



Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half of the autumn term has started well this week and this newsletter will share some important reminders as well as details of what we have planned for the long 8 week run in to Christmas.

### School Admissions for Reception 2023 – a reminder

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September please remember that the admissions portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January. It is very important that you complete an application for a place as soon as possible. **Even if your child currently attends our Eastlea Nursery then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception September 2023.** The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions) and you will receive confirmation of places on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. If anyone requires help with this process then please contact Mrs Shimmin or Miss Beeston in school.

### Parent/Carer Questionnaire

We had an exceptionally high turnout at the parent appointments before the half term break. Appointments can still be arranged for the small number who were unable to meet their child's teacher – please just contact your child's teacher to arrange a time.

We were also delighted with the level of response to our parent/carers questionnaire with 77% of families providing feedback on 'how things are going' at Eastlea. In answer to the questions on the first page the staff were very proud of the outcomes in terms of the percentage of parents who agree/strongly agree:

- My child is happy in school **99%**
- My child does well at Eastlea **100%**
- My child feels safe at Eastlea **100%**
- Eastlea has high expectations for my child **99%**
- There is a good range of subjects available to my child **97%**
- Eastlea supports my child's wider personal development **100%**
- Eastlea staff make me aware of what my child will learn during the year **96%**
- When I raise concerns, Eastlea staff deal with issues appropriately **95%** (*and 5% said they 'did not know' as they had not raised any issues*)
- Eastlea lets me know how my child is doing in school **100%**
- My child can take part in clubs and activities at Eastlea **89%** (*9% did not know – Nursery pupils do not attend clubs*)
- Eastlea makes sure its pupils are well behaved **99.5%**
- Eastlea has systems in place to deal quickly and effectively with instances of bullying if they occur **79%** (*20% 'did not know' as they have not had any experience with this*)
- I would recommend Eastlea to another parent **100%**
- In addition to this, **89%** of parents/carers of pupils with identified Special Educational Needs felt that Eastlea gave their child the support needed to succeed (*11% **ticked** 'did not know' but did not make it clear whether their child had SEND issues*)

In terms of the other written comments these have been shared with staff and governors. A large number of parents commented on how good the communication with parents is as well as the friendly atmosphere at Eastlea and how approachable the staff are. The personal touch shown by staff with knowledge of all pupils, a focus on health and wellbeing and support provided for families as well as children were all recognised. The wide range of opportunities in terms of extra-curricular activities and the way learning was made 'fun' was also applauded as well as the incentives such as Golden Days. Any issues raised by parents have been considered and will be addressed as appropriate. **The overwhelmingly positive response is something we never take for granted. Thank you!** Please remember that we offer an 'open door' policy at Eastlea and that if any parents do have concerns or issues to raise then we are always willing to arrange for this to happen.



### Behaviour Policy

Each year we review our behaviour policy and if any amendments are made then a revised copy is provided for all parents/carers. This year there have been no major changes to the systems we already have in place. The policy recognises the fact that we are continuing to embed the 'THRIVE' approach in school to help support all children to manage and regulate their emotions safely. We know our school behaviour policy works very successfully and is something which receives a very positive response from parents. The full policy is on our website and hard copies can be made available from the school office if required.



## Clubs and events for this half term

We have an action-packed programme of clubs for this half term and most letters about these have been sent out already.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am <b>each day</b> ). <i>This costs £2.50 per day.</i> 	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> (£2 per session)	Basketball club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
		Bike club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> November)
		Grassroots Gymnastics club for Reception to Y6 on <b>Tuesday evenings (5.30 – 7.00pm)</b> . <i>This costs £6 per session</i>
Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders: <b>Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am</b> in the school hall <i>Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.</i> 	KS1 Professional football coaching on <b>Wednesdays</b> (£2 per session)	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>
	Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Violins Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>
Street Dance Club for Rec/Y1/Y2 on <b>Thursdays from 8am</b> in the school hall	Running Club for Y4, Y5/Y6 on a rota basis on <b>Thursdays</b>	Badminton club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b> (from 10 <sup>th</sup> November)

## PE days for each class and uniform reminder

The current PE days for each class are as follows – if other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers if PE kit is required at other times:

- Reception – Monday
- Year 1 – Wednesday
- Year 2 – Wednesday
- Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday
- Year 4 – Thursday and Friday
- Year 5 – Thursday and Friday
- Year 6 – Monday and Tuesday

Remember that children are asked to come in their PE kit and trainers on 'PE days' **ONLY** – which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). Joggers should be plain, without lettering please.

**Hoodies and trainers should NOT be worn on other days.**

Please can we remind everyone that uniform/hoodies/joggers/coats etc **must be named**. We have more than the usual number of unclaimed unnamed uniform items in school – and want to avoid you having to fund unnecessary replacements.

## Parking

Please continue to park considerately without blocking roads/driveways and aim to use the 'park and stride' opportunity from the Church of Nazarene where possible to avoid congestion outside of school. This proved to be a more popular option during Active October and we would love it if this continued. Thank you!

## Mode Star Platinum award – CONGRATULATIONS!

As we explained to the school this morning, during Active October some of the Brainwaves were delighted to meet Tracy Aitken, a Project Officer, from the Strategic Transport Team at Northumberland County Council. She came to present Eastlea with the **Platinum Mode Star Award** which recognises all we do to promote activity and sustainable ways of travel – walking, biking and cycling to school, using the Park and Stride facility from the Church of the Nazarene, encouraging children to be active in school time and promoting use of bikes for children of all ages.

Eastlea is one of the first schools to be presented with this 'top' award in Northumberland and one of only 40 schools in the country to have received the platinum award. Well done to everyone!

## Events for this half term

The list below contains outline details of what is in the diary so far for the coming weeks. Further information will be shared about certain events nearer the time.

What's on	When and who?
Poppies for sale for Royal British Legion	From Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
Gymnastics coaching in PE lessons	Wednesday afternoons from 2 <sup>nd</sup> November (Y1/Y2) Friday afternoons from 4 <sup>th</sup> November (Y4)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 1 <sup>st</sup> November (class bands from various year groups)
Handball coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 2 <sup>nd</sup> November (Y3/Y6) Thursday afternoons from 4 <sup>th</sup> November (Y4/Y5)
Specialist French/Spanish tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y1/Y4/Y5 from 2 <sup>nd</sup> November led by Mrs Midgley and Mrs Hedley
Thunder in the Valley basketball tournament and visit to Newcastle Eagles match	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November – after school/evening (team from Y5/Y6 and KS2 children/families)
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November – Reception to Year 6
Friendship week – “Reach Out”	w/b Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Sports Organising Crew training in Ashington	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November (group of Y6 pupils)
STEM ‘catapults’ family workshop	Morning of Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November (Y4 children and families – further information to follow)
Author visit from Dan Smith hosted by Village Primary	Morning of Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November (Y5 and Y6)
<b>Children in Need ‘Pennies for Pudsey’ fundraising event</b>	<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November – whole school</b> <b><i>[Pudsey dress up day... separate letter will be sent out...please bring in coins]</i></b>
Follow up Hoopstarz workshop	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> November (Reception to Year 6)
STEM ‘flying’ family workshop	Morning of Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November (Y5 children and families – further information to follow)
Presentation of autumn term Maths Awards	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
RE Theme day	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November (whole school)
Presentation of autumn term Writing awards	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Visits for new Nursery pupils who are due to start in January	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November (after school) <i>[separate details will be shared with these families]</i>
<b>Non-uniform day to bring in raffle prizes for the Christmas Raffle</b>	<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – whole school</b>
Rocksteady class bands concert	9.10am Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December (whole school plus parents/carers of children involved)
Year 6 prepare a Festive meal for a guest	1.45pm on Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December – <i>more details to follow</i>
Early Years Christmas workshops for parents/carers and pupils	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm (Reception) Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December at 9am (Nursery)
OWLETS toddler group Christmas party	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December from 9.00 – 10.30am
<b>Christmas Fair... and Eastlea Christmas Jumper day</b>	<b><u>THURSDAY</u> 8<sup>th</sup> December 3.15pm – 4.45pm</b> <i>[more details to follow]</i>

What's on	When and who?
Scholastic Book Fair in school	w/b Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December – <i>more details to follow</i>
<b>Christmas productions</b> <i>(These are proposed times – there will be further details and ticket orders sent out nearer the time!)</i>	<b>Nursery/Reception:</b> Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (9.30am) <b>Year 1/Year 2:</b> Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (1.45pm) and Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December (9.30am) <b>Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6:</b> Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (2.30pm) and Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December (10.15am)
<b>Christmas parties</b> <i>[more details to follow...we will be asking for a £1 donation per child to fund refreshments]</i>	Afternoon of Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 and Morning of Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December for Nursery and Afternoon of Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December for Reception, Y1 and Y2
<b>Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas' church</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December at 2pm (Reception to Year 6 – parents/carers welcome to join us)
<b>Christmas lunch for pupils</b> <i>(Further details of menu nearer the time)</i>	<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>GOLDEN DAY</b>	<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>
Pupils break up for the Christmas holidays – <b>after Golden Day</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
Staff Training Days	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2022 and Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Pupils return for the spring term	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Christmas events

You will see from the outline list of proposed events that we are currently aiming to have as normal an 'Eastlea Christmas' as possible, whilst at the same time being fully aware that plans may have to change if required. We will keep you up to date with arrangements and any enforced changes.

### Use of the school field at lunchtimes – wellies required!

We have been fortunate to have a very mild start to the autumn term, but wet weather at this time of year always makes the field difficult to use as it can get muddy. In an effort to keep using the grass for as long as we can, for the next few weeks we are asking that if the children wish to bring in a pair of wellies to change into at lunchtimes it might make it possible for them to be able to access the field for a while longer. This is not compulsory, but any wellies which are brought in should be named and in a named carrier bag please.

### School Lunch Menus

We are making some changes to our school lunch menus as from next week – with the start of our 'winter menu 2022'. Ms William has tried to retain the most popular dishes and added some other meals which have been chosen by the children. Copies of the menus are included in the letter (see below) and can also be found on the school website. Paper copies can be collected from the school office if this is easier. Please note that next week (w/b 7<sup>th</sup> November) is WEEK 1 of the new menu.

### Breakfast Club

We know that our breakfast club facility is really popular and are aware how useful many families find this to enable them to get to work or attend appointments first thing in the morning. As the numbers of children rise who are attending the club we are having to re-look at how we organise and supervise the children in the library. We would ask that you help us out by:

- **where possible booking breakfast club places in advance**, e.g. this can either be a regular booking of every day/weekly on certain days, or ringing to book at the start of the week for the days you need etc. *[If there is an emergency on a particular day and you suddenly need a place we will always do our best to accommodate, but it can be difficult to cater for everyone when numbers are unknown!]*
- **arriving between 7.30am – 8.15am** so that breakfast can be served and cleared in good time before the start of the school day.
- **paying for breakfast club sessions (£2.50) on the day/week they are used** so that we have enough funds available to buy the food needed for breakfasts!

Thank you in advance for your support with this!

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

# WINTER MENU 2022

## EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### WEEK ONE

- Homemade Dish
- Celery
- Cereals Containing Gluten
- Crustaceans
- Eggs
- Fish
- Lupin
- Milk
- Molluscs
- Mustard
- Nuts
- Peanuts
- Sesame Seeds
- Soya
- Sulphur Dioxide

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course Choices	'Sausage and mash' with gravy 	Chicken chow mein and prawn crackers 	Roast of the Day with Yorkshire Pudding 	Chicken Curry with Naan bread or 'cheesy' pasta 	Fish fingers 
Potatoes Pasta/Rice	Mashed Potatoes 	Noodles / sauce 	Roast potatoes 	Wholemeal rice / pasta 	Chips
Vegetables	Peas / Beans	Sweetcorn	Cabbage / Carrots	Carrots / sweetcorn	Baked Beans / Garden Peas
Salad Bowl	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad
Starters or Sweets	Tray bake and milkshake 	Apple crumble and custard 	Crackers with cheese/jam 	Homemade Soup with a Bread Roll OR cheesecake 	Steamed pudding of the week and custard 



**Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt available daily**  
Drinking water/fruit squash is available daily on the dining room tables



# WINTER MENU 2022

## EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### WEEK TWO

- Homemade Dish
- Celery
- Cereals Containing Gluten
- Crustaceans
- Eggs
- Fish
- Lupin
- Milk
- Molluscs
- Mustard
- Nuts
- Peanuts
- Sesame Seeds
- Soya
- Sulphur Dioxide

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course Choices	Healthy Oven Cooked <b>ALL DAY BREAKFAST</b> Choice of bacon, sausage or ham Scrambled egg 	Meatballs 	Roast of the Day with Yorkshire Pudding 	Spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread 	Cheese and tomato pizza 
Potatoes Pasta / Rice	Potato waffle 	Savoury wedges 	Roast Potatoes	Pasta 	Chips
Vegetables	Baked beans Tomatoes Mushrooms	Garden peas	Cabbage / swede / broccoli	Sweetcorn	Baked Beans / Garden Peas
Salad Bar		Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad
Starters or Sweets	Traybake and milkshake 	Apple crumble with custard 	Cornflake cake 	Homemade Soup with a Bread Roll OR biscuits 	Steamed pudding of the week and custard 



**Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt available daily**  
Drinking water/fruit squash is available daily on the dining room tables



# WINTER MENU 2022

## EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### WEEK THREE

- Homemade Dish
- Celery
- Cereals Containing Gluten
- Crustaceans
- Eggs
- Fish
- Lupin
- Milk
- Molluscs
- Mustard
- Nuts
- Peanuts
- Sesame Seeds
- Soya
- Sulphur Dioxide

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course Choices	Chicken pie 	Cheese and ham melt or tuna melt 	Roast of the Day with Yorkshire Pudding 	Chicken wrap 	Oven baked sausages 
Potatoes Pasta / Rice	Mashed potatoes 	Pasta 	Roast Potatoes	Rice and sweet chilli sauce	Chips
Vegetables	Carrots	Garden peas	Cabbage / Carrots	Sweetcorn	Baked Beans / Garden Peas
Salad Bar	Seasonal Salad		Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad	Seasonal Salad
Starters or Sweets	Traybake and milkshake 	Cake and custard 	Angel delight 	Homemade Soup with a Bread Roll OR jelly 	Steamed pudding of the week and custard 



**Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt available daily**  
Drinking water/fruit squash is available daily on the dining room tables

