



Dear Parents/Carers,

We had a busy time last week as we welcomed everyone back after Easter and I wish to extend an especially warm welcome to our new Nursery starters who joined us last week.

Summer weather

Despite the forecast for the coming week, we are all hoping for some summery weather over the next term. Wellies are no longer needed (other than for Gardening Club!), but on sunny days please apply sun cream before children come to school if appropriate. A cap/hat would also be a good idea. Water bottles should continue to be brought in every day – there are a few children who are forgetting which makes things awkward in school. Thank you!

Uniform and PE kits

As we start the summer term we hope to make good use of the field (weather permitting) and have as many outdoor sessions as possible for our summer PE topics. Class teachers will keep you informed about which days PE kit is required and on these days school tracksuits or **PLAIN** dark blue or black jogging bottoms/leggings can be worn as well as the school sweatshirt or PE hoodie and trainers. Blue/black shorts can also be worn (perhaps under the school tracksuit to cover all weather options!)

On the days when there is no PE, then school uniform should be worn as usual with black school shoes. Grey/black 'uniform' shorts can be worn or blue/check summer dresses etc. If cartwheels, handstands or other 'gymnastic' moves are to be undertaken on the field at breaks or lunchtimes then trousers/shorts must be worn for obvious reasons!

Remember pre-loved Eastlea uniform can be obtained FREE of charge from the Hope Centre in Cramlington. Rather than buying new items for the remaining weeks of the school year, this might be a good option before the summer holidays.

Clothes Recycling Bank – part of the School Connect project

You may have spotted the white clothes recycling bank which arrived on the Eastlea site before Easter and is currently placed near to the bin store/wildlife garden area. This is part of a project spearheaded by Brainwaves, to encourage more people to recycle their unloved clothing and textiles through schools, to raise money but also help our planet.

Pre-loved clothing can be placed in the clothes bank and we ask your support with this project. All of the good quality clothing which we receive will be collected and then re-sold, re-used or recycled, helping to lessen the impact of waste on the environment and reduce carbon footprint.

When the clothes banks are emptied we will be paid money for the clothing collected. (**£300 per tonne of clothing, which works out at 30p per kilo. A full clothes bank is apparently around £70.**) For every 1000kg of clothing recycled through our school, we will be gifted an apple tree to plant with the children or a buddy bench.



Reception allocation of places for September 2023

For only the second time ever, this year we have families who have children attending our Eastlea Nursery who have not managed to secure a place for their child in our Reception class for September 2023. This is a very difficult situation which I know has been upsetting for those concerned. We all feel very sorry about this but it is totally out of our hands. There is nothing we can do to squeeze any more into Reception as there is a statutory limit called 'infant class size legislation' which means we are legally not allowed to go over our school admission number of 30 in that class. We know our Nursery is very popular, but for 2023 there was a higher than expected number locally requesting places to join Eastlea in Reception. If you have been faced with not getting a place then please continue to liaise with me so we can support you through the various options in the coming weeks/months.

Staffing update

We will be sad to say farewell to one of our teaching assistants at the end of this week. Miss Jubb, who has been at Eastlea for a few years in voluntary and then paid support staff roles mainly in Early Years, has been successful in securing employment with the NHS from the start of May. We will be very sorry to see her go and wish her the best of luck in her new career.

Residential visits

The Year 5 children had a super time away at Hawkthirst last week. The weather was kind and Miss Fox noted how enthusiastic the children were in challenging themselves to get involved in all the activities as well as supporting one another every step of the way. The children were a pleasure to take away and huge thanks go to the staff who were willing to arrange the visit and accompany the children for the 3 days. Later this term it will be Year 6's turn to enjoy an Eastlea residential visit when they head to York in July.

Parking

The issues with parking continue, but we hope that the better weather in the summer term will encourage **more children where possible to walk to school or use their bikes/scooters** to come to and from Eastlea each day. It was great to see some pupils doing this last week and a big thank you to those who have realised the benefits of **parking at the Church of the Nazarene** and are walking from there – it really does only take a few minutes to do this.



Can we please ask that those who do still continue to use their cars and come right into the estate, do so with care and consideration for local residents, pedestrians and other car users. The area by the school gates is distinctly marked for emergency vehicle access and should be **KEPT CLEAR** of cars. The school bus bay should also be left clear for the school transport taxi pick up service. Thank you!

It would also help if those who park near to the school leave promptly having dropped off or collected their child so that the space is available for someone else – this might also help to ease congestion. Thank you!

Parent Governor update

As you will remember we are in the process of seeking a new parent governor for Eastlea due to end of the term of office for Mrs Kelsie Raper. Thank you to those who came to talk to me to discuss this role over recent weeks. In the end we will not need to hold an election as Mrs Raper, who had been prepared to stand again, has decided to step back as there was another parent who was keen to take on the role. I am therefore pleased to announce that Mrs Julie Page (Mum of Joe in Year 1) will be the new parent governor as soon as the relevant NCC checks have been completed.

Rocksteady Music Bands

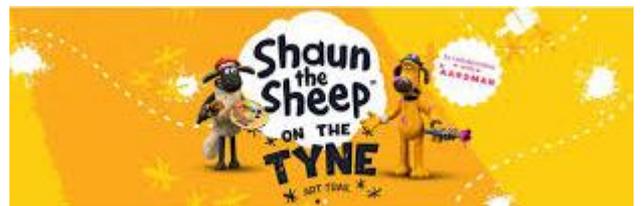


Tuesday mornings are great fun at Eastlea for those children who take part in the rock band music tuition sessions led by band leader Nathan. It would be super if a few more children were able to join these bands and take part – either on electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals. Arrangements for this are made via the Rocksteady organisation and there is a cost involved – however comparative to other private music tuition the price is reasonable.

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 can take part. The flyer shared alongside this letter provides more details and if anyone is interested but wants further information then please talk to me in school.

Shaun the Sheep on the Tyne project

We have been fortunate to be asked to take part in the 'Shaun the Sheep on the Tyne' charity art project organised by St Oswald's Hospice which will be taking place from 19th July – 27th September 2023. Children from Year 1 and Year 2 have been thinking of designs for our Eastlea 'Shaun the Sheep' and they had some super ideas.



The Owlets toddler group supported this project with a fundraising coffee morning before Easter and we hope to have our 'sheep' delivered soon, so that we can start painting it ready for the art trail!! Once we have further details we will keep you informed.

And finally... a calendar of events planned for the rest of this half term is included below together with a list of the clubs which are running before school, at lunchtimes and after school in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

Events and activities for the first half of the summer term

What's on	When and who?
KS2 Volleyball coaching (PE)	Monday afternoons (17 th /24 th April and 15 th / 22 nd May)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 18 th April
Cricket/rounders coaching (PE)	Tuesday afternoons from 18 th April (Y3 and Y6) Thursday afternoons from 20 th April (Y4 and Y5)
Bat and ball skills (PE)	Wednesday afternoons from 19 th April (Y1 and Y2)
Specialist French / Spanish tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 led by Mme Taylor and Mr McCartney/Miss Anderson from 19 th April
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 19 th April led by Miss Midgley and Mrs Hedley
Heights and weights with school health team	Afternoon of Monday 24 th April (Reception and Year 6)
Extra Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 26 th April at 4.30pm
Whole school Daily Mile world record challenge	Thursday 27 th April
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY – Eastlea closed	Monday 1st May – Eastlea closed
H. Tempest class photos	Tuesday 2 nd May
RAVEN drama project session with writer and director	Afternoon of Thursday 4 th May (Year 5)
Presentation of the first GOLD Disney reading challenge awards	Friday 5 th May
Badminton festival at Astley High School	Morning of Friday 5 th May (group of Y4 pupils)
Eastlea celebrates the King's coronation – <i>see separate letter later this week</i>	Afternoon of Friday 5 th May – <i>a red/white/blue dress up day and an afternoon picnic on the field</i>
CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY – Eastlea closed	Monday 8th May – Eastlea closed
KS2 SATs week	Tuesday 9 th – Friday 12 th May (Year 6)
Reading session led by CLV students	Afternoon of Wednesday 10 th May (Year 1)
Children's Cancer Run	Morning of Sunday 14 th May (Y4/5/6 running club)
Secret Agent Training	w/b 15 th and 22 nd May (Year 2)
Educational visit to Whitehouse Farm	Tuesday 16 th May (Reception)
Roots and Shoots – school based session	Thursday 18 th May (Year 5)
Quad Kids Athletics competition at Astley	Friday 19 th May (Y4 morning; Y6 afternoon)
RE Focus day - including assembly led by Revd Wullie	Thursday 25 th May (Reception to Year 6)
May GOLDEN DAY	Friday 26 th May
Break up for summer half term holiday	Friday 26th May
Pupils return for second half of the summer term	Monday 5 th June

Clubs

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
<p>Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). This costs £2.50 per day.</p> 	<p>KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (£2 per session)</p>	<p>Y3/Y4 Gardening Club on Mondays (from 24th April)</p>
		<p>Multi-skills club for Reception on Tuesdays (from 25th April)</p>
		<p>Munchie Maths Club for Y6 on Tuesdays (18th & 25th April / 2nd May)</p>
<p>Bacon Butty Literacy Booster for Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am (19th & 26th April / 3rd May)</p>	<p>Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays</p>	<p>Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays</p>
<p>Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays from 8am in the school hall</p>	<p>KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£2 per session)</p>	<p>Fiddles Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays</p>
<p>Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders: Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am in the school hall <i>Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.</i></p> 	<p>Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on a rota basis on Thursdays</p>	<p>Tennis club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays</p>