



Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

On Friday the children break up for the February half term holiday. This brings to an end a busy 6 weeks since Christmas and marks the 'half way' point of the school year.

### NSPCC Fundraising 'thank you'

Our NSPCC Number Day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February was very well supported with some super t-shirt designs reflecting all aspects of maths. It brought to an end a 'money' themed Eastlea Maths week and we raised over **£180** which has been split between the NSPCC and school maths funds. Thank you!

### Well done Eastlea!

- Our **Year 4 gymnastics team** took part in the school games competition at the new Northburn Gymnastics centre. They came 4<sup>th</sup> overall which was a huge achievement. Our **Year 5/Year 6 badminton team** also represented us well at the festival last week.
- **Year 3** and **Year 5** classes were both delighted to represent 'Cramlington and Seaton Valley' in the **school games multi-skills county finals**. Having both come second in their regional events they did themselves proud in the finals, competing against schools from across Northumberland – well done!
- **Year 2** have done a fantastic job with their Castles homework project. The range of items which are proudly carried in by excited children each week has been amazing. Thank you for your support!
- **Year 6** received excellent feedback after their visit to Nissan this week. They had made some very creative wind turbines which they took with them on the day as part of the eco-school activities. Very well designed!
- **Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4** have all received very positive feedback from the workshop leaders in our STEM activities this half term. A range of experts have been in to work with the children and in all cases the family STEM engineering workshops have been well supported by parents/family members. Thank you! *[Nursery, Year 2 and Year 6 will get their turn after half term!]*
- **Year 2 to Year 6** have impressed Julie Ross (ranger) who has led nature workshops with the children this half term. Congratulations!

### School Uniform ... FREELY available from the Hope Centre

We have recently been sent a reminder that clean, good quality school uniform such as sweatshirts/cardigans, trousers, skirts, pinafores, shoes, PE kit, coats etc for all the local schools (including Eastlea and CLV) can be obtained free of charge from the Hope Centre in Cramlington. There is no need for a referral – just turn up on Monday to Friday 10am – 2pm to see what is available.

### HUGGG vouchers

We have again been informed by the county that vouchers will be available over the February half term holiday for those families eligible for benefit based free school meals. An email notification has been sent out this week so that you can activate and use the vouchers over the holiday period.

### IMPORTANT: NEU Strike Action update

As outlined in the letter about teachers strikes earlier this half term, a decision about the implications for schools on each day of any proposed strike action has to be taken separately. The second day of NEU strike action is due to take place in the first week back after half term on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023. This will result in some partial or whole school closures in the north of the country.

After discussions with the staff in school, **I am pleased to inform you that it looks as though Eastlea Primary will again be fully open for all pupils on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** so children in all classes should attend school as normal on that day. As before, if anything changes I will aim to let parents/carers know as soon as possible.



### HOPE UNIFORM & BABY BANK



As well as the logoed clothing for all our local schools we can supply all uniform items needed by our students. We have trousers, skirts, pinafores, shirts, polo shirts, sportswear, shoes, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, tights, bags and socks from nursery to Y11. All free from charge or referral. Hope to see you soon.

**Keeping It Local**

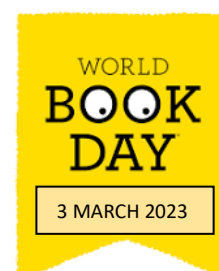
Monday to Friday 10:00–14:00  
Nursery by appointment please.  
Email: [hopeuniform@gmail.com](mailto:hopeuniform@gmail.com)  
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## Residential visits for Year 5/Year 6

The response to the Year 5 residential visit to Hawkthirst has been excellent and their visit is confirmed for 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April. A reminder that final payments are due for this visit by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you! A letter about the York visit for Year 6 which has been booked for July will be distributed after half term.

## Reading Challenge, books and World Book Day

- At the end of this week we will be presenting the first of the silver awards for the whole school '**Disney Reading Challenge**'. If your child reads over the half term break and has their reading record signed then this will count as a sticker on their latest bookmark. Please encourage them to keep reading!
- We have been investing a lot of money in replacing and updating reading books across the school. All children are encouraged to look after the books that they take home as they can be very costly to replace. In Year 3 and Year 4 we understand that fewer children have reading folders/book bags and staff have noticed that some reading books are becoming water damaged having been stored in school bags alongside water bottles. We are looking at alternatives and will send a separate letter home to Year 3 and Year 4 after the half term. Water bottles and reading books are obviously both needed, but can we ask that water bottles are not transported in school bags to help protect the books. Thank you!
- At the end of the first week back after the half term break it is **World Book Day** which we will be celebrating on **FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**. At Eastlea children are again encouraged to come to school in their pyjamas/dressing gowns and/or onesies together with their favourite book for some reading themed activities in school on that day. We will also be teaming up with Usborne to launch a sponsored read event on that day...so we can raise further funds to gain FREE Usborne books in school. Further details will be sent out after the holiday.
- We have also been working behind the scenes to set up an e-books subscription for some classes. This will be free to use but we need a bit more time to see exactly how it will work in practice. Again further details will be shared when we are sorted!



## Coronation bank holiday – advance notice

As you will be aware, the coronation of King Charles III takes place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. An additional bank holiday has been awarded for the whole country on the Monday following this weekend. This will be on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. Please note that on this day Eastlea will therefore be closed for all pupils and staff.

## Golden Day reminder

Please remember that on Friday this week (17<sup>th</sup> February) we are ending the half term with our February Golden Day. This is a non-uniform day for everyone with different activities based on class topics in each year group ...Nursery rhymes (Nursery), Valentine's Day (Reception/Year 1/Year 2), Egypt (Year 3), European cruise (Year 4), France (Year 5) and Rainforests/Brazil (Year 6). There is 'no fine' to pay for coming in non-uniform as it is a Golden Day!

Year 6 are still keen to offer everyone a breaktime treat on Friday as part of their enterprise fundraising project, so for Reception to Year 6, if your child wants to take part they will need to bring in 50p with them! Thank you!

On Golden Day, there will be the usual arrangements for school lunch so if your child wants to have a school meal on Friday then money (£2.50 for Y3 to Y6 children who pay; or £2.20 for Nursery) should be paid as normal. See the previous Golden Day letter for further details. We are looking forward to another day of fun!

**This half term finishes on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at the usual time.** Please enjoy a break over the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone for the start of the second half of the spring term on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

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

*Happy Half Term!*