



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday will mark the end of the summer term at Eastlea and 'bring the curtain down' on another school year. This newsletter provides some end of term updates as well as looking ahead to some items for over the summer and into September.

Eastlea Leavers...pupils and staff

- Yesterday parents/family members, staff and governors attended the Year 6 Leavers' celebration event. We were not taking any chances with the weather so this took place in the school hall and it seemed to be well received by those who came. We wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck at whichever school they are moving to in September and know that if they believe in themselves and keep working hard they will achieve everything they set out to do.
- We also say farewell to those in Nursery who are moving to other schools for their Reception year. I know they are very sad to have to leave us and we will miss them very much. We hope you settle well in your new schools and look forward to hearing about how you are getting on in the future.
- I know you will join me in wishing Miss Betham the best of luck as she prepares for the birth of her first child – due in the first few weeks of the summer holidays! As you know, Miss Gaddes will be covering her role as Y2 class teacher from September.
- Miss Craig who has supported the Year 3 children this year is leaving us to pursue her teaching career from September and we wish her every success with the next steps of her career.
- And finally we also say goodbye this week to Miss Atkinson (not Mrs Atkinson!!) who stepped in to support in Year 4 and will be continuing her Primary Education teaching degree at university in the autumn term. We are grateful for the time she has spent at Eastlea.

Reading Challenge and Champion Readers

Our 'Planets reading challenge' has been very successful this year. We have high 'totals' at the end of the year with **222 bronze, 186 silver and 171 gold award winners**. Today we presented Champion Reader awards to those pupils who kept reading / getting their reading record signed for at least another 8 weeks, even after they have achieved their gold award! Well done to them all...there were **133** in total who were presented with a gold balloon in our assembly this morning. Congratulations!



Over the summer we would also encourage your child(ren) to get involved in the reading challenge run by the local libraries. We have already shared information about the '**Marvellous Makers**' holiday challenge which encourages children to borrow and read 6 books runs throughout the summer holidays. There are lots of prizes and incentives on offer and it is not too late to get started. Children can either enrol at their local library or online at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Mrs Lister will reward the children who complete the challenge with a summer reading picnic in September. This challenge is always very well supported by the Eastlea children and I wonder how many will complete it this summer?

Golden Day reminder

Tomorrow we will be having our end of year 'Silly Olympics' themed Golden Day. Everyone will be taking part in an active day of various activities and Nursery and Reception also have an Olympic workshop led by Taylor from 'Mini Athletics'. All the details were provided in the previous letter (see Seesaw/Tapestry/school website). School uniform is not required on Thursday and there is no fine to pay. We do not know what sort of weather we will have tomorrow but have a range of indoor/outdoor sessions planned depending on the forecast. Please make sure your child has a **packed lunch/drink** for their 'picnic' lunch, a **towel/change of clothes, coat** and a **water bottle** with them. If we do have sunshine then applying sun cream would also be a good idea!

N.B. Don't forget that Y6 pupils are being dismissed at 3pm after Golden Day so they have time to get home/changed/back to school to head out for their Leavers meal at Sambucas at 4pm.

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

Having thought the voucher scheme was coming to an end I was pleased to find that HUGGG vouchers have been provided for the upcoming summer holiday and these were distributed yesterday. These holiday vouchers are funded by UK Government DWP Household Support Fund and we have been asked to pass on the following reminder:

Vouchers must only be used to purchase food or clothing and the expiry date is 30th September 2024. The voucher must not be sold, passed on or used for any other purpose. If you are not able to use it, or do not require the vouchers for food/clothing please contact the school and arrange for its return. Northumberland County Council reserve the right to carry out checks to ensure the vouchers are used for their intended purpose, and by accepting this voucher you agree to these checks being undertaken. If anyone is found to mis-use the voucher Northumberland County Council may take action to recover the money, in full, from you as well as taking any other action they deem appropriate.

School uniform – a reminder

Most parents/carers who ordered uniform or PE tracksuits in recent weeks have received their items already. We do still have a few items in stock in some sizes if anyone has realised they want anything else. Remember that pre-loved school uniform can also be obtained FREE OF CHARGE from the Hope Centre.

As I always do at this stage of the year, may I also take this opportunity to remind you of the uniform requirements at Eastlea.

Uniform list

- School sweatshirt/cardigan in navy blue (available with the Eastlea logo) [N.B. school hoodies are not to be worn other than on PE days]
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Grey/black trousers/shorts or skirt (leggings are not appropriate)
- Summer option – blue check/stripe dress
- Black school shoes or ****PLAIN totally black trainers**

***Please note we plan to trial a system of allowing plain totally black trainers as part of school uniform. This would mean that the plain black trainers could be worn on both uniform and PE days, to avoid families having the expense of buying a pair of school shoes AND a different pair of trainers. If you wish to continue to with black school shoes (for uniform days) and a different pair of trainers for PE days (another colour) that is fine.*

P.E. kit

- School tracksuit bottoms/and hoodie (if you have one) – or PLAIN navy tracksuit without logos.
- Plain white t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers
- Younger children can wear black sandshoes or bare feet for indoor P.E.

