



Dear Parents/Carers

### **First full newsletter of the new school year**

“Welcome back” to everyone as we start a new school year. I would like to extend a warm welcome especially to those parents of pupils who have just joined us at Eastlea – in Reception, Nursery or other year groups across the school. I hope your child is settling in well in their new class and that you feel happy with how things are going.

We have had some staffing changes since the summer and we welcome Miss Dougall ‘officially’ as a class teacher in Nursery (mornings) and in other classes during the afternoons. After a long period of absence, Mrs Scholey will not be returning to Eastlea due to ill health but Miss McCall will be working as a member of support staff in KS2 for the short term.

### **School uniform**

As always in September, the children all looked fantastic in their school uniform – with black shoes, school sweatshirts/cardigans, white shirts, book bags etc. Thank you for your support in helping them to look so smart and tidy. PE kits are also required and it is best to have these in school all week, so that they are available whenever required. If you have any queries about this, then please see your child’s teacher. **All uniform/PE kit needs to be clearly labelled with your child’s name please.**

Thanks also for your support for our request to ensure that earrings are not worn in school. Almost every family has followed our advice and any newly pierced ears were done at the start of the summer holiday. Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery 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.

### **Attendance/Time of arrival at school**

The importance of good attendance and punctuality remain a high focus for us at Eastlea. It was great to see that Reception achieved 100% attendance for the first week of term and they were presented with the attendance champion’s trophy this morning – well done! The class attendance champion’s trophy and punctuality plaque will be awarded each week! Please remember that the school doors open at 8.50am and any child arriving after 9am must come in through the main entrance and will receive a late mark – something we are trying to avoid, so your support with getting the children here on time is much appreciated.

As explained last year if a child’s attendance falls below 90% then this is classed as ‘persistent absence’ based on national measures and is referred to the Education Welfare Officer. Parents will be alerted by letter at the end of each half term if attendance has fallen below this figure so that we can work together to improve the situation. We know that Eastlea is a vibrant and happy place to be and as a result, attendance here is good. We have very few children who are deemed persistent absentees.

### **Dogs at the gates**

I am very grateful to everyone who has supported our aim of reducing the number of dogs at or around the school gates in the mornings and at the end of the school day. Dogs which are barking, even if they are on leads, can be intimidating to younger children (and some adults too) so your cooperation in keeping dogs away from the gates and walking them at other times rather than on route to school is much appreciated. I know that several parents approached me towards the end of the summer term to say how much better things had been and I hope that this will continue this year too – thank you again!

### **Bikes and scooters**

In order to keep things safe for children/parents walking on the school grounds, please can we ask that children who come to/leave school on their bike or scooter get off when they arrive on the school premises and wheel them to the bike racks. This is especially important on the path around the car park for Year 5/6 pupils. Any bikes or scooters left on the bike racks must be locked to ensure they are kept safe while at school.

### **Outdoor equipment in Early Years and storage containers**

For the benefit of parents who are new to the school I offer my annual reminder to ask that you continue to help us with looking after our outdoor Early Years equipment by making sure that it is **not** used by younger children when you come to pick up children from other classes at the end of the school day. As we have mentioned before, we realise it is tempting for younger brothers and sisters to climb on the climbing ‘castle’/slides etc or play on the bikes/tyres etc but we are not insured for them to use the resources and therefore this equipment is ‘out of bounds’ for all children (including school children) after 3pm and before school starts. Children should also not be accessing the storage containers on the yard as this is clearly a potential danger especially when unsupervised. Thank you for your support with this.

## School Lunches

Our new Reception class made a great start to managing the school lunch system last week. For many it seems to have been a highlight of their day!! As expected lots of parents of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have taken advantage of the continued FREE meals available for all children thanks to the government's 'Universal' offer.

For children in the other classes, paid meals are charged at £2.20 per day and Mrs Clarke remains in charge of coordinating the collection of dinner money. **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, as well as free milk. At the same time Eastlea will also receive the funding to which we are entitled.

The summer lunch menus remain the same for the first part of the autumn term. Copies are available for new parents if they wish to see the choices on offer – either from Mrs Atkinson in Reception class or the school office.

-----

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...and six to be returned for Reception and for pupils new to Eastlea!) Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response!!

This is the 'privacy statement' from the Local Authority to explain the data/information that we are asked to collect – see below

### **Northumberland Local Authority Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998**

We **Eastlea Primary School** are a data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect personal information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data to:

- Support your learning;
- Monitor and report on your progress;
- Provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- Assess how well we are doing.

Information about you that we hold includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as your ethnic group, any special educational needs you may have and relevant medical information. If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications the Learning Records Service will give us your unique learner number (ULN) and may also give us details about your learning or qualifications.

