



Dear Parents/Carers

Tomorrow marks the end of the first half of the summer term and it has certainly been a very busy seven weeks for everyone at Eastlea. The vast majority of the children have earned the right to take part in our Golden Day activities tomorrow and we are looking forward to a fun day of events in school – see below for a reminder of what is needed. We have had quite a few 'new starters' to Eastlea across the school in recent weeks and for them this will be their first Golden Day – I'm sure they will enjoy themselves and understand what makes these days so special!

Important Queen's 90th Birthday Golden Day reminders for tomorrow

For those pupils who have earned the right to take part in the planned activities, the arrangements remain the same as detailed in the previous letter:

- **A non-uniform day for everyone ... with no fine to pay!** School uniform is not required, and the theme for the day is 'red, white and blue' so hopefully this should be possible for everyone to join in!
- Lunchtime arrangements are normal on the day
- Our afternoon street party will take place either on the yard or in the hall (depending on the weather) with a chance to enjoy some party food as well as entertainment from our steel pan band and perhaps the singing club
- The children will finish at the normal time (11.50am for Nursery and 3.15pm for the rest of the school)

Staffing update

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter we have been involved in a recruitment process to select a successor to Mrs Merryweather in Nursery. This has now been completed and I am pleased to announce that Miss Dougall has been appointed as class teacher for Nursery from September. Miss Dougall has been working in Nursery here for several months and so this is very good news for the school. She will also continue to work with other classes during the afternoons following similar arrangements to the system in place now. We extend a warm 'official' welcome to Miss Dougall and welcome her to the Eastlea team!

Dogs at the school gates

Several parents have had conversations with me or with other members of staff over recent weeks about dogs around the school premises. I want to thank the people I have spoken to for understanding the difficult position we are in regarding this situation. For the sake of everyone concerned and especially in the light of recent horrific incidents locally and instances of court action brought by parents at other schools in Northumberland, we are going to have to be more vigilant with how we tackle this situation.

I hope everyone will accept that from now on we would like to adopt the following policy regarding bringing dogs to school at Eastlea.

1. If at all possible no dogs should be brought to school and certainly not onto the school grounds.
2. If a dog has to be brought to Eastlea then it should remain outside of the school grounds and be supervised at all times by an adult.
3. No dogs should be tied up at the gates/barriers near the school entrance and left unattended while children are dropped off or collected from school.

I appreciate that this might cause some difficulties for people but I hope you will understand the reasons behind this more vigilant approach. Again I would like to thank parents who have already sorted out alternative arrangements so that children/parents all feel safe when coming into and out of school.

Dates for after half term

When we return to school on Monday 6th June we will be ready for the busy last half of the summer term. There are plenty of events planned, and you will be provided with details of these after the holiday. However, this is advance notice of some dates which you may wish to put in your diary:

- **Sports Day** – our sports day event last year was the victim of a sudden and heavy rain storm, as those of you who tried to attend will no doubt remember! This year we have pencilled in the afternoon of **Thursday 23rd June** for Sports Day – and fingers crossed we will have a fair afternoon this time!!
- **Summer fayre** – this fundraising event is being planned for **Friday 1st July** and will take place that afternoon from 2.30pm - 4.00pm. More details will be circulated after the half term!
- **Year 6 residential visit to York** from **Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th July** – almost every child is attending so this promises to be a superb final visit for our oldest children!

- **Open Afternoon** – following the success of our summer term open afternoons for the last couple of years, we have decided to arrange a similar event this year. The date for our ‘open afternoon’ is ... **Friday 8th July from 2pm** for parents/carers of pupils **from Reception to Year 5**. This will allow you the opportunity to visit the classrooms and see the work that the children have been doing in school.
- For **Year 6 parents/carers** the **Year 6 Leavers assembly** is planned for Thursday 14th July at 2pm.

Eastlea website and Facebook account

Many of you I know already regularly access the Eastlea website to look at photos of what we have been up to and to check on dates for the many activities or events which take place here. Following discussions with governors and some parents we have decided to set up our own Eastlea school Facebook account. Staff from school will post information on this account as another way to enable you to keep you up-to-date with what is going on in school. I know that some of you have already ‘liked’ our Facebook page – and we hope that it will prove successful as another way of raising the profile of what we do at Eastlea!

PE kit and trainers

With so much sport taking place this term it is very important that your child has their PE kit in school every week so that they can take part without the hassle of not having what they need with them. Please can you check over the half term holiday that they have the plain white t shirt, black shorts (and dark tracksuit bottoms if they wish) plus trainers which form the Eastlea PE kit and then encourage them to bring it into school each week. As we have so much happening it is better to leave the kit in school all week, then whenever it is needed they will have what they require.

Trainers are only to be worn for PE or at lunchtimes when outside and should not be worn in school. If your child does not have their black school shoes then the half term break would be another good time to sort this out so they are prepared for the second half of the summer term.

Monday ‘all-day breakfasts’ for school lunches

The change in the school lunch menu to have an ‘all-day breakfast’ every Monday has been a big hit with the pupils. We have had lots of positive feedback and I know that our kitchen committee have been delighted with the response to the suggestions they made. The all-day breakfasts will continue on Mondays after the half term holiday and we will keep you informed of any other changes we make to our popular school meals!

Thank you again for your support this half term! The seven weeks have flown by and have once again been a busy time for everyone involved with the school.... assessments for Year 2 and Year 6; football, rugby rocket tots, running, street dance, tag rugby, steel pans and singing clubs; a girls’ futsal session, rounders matches, tennis coaching, tri-golf, athletics and tag-rugby tournaments and/or coaching for pupils across KS1 and KS2; Bikeability catch up sessions for Year 6, a Year 4 ‘Viking’ workshop, the Children’s Cancer Run and of course ‘Walk to school week’ last week!

We have also seen the presentation of the first of our **GOLD outer space reading challenge awards**...82 on 17th May and now 106 in total! How many more will we get? Reading in the half term holiday will count as one more ‘sticker’ on their bronze/silver or gold bookmark. Please encourage your child to keep reading as we will also have more special Champion Reader awards at the end of the school year!

Enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 6th June!

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher