



Dear Parents/Carers,

On Thursday, this short 4 week half term comes to an end and when we return after the half term break we will have only 7 weeks left of this school year. The time is flying! This letter includes a few updates and reminders before the children break up on Thursday.

National assessments

- Last week our **Year 6** children completed their national assessments in reading, maths arithmetic/reasoning and 'SPaG' (grammar and spelling). This was their chance to 'show off' everything they have learned throughout Key Stage 2 and they worked really hard and should be very proud of themselves – **well done to them all!**
- In the first two weeks of June the spotlight falls on **Year 4** who will be completing their '**Multiplication Tables Check**' – Mrs Thirlwell and Miss Fox have been emphasising the value of continued practice of times tables on TTRS and we hope all the children's hard work is rewarded with high scores in the times tables check – good luck!
- The KS1 Phonic check takes place in **w/b 9th June** and all pupils in **Year 1** will have a chance to demonstrate their super reading skills – we wish them good luck too!

Children's Cancer Run and Mrs Scott's half marathon

- The weather on Sunday was cool but dry when 31 people from our **Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 running club**, staff, other family members and ex-pupils again took part in the Cancer Run at Gosforth Park. Each participant ran in their brightly coloured t-shirt and were rewarded with a medal on completion of the race. The Eastlea owl banner was there at the finish line to welcome them back! Well done and thanks to everyone who supported this event!
- Meanwhile in Manchester **Mrs Scott** completed the half marathon run, cheered on by large crowds in the city. At the end of the race Mrs Scott was really chuffed to have completed the run and we were all delighted for her. Thank you to everyone who donated to our 'bucket' collection before/after the race. The total donated (£142.82) has been added to the staff sponsorship money raised, giving Eastlea a grand total of **£342.82** for our playground/PE equipment funds. Superb!

Out and about – representing Eastlea

This half term we have had several groups of children representing Eastlea at a range of different visits, events and activities. We are always delighted to receive positive feedback on the attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm shown by our pupils – something we expect, but never take for granted!

- **Year 3** had a super visit to St James' Park as a follow up to their work with the Newcastle United Foundation. They had a stadium tour, went pitch side, visited the home and away dressing rooms and then played some football on the rooftop 4G pitch.
- **Reception** thoroughly enjoyed their time at Whitehouse Farm. The weather was glorious for their visit and they were enthusiastic and interested in every activity!
- Our **Brainwaves** had the opportunity to meet and ask questions of Emma Foody (MP) our local Member of Parliament. Emma was impressed with the children and enjoyed her time visiting Eastlea a couple of weeks ago.
- Our **Year 4 Quad athletics team** took part in events at Astley High and came back with beaming smiles. They were praised for their attitude and especially how well they did with the 400m run. Well done!
- Two students from **Northumbria University** completed 4 days with the children last week. They enjoyed their time with the KS2 classes in school and also led games at breaks and lunchtimes for all classes as well as providing extra support in PE lessons. They were so impressed that they have volunteered to come back and help out at future sporting events!
- **Year 5** have continued to be enthusiastic participants in their Roots and Shoots project – this week welcoming staff from the Alnwick Gardens to Eastlea. It was lovely to be able to invite some family members too as part of this outreach event. Thank you to those who came along to support.



Golden Day reminder

On Thursday we are travelling 'around the world' for our May Golden Day. Children can come dressed as travellers/tourists in general or in a colour/outfit linked to the destination of their class focus.

A 'British' school lunch will be on offer that day for those who wish to have this – fish and chips/peas and sticky toffee pudding/ice cream. Remember KS2 (£2.50) or Nursery (£2.30) lunches must be paid for as usual – thank you! Please check the previous letter (Seesaw/Tapestry/website) for full details.

*N.B. Any outstanding dinner money **MUST BE PAID by THURSDAY MORNING** at the very latest.*

HUGGG vouchers for children in receipt of benefit based Free School Meals

A reminder that the HUGGG vouchers (£15 per eligible child) for the half term holiday will be sent out in the next day or so, when the funds are allocated from NCC. Vouchers are for food/clothes only and have to be used before the deadline (27th June).

Castles Reading Challenge...who will become a Champion Reader?

127 children have now been presented with their GOLD Castles reading challenge award! This is brilliant news and we know that there are more GOLD awards still to come. We are also wondering who will become a Champion Reader? To do this, having gained bronze, silver and gold the children are required to maintain their reading homework routines for at least another 8 weeks. **Please can we ask that you continue to encourage your child to read at home and make time to sign their reading records each week.** We will continue to present reading awards until the end of the school year so bronze, silver or gold awards can also be achieved up until July.

Lost property, the Hope Centre and the on-site Clothes Bank

As always seems to be the case at this stage of the school year we seem to be gathering more than the usual number of items of lost property which is taking up a lot of staff time to sort out. The difficulties of retrieving lost items are made much worse when items are not named. **We try our best to return items that are lost but please can we ask that over half term you check that everything your child brings to school is named.** Thank you!

As the summer approaches, rather than buying brand new items for just a few weeks, remember there are stocks of FREE uniform at the Hope Centre – if you are not sure where this is, just ask a member of staff or email directly at: hope1uniform@gmail.com In addition to this, rather than buying new black school shoes for just a few weeks, also remember that plain black trainers can be worn as part of normal school uniform as well as on PE kit days.

Thanks also to everyone who has donated pre-loved clothes (anything except school uniform!) to our 'Clothes Bank' on site near the bin store. Please continue to make use of this facility as every kilogram of clothes helps raise money for the school. Thank you.

School Uniform – advance notice of changes to how to order

Our school uniform will continue to be supplied by Emblematic, but when the summer orders are made this will in future be done via an **online ordering system direct with the firm**. Uniform can be delivered to Eastlea for you to collect (FREE delivery), or can be collected from the Bedlington shop (FREE collection) or alternatively can be delivered to your home address (delivery charges will apply).

The costs for the Eastlea uniform have been held at reduced prices for many years and Mrs Johnson has again negotiated only limited price increases for the online ordering service, with items going up by just 50p or £1.

More information will be shared about this new system after half term – with a link to the Emblematic ordering service and how you can create an account etc.

In the meantime, we do still have SOME current stock of uniform on site if anyone still wishes to buy direct from the school. Order forms can be collected from the school office if you wish to purchase items in the short term, but once our stock is sold there will be no more available from school.



Advance notice of dates for after half term

I know how keen everyone always is to support school events so here is advance notice of some dates for the diary in June/July to which parents are invited:

- Sports Day: 1.30 – 3.00pm Monday 16th June (Reception to Year 6)
- Nursery Sports Day: morning of Wednesday 18th June (morning Nursery pupils)
- Singing Club and Violin club end of term concert: Wednesday 25th June at 3.45pm (Years 3/4/5)
- Summer Fair: 2.00 – 3.30pm Friday 4th July (whole school)
- Leavers Celebration event – 3.30pm Tuesday 15th July (Year 6)

Plus...these are the planned dates of other school events to note in your diary:

- 'Get to Green' summer term attendance focus week: w/b 16th June (whole school)
- Transition Day: Thursday 3rd July (when all classes 'step up' to the next year group)
- Rescheduled Bikeability sessions: Wednesday 9th/Thursday 10th July (Year 5)
- End of Year Golden Day – Thursday 17th July (whole school)
- Year 6 Leavers Meal out – early evening of Thursday 17th July
- End of summer term – 2pm finish on Friday 18th July

Child Pedestrian Training sessions

After the half term break, Year 3 will be involved in 6 weekly 'Child Pedestrian' training sessions, ensuring children are aware of and are confident with the green cross code for crossing roads safely. This is an exciting opportunity being offered by Gateshead Council and we are fortunate to have been chosen to take part. **Year 3 parents / carers are reminded that the consent form MUST be returned to school this week as the first session is on Monday 2nd June.** Without this signed consent form your child will not be able to take part. Thank you!

And finally...we finish at the usual time this Thursday after the May Golden Day ready for the half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd June for the remaining 7 weeks of the school year.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher

