



Dear Parents / Carers,

### Happy New Year

'Happy New Year' to anyone I have not yet spoken to since the new term started and a warm welcome to the families of the many children who have joined us at Eastlea in Nursery and in other year groups across the school.

This newsletter contains information about key events which are planned for the coming weeks as well as reminders/updates about policies and procedures at Eastlea.

### Staff update

This new year we have some new faces to introduce! Mrs Hoggan has joined the Early Years support staff team in Nursery for the afternoon sessions each day and Miss Pickard (lunchtime supervisor) will also be providing additional Nursery support for the mornings.

In the school office, Mrs Bainbridge has joined the admin team and will be working at Eastlea each morning dealing with the school dinner money payments etc.

Unfortunately Mrs Powells (Year 4 class teacher) is having surgery on her back this month and will not be in school for the coming weeks. We are fortunate to have found an excellent supply teacher for Year 4 in her absence – Mr Swan was in Eastlea before Christmas and will remain here until Mrs Powells is fit to return. We wish her a speedy recovery.

### Nursery information

As you know, due to the high demand for Eastlea Nursery places we have extended our provision to include afternoon sessions for spring and summer term 15 hour starters. Mrs Shimmin (Nursery teacher/SEND Co) is continuing to lead provision for both the morning and afternoon sessions and the staff numbers have been increased (as above).

We have also had to make some changes to practical routines which we are all getting used to! Nursery pupils for the morning session can now enter at 8.45am via what was the Reception/Y5/Y6 entrance door and this door will also be used for the afternoon pupils who arrive at 12.20pm. Nursery pupils should be collected from the usual exit doors at the end of the sessions – at 11.50am and 3.20pm. At the end of the school day, families with children in several year groups, might find it easier to meet their other children first and then come round to the Nursery door to collect their child.

### School uniform

The vast majority of our pupils have returned to school looking very smart and tidy in their Eastlea school uniform. May I remind you that trainers are not to be worn in school, other than for PE lessons. **Children should be wearing black school shoes.** If the weather is particularly bad, then boots can be brought into school to be changed into at breaks/lunchtimes but often they are not suitable to be worn all day and must not have high heels as this is dangerous. We may have some cold and wet weather this term so please could you ensure they have a suitable coat and gloves/hats/scarves as appropriate to be worn when they are outside.

If there is an issue with securing uniform then please make use of the clothing bank which operates from the Hope Centre in Cramlington. I know that this has already proved valuable for several families.

### Bikes and scooters – a reminder

It was great to see some new bikes and scooters being used by pupils to travel to school. Please can I remind everyone that if these items are to be left on the school premises then they need to be locked on the bike/scooter racks provided. We would hate any items to be taken which would be upsetting for all concerned. Staff are also happy to look after cycle helmets in school and we would encourage pupils to wear these as they travel to and from school each day. Please speak to staff if there is a problem with locking up bikes or scooters – several can always be locked together if this makes things easier.

### P.E. kits

Everyone now should be fully aware of the need to have PE kits in school so that children can take part fully with the lessons that are going on. Items should be named and suitable footwear is required for outdoor sessions. Plain, dark tracksuits can be worn for outdoor PE this term and may well get muddy!

### Earrings

May I remind you that in common with other Cramlington primary schools earrings are not allowed to be worn in school. Silicon retainers can be worn as these are safe for children in school. It is always best NOT to have ears newly pierced until the first weekend of the summer holiday then there is no problem with earrings being taken out before school restarts in September.

## Attendance and punctuality

Before the Christmas holiday I told you the latest information with regard to the weekly winners of our attendance and punctuality awards. Here are some further updates:

- **Year 2** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the autumn term – they won the trophy 3 times during the half term and their average overall (94.49%) was the highest – well done! They narrowly beat Year 1 who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place it was Year 3 – congratulations!
- **Year 5 and Year 6** were joint winners of the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term with 18 'lates' in total in each class during the 7 weeks.
- I am pleased to announce that there were **24 pupils** who were awarded individual certificates for achieving **100% attendance** in the autumn term. Congratulations! I will be delighted if this many manage to sustain this for the next two terms as well!!