Jewellery... **A REMINDER ABOUT EARRINGS!!**

No jewellery can be worn in school and we have a policy of **NO EARRINGS**. ***So if you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced it needs to be done at the very start of the summer holidays so they can remove earrings before they come back to school in September.*** Clear plastic spacers can be worn in school if required once ears are pierced and these can be obtained from the school office if needed.

Seesaw and Tapestry update

The Tapestry and Seesaw systems will be inactive over the summer holiday until a few days before the start of the new school year. If you have an urgent message to share with us then the admin email and school Facebook page will be monitored periodically over the school holidays.

In the last week of the summer holiday the Seesaw systems will be updated to 'move children up' to their next class. Please bear with us if there are any glitches with this as this is a job usually done by Miss Betham!!

HOPE UNIFORM & BABY BANK



We accept donations of good quality pre-owned school clothing and redistribute it to parents/guardians and children through our uniform bank. This service is free and no referral is required.



Donated baby and nursery items are free to collect by parents or guardians following a referral from a professional person, e.g. midwife, social worker, health visitor.

Uniform Monday-Friday 10:00–16:00
Nursery by appointment
Email hope1uniform@gmail.com
Forum Way NE23 6SJ

 **Keeping It Local** 

Looking ahead to September

- **Breakfast club:** this remains very popular for lots of children, and we have kept the price at £2.50 for many years. However, we are struggling to cover the food/staff salary costs and at times have found it difficult to have to manage higher numbers when several children arrive who staff were not expecting. We are therefore going to have to increase the price after the summer holiday. From September the price per child per day will be:
 - **£3.00** if a booking is made a day or more in advance.
 - **£3.50** if children just turn up on the day with no advance booking made.
- **School lunches:** We are all aware how much the cost of everything, including food has gone up in recent times. Despite this, I am pleased to say that we are aiming to keep the price of school meals the same for as long we can. So, from September, the costs for those parents who pay for school meals will remain the same: **£2.20 for Nursery** and **£2.50 for Year 3 to Year 6 lunches**. Money must be paid on the day/week that lunches are taken.

Can we also remind everyone that due to allergies experienced by some children at Eastlea we need to reinforce our **NO NUTS in school policy**. Children who bring in food for packed lunches / snacks need to ensure that these are nut free at all times to protect the health and safety of everyone in school (this includes anything with Nutella and some cereal bars). Thank you for your support with this.
- **Water bottles:** From September we need to remind everyone that water bottles should be brought to school each day containing **WATER only** and not transported in reading folders. There are more and more instances of juice etc being brought instead of water and this is not good for dental health and also makes a real mess if there are spillages in the classrooms. *If there is a particular reason why this will be a problem for your child then this will need to be discussed with your child's class teacher and we will see what we can do to support.* Metal water bottles tend to last longer and are less easy to break, although we are aware that they are a little more expensive.

Also, please can we ask that water bottles are of a **standard size!** Some of the new 'in vogue' brands of water bottles are enormous and we do not have space to store them. Thank you for your support with this.
- **Attendance:** there are new national guidelines coming into effect ready for the start of the new school year which will change the way that attendance is recorded/coded/tracked. Further information about this will be shared in September, but to give you advance information this is what has been shared with me so far:

New legislation comes into force on 19th August 2024 regarding the issue of Penalty Notices to address attendance concerns to commence, there will be a transitional period, but this new legislation will take effect for absences recorded from the start of the new academic year commencing in September 2024.

The following changes have been made:

- *There will be a new "National Framework" which introduces consistency in the use of Penalty Notices across England by introducing a new national threshold at which they are considered. This will be met when a pupil has been recorded as absent for 10 sessions (5 school days) within a rolling period of 10 school weeks*
- *The National Framework also introduces a new national limit of 2 Penalty Notices within a 3-year rolling period.*
- *Penalty Notices can be requested by schools and academies and will be issued by the Local Authority to the parents/carers of statutory school age children, per parent, per child as appropriate.*
- *For a first offence, the Penalty Notice will be £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days rising to £160 if paid after the 21 days – it must be paid within 28 days.*
- *For a second offence, the amount is £160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days.*

Please note that a third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent for the same child within three years of the date of issue of the first. Prosecution / other interventions will be considered.

N.B. A copy of the Eastlea term dates is included below which should help in planning family holidays avoiding term time.

EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIST FOR 2024 / 25

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
Summer 2024 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Friday 19 July 2024 <u>MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024</u>	Tuesday 3 September 2024
October Mid-Term 2024 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Thursday 24 October 2024 <u>FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2024</u>	Monday 4 November 2024
Christmas/New Year 2024/2025 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Friday 20 December 2024 <u>MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2025</u>	Tuesday 7 January 2025
Spring Mid-Term 2025	Friday 21 February 2025	Monday 3 March 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 11 April 2025	Monday 28 April 2025
<u>MAY DAY</u>	<u>MONDAY 5 MAY 2025</u>	
Summer Mid-Term 2025 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Thursday 22 May 2025 <u>FRIDAY 23 MAY 2025</u>	Monday 2 June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday 18 July 2025	Monday 1 September 2025

And finally...end of term at 2pm on Friday 19th July

Please remember that the pupils will finish school at 2pm on Friday for the end of term. I'm sure the children won't forget!!

I would like to once again thank everyone for their support this year. I hope that you have a safe and restful summer holiday before the children return on Tuesday 3rd September!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher