



Tuesday 17th December 2019



Dear Parents / Carers

The end of another busy term is fast approaching...no wonder Year 6 had so much to write about in their 'Our School' double page spread about Eastlea in the Evening Chronicle last week!! This letter is to update you on some of the many events which have been happening in recent weeks and to thank you once again for your generosity, especially this half term.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

Back in November, we started the half term with our annual support for the Royal British Legion appeal led by Year 6 who were in charge of selling the poppies, learned some of the famous Remembrance Day poems and made and sold 'poppy' biscuits. By 11th November the British Legion collection box was very heavy – so we are sure we raised a good amount of money for them. Well done!

Children In Need

Thank you for all your support with our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' fundraising activities on Children in Need day. You will be pleased to hear that we raised **£395.24** for this national charity.

Christmas Fair

On Thursday 5th December, the 'Friends of Eastlea' organised our annual Eastlea Christmas Fair. We always raise fantastic totals at these events and thanks to your support we did so again! This year was especially successful and **£1669** was raised to support our Golden Day events! **A HUGE THANK YOU** for the support of everyone who came to the fair and/or bought raffle tickets.

'Computer' reading challenge awards

Our 'Computer' themed reading challenge started at the end of September and we have very large numbers who have good reading routines each week. The first Bronze awards were presented on 6th December and so far we have been able to present certificates/bronze award 'colour changing' pencils to **107** children. These pupils are already starting on their silver bookmark! If your child hasn't yet received the bronze award, it is not too late! Encourage them to keep reading and more certificates will be awarded in the New Year! **Reading in the Christmas holiday counts as one sticker on their 'Computer bookmarks'!**

Writing and Maths awards

In the last few weeks we have presented our autumn term writing and maths awards to children from each class who have shown real enthusiasm, improvement, progress and determination in these subjects. Certificates were given out in special assemblies – well done to all of our winners!

Year 6 Festive Lunch for parents

Parents and family members of our Year 6 pupils as well as school governors were invited to a Festive Lunch in the school hall on Tuesday 3rd December - part of the Year 6 'Enterprise project'. This is the fourth time that we have organised such an event and the team work shown by Year 6 this year was second to none as they helped to prepare the food, set up the tables, decorate the hall, serve and clear the meal as well as entertain their guests with carol singing. **The feedback we received from our 42 guests was excellent** – thank you to everyone who attended and **£36** was raised from the 'mini raffle'!

Reverse Advent Calendar

This year our Christmas 'charity' appeal was to support the Changing Lives Reverse Advent Calendar project. Coordinated by Miss Fox, the Year 3 children sorted out all the donations received and these were then delivered to the Team Valley offices where the items will be distributed to those in real need in our local area. Many thanks to all who contributed. The charity were delighted with the support Eastlea provided and we have received a letter of thanks and a certificate which was shared yesterday with the children in assembly.

Polar Express film night

The hall was transformed last Monday to create a magical evening for the 124 children who took part. Having changed into their pyjamas, followed the train tracks and got their golden tickets clipped by 'the

conductor' it was 'all aboard' to watch the film. On the 'journey' they supped hot chocolate and munched cookies and at the end were each presented with a 'Santa's sleigh' bell which I'm pleased to say they could all hear loud and clear!! **£261.07** was raised for the Year 6 Eastlea enterprise fund! Thank you!

Christmas productions

As I said in the hall last week, I must also thank everyone for their support when each key stage performed their Christmas plays. The fact that we have a 'full hall' for each of the performances is not something that we take for granted. The refreshments were also well received and **£41** was raised in donations. This also goes towards our Golden Day funds.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair, coordinated by Mrs Lister took place last week too. We are aware that there has been a lot of 'fundraising' in recent weeks, but despite this we sold **£300** worth of books and thanks to our 100% commission deal it means that we have been able to add another £300 worth of fiction and non-fiction books to our class libraries for all the children to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who bought books!

Carol service at St Nicholas' Church

Yesterday we had the traditional Eastlea nativity service at St Nicholas' Church. Revd Wullie was pleased to welcome so many to church for this event which gives us all the chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you for your support! It was also lovely to see the Eastlea 'Christmas window' organised by staff and pupils from KS1 as part of the church Christmas tree festival at the start of advent. For those who saw it I think you will agree it was super!

Carol Singing

Our talented singers are 'out and about' in Cramlington this week. This morning the KS2 singing club performed a selection of songs and carols at Hartford Court care home – always gratefully received by the residents and staff! Tomorrow morning, Year 6 will be at Sainsbury's in Manor Walks from approx. 10.20 – 11.00am to sing carols and hopefully raise some more money for their Enterprise Fund to support future class visits and activities. *[P.S. The Y6 bag packing event at ASDA yesterday morning raised **£277.02**...and there were only there for an hour and a half...wow!!]*

Christmas Golden Day

As I am sure you are aware, everyone who has earned the right to take part in Golden Day is excitedly looking forward to Thursday!! 'Magic Mick' will entertain the Nursery/Reception pupils in the morning and we expect the pantomime visit to see 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle that afternoon to be superb! The children are really excited about going to the theatre and Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3 will also see the 'Willy Wonka' themed Fenwick's window before the matinee performance. **May I remind you that school uniform is required for Golden Day, although 'Santa hats' can also be worn. Please remember that the pupils will not be back until at least 5.15pm from the theatre – and to ensure a safe and orderly return/dispersal after the event ALL PUPILS will be dismissed from the school hall on our return (not from the gates).**

Sports Awards success

On 7th November 3 KS2 pupils accompanied Mrs Stafford and Miss Beeston to St James' Park in Newcastle for the fifth Cramlington & Seaton Valley Sports Awards event. We were very proud to receive our **PLATINUM School Games award** for the second year running. This year the event was supported by the Newcastle United Foundation and the children who attended were given a tour of the stadium as well as the chance to show off their team work skills in the Commando Joe's problem solving challenges.



Attendance

In common with a lot of schools we have been badly affected by various bugs and viruses in the last few weeks. Our overall half term class winners for attendance and punctuality in the second half of the autumn term will receive their certificates in January, once the outcomes for this final week have been calculated. However, I thought you would be interested to see the weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the previous six weeks of this half term - included in the following table:

Attendance (Usually 1 winner per week)		Year 2 – 3 times	Year 3 – once	Year 4 – once	Year 5 – once	
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Year 1 – twice		Year 3 – once	Year 4 – once	Year 5 – 4 times	Year 6 – 3 times

Year 4 swimming – advance notice

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session is on Tuesday 14th January and we have again managed to secure a longer afternoon session for our lessons, which we are delighted about. This means that the children will have a one hour session at the pool for 11 weeks in the spring term rather than short half hour lessons over two terms. We are pleased to announce that we will be able to offer the sessions at the same price as the last two years, £4.50 per child per week. This price includes the school subsidising the costs of the lesson and the transport (£330 in total). The swimming lessons are part of the KS2 PE curriculum but in order for us to provide this for the children we have to pay for the instructors and the coach transport to get us to the pool at Concordia. In common with the other schools in the Cramlington partnership we therefore have to ask for a £4.50 donation from parents/carers each week. Without these contributions, the lessons will not be able to go ahead in this format. A letter with further information about this will be sent out in the first week back in January.

Important Reminder for parents of Nursery pupils

We have been asked by county to remind parents that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15th January 2020**. Any children born between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016 need to apply for entry to Reception 2020. Parents need to make an application for their child to join Eastlea Reception class in September, even if they already attend our Nursery. Information, Handbooks and application forms are available online at: www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Our Eastlea Nursery provision is also being extended from January – with full day sessions for those entitled to 30 hours, morning sessions continuing for those already in the setting and afternoon sessions for new 15-hour pupils. A further update on staffing and practical arrangements linked to this will be sent out in the new year.

Farewell Mrs Clarke

In January our office admin team will be changing – as Mrs Clarke is leaving Eastlea to take up a job out of education. Mrs Clarke has worked as an admin assistant here for just over 5 years and she will be a big miss in the office. We wish her well in her new venture and as from January her role will be taken over by Mrs Bainbridge who joins us from a school in Blyth.

Breakfast Club

Our Eastlea breakfast club will be continuing in the new year, overseen by Miss Pickard, and is very popular with those who attend. Booking forms (blue paper) are available for any family who wishes to use the breakfast club – and the cost is £2.50 per pupil per day. Children can arrive any time from 7.30am and preferably before 8.15am so that breakfast can be served in good time. Bookings can be made for any number of days per week and we can also take ‘one off’ bookings on the day itself as long as £2.50 is paid on arrival.



Owlets – toddler group – restarting 9th January

Our weekly ‘Owlets’ toddler group sessions on Thursday mornings during term time are also well attended and very popular. The parents/staff involved will be continuing to organise the sessions from 9am – 10.30am each Thursday in the school hall so if you know of anyone with toddlers who would like to come along then please spread the word. Owlets will restart on Thursday 9th January 2020.

Happy Christmas...and don't forget the early finish on Friday!!

And finally, just a reminder that the pupils break up on Friday for their Christmas holidays with **an early finish at 2pm.**

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. Have a happy holiday and we will see you all again on **Tuesday 7th January 2020** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Monday 6th January is a staff training day)

Yours sincerely, **Miss E Beeston**