



16<sup>th</sup> December 2014



Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of another very busy autumn 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.

### **Children In Need**

Thank you for all your support with our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' fundraising activities. We raised a record total this year of **£320.10** as part of this national charity event.

### **Royal British Legion Poppy appeal**

We gave the poppy appeal a high priority this year due to the centenary of World War One remembrance. The work produced in school around this theme was of the highest quality and the result of our collection from the sale of poppies and other poppy related items is that a fantastic total of **£185.90** was raised for the British legion – thank you!

### **Peter Bakare Olympic athlete sponsored fitness event**

Many families provided great support for this fundraising initiative. The amount of sponsor money collected by some children was amazing and as a result, even though not everyone was able to find sponsors, those who did, managed to raise in excess of £1300 which meant that we had about £650 to spend on PE equipment in school. Several items have been 'ticked off' the Sports Council wish list with 2 netball posts, a speed bounce, a spring board, 2 sets of hula hoops, 2 sets of skipping ropes and 4 playground footballs being purchased. We are eagerly awaiting their delivery in the New Year! All children who raised in excess of £5.00 will by now have received their wrist band(s) and some also were rewarded with a signed poster of Peter Bakare. Well done!

### **Christmas Fair**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December the 'Friends of Eastlea' organised our annual Eastlea Christmas Fair. For the last three years we have raised fantastic totals at these events (£860 in 2011, £1145.71 in 2012 and £1163.20 in 2013). We never thought we would beat this – but once again we did!!! A fantastic total of **£1426.16** 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 appeal for items for the Operation Christmas Child 'shoe boxes' appeal coordinated by Mrs Weatherson. Altogether we provided 12 shoe boxes which were delivered to the local appeal centre in Doxford Church. A certificate was presented to the school in recognition of our donation and it is lovely to think that we will have put a smile on the face of 12 children facing true hardships this Christmas!

### **Reading awards**

As you know, following the successful launch of our 'Circus Reading Challenge' in October we have been encouraging the pupils from Nursery to Year 6 to **climb the bronze circus ladders**. Many of the pupils have been eagerly reading at home and getting you to sign their reading records each week. So far we have been able to present certificates to **87** children who have achieved the **Bronze award** this term. 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!**

### **Frozen Film Fest**

Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Frozen Film Fest' event, coordinated by Year 6 pupils as part of their enterprise fundraising project. Everyone who attended was very excited and they were treated to a superb evening thanks to the efforts of Year 6 and all the staff who supported the event. 'A winter wonderland' was created in the courtyard and hall, the singing club provided a 'musical greeting', the hot chocolate, cakes and gifts were well received and the hall was filled with singing every time a song started on the film! Photos are on the website if you haven't yet seen them! Magic!!

## 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 we got was fantastic and it was great for the children to have such a full audience for each one of their productions. The refreshments were also well received and **£57** was raised in donations which we are putting towards our Golden day funds.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair, coordinated by Mrs Lister also proved to be popular again 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 in fact we sold **£434** worth of books. Thanks to the 100% commission deal which we secured, this means that the school has been able to add another £434 worth of fiction and non-fiction books to our school library for all the children to enjoy.

## Carol Singing

We have had continued success with our talented carol singers this year from both the KS2 singing club and Year 6. Our singing club of pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed the Cramlington 'Big Christmas Sing' event which took place at the JLV on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. The massed choir from most of the primaries in the town as well as representatives from the high school was superb and the carol singing around the Christmas tree was very atmospheric...if a little chilly!! The singing club are also due to perform a selection of songs and carols tomorrow morning at Hartford Court care home – which is always a popular event for the pupils involved!

As well as this, Year 6 have been 'out and about' carol singing and were a credit to the school on both occasions. They raised a huge amount of money in support of their enterprise fund (**£586.61**) by carol singing and bag packing at ASDA on 4<sup>th</sup> December and in Sainsbury's on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## Holly and the Ivy

This afternoon after our tasty Christmas lunch we were again treated to a 'concert' featuring musicians Laura, David and Stewart who entertained us with songs, dancing and stories linked to the season of Christmas. This event was funded by a generous donation from an Eastlea family for which we are very grateful!

## Carol service at St Nicholas' Church

Tomorrow we have the Eastlea nativity service at St Nicholas' Church. This event is always well supported and I know that Revd Steve is keen to 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 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle for the rest of the school will be superb! **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 will be dismissed from the school hall on our return.**

## Newspaper coverage

I'm sure you cannot fail to have noticed the many instances of Eastlea being featured in the local press this term. In recent weeks some of our key events have made the paper – notably the Harvest Welly walk in October, the Year 6 visit to the Toby Carvery in November, our support of the 'Dominos' pets /health care story and of course our GOLD School Games award. It is always great to have our achievements recognised in this way.

## The Blue Peter Book Awards 2015

I am delighted to inform you that Eastlea has been selected as one of only 10 schools from across the UK to judge the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Blue Peter Book Awards. There are 6 shortlisted fiction and non-fiction books and pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 will be busily reading the texts and providing feedback as to which book should win the fiction and the non-fiction prize. We have until February to submit our responses and the winning titles will be announced on 'World Book Day' in March. To take part in this national event is a real 'feather in the cap' for Eastlea. More details can be found at [www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/bpba](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/bpba)

### **Parking update from Northumbria Police**

On the reverse of this letter is a copy of some information sent to parents of pupils attending all Cramlington schools. We have had far fewer parking difficulties here at Eastlea in recent months and I must thank parents for their common sense and sensitivity in terms of respecting the needs of our local neighbours.

The letter from the police is simply a reminder of the procedures that will be followed if parking difficulties do emerge.

### **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 table below:

<b>Attendance</b> (Usually one winner per week)	<b>Punctuality</b> (often shared by 2 or more classes each week)
Reception – once ( <i>for the first time ever!!</i> )	Reception – once
	Year 2 – 3 times
Year 3 – 3 times	Year 3 – twice
	Year 4 – twice
Year 6 – 3 times	Year 6 – once

### **Year 4 swimming – advance notice**

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January and for the first time we have 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 11 weeks in the spring term rather than short half hour lessons over two terms. The cost of each longer lesson is £4.50 per week. Year 4 children will need to bring their swimming kits and £4.50 on the first day back after the holiday – we will send a reminder text out to all Year 4 parents the day before!!

### **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 **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January is a staff training day)

Yours sincerely

*E Beeston*

Miss E Beeston  
Head Teacher