Attendance and punctuality will again be closely monitored this term together with support from the EWO. Competition remains fierce for both the weekly attendance champions trophies/punctuality plaques and the children are continuing with this year's challenge of improving their punctuality even further!! The number of recorded 'lates' overall was too high last term and we are hoping to encourage as many children as possible to get to school on time! Please remember if children arrive after 9am then they are late and your support with getting your child(ren) to school on time is much appreciated.

## Reading

Our 'Computer Reading Challenge' continues this term. Class teachers will be in touch with you if your child is not yet into a regular routine of reading at home and it is never too late to get the bronze award so the incentive is there for all children to get started! Reading folders are needed in school each day so that staff can monitor reading on a daily basis. Thank you for your support!

## Residential visits

Letters with information about payments for the residential visits to Hawkhurst (Y5) and York (Y6) have been sent out this week. It is important that the final payment deadlines are noted and adhered to so that the bills can be paid to the various venues and activity centres. Thank you!

## Clubs and activities

We continue to have a varied and well supported programme of clubs either before school, at lunchtime or after school. This half term the following clubs are taking place – some started this week and many more start next week.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am <b>each day</b> )	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>	Netball club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Mondays</b>
English SATs Booster club for Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Rugby Rocket Tots for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Drama club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Mondays</b>
Street Dance for Reception/Y1/Y2 on <b>Thursdays</b> from 8am	Woodland Walk club for various year groups on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Maths SATs Booster club for Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
<b>Plus...</b> <b>Owlets toddler group</b> for pre-school children and their parents/carers/childminders on <b>Thursdays from 9am – 10.30am in the school hall</b>	Gardening club for various year groups on <b>Wednesdays/ Mondays</b> (weather permitting)	Gymnastics club for Y3/4/5 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>	KS2 Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>
	Lacemaking Club for Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>	Badminton club for Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>
Plus...Times Tables Rockstars or Spelling Shed tasks can also be done at lunchtimes when needed!		

### Advance notice for parents/carers of pupils in Year 2 and Year 6

- Miss Betham has asked me to remind parents that the KS1 SATs assessments take place in May 2020. Unlike the KS2 SATs, the Year 2 children will be involved in several different assessments (or quizzes as we like to call them!) during that month so it is important that the children are in school after Easter for the end of April/whole of May so that they can have the best chance of showing off what they can do!
- Mrs Stafford has also asked me to mention that the KS2 SATs week this year takes place in the week beginning **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**. We know that in common with every other year, our Year 6 pupils will do us proud with their efforts in this important week. It is vital that all the Year 6 pupils are in school every day in the weeks after Easter and obviously SATs week itself, so I hope that this advance notice is helpful.

### Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline of all the events and activities which are planned for the Eastlea pupils so far for the first half of the spring term.

What's on	When and who?
New Nursery pupils join Eastlea	Various dates from Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January (new intake begin their Nursery sessions)
Pilates, Hockey and Rugby coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 7 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 3/Year 5/Year 6)
Specialist French/music/computing input led by Madame Taylor, Ms Smith and Mr Swan	Wednesday afternoons from 8 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Hockey coaching in PE lessons	Thursday afternoons from 9 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4 and Year 6)
BBC Radio Newcastle Littl'uns recording	Afternoon of Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January (group from Year 1 and Year 2)
Swimming sessions at Concordia	Tuesday afternoons from 14 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4)
Parenting Drop In sessions led by county Early Help team	Fortnightly on Thursdays in the Computer Suite 4.00 – 5.30pm (16 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Multi-skills academy selection event at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
Author visit at Shanklea Primary	Afternoon of Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January (Reception class)
<b>Visit from the Duchess of Northumberland</b>	<b>Morning of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>
<b>'Cramlington does Denim for Dementia' Fundraising Day</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – coordinated by the Mayor of Cramlington</b> <i>[further details to follow]</i>
'Chinese New Year' focus day <i>[more details nearer the time]</i>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January – more details to follow (whole school)
Maths workshop at Shanklea Primary	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January (group of pupils from Year 5/Year 6)
Polling Station in the Computer Suite (Eastlea open as usual)	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January School open as usual
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February (Reception to Year 6)
Spring term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 4pm
Safer Internet day	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February

What's on	When and who?
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February

Yours sincerely,  
**Miss E Beeston**  
 Head Teacher