



Dear Parents / Carers,

## Happy New Year

As we begin the second week of the spring term, may I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back and wish you all a very 'Happy New Year'.

At the start of the new term I would also like to pass on a few reminders/updates about policies and procedures at Eastlea:

### 1. School uniform

The vast majority of our pupils have returned to school looking very smart and tidy in their Eastlea school uniform. However, as we mentioned before the Christmas break, we do have some ongoing concerns regarding footwear and trousers. May I remind you that trainers, jeans or leggings are not to be worn in school. **Children should be wearing black school shoes and trousers.** If the weather is particularly bad, then boots can be brought into school to be changed into at breaks/lunchtimes but they are not suitable to be worn all day and must not have high heels as this is dangerous. As we have seen recently it can still be cold and wet this term and to enable the children to keep warm and dry please could you ensure they have a suitable coat and gloves/hats/scarves as appropriate to be worn when they are outside.

We also have some children who are 'forgetting' to remove their nail varnish before they come into school. If your child uses nail varnish at a weekend, please make sure it is removed before Monday morning!

### 2. P.E. kits

Everyone now should be fully aware of the need to have PE kits in school so that children can take part fully with the lessons that are going on. Items should be named and suitable footwear is required for outdoor sessions.

### 3. Hair

May I remind you that long hair must be tied back in school and hair should be thoroughly checked if problems with headlice occur even when you think the infestation may be over (this needs to be done every night for at least two weeks otherwise the problem can reoccur).

### 4. School lunch menus and 'Hungry Hatch' promotion

The winter menus started in November have proved to be very popular and will be continuing this term. This is week 2 of the menu cycle and if you have any queries linked to this please contact the school office where copies of the menus are available.

The winning design for the 'Hungry Hatch' has now been created following the vote and competition organised by Brainwaves. The cooks now proudly wear their new polo shirts and aprons featuring the logo and we are delighted with the outcome which is very smart and professional!

### 5. Attendance and punctuality

Before the Christmas holiday I told you the latest information with regard to the weekly winners of our attendance and punctuality awards. Here are some further updates:

- **Reception** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the autumn term – in total they won the weekly award three times during the half term and have retained the best class attendance certificate for the whole term – quite an achievement!! With an average attendance of 98.39% they beat Year 1 and Year 3 who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in our competition – congratulations!
- **Year 4** also retained the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term with only 6 'lates' in total during the 7 weeks. Last half term they had to share the prize, but this time the class won it outright, beating Year 5 who were their closest rivals with 13 lates – well done!
- I am also pleased to announce that there were **59 pupils** who were awarded with individual certificates for achieving **100% attendance** in the autumn term. This is our best total yet!

Attendance and punctuality will again be closely monitored this term together with support from the EWO. Competition remains fierce for both the weekly attendance champions trophy and punctuality plaque. We know how important it is for the children to arrive on time so they are organised for the day ahead and your support with this is much appreciated!

If your child is ill with sickness or diarrhoea, then please remember that pupils should not return to school for a full 24 hours for sickness and 48 hours for diarrhoea. This helps us to prevent 'bugs' spreading and causing more widespread attendance difficulties.

### 6. Reading

Our Outer Space reading challenge continues this term. Your continued support with reading at home to help your child climb the 'rungs' towards their bronze or silver awards is much appreciated. We now have

161 children with their pictures on the Outer Space display and hope to get more 'faces' in the hall in the coming weeks! Well done to Year 4 who are the first class in which every child has achieved their bronze award. Class teachers will be in touch with you if your child is not yet into a regular routine of reading at home and it is never too late to get the bronze award so the incentive is there for all children to get started!

### 7. Maths

We awarded our autumn term maths awards just before the holiday. Congratulations to all our winners! A display of their work has been put up in the school hall by Miss Fox (maths coordinator). If your child was a winner and you wish to come into school to see their work on display just pop in at the start or end of a day and your child can take you to the hall!

### 8. Advance notice for parents/carers of pupils in Year 6

Mrs Coleby has asked me to mention that the KS2 SATs week this year takes place in the week beginning **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**. The format of the KS2 SATs is changing as part of the new national curriculum agenda and we will share information with Year 6 pupils/parents when it is available. Whatever the format, we know that in common with every other year, our Year 6 pupils will do us proud with their efforts in this important week. In order to 'show off' what they can do it is vital that all the Year 6 pupils are in school every day that week, so I hope that this advance notice of the date is helpful.

### 9. ICT/internet safety update

Some parents took the opportunity last term to attend a parents' workshop for the Cramlington Primaries about how to become more aware of the potential issues surrounding internet safety and the 'adult' content of some of the games to which children may have access to.

We are aware that it is every parent's responsibility to be aware of/decide whether they give permission for their child to access 'games' on computers/IPad/tablets/phones.

As a school we feel that certain games are wholly unsuitable for children and as such will intervene to remind children that they are not suitable topics for discussion and will not allow merchandise (e.g. badges) which promote these adult games to be worn in school. If your child has any such items, please can we ask that these are kept at home and are not worn to and from or within school. I'm sure you will support us with this and understand that it is something that we take very seriously.

### 10. Parking / road safety

The persistent wet weather last week seemed to understandably increase the number of cars which were being used to drop off/collect children from school. Hopefully this will be less of a problem as the weather improves, but please can we remind everyone that care needs to be taking when parking cars near to the school so that we avoid causing problems for local residents by blocking drives or parking illegally.

We have been delighted with the number of pupils who regularly wear their 'high viz' jacket to and from school each day – this is an excellent way to be seen more clearly by drivers and is certainly an important safety measure.

I was informed at the end of December that as part of the ongoing safety initiative by the County Council that it is proposed to introduce 20 mph zones adjacent to all schools within Northumberland over the next 5 years. Eastlea is in this year's programme and these traffic regulations will be introduced by April 2016.

### Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline of all the many events and activities which are planned for the Eastlea pupils so far for the first half of the spring term. We have taken on board some of the comments made in the parental questionnaire which was completed last term and have aimed to provide more opportunities for KS1 children in terms of the clubs on offer this term and also include a 'family learning' cooking session (see the attached booking form):

What's on	When and who?
Swimming sessions at Concordia	Tuesday afternoons from 5 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4)
'Fiddles' tuition/specialist music input – part of our continuing music project	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 6 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 6 and Year 3)
Specialist French input and pen pals project led by Madame Taylor	Wednesday afternoons from 6 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 5 and Year 6)
Attendance certificates, 'light green' letters and autumn term commendations are presented	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> January

<b>What's on</b>	<b>When and who?</b>
Newcastle Eagles match at Sports Central	Evening of Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January – KS2 children/families <b>(plus Year 5 match v Shanklea at half time...which we won and received a huge trophy!!!)</b>
New Nursery pupils join Eastlea	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January (new intake begin their Nursery sessions)
After school KS2 Tag Rugby club	Mondays after school from 11 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 12 <sup>th</sup> January (pupils from Year 3, 5 and 6)
Lunchtime KS1 'Eastlea Rugby Rocket Tots' coaching led by Cramlington Rockets	Wednesday lunchtimes from 13 <sup>th</sup> January (pupils from Year 1 and Year 2)
After school 'KS2 Eastlea Singing club'	Starts again Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Before school 'Street Dance' club	Thursday mornings at 8am from Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 1/Year 2)
Lunchtime running club	Thursday lunchtimes from 14 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Bun Day in support of Crosby on Eden flood victims in Cumbria ... <b>20p for a cake/biscuit</b>	Break time on Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January for the whole school (coordinated by KS2)
After school Netball club	Tuesdays after school from 19 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 5/Year 6)
Steel pan after school music club	Tuesdays after school from 19 <sup>th</sup> January (group from Year 4 and Year 5)
<b>Family Cooking FOUR sessions – Tuesdays after school for four weeks for 'family groups' in our Nursery classroom/kitchen...FREE!!</b>	<b>Tuesdays 3.15 – 4.45pm on 19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> February. Children of all ages welcome! Please complete and return the attached form to secure your place!</b>
Year 6 Evening Chronicle journalism Enterprise project	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January – deadline for the 'Our School' Evening Chronicle page to be submitted <b><i>The Eastlea page will be published on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January!!</i></b>
Multi-skills academy selection event at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 19 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 6)
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Thursday morning before school Literacy sessions from 21 <sup>st</sup> January (Year 6)
Educational Class Visit to 'Centre for Life'	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January – all day (Year 6 – subsidised by the pupils' Enterprise fund)
School Games Gymnastics competition	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – morning (team from Year 4)
Reception class eye tests	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February (separate letter will be sent)
European themed week	Week beginning 8 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February

Yours sincerely,  
**Miss E Beeston**  
Head Teacher

# Healthy Family Cooking At Eastlea Primary School

- Work with your child to prepare meals from basic ingredients
- Learn about key healthy eating messages & discuss portions sizes
- No cooking skills required
- Free of charge, all ingredients provided

**Date: Tuesday 19th Jan - 9th Feb  
3.15 - 4.30**

*If you would be interested in attending please see a member of school staff*

Northumbria Healthcare **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Places will be given on a first come first served basis. To ensure adequate space and supervision, places are limited to a total of **16 people**. **All children must be accompanied by an adult** and we ask that there must be a minimum of ONE adult for every THREE children. ***We will send confirmation at the end of the week to let you know whether you have a place on the workshop.***

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**Healthy Family Cooking sessions**

I would like to reserve  places for the 4 family cooking sessions on 19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> January

and 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> February. I understand that all children must be accompanied and that there must be a minimum of one adult for every 3 children who attend.

**Names of those attending:** [*\* please delete as appropriate*]

..... (*adult / child)	..... (*adult / child)
..... (*adult / child)	..... (*adult / child)
..... (*adult / child)	..... (*adult / child)

Signed: ..... Contact number: .....