singing club also performed a selection of songs and carols at Hartford Court care home – which was gratefully received by the residents and staff! As well as this, Year 6 have carol singing this morning at Sainsbury's. We were not able to do a bag pack this year, but did have the fundraising buckets out with any proceeds going to the Year 6 Enterprise Fund.

Carol service at St Nicholas' Church

Tomorrow we have the now traditional Eastlea nativity service at St Nicholas' Church. This event is always well supported and I know that Revd Steve is keen to again welcome us to church and give us all a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Please feel free to join us at 2pm at the church if you wish to take part.

Christmas Golden Day

As I am sure you are aware from your children, everyone who has earned the right to take part in Golden Day is excitedly looking forward to Thursday!! 'Magic Mick' will entertain the pupils in Nursery in the morning and I know that the pantomime visit to see 'Dick Whittington' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle for the rest of the school will be superb! As one pupil said last week, "I'm not sure of the story of Dick Whittington but it doesn't matter because I know the show will be great fun anyway!" **May I remind you that school uniform is required for Golden Day, although 'Santa hats' can also be worn. Please remember that the pupils will not be back until at least 5.15pm from the theatre – and will be dismissed from the school hall on our return.**

Sports Awards success

We have hit the headlines for all the right reasons a few times this term – I'm sure you have noticed the articles in the local paper! Our latest appearance was a picture of when Eastlea received the GOLD school games kitemark award for the second year running as well as being awarded the prestigious award for 'Promoting and Demonstrating the school games values' as part of our whole school ethos. This second award was a huge surprise and we are rightly proud of this recognition – well done to all!



Attendance

The overall half term class winners for attendance and punctuality in the second half of the autumn term will receive their certificates in January, once the outcomes for this final week have been calculated. However, I thought you would be interested to see the weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the previous six weeks of this half term - included in the following table:

Attendance (One winner per week)	Reception – 3 times	Year 1 – once	Year 2 – once	Year 3 – once	Year 4 – once		
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception – 3 times			Year 3 – once	Year 4 – 5 times	Year 5 – once	Year 6 – twice

Year 4 swimming – advance notice

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session is on Tuesday 5th January and following the success of last year we have again managed to secure a longer afternoon session for our lessons, which we are delighted about. This means that the children will have a one hour session at the pool for 11 weeks in the spring term rather than short half hour lessons over two terms. The cost of each longer lesson is only £4.50 per week, thanks to the school subsidising the costs of the lesson and the transport each week. The swimming lessons are part of the KS2 PE curriculum but in order for us to provide this for the children we have to pay for the instructors and the coach transport to get us to the pool at Concordia. In common with the other schools in the Cramlington partnership we therefore ask for a donation from parents (£4.50) each week. Without these contributions the lessons will not be able to go ahead in this format. **Year 4 children will need to bring their swimming kits and £4.50 on the first day back after the holiday** – we will send a reminder text out to all Year 4 parents the day before!!

Important Reminder for parents of Nursery pupils

We have been asked by county to remind parents that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15th January 2016**. Any children born between 01/09/2011 and 31/08/2012 need to apply for Entry to Reception 2016. Information, Handbooks and application forms are available at: www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Paper forms are available on request from: School Admissions Team, Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

Other reminders and advance updates

- In recent weeks we have had some 'lapses' in school uniform with more children wearing trainers, leggings or jeans which are NOT school uniform. We hope that school shoes and trousers will be smartly worn again by all pupils in January. Everyone always comments on how smart the children look in their Eastlea uniform and we would like to maintain these high standards. Your support with this is much appreciated.
- We are quickly filling up the coach for the Newcastle Eagles basketball game on the evening of Friday 8th January – following the letter sent to KS2 pupils. There are some seats left, so if any pupils/families would like tickets for the match (priced at only £5.00, including transport to and from Newcastle) then please contact the school office before the end of term.
- We will be hosting/supporting some parent/family workshops in the New Year and will be providing more details of these after the holiday. See overleaf for advance notice of the family healthy eating workshops which will take place at Eastlea on Tuesday evenings in January!
- We have also been asked to alert parents to some Christmas Holiday workshops which are being organised by the Education Network – see overleaf for details and how to book if you are interested!

Happy Christmas...and don't forget the early finish on Friday!!

And finally, just a reminder that the pupils break up on Friday for their Christmas holidays with **an early finish at 2pm**.

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. Have a happy holiday and we will see you all again on **Tuesday 5th January 2016** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Monday 4th January is a staff training day)

Yours sincerely

E Beeston

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher