



Friday 27th February 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back!

As we begin the second half of the school year I wanted to say 'welcome back' to everyone and also a warm new welcome to the parents/families who have joined us since the half term holiday. We have had a larger than usual number of new starters at Eastlea this week – with 8 pupils in total joining us from other schools around the region! I do hope that you are happy with the way your children are settling here and this newsletter will outline all the many things that are happening this half term – please retain for future reference!

What's going on this half term

What's on	When and who?
Tag rugby coaching in PE lessons	Mondays from 23 rd February (Year 4 and Year 6)
After school Tag Rugby coaching club	Monday after school sessions from Monday 23 rd February (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Gifted and Talented Dance academy	Mondays after school from 23 rd February (group of pupils from Year 4 – with children from across the town)
Attendance certificates and 'light green' letters are presented	Tuesday 24 th February
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 24 th February (pupils from Year 2, 3, 5 and 6)
Swimming sessions at Concordia (the 2nd half term of lessons for Year 4)	Tuesday afternoons from 24 th February until 24 th March (Year 4)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 24 th February (Year 6)
After school Netball club	Tuesday after school sessions from 24 th February (Year 5/Year 6)
After school Circus skills club led by Marty from Circurama	Tuesday after school sessions from Tuesday 24 th February (Year 2, Year 3, Year 4)
Dental checks for 5 year olds	Wednesday 25 th February (morning)
Lunchtime Girls football club	Wednesday lunchtimes from 25 th February (Year 5/Year 6)
School Games Football competition at CLV	After school Wednesday 25 th February (Team of Year 5 boys and Year 5/6 girls)
Spring term Governors meeting	Wednesday 25th February at 4pm
Before school Street Dance club	8am Thursday mornings from 26 th February (Year 1 and Year 2)
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Thursday morning before school Literacy sessions from 26 th February (Year 6)
Lunchtime running club	Continuing on Thursday lunchtimes from 26 th February – weather permitting (Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)
Footsteps 'community' project with Northburn and Burnside Primaries	Morning of Friday 27 th February (Group of pupils from Year 5)
After school Girls football U11 League matches	Monday 2 nd , Tuesday 17 th and Monday 23 rd March (girls football team from Year 5 and Year 6)
Newcastle United history workshop	Afternoon of Tuesday 3 rd March (Year 5)
'Fiddles' tuition – led by Mr Boyle	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 4 th March (Year 6 and Year 3)

What's on	When and who?
After school 'Eastlea Singing club' INCLUDING concert for parents at 4pm on 11th March	Wednesday 4 th March and Wednesday 11 th March 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
World Book Day <i>(dress up as a book character – for more details see below!)</i>	Thursday 5th March Non-uniform day for the whole school – £1 'fine' to go towards our library funds!
'Heights and weights' session	Friday 6 th March (afternoon) (Reception and Year 6 pupils)
Netball Superleague match	Friday 6th March – evening social event (KS2 pupils and staff)
CLV student Storytellers make a return visit	Afternoon of Wednesday 11 th March (Year 1)
Comic Relief day <i>(bun day for all – for more details see below!)</i>	Friday 13th March Golden Time bun day treat - biscuits and cakes for 20p each – all proceeds to Comic relief!
Presentation of spring term writing awards	Monday 16 th March (one child from each class)
Nursery Easter maths activities family event	Tuesday 17 th March from 9am (Nursery pupils and parents)
Brief Fiddles concert – more details to follow	2.50pm Wednesday 18 th February (parents of Year 3/Year 6 pupils)
School Games Netball competition	After school on Wednesday 18 th March at CLV (Team of players from Y5/Y6)
Maths Family Fun Bingo event	Evening of Wednesday 18th March – more details to follow
Visit for new Nursery pupils	Thursday 19 th March 9am – 10am (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter)
Anti-bullying/stranger danger workshop	Afternoon of Thursday 19 th March (Year 4)
Residential visit to Hawkhurst	Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd March (Year 5)
Presentation of spring term maths awards	Tuesday 24 th March (one child from each class)
Nursery lunchtime parents appointments	Tuesday 24 th and Wednesday 25 th March (parents of all Nursery pupils)
Easter activities	Wednesday 25 th March (afternoon – for all pupils except Nursery)
School Games Hockey tournament	After school on Wednesday 25 th March at CLV (two teams from Year 6)
Easter assembly	Thursday 26 th March 2015
Skipping Festival	Thursday 26 th March at Blyth Leisure Centre (morning) (Year 5)
Parents Evening Appointments	Thursday 26th March 2.30pm – 6.30pm (parents of all pupils from Reception to Year 6)
Golden Day	Friday 27th March (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for Easter	Friday 27 th March 2015
School reopens after the Easter holiday	Monday 13th April 2015

World Book Day

Remember...on **Thursday 5th March** we are celebrating World Book Day. We aim to provide the opportunity for everyone to come to school dressed as a book character. **The 'fine' for coming dressed in non-uniform is just £1** and the money raised will go towards our library funds. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw!

Year 5 and Year 6 are also looking forward to seeing the outcome of the Blue Peter Book Awards – the winners are to be announced in the TV show that evening.

Comic Relief

On Friday 13th March we will be supporting the national Comic Relief charity by holding a 'bun day' fundraising event which will take place during the Golden Time treat at the end of the day. Pupils will need to bring in at least a 20p donation to buy one of the biscuits or cakes which they can enjoy during the afternoon! Thank you in advance for your support!

Reading awards

The vast majority of our pupils have been eagerly reading at home as part of our circus reading challenge and getting you to sign their reading records each week. I am delighted to say that **174 children have now achieved their Bronze award** and next week we will be presenting the first of our **silver awards!!**

Punctuality and attendance

We are continuing with our successful focus on improving attendance and punctuality. At the half way point of the school year we only have 2 pupils currently at Eastlea who have attendance below 85% (classified as persistent absentees). This means we have once again maintained the very low figure which has been our target for this year which is extremely positive!!

- **Year 4** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the spring term with an average of 97.83%, narrowly beating Year 6 who managed 97.38% attendance. This is the second time that Year 4 have won the certificate this year – well done!
- **Year 6** were awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – they had only 5 'lates' recorded in the first half of the spring term; the next closest was Year 2 who had 9 – congratulations to Year 6 who have been aiming for this award for some time!!

Payments for residential visits in Year 5 and Year 6 – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

If you have a child in Year 5 or Year 6 who is going to be taking part in the Hawkhirst or York visits please remember that the deadline has now passed for the next instalments of the money to be paid. By now the full £80 should have been paid for Hawkhirst and £90 so far for York. Please contact the school office if there is a problem with payment as we have to confirm and pay for all the many activities which are on offer.

PE Kits

Please can we remind everyone that it saves a lot of time in searching for kit if every child has their PE kit in school during the week for PE lessons. As many of the sessions are now outdoors then dark coloured tracksuit bottoms can be worn for warmth and suitable footwear is also required. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are unsure exactly what the arrangements are for your child's class.

School Meals

The menus for school meals remain the same for this half term and the rota is as follows:

- w/b 2nd March – week 2
- w/b 9th March – week 3
- w/b 16th March – week 1
- w/b 23rd March – week 2

If you require an additional copy of the current menus then copies are available from the office.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston

Head Teacher