



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday marks the end of the first half of the summer term, which means that when we return after the half term break we will have only 7 weeks left of this school year. The time is flying! This letter includes a few updates and reminders before the children break up on Friday.

### Y6 SATs and writing moderation

Our Year 6 children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of themselves. Last week they completed their national assessments in reading, maths arithmetic/reasoning plus 'SPaG'. This was their chance to 'show off' everything they have learned throughout Key Stage 2 and they did just that – **well done to them all!** In a few weeks time their written work will be 'moderated' in discussion with staff from another school. This is something they are now looking ahead to and working hard to make sure their writing is the very best that it can be.

### Children's Cancer Run

The weather on Sunday was cooler than recent years but fine for 'running'. 29 pupils from our Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 running club together with staff, plus other family members and ex-pupils took part in the Cancer Run at Gosforth Park. They seemed delighted with their purple t-shirts and medals awarded for completion of the race. As always, our owl banner could be seen at the finish line and thanks to Mrs Scott for the chocolate owl cake – very tasty indeed! Well done and thanks to everyone who supported this event!

### 'Walk to School' week

We have been pleased to be able to present so many stickers to children in recent days who have walked, scooted or biked to school. The Brainwaves have done us proud once again – at the school gates each morning with their sandwich boards reminding people why it is better to walk to school (where possible). For those further away, good use has been made of the Church of the Nazarene 'park and stride' carpark. THANK YOU!

### Out and about – representing Eastlea

In recent weeks we have had lots of children out and about, or in school, representing Eastlea at a range of different events and activities. We are always delighted to receive positive feedback on the attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm shown by our pupils – something we expect, but never take for granted!

- **Reception** had fantastic feedback from the staff at Whitehouse Farm on their class visit last month, as did **Year 2** when they completed a workshop linked to their Castles, Kings and Queens topic at Newcastle Castle. This has inspired the children to make some marvellous creations as part of their homework project – well done!
- **Year 3** loved their visit to St James' Park and came back with lots to share about their experiences in the ground and on the rooftop 4G pitch.
- A group of **Brainwaves** were chosen to speak to the judges from Northumbria in Bloom to explain how the painted underpass project had come about. The judges were very impressed and loved the colourful designs which have helped to brighten our local community.
- **Year 4** went out to complete some 'field work' in Horton Park and were praised by those they interviewed for their approach and good manners. Brilliant!
- Our **Y3/Y4 Quad athletics teams** took part in events at Astley High and came back covered in stickers which showed the school games values they had demonstrated during the morning. Unfortunately, the Y5/Y6 athletics event was called off this week due to the wet weather!
- The 3 Northumbria University students who completed the Stormbreak project with classes across the school and invited **Year 3/Year 4** to a team building festival at Newbiggin were very impressed with the friendliness of the pupils (and staff)!!
- A small group of **Y3/Y4 mathematicians** spent today with other KS2 pupils at Shanklea further improving their reasoning and problem-solving skills.
- The children attending **Nursery** on Monday morning were treated to a storytelling workshop brought to life by Ashleigh from Adventure Babies with fibre optic lights and star torches – a magical 'early' Golden Day experience for our youngest children.
- **Year 6** visited Nissan for their Monozukuri Caravan workshop last month and then returned on Tuesday for the Eco-school session, laden with wind turbines they had designed and made themselves. This was followed by a visit from Connor, from the Northumberland College green skills team, who reinforced their knowledge of the use of wind turbines and renewable energy in Northumberland.



### Golden Day reminder

On Friday we are celebrating our May Golden Day with a pirate/mermaid themed day for Nursery and a visit to Lilidorei at The Alnwick Garden for the rest of the school.

Please remember that for those heading to Alnwick school uniform is not required on the day and **the children MUST be in school at 8.30am so we can be registered and sorted for a prompt departure.** A packed lunch and drink is required, as well as a small towel and change of clothes/shoes for children from Year 3 to Year 6. Please check the previous letter (Seesaw/Tapestry/website) for full details. The weather is looking 'mixed' with rain showers forecast during the day, so make sure your child comes to school wearing a coat/waterproof, warm clothing and sensible outdoor footwear.



### HUGGG vouchers for children in receipt of benefit based Free School Meals

A reminder that the last of the HUGGG vouchers (£20 per eligible child) for the half term holiday will be sent out in the next day or so, when the funds are allocated from NCC. Vouchers are for food/clothes only and have to be used before the deadline which will be given in the email. Northumberland are one of only a few Local Authorities who have continued to provide these vouchers since the Covid pandemic, but it is my understanding that this will be the last time they are issued.

### Planets Reading Challenge...who will become a Champion Reader?

140 children have now been presented with their GOLD Planets reading challenge award! This is brilliant news and we know that there are more GOLD awards still to come. We are also wondering who will become a Champion Reader? To do this, having gained bronze, silver and gold the children are required to maintain their reading homework routines for at least another 8 weeks. **Please can we ask that you continue to encourage your child to read at home and make time to sign their reading records each week.** We will continue to present reading awards until the end of the school year so bronze, silver or gold awards can also be achieved up until July.

### School Uniform, the Hope Centre and the on-site Clothes Bank

It was good to be able to 'redistribute' some donated uniform a couple of weeks ago. I know that the families who took advantage of this were pleased not to have to buy new uniform for the last half term of the school year. Remember, there are also stocks of FREE uniform at the Hope Centre all year round – if you are not sure where this is, just ask a member of staff or email directly at: [hope1uniform@gmail.com](mailto:hope1uniform@gmail.com)

We also seem to be gathering more than the usual number of items of lost property which is taking up a lot of staff time to sort out. The difficulties of retrieving lost items are made much worse when items are not named. **We try our best to return items that are lost but please can we ask that over half term you check that everything your child brings to school is named.** Thank you!

Thanks also to everyone who has donated pre-loved clothes (anything except school uniform!) to our 'Clothes Bank' on site near the bin store. Please continue to make use of this facility as every kilogram of clothes helps raise money for the school. Thank you.

**And finally...**we finish at the usual time on Friday after Golden Day ready for the half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June for the remaining 7 weeks of the school year.

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

