



Tuesday 13th December 2016



Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of another busy term at Eastlea, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the many events which have been happening in the build up to Christmas and to thank you for the part you have played in making everything happen so successfully...and for your generosity, especially this half term.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

This term started with the annual Remembrance Day poppy appeal. Year 6 were in charge of selling the poppies and other British Legion items in school and we were totally amazed by the total raised – which we were only informed about last week. We raised an amazing **£443.57** which almost doubles what we have collected in previous years for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you!

Children In Need

Thank you for all your support with our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' fundraising activities. We raised a huge total this year with **£400.40** going towards this national charity event.

Christmas Fair

On Friday 2nd December, the 'Friends of Eastlea' organised our annual Eastlea Christmas Fair. For the last five years, we have raised fantastic totals at these events (£860 in 2011, £1145.71 in 2012, £1163.20 in 2013, £1426.16 in 2014 and £1495 in 2015). We did not think it possible to surpass this total – but thanks to your support we did!!! A fantastic **£1643.20** was raised which goes to support our Golden Day events! **A HUGE THANK YOU** for the support of everyone who came to the fair and/or bought raffle tickets.

Christmas shoe boxes

Thank you to everyone who supported our request for items for the Operation Christmas Child 'shoe boxes' appeal coordinated by Mrs Weatherson. A group of Year 5 children delivered items which had been collected in school to the local appeal centre in Doxford Church and spent a very busy and enjoyable morning helping to pack several shoeboxes for the appeal. A certificate was presented to the children and we received very positive feedback about how sensible and enthusiastic the Eastlea children were. We heard last week that over 4700 boxes had been dispatched from Cramlington to children in need in Romania. We wish all those children 'Craciun Fericit!'...Happy Christmas!

'Around the UK' reading challenge awards

Our 'Around the UK' reading challenge started at the end of September and the children have been eagerly reading at home and getting their reading records signed each week. The first Bronze awards were presented on 5th December and so far we have been able to present certificates to **98** children – our highest total yet for the initial bronze awards. These pupils are already starting on their silver bookmark! If your child hasn't yet received the bronze award, it is not too late! Encourage them to keep reading and more certificates will be awarded in the New Year! **Reading in the Christmas holiday counts as one sticker to convert into climbing one rung of the reading ladder!**

Year 6 Festive Lunch for parents

Parents and family members of our Year 6 pupils were invited to a Festive Lunch in the school hall on Tuesday 29th November as part of their 'Enterprise project'. Following the success of a much smaller similar event last year, we were delighted with the success of this year's event – in which the Year 6 children catered for 40 adults in the school hall. They had to prepare the food, set up the tables, decorate the hall, serve and clear the meal as well as entertain their guests with carol singing. All of this followed their visit to the Chef School at the Toby Carvery earlier this half term. **The feedback we received from our guests (parents, grandparents and governors) was superb** – thank you to everyone who attended!

Christmas productions

I must also put in writing my thanks for your huge support last week when each key stage performed their Christmas plays. The response as always was fantastic, but is not something that we take for granted. It was lovely for the children to have such a full audience for each one of their productions.

The refreshments were also well received and **£98.64** was raised in donations for these and the Christmas items which were on sale. This goes towards our Golden Day funds.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair, coordinated by Mrs Lister also proved to be successful this year. We were delighted that so many of you found the time and money to purchase books last week. Once again your generosity meant that we sold **£305** worth of books. This total is 'matched' by our 100% commission deal so it means that we have been able to add another £305 worth of fiction and non-fiction books to our class libraries for all the children to enjoy.

Carol Singing

Our talented carol singers have been 'out and about' in recent days in Cramlington. This morning the singing club performed a selection of songs and carols at Hartford Court care home – which was gratefully received by the residents and staff! Yesterday morning, Year 6 completed a festive 'carol singing and bag back' session at ASDA. This was part of their fundraising for their Enterprise Fund and they were delighted to raise **£292.68** to support future class visits and activities.

Carol service at St Nicholas' Church

Tomorrow we have the now traditional Eastlea nativity service at St Nicholas' Church. This event is always well supported and I know that Mrs Buxton, one of the ministry team who the children met at our Harvest festival, is keen to again welcome us to church and give us all a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Please feel free to join us at 2pm at the church if you wish to take part.

Christmas Golden Day

As I am sure you are aware from your children, everyone who has earned the right to take part in Golden Day is excitedly looking forward to Thursday!! 'Magic Mick' will entertain the pupils in Nursery in the morning and I know that the pantomime visit to see 'Cinderella' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle for the rest of the school will be superb! The children are already excited about the fun they are going to have at the theatre and KS1 will also see the Beatrix Potter themed Fenwick's window. **May I remind you that school uniform is required for Golden Day, although 'Santa hats' can also be worn. Please remember that the pupils will not be back until at least 5.15pm from the theatre – and all pupils will be dismissed from the school hall on our return.**

Sports Awards success

On 1st December four pupil representatives from KS2 accompanied Mrs Coleby, Miss Beeston, and Mrs Welsh (governor) to the Hub at CLV for the second Cramlington & Seaton Valley Sports Awards event. We were very proud to receive our **GOLD School Games award** which we have now retained for the last 3 years! Our KS2 Singing Club were asked to perform as the guests arrived for the presentation and they also sang the school games anthem as part of the ceremony itself. We had many positive comments about how well they sang at such a prestigious event – well done!



Attendance

The overall half term class winners for attendance and punctuality in the second half of the autumn term will receive their certificates in January, once the outcomes for this final week have been calculated. However, I thought you would be interested to see the weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the previous six weeks of this half term - included in the following table:

Attendance (One winner per week)		Year 1 – once	Year 3 – once		Year 5 – 4 times	
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception – once	Year 1 – once		Year 4 – once	Year 5 – 3 times	Year 6 - twice

N.B. Year 4, who did not manage to earn one of the awards in the first half term, did earn the punctuality plaque for one week on this occasion – meaning every class has now won something during the term!

Year 4 swimming – advance notice

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session is on Tuesday 10th January and we have again managed to secure a longer afternoon session for our lessons, which we are delighted about. This means that the children will have a one hour session at the pool for 12 weeks in the spring term rather than short half hour lessons over two terms. The cost of each longer lesson is only £4.50 per week, thanks to the school subsidising the costs of the lesson and the transport. The swimming lessons are part of the KS2 PE curriculum but in order for us to provide this for the children we have to pay for the instructors and the coach transport to get us to the pool at Concordia. In common with the other schools in the Cramlington partnership we therefore ask for a donation from parents (£4.50) each week. Without these contributions, the lessons will not be able to go ahead in this format. A letter with further information about this will be sent out for Year 4 parents/carers in the first week back in January.

Important Reminder for parents of Nursery pupils

We have been asked by county to remind parents that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15th January 2017**. Any children born between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013 need to apply for entry to Reception 2017. Parents need to make an application for their child to join Eastlea Reception class in September, even if they already attend our Nursery. Information, Handbooks and application forms are available online at: www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Alternatively, paper forms are available on request from: School Admissions Team, Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

Other reminders and advance updates

- In recent weeks we have had some 'lapses' in school uniform with more children wearing trainers, leggings or jeans which are NOT school uniform, and some not having their PE kit in school. We hope that black school shoes and trousers will be smartly worn again by all pupils in January and that PE kits will be in school every day. Everyone always comments on how smart the children look in their Eastlea uniform and we would like to maintain these high standards. Your support with this is much appreciated.
- Following the resurfacing of the approach road and surrounding estate roads in recent weeks, it was understandably more complicated without the road markings to see exactly where cars should/should not be parked. Now that the markings have been redone, can we ask that anyone bringing a car to school continues to be aware of the needs of local residents to be able to access and leave their properties without drives being blocked. Thank you!
- School lunches in the first week back in January will follow the winter menu cycle as before. **However, on the first day back for pupils (Wednesday 4th January) the cook will prepare the 'Healthy All Day breakfast' instead of the usual option on that day – due to difficulties with getting fresh ingredients delivered after the new year bank holiday.**

Happy Christmas...and don't forget the early finish on Friday!!

And finally, just a reminder that the pupils break up on Friday for their Christmas holidays with **an early finish at 2pm**.

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. Have a happy holiday and we will see you all again on **Wednesday 4th January 2017** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Tuesday 3rd January is a staff training day)

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston

Head Teacher