



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week marks the end of the spring term and on Friday 8th April the children break up for their Easter holiday (don't forget we finish at 2pm on that day). Before that we are having a busy week in school with the presentation of writing and maths awards, a Rocksteady class bands zoom concert and of course our Golden Day on Thursday.

THANK YOU

There has been lots of fundraising/donations for various causes this half term and we are hugely grateful for your generosity over recent weeks:

- Our Day for Ukraine on 17th March raised **£785** for the Disasters Emergency Committee
- Fundraising for Comic Relief just the day after saw **£216** collected which is amazing
- The chocolate Easter raffle tickets have also been sold in large numbers already – the raffle is drawn on Friday this week and so there is still time to get your tickets/money in. All proceeds go towards our Golden Day funds.
- Our Gardening Club were also delighted to receive the polytunnel donated by one of our families in memory of someone from the Eastlea community. It is already in use growing a range of plants and vegetables - thank you!

FSM vouchers

We have again been informed by the county that food vouchers will be available over the Easter holiday for those families eligible for benefit based free school meals. Please look out for an email notification which will be sent out this week so that you can activate and use the vouchers over the holiday period.

Parking concerns

Last week we were again alerted to some problems being caused for local residents due to parking on streets surrounding the school and further into the estate along Silverdale Road. The narrow estate roads make parking difficult especially when cars are double parked which can make access difficult for emergency vehicles as well as local householders who have their drives blocked. Please can we again ask that those **who come to school by car park responsibly, without blocking residents access**



to their homes or on narrow roads and do not leave cars unattended for extended periods. Our park and stride arrangement with the Church of the Nazarene is still in operation and we would encourage as many as possible to make use of this facility and avoid having to park in the streets right outside the school. Thank you for your support with this.

Golden Day reminder

The Golden Day this half term takes place on **Thursday 7th April** (the day before the end of term). Our theme of **"I'm an Eastlea pupil...get me out of here!"** seems to be generating a lot of interest for the children and I know they are very excited about the day. It is a non-uniform day with a green/brown/camouflage theme. Old clothes/trainers are recommended for the activities. As with the pattern in recent weeks it is hard to predict what the weather might be like on the day...so if you want to suggest that your child brings a spare pair of socks/joggers/footwear that will be fine! Gloves, hat and scarf would also be recommended.

Grassroots Easter Sports and Activities week – based at Eastlea next week

A reminder that if you want to book up for your child to take part in the Grassroots activities based at Eastlea in the first week of the Easter holidays (Monday 11th – Thursday 14th April) then I believe there are still spaces available. **Bookings need to be made directly with Grassroots** - please visit www.grassrootssports.co.uk where you can pay by debit/credit card. On the website you will also find the full Easter programme, detailing ALL the courses Grassroots run throughout the holidays. Any queries please call Keith (**07703 533 556**) or Sarah (**07725 128 717**)

Year 5 residential visit to Hawkthirst

For parents/carers of pupils in Year 5 please don't forget that Monday 25th April (the first day of the new term) is the date when the children set off to Hawkthirst for their 3 day residential visit. Miss Fox will be in touch this week to confirm all the arrangements for this exciting adventure!

Covid update

We are coming to the end of what has been another really difficult half term at Eastlea. Since we returned after the February half term break we have had a large number of staff impacted by Covid and many pupils who have been unwell too. This has led to different teachers/support staff in the classrooms and I am grateful to those who had to swap classes or step into different roles in order to 'keep things going'. Thankfully, despite all the difficulties we faced we only had to close one class for one day when we simply could not source any alternative cover.

I do appreciate that for parents/carers it has not always been easy to keep up with the changing guidance and I know how hard it has been to keep checking for Covid when no symptoms have been apparent. I want to thank everyone for their ongoing support and patience with the Eastlea risk assessment procedures which have been in place to try to prevent the transmission of the virus in school.

The latest government guidance which came into effect from 1st April places an increasing emphasis on 'living with Covid'. This is going to take some getting used to as there is a whole 'shift' in emphasis which initially seems at odds with the more stringent systems we have been asked to follow for the last 2 years.

The key points for schools moving forward will be:

- If children are unwell with a temperature/other Covid-like symptoms then they should not be in school just like before and are recommended to stay away from other people/isolate at home. ***Please inform staff if your child is not well and keep them off school while these symptoms remain and for as long as they are unwell (a minimum of 3, and more usually 5 days). We will still be vigilant in looking out for symptoms and if children become poorly in school then they will have their temperature taken and contact made with parents if required.***
- The need to continue to protect those who are most vulnerable is still clear and there are recommendations for those with symptoms to limit close contact with anyone you know to be vulnerable, as well as others outside your household especially in crowded/enclosed spaces with advice to wear a mask if you do have to come into close contact with other people etc. ***We would therefore ask that at Eastlea if you have Covid or symptoms that would suggest Covid, that if possible you do not come onto the school site. If you have to do so, please wear a mask and alert staff so that perhaps alternative arrangements for drop off/collection can be made. Please be mindful that we do have staff/pupils at Eastlea who are vulnerable.***
- There is no longer a need for school staff to routinely test and children are not required to do this either. ***If you have lateral flow tests at home they can still be used as a means of identifying Covid, but when these are used up any further tests can only be obtained by paying for them.***
- School infection prevention and control measures are to be continued – reinforcing good hand/respiratory hygiene, frequent cleaning, ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated and ensuring staff/pupils who are unwell do not attend school. ***Eastlea systems of washing hands on arrival/before lunch/after using the toilet, using hand sanitiser when entering/exiting the building, ensuring doors and windows are open to allow for good air flow and making sure that frequently touched surfaces are cleaned regularly will all continue.***

Happy Easter

On Friday this week we will have an end of term assembly, present the rocket group prizes for the half term winners, complete class based Easter activities and draw the 'chocolate raffle'. If your child is a winner they will bring their prize home that afternoon. **Remember the children finish early at 2pm on Friday.**

I hope you all have a good break over the holidays. If you get the chance, the Eastlea 'Happy Easter' window is at the Hub in Cramlington and is well worth a look! Eastlea will reopen on Monday 25th April for all pupils.

Take care and stay safe,
Miss Beeston, Head Teacher

