



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we are coming to the end of the first half of the autumn term and once again we have had a very busy, active and enjoyable time since the children returned in September.

Thank you for supporting our Active October and other school events

In the 7 weeks of this half term there has been such a lot happening and every event has been well supported by parents/carers/the wider school community. This is something for which we are very grateful.

- The launch of our **Disney themed reading challenge** saw **£180** raised from contributions made by the children for our reading resources. Most children have made a good start to the reading challenge and are getting their weekly stickers on their bookmarks for reading at home, getting their reading record books signed and completing the reading activities in KS2. It was fantastic to welcome so many of you to our launch event last month – THANK YOU! ***Remember that all children are asked to read over the half term holiday next week (or practise their letter sounds in Reception) – and this will ensure they get their next star on the bronze bookmark!***
- Over the summer holiday we had our highest total yet of children who had taken part in the libraries summer reading challenge. **46** Eastlea pupils gained a **Gadgeteers** certificate and medal – and they were rewarded with a reading celebration picnic thanks to Mrs Lister a couple of weeks ago. Thanks to everyone who supported their child with this challenge over the 6 weeks holiday.
- I think you will agree that our new team of Brainwaves have planned a superb 3 weeks of activity for the rest of the school. Each week in October they have outlined their plans to the children in assembly. Thank you for keeping a note of the extra days where PE kits have been required and supporting everything that has taken place throughout Active October:
 - Week 1: **Walk to school week** with Robot stickers for those arriving on foot, **Hoopstarz/Skateboarding/Judo** workshops and our **Eastlea Countryfile Ramble** for Children in Need (£118 raised) and the Cramlington Foodbank (17 crates of food donated);
 - Week 2: **Stay safe and healthy week** with luminous feet/clips for those using the Church of the Nazarene carpark, **Little Movers/Jui Jitsu/Lawn bowls/acrobatics** workshops, Sainsbury's healthy eating sessions, KS1 playground festival led by our Y6 sports leaders and dog safety workshops for all classes;
 - Week 3: **Bike to school week** with high viz pencils/prizes for those coming to school on bikes/scooters, **Hoopstarz/Jui Jitsu/Volleyball** workshops, new playground bikes for the younger children, the start of bike club for Y5/Y6, **Road safety** workshops, a rugby festival for Y4 and completion of the 'mini-London marathon'.

N.B. Even though the Active October focus has finished we are still keen to promote further use of the **Park and Stride facility from the Church of the Nazarene**. Parking is so much easier there and the children seem to enjoy the few minutes walk along the path, under the underpass and up to the school gates. If you have not used it yet, it really is worth a try to avoid parking headaches nearer the school.

- The first whole school face to face **parent appointments** since 2019 were extremely well attended and there was a really positive atmosphere in the hall on Thursday last week. Thank you for making the time to come and for completing the feedback questionnaire. Analysis of the responses will be shared after half term. If you did not get a questionnaire and would like one, then please contact your child's class teacher.



- Our **Gardening Club** were delighted with the growth of the **pumpkins** which had taken place in their new poly tunnel! If you saw them at the parents evening I'm sure you will agree that they are amazing! The raffle for the pumpkins has raised over £120 for gardening club and school funds...and is being drawn today – so I hope our winners have strong arms to get their pumpkins home!!

RE theme day

This year we are planning a series of RE theme days as part of our wider curriculum. Last Tuesday we spent the day focusing on Christians – specifically the Creation story. Thanks to Revd Wullie who led an assembly during the morning. We had a great day and the children seemed to thoroughly enjoy our new approach to the subject. It certainly generated lots of questions!



Positive feedback for Eastlea pupils

We consistently remind children of the importance of good behaviour and have high expectations of the pupils both in school and when they are out and about. It is always lovely to receive positive feedback and we have had some lovely comments recently from adults working with the children who have praised their enthusiasm and attitude.

- **Revd Wullie** asked for thanks to be shared with all the children and families for the tremendous support for the Cramlington Foodbank. Mrs Docherty (Foodbank manager) was very pleased that the Eastlea children continue to work hard to support local families who rely on the foodbank in times of need.
- **Gill Smith** from the Cramlington School Sport Partnership praised the Year 6 Sports Leaders who led the KS1 playground games festival saying that they did a fantastic job leading activities and helping the younger children to have fun and be active.
- **Rachel from the Dogs Trust** who led the dog safety workshops on Friday sent an email commending the Eastlea children:

"I had the best time teaching your children and hope they had as much fun as I did! The children were an absolute joy to teach, they were all so polite and respectful, fully engaged and participated so well - a great reflection of your lovely school! Please pass on my compliments to staff, parents and governors for the children's amazing behaviour. Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you wish to book further workshops in the future...and I would love to come back to such a lovely school!!!"

Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

A couple of weeks ago we relaunched our TTRS challenge for KS2. The girls won the first 'battle' set by Miss Fox and well done to the first 3 children who have already achieved ROCK HERO status. Fantastic! Who will be next?



October Golden Day – last day of the half term for pupils

On Thursday 20th October we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year and I know everyone is looking forward to that!



Remember that Thursday is a non-uniform day – with no particular theme and no fine to pay! The children from Reception to Year 6 will be walking to and from the Vue cinema so must have a coat and sensible footwear.

The Golden Day hot dog/chips/juice/ice cream lunch should be paid for in the usual way and the children will also finish the day at their usual times. This is their last day of term – as staff have a training day on Friday 21st.

Storage shed – request!

We are looking to buy a storage shed for the new bikes we have purchased for the younger children which will go on the yard near the Kids Club ramp. If anyone has a 6ft x 8ft garden shed they are looking to get rid of, has a contact or knows where we can source one at a reasonable price please let us know.



HUGGG half term vouchers

Thanks to additional government funding, families entitled to benefit based free school meals will again receive an email/link from school to enable them to access a £20 HUGGG voucher for groceries etc over the half term break. Supermarket vouchers can be used for groceries or uniform/clothing if these are available in store.

Please note that these vouchers have an expiry date (30th November 2022) and after this date there will NOT be a further opportunity to issue any vouchers which have expired.

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2023 – a reminder

As far as we are aware all Year 6 parents have now made an application on the Northumberland admissions portal to secure their child a place in Year 7 for September 2023. If anyone has not yet done this then the portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31st October). **It is essential that you apply before the deadline so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or the secondary school of your choice.**

For parents of pupils 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.* Please note that **even if your child is currently attending our Eastlea Nursery then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception September 2023.** The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions).

Advance notice of charity/school events after half term

We will let you know full details of further events and activities when we return after the half term break, but here are just a few highlights to mention for November...

- As usual, we hope to have poppies on sale to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion** ready for Remembrance Sunday on 13th November
- Children in Need takes place on Friday 18th November and we will be having our usual dress up day and annual '**Pennies for Pudsey**' appeal...so now would be a good time to start collecting coins. *(We are aware that 'cash' is not in circulation as much now...but hopefully you will have some coins to add to the donations already received for Children in Need from our Eastlea ramble earlier this half term.)*

And finally... don't forget that the children break up for half term after Golden Day on Thursday at their usual time.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 31st October.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher

