



Dear Parents/Carers,



**Thank you for your support with our fundraising today for Comic Relief** – everyone looked great in their items of red and/or red noses, the break time treats were enjoyed by each class and many of the jokes made us laugh!! We aim to put some of the best ones on the school Facebook page later so you can **share the smiles...**and everyone should bring a poster home for their window too!

### Thoughts from a year ago

The contrast between celebrating Comic Relief in March 2021 and the lockdown we were embarking on one year ago is very stark.

In writing this letter, I am aware that it was on this day last year that I was putting together a newsletter to confirm the first Covid lockdown 'closure' of Eastlea which took effect from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We have reminded the children about this in our Zoom assembly this morning and recognise how much our lives have changed in the 12 months since that date.

Next week's National Day of Reflection is a sobering reminder of the impact of this pandemic and while we do not want to dwell on this with the children, we are aware how many Eastlea families have been 'touched' by the devastating effects of Covid. **As outlined in the letter from Northumberland County Council earlier this week, please do all you can to continue to follow the national rules in terms of avoiding mixing between households and reminding children that they still cannot play out in large groups, go to sleep overs with friends etc.**

There are still cases in the local area and the potential for classes/bubbles to close at Eastlea remains very real if an infection is brought into school, so your vigilance is much appreciated.

### Golden Day

With the ongoing Covid 'interruptions' since Christmas our usual spring term at Eastlea has been curtailed. It hardly seems possible that we only have one week of school left before we break up for the Easter holidays. But even though it will have been a short 3 weeks in school for the majority of pupils, we couldn't let the end of term pass without an Eastlea Golden Day. So, we have some fun planned in 5 school days' time on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March** when we will be celebrating our...

# ★ EASTER GOLDEN DAY! ★

The previous Golden Day in February was 'virtual' so at least this time around the children can enjoy their time with all their friends in class – as long as they have stayed out of the red traffic lights and earned the right to attend. Fingers crossed they all make it!!

- The staff are planning a range of 'Easter themed' activities in class bubbles on the day
- It will be **A NON-UNIFORM DAY FOR EVERYONE!** (*no particular theme – just something casual...and as always with our Golden Days, NO fine to pay!!*)
- We will also draw our 'class bubble' **Easter raffle**, so it is important that any tickets/money are returned with your child as soon as possible and by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> at the latest. If anyone wants to buy more tickets these can be collected from the school office.
- **Lunchtime arrangements will follow the usual pattern** – so school dinners or packed lunches will be eaten in the school hall following the normal arrangements.
- **We will also finish the day early for the Easter holidays as we usually do at the end of term** – so instead of 3.00 / 3.15, the end of the day departure times will be **1.45pm / 2.00pm**



A few extra updates and reminders:

- **Park and Stride from the Church of the Nazarene carpark** – several people have commented on how much busier it has been with more cars bringing children to and from school. **Please do try to be considerate to local homeowners and do not block access to driveways or the nearby cul-de-sac – thank you!** Remember that you still have the option of parking at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and walking from there – especially now the spring weather is here, this would be a good option!
- **Bikes and Scooters** – it has been great to see children coming to school on their bikes/scooters but please ensure that children have a lock for their bikes so that they can be safely stored on the cycle racks, thank you!
- **Postage stamps** – just before Christmas we explained that we would be collecting used postage stamps for the RNIB. This is something we still intend to do, so please bring any stamps into school which you may have for this worthwhile cause.
- **Grassroots Easter sports and activity week** – unfortunately this event has had to be cancelled as there were not enough participants. Grassroots will be in contact with those who did book places to organise a refund of the money paid.
- **Y5/Y6 July ‘residential’** – we have been delighted with the response to our planned Eastlea based residential in July. Please can we ask that letters/deposits are returned as soon as possible.
- **Roof repairs at school (eventually!!)** – after many years we have been successful in securing county council funding to repair our leaking roof. The plan is that the work will be undertaken over the next couple of months which is great news.  
**There will be contractors on site from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March as scaffolding starts to be put in place for the main works which will begin over the Easter holidays.**  
Please keep your children with you when on the Eastlea site, remind them to stay away from the construction containers/building works and bear with us in terms of following any revised systems/guidance we need to put in place to keep everyone safe while the repairs are completed. **THANK YOU!**



Yours sincerely,

Miss Beeston, Head Teacher