



Dear Parents/Carers

This half term break marks the 'half way' point of this school year. As we prepare for the holiday here are a few updates and reminders before we return for the second half of the academic year.

Golden Day reminder

As always the majority of the pupils have earned the right to attend our Wedding Party themed Golden Day tomorrow! Remember, for those children who are taking part, Friday is a **non-uniform day with no fine to pay**...the wedding party theme can include party clothes/dresses and we are all looking forward to our day of celebrations as we wish Mrs Coleby well for her big day! Remember, when we return after the holidays 'Mrs Stafford' will be teaching in Year 6!!

Around the UK Reading Challenge

Our reading challenge is being very well supported. Most of the children have reached their bronze award – with the current total running at 172. In the first week back after half term the first of our silver awards will be presented! If your child reads in the half term holiday then this counts for a 'sticker' as they continue their bronze/silver/gold challenge!

Sports update



As you will know from our newsletters and diary of events there continue to be lots of opportunities provided for pupils to take part in various sporting activities at Eastlea as part of the sports partnership work that is ongoing in Cramlington. The support we have from parents in terms of encouraging pupils to attend the range of different clubs/activities on offer is not something we take for granted. This half term we have had children taking part in lunchtime football, tag rugby and running clubs, the before school street dance club, selection events for the Year 5/Year 6 multi-skills and KS2 dance academy, swimming lessons for Year 4, weekly after school netball sessions, specialist led dance sessions for Year 2/Year 3 as well as a preparation in PE for skipping and gymnastics competitions.

In particular I also wanted to mention:

- **Year 4 gymnastics** in which a team of 6 pupils took part in the area school games competition – we were absolutely delighted with the outcome of this, achieving third place overall out of 12 teams and were very proud of Milly who was awarded the 'top gymnast' award by scoring the highest points total overall (ahead of 59 other gymnasts) – well done!
- **Gifted and talented selection events** – we have had real success with the number of pupils selected to take part in the 'academy' sessions this year – more than ever before. 5 of our KS2 pupils are now representing Eastlea in the dance academy and well done to Abby who was selected to join the multi-skills academy (and to Aiden who was the first reserve for the boys). Congratulations to all who took the opportunity to join in with these events!
- **Our 'individual' sports stars** – each Tuesday we celebrate the achievements of children who are taking part in different sporting activities in their own time. We have had lots of children so far this year who have won awards or commendations for a wide range of different sports – karate, judo and dance champions, swimming stars and talented footballers...one of whom has secured a contract with a premier league team! Well done to all!

Attendance and punctuality

The coveted attendance trophy and punctuality plaque continue to be awarded each week. Our overall half term class winners won't be announced until after the holiday but the weekly winners for the first six weeks of 2017 are listed below...only Year 2 have not gained either the attendance/punctuality trophies this half term – something to aim for after the holiday:

Attendance (One winner per week)	Punctuality (often shared by 2 classes each week)
Reception – twice	Reception – three times
Year 1 – once	
	Year 3 – once
Year 4 – once	Year 4 – twice
Year 5 – three times	Year 5 – four times
	Year 6 – three times

Online Safety update

Year 5/Year 6 parents received information about this last week following an incident which occurred with some of our upper KS2 pupils. E-safety is a key part of our Computing lessons in school and we regularly remind pupils of how they can keep themselves safe online. We know we can rely on your continued support in being vigilant about the various apps/programs/websites/games which your children are accessing. Only by doing this can you support them if they do come across material which is inappropriate.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Sainsbury's are again running their Active Kids vouchers scheme (until the beginning of May). As always, we have a collection box in the library and when the vouchers are totalled up our Sports Council will then be able to look through the Active Kids Catalogue and exchange them for some new playground games/sports equipment!

Advance notice...some important dates for your diary

We will be sending out information of what is planned for next half term after the holiday, but wanted you to be aware in advance of some dates to put in your diary:

- **Friday 3rd March** (first Friday back) – Eastlea will be celebrating **World Book Day**. We are planning to repeat the success of last year and will again be asking the children (and staff!) to come to school dressed in their **pyjamas** and bring their favourite 'book at bedtime'. The £1 'fine' which will be requested for this event will go towards our guided reading book funds.
- **Thursday 23rd March** – Parents appointments will take place from 2.30 – 6.30pm for parents/carers of pupils from Reception to Year 6 (appointments for Nursery parents/carers will take place over lunchtime on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd March).
- **Friday 24th March** – we will be supporting the national 'Comic Relief' charity event - more details will follow after half term.

The children break up on Friday at the usual time after Golden Day. Enjoy the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school for the second half of the spring term which starts on Monday 27th February.

Yours sincerely

E Beeston

Miss E Beeston,
Head Teacher

*I have also been asked to pass on some additional information about local events and groups from
Jill Harrison (Church Parish Youth Worker)*

Youth Cafe

The cafe runs each Wednesday during term time from 3.30-5.30pm at St Nicholas' Church. The cafe is open to those in school years 6-9. Entry is free with drinks and snacks available to buy for 50p each. A variety of games and activities are on offer as well as places to just sit and chat.

Catalyst

If you are a young person Year 6+ and you want to help make a difference on the things you care about then our Catalyst youth group is for you. Each term we pick a cause to support and then we take action by raising money and letting people know more about it. This term we are looking to help the Food Bank. The next meeting is **4.00-5.30pm on Sunday 19th February at Costa Coffee** in Cramlington. It's free to come along, just bring enough money to get yourself a drink.

On Your Marks

Have fun learning about Jesus in this monthly group for children aged 6-11 years old. The next event will be on **Sunday 19th February at Beaconhill Community Centre from 5.00-7.00pm** when there will be crafts, games, stories and food to enjoy. Just come along to register and take part.

Thirst Youth Church

Our next Cafe Youth Church takes place on **Friday 17th February, 7.00-9.00pm** at St Nicholas' Church. The event is aimed at school years 6+ with plenty of discussion, games, music and activities to take part in. This time our theme is "Love Your Selfie".