

Eastlea update - 19/6/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the end of the 13th week of our school 'closure' and once again I am pleased to report that we have had a calm week as the number of pupils returning has steadily continued to rise. The small groups of younger Nursery pupils who were in on Tuesday and yesterday, seemed to thoroughly enjoy their sessions and next week we will welcome back some more Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 pupils. A detailed letter outlining the various procedures for the latest phase of our wider opening was shared earlier this week, but a summary grid of arrival/pick up times for those returning on Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday is included here as a reminder:

Class/group	Arrival time	Gate	Hometime
Year 2	9.00am	Newer side gate	3.00pm
Year 3	8.45am	Newer side gate	3.15pm
Year 4	8.45am	Newer side gate	3.15pm
Year 5	8.45am	Main gate	3.15pm

If your child is attending school then...

1. Please maintain social distancing of 2m from other families and **do not linger or wait for others** on the school premises. Wash your hands before coming to school and when you get home.
2. School uniform is needed for all pupils and a packed lunch/drink is required. Sweatshirts/coats/hats will be needed as windows will be open for ventilation and pupils may be outside more often. If the sunny weather returns please apply suncream (if appropriate).
3. No reading folders/bags/books/pencil cases are needed – we must limit the number of items 'travelling' between home and school.

Remember, if you or your child has any symptoms of the virus you must not come to school – please stay at home to self isolate and inform us immediately.

We know we have to prioritise children of critical workers but do have a waiting list for places in some year groups. This is due to the continuing social distancing restrictions which limit the number of desks which we can have in each classroom. Thank you for your patience with this.

Virtual School Games – Friday 19th June



Thank you to everyone who is taking part in the Virtual School Games events today. I am aware of some super mascot designs which have been submitted and videos of those doing different activities at Eastlea will also be uploaded. You can also do this yourselves from home. If you still wish to join in, then the link for the day is www.tynewearsport.org/vsq20

The children in school have certainly enjoyed joining in with the different events today – football skills, the Daily Mile, yoga, fitness and cheerleading have all been on the timetable!!

Year 6 Virtual Author Session with the children's author Jenny Pearson.

On **Friday 26th June** our Year 6 pupils have been invited to join pupils from Shanklea and Cragside to take part in a virtual author event with **Jenny Pearson** to celebrate the publication of her new book, 'The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates'.

Jenny will be talking about her book and being an author! This event will be live on YouTube and involve a question and answer session with our Year 6 pupils. They will also have the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of her book. A fantastic opportunity for Year 6! [Y6 pupils not in school on this day can still take part and will receive details about it from Mrs Stafford early next week/on Seesaw].



Free School Meal Vouchers

I'm sure you will have heard the news this week that the government now plan to fund vouchers for those entitled to benefit based Free School Meals over the 6 week summer holidays. This is great news for those families! As yet there are no further details about how this will be managed but when I hear what needs to be done I will order the vouchers for everyone who is entitled and keep you updated as best I can.

I have also been informed that a '**Grab a bag**' scheme is up and running from the **Hope Centre** in Cramlington. Breakfast, lunch or supper 'bags' are available from outside the Hope Centre for those who require them – thanks to donations from the local community.

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

Every year we try to encourage families to become involved in the library **Summer Reading Challenge** – an annual event aimed at 4-11 year olds where pupils are encouraged to read 6 books (or more) with collectable incentives and rewards, plus a certificate for every child who completes the challenge. This year it is starting earlier in June through until September.

Usually you can do this by visiting your local library but this year due to the disruption caused by Covid-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the all-new 'digital' Summer Reading Challenge is starting earlier to keep children reading and support families at home.



The theme for the challenge is '**Silly Squad**' – a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter. Visit the challenge website to www.sillysquad.org.uk to join and please keep your downloadable certificate once you have completed the challenge so you can bring it into school and celebrate at our Summer Reading Challenge picnic with Mrs

Lister which will take place sometime in the Autumn term. We are hoping lots of our families will take part from now until the end of September 2020. For more details on how to join see the separate letter which will be put on our school website/Facebook page/Seesaw/Tapestry.

Looking ahead

There is understandably still no clarity as to what will be happening with schools after the summer break, but we remain focused on aiming to get everyone back into school in September as long as the government/scientific guidance deems that is safe to do so.

In the meantime, looking ahead to transition, we have made some plans for the coming weeks:

- We have placed a bulk order for **school uniform** based on our estimates of what would usually be required at this stage of the year. This order has not arrived yet, and we only have a small number of items in school. We will let you know when the bulk order arrives and make arrangements for you to buy anything you require, or place a specific order if we do not have what you need.
- Socially distant **individual visits for families/children due to start in Reception and Nursery** at Eastlea in September have been arranged for early July. We will be using the systems which worked well earlier this month for our most recent Nursery starters. By now those due to attend will have been contacted to arrange a date/time for them to come. The majority of visits are taking place on **1st July** (new Reception) and **8th July** (new Nursery). We look forward to welcoming everyone.
- A **farewell event for Year 6** has also been put in the diary for **4pm on Tuesday 14th July** – which will take place outside following appropriate social distancing guidelines. Parents of Year 6 should look out for an invitation/further details and we do hope that everyone in the class will be able to attend.

Please continue to take care and stay safe and well!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