***We will not give information about you to anyone without your consent unless the law and our policies allow us to.***

We are required by law to pass some information about you to our Local Authority (LA) and the Department for Education. If you need more information about how the LA and DfE store and use your information, then please go to the following websites:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=10584> or

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/datatdatam/b00212337/datause>

## **1. Medical information [for everyone]**

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 [for everyone]**

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 for every individual visit we have attached the annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all 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.** Separate permission slips will still be required for residential visits and for class educational visits for which payment is required.

## **Food tasting [for everyone]**

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 context planning/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.**

### 3. Information sheet/contact form

As always it is important at the beginning of the new school year to ensure that we have the correct and most up-to-date contact information for your child. **For all children new to Eastlea a copy of the information sheet is attached and we would request a speedy return of these documents.** The contact names/telephone numbers/address details from last year will continue to be used for current pupils. I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it is for us to have accurate contact information, so **please make sure you inform us if there are any changes to the address/phone number/contact names which we currently have in school.** If the numbers we have are incorrect and we need to contact you in an emergency then this can cause added anxiety for your child as well as the staff trying to deal with the situation.

### 4. Photographs

Another attachment with this newsletter for new pupils is a consent form linked to taking photographs of children in school or for use in newspaper articles and on websites. Please complete and return the attached permission slip to your child's class teacher. Consent forms for other pupils have been retained and we will follow the permissions you indicated last year unless you inform us otherwise. Thank you!

If your child is in Reception or is new to Eastlea then the final attachments relate to ICT/Computing:

**5. Computing Agreement** – this needs to be discussed with your child, signed and returned in order for them to have access to the school network/internet for Computing work in school.

**6. School360 Code of Conduct** – a copy of the updated School360 code of conduct should be read and retained. The permission slip should be completed and returned to school.

### Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline showing the things which are already organised for the first half of the autumn term at Eastlea.

What's on	When and who?
New intake pupils start in Nursery	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September
After school KS2 Computing 'Code Club'	Starts Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 3.15 – 4.30pm (Year 5 and Year 6)
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 13 <sup>th</sup> September for 6 sessions (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
After school KS2 basketball club	Starts Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 3.15 – 4.15pm (Year 5 and Year 6)
Before school Judo club	Starts Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September from 8am (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)
Lunchtime Rugby Rocket Tots club	Starts Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 1 and Year 2)
Before school Street Dance club	Starts Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September from 8am (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
Lunchtime running club	Thursday lunchtimes from 15 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
<u>Free</u> Bikeability training course	Week beginning Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 5)
Fiddles tuition with Mr Boyle and music lessons with Mrs Smith	Wednesday afternoons from 21 <sup>st</sup> September (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 on a rota basis)
After school 'Eastlea Singing club'	Starts Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 3.15pm – 4.15pm (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
<b>Individual and family photographs</b> by H. Tempest	<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b> (morning) [more details will be sent nearer the time]
<b>Launch of this year's Reading Challenge</b>	<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b> [more details will be sent nearer the time]

What's on	When and who?
Educational Visit to Northumberlandia [funded by the Wildlife Trust]	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October – all day (Year 4)
Rugby festival at CLV Sporting Club	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October – morning (Year 4)
Hula Hoop festival at Blyth Sports Centre	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October – morning (Year 3)
<b>Harvest festival</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2pm in St Nicholas' Church</b> [more details will be sent nearer the time]
Autumn Term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 4pm
'Play In A Day' drama workshop	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October – all day (Year 6)
<b>Nursery parent appointments</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b> [more details/appointment times will be sent out later]
<b>Parent Appointments for Reception to Year 6</b>	<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October: 2.30 – 6.30pm</b> [more details/appointment times will be sent out later for parents/carers of all pupils in Reception to Year 6]
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for the half term holiday	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>School closed for staff training day</b>	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October

### Holidays

As you know, the national guidelines still mean that leave of absence for holidays taken during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays/absence should therefore wherever possible be taken during the designated school holidays. If you 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 in the usual way. 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 I can rely on your continued support with this matter.

**A reminder of the holiday dates for this school year is included 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 2016 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Thursday 20 October 2016 <b>FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER 2016</b>	Monday 31 October 2016
Christmas/New Year 2016/2017 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 16 December 2016 <b>TUESDAY 3 JANUARY 2017</b>	Wednesday 4 January 2017
Spring Mid-Term 2017	Friday 17 February 2017	Monday 27 February 2017
Easter 2017 <b>May Day</b>	Friday 7 April 2017 <b>Monday 1 May 2017</b>	Monday 24 April 2017
Summer Mid-Term 2017	Friday 26 May 2017	Monday 5 June 2017
Summer 2017 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 21 July 2017 <b>MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017</b>	Tuesday 5 September 2017

Yours sincerely

**E Beeston**

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher