

Monday 16th January 2023



Dear Parents / Carers,

We had a successful return for the start of the spring term last week and the rest of our new Nursery starters will be joining the Eastlea 'family' within the coming days – a warm welcome to everyone. Thank you for the positive response to the health update letter sent out in advance of the children's return. There are still plenty of 'bugs' flying around and we appreciate your support in minimising potential transmission of illness by keeping children off school if they have a temperature or are otherwise unwell.

School uniform, PE kits

The Eastlea children continue to be very smartly presented in their school uniform and/or PE kits on the relevant days each week. A reminder that trainers should only be worn on PE days and that at other times black school shoes are required. We do have some school tracksuit bottoms and hoodies with the Eastlea owl logo in stock if anyone needs them. Any other tracksuits worn on PE days need to be **PLAIN** – stripes or large logos are not permitted. Thank you!

Jewellery

As you know jewellery is not permitted in school. We had some instances last week of children wearing bracelets or necklaces. Please can these be left at home. Earrings should not be worn in school either. Plastic spacers are fine to be worn, but there should be no earrings. Thank you!

Wellies

As we move through the spring term more regular access to the field should become possible at breaks and lunchtimes (weather permitting). At the moment, if children have wellies to wear they can still go onto the field at lunchtimes.

Dining hall

The children always seem to enjoy eating their school lunch or packed meal in the hall at lunchtimes and chatting to their friends. The hall can at times be echoey and rather loud when there are a lot of children in, so we are having a real focus this term on not shouting while eating, keeping the volume levels down and reminding the children of the importance of good manners – using cutlery correctly and saying please and thank you. I know this is something you will support us with!

Scooters, bikes and cars

Once again this January we have been pleased to see several pupils coming to school on scooters and bikes newly acquired over Christmas. Please make sure that any that are left on the school site are securely locked on the bike/scooter racks in order to keep them safe. Helmets can be left in school during the day if required.

As always, please can I also remind those who come to school by car to park responsibly and not leave cars parked on narrow estate roads which cause a hazard to local residents and real issues for any emergency vehicles which need access to the estate. Cars should only be left unattended during drop off and collection times and not for extended periods. Thank you for your support with this.

Reading

We have 177 children who now have earned their Bronze reading award and are the proud owners of their Disney keyrings. We expect more this term and will also be presenting the first of the silver reading awards at the end of this half term. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home each week and support them by signing their reading record and working with the to complete the KS2 reading challenges. Remember that for our younger children especially, reading books that are sent home for your child to practise should continue to be well looked after and returned to school in good condition ready for the next child who will need them. Costs are high if any books need to be replaced. **THANK YOU!**

Events, dates for the diary and clubs planned for this half term

The staff continue to do their utmost to ensure that we provide a wide range of activities for the children at Eastlea. A list of planned events for this half term is included overleaf. Further details will be sent out about some of the activities where required nearer the time. Many of our clubs start this week. Most letters about these have already been sent out and brought home by the children.

LIST OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE SPRING TERM 2023

What's on	When and who?
STEM person of the week – focus on historical people working with science, maths or technology with links to the north-east	Weekly focus this half term for Reception to Year 6
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 10 th January
Vision screening	Afternoon of Tuesday 10 th January for Reception pupils
STEM Engineering Challenge session led by Liz Ferguson	Morning of Wednesday 11 th January (Year 3 pupils/parents)
Skipping workshop	Morning of 11 th January (Year 5)
Gymnastics coaching	Wednesday afternoons from 11 th January (Y1 and Y2)
Specialist French / Spanish tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 led by Mme Taylor and Mr McCartney/Miss Anderson from 11 th January
Weekly swimming lessons	Monday afternoons from 16 th January (Year 4)
Hockey coaching	Tuesday afternoons from 17 th January (Y3 and Y6) Thursday afternoons from 19 th January (Y4 and Y5)
Nature Club workshops led by Northumberland Rangers	Tuesday afternoon weekly sessions from 17th January to 14th February (Y2 to Y6 – one class each week)
STEM Engineering 'Swirl by Swirl' session led by Liz Ferguson	Morning of Wednesday 18 th January (Year 1 pupils/parents)
Y4 gymnastics competition	Morning of Wednesday 18 th January (team from Y4 at Northern Gymnastics new centre)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 18 th January led by Miss Midgley and Mrs Hedley
Year 3 Multi-skills School Games 'zoom' final	Morning of Friday 20 th January
National Literacy Trust Dream Big for Engineering programme sessions	Mornings of Wednesday 25 th January and Wednesday 15 th February (Year 3 and Year 4)
Year 5 Multi-skills School Games 'zoom' final	Morning of Friday 27 th January
Volleyball coaching	Monday afternoons from 30 th January (Y3, Y5 and Y6)
Maths Week – “Money”	Week beginning Monday 30th January, including ‘Money sense’ workshops for Y5/Y6 and culminating in NSPCC Number Day on Friday 3rd February
Dental health checks	Wednesday 1 st February (Year 6)
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 7 th February
Badminton Festival at Astley High School	Afternoon of Wednesday 8 th February (group from Y5/Y6)
Spring term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 8 th February at 4.30pm
RE Theme Day	Thursday 9 th February
Nissan Eco-schools whole day visit	Monday 13 th February (Year 6)
STEM Robots workshops led by Liz Ferguson	Afternoon/after school on Monday 13 th February (Reception pupils/parents)
Presentation of first Disney reading challenge silver awards	Thursday 16 th Thursday
'Safety Works!' workshop	Afternoon of Thursday 16 th February (Year 6)
February GOLDEN DAY	Friday 17th February

CLUBS FOR THIS HALF TERM

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). This costs £2.50 per day. 	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays <i>(£2 per session)</i>	Gymnastics club for Reception, Y1 and Y2 on Tuesdays
		Munchie Maths Booster club for Y6 on Tuesdays <i>[starting from 24th January]</i>
		Grassroots Gymnastics for Reception to Y6 on Tuesday evenings (5.30 – 7.00pm) . This costs £6.00 per session
Bacon butty Literacy Booster club for Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am in the Y6 classroom <i>[starting from 25th January]</i>	Professional football coaching for Rec/Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays <i>(£2 per session)</i>	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays
	Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays	Violins Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays
Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays from 8am in the school hall	Running Club for Y4, Y5/Y6 on a rota basis on Thursdays	Net based sports club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays
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> 		

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher