



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to everyone as we start the second half of the school year. This newsletter outlines all the many things that are underway and planned for the coming weeks – please retain for future reference!

| What's on | When and who? |
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| Tag Rugby coaching in PE lessons | Monday afternoons from 27 th February (Year 4 and Year 6) |
| After school KS2 Code Club | Monday after school sessions from 27 th February (group of pupils from Year 3/4/5/6) |
| Attendance certificates and 'light green' letters are presented | Tuesday 28 th February |
| First of the reading challenge silver awards presented | Tuesday 28 th February |
| Swimming sessions at Concordia <i>(the 2nd half term of lessons for Year 4)</i> | Tuesday afternoons from 28 th February until 4 th April (Year 4) |
| After school Maths boosters/homework club | Tuesday after school sessions from 28 th February (Year 6) |
| After school Steel Pans Music Club | Tuesday after school sessions from 28 th February (Year 4/Year 5) |
| Lunchtime Rugby Rocket Tots club | Wednesday lunchtimes from 1 st March (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) |
| 'Fiddles' tuition/music lessons/specialist French input – led by Mr Boyle, Ms Smith and Mme Taylor | Wednesday afternoons in music/French lessons from 1 st March (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) |
| Spring term Governors meeting | Wednesday 1 st March at 4pm |
| Before school Street Dance club | 8am Thursday mornings from 2 nd March |
| 'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters | Thursday morning before school Literacy sessions from 2 nd March (Year 6) |
| E-safety update from PC Barry Elliott | Morning of Thursday 2 nd March (Year 5/6) |
| Lunchtime running club | Continuing on Thursday lunchtimes from 2 nd March – weather permitting (Year 4, Year 5, Year 6) |
| 'Robotics' Computing workshop | Afternoon of Thursday 2 nd March (Year 5) |
| School Games Football competitions at CLV | After school Thursday 2 nd March (Team of Year 5/6 girls and team of Year 5 boys) |
| World Book Day <i>(dress up in pyjamas and bring your favourite 'book at bedtime' – see earlier letter for more details!)</i> | Friday 3rd March Non-uniform day for the whole school – £1 'fine' to go towards our guided reading book funds! |
| 'Heights and weights' data collection by school health nursing team | Friday 3 rd March for Reception and Year 6 pupils |
| Bikeability 'Balance Bike' workshop sessions | Monday 6 th – Thursday 9 th March (Reception and Year 1) |
| Tennis coaching in PE lessons | Monday afternoons from 6 th March (Year 3) |
| Stranger Danger workshop led by David Burn | Monday 6 th March (Year 4) |

| What's on | When and who? |
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| After school Netball club | Monday after school sessions from 6 th March (Year 5/Year 6) |
| After school Tag Rugby coaching | Monday after school sessions from 6 th March (KS2) |
| Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching' | Tuesday lunchtimes from 7 th March (pupils from Year 3, 5 and 6) |
| After school Golfing club | Tuesday after school sessions from 7 th March (Year 4) |
| KS2 Singing Club | Wednesdays after school from 8 th March (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) |
| Skippping Festival | Thursday 9 th March at Blyth Sports Centre (Year 5) |
| 'Guide Dogs' visitors | Afternoon of Thursday 9 th March (Reception) |
| Presentation of spring term writing awards | Monday 13 th March (one child from each class) |
| School Games netball competition | After school on Wednesday 15 th March at CLV (Team of players from Y5/Y6) |
| Nursery parent appointments | Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd March (parents of all Nursery pupils) |
| Community Nurse visit (part of topic work) | Thursday 23 rd March (Reception) |
| Parents Evening Appointments | Thursday 23rd March 2.30pm – 6.30pm (parents of all pupils from Reception to Year 6) |
| Comic Relief day | Friday 24th March (more details to follow!) |
| Presentation of spring term maths awards | Tuesday 28 th March (one child from each class) |
| H Tempest class photographs | Wednesday 29 th March |
| School Games mixed hockey competition | After school on Thursday 30 th March at CLV (Team of players from Y6) |
| Visit for new Nursery pupils | Friday 31 st March from 9am (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter) |
| Author visit hosted at Eastlea | Afternoon of Friday 31 st March (Year 5 and Year 6) |
| Residential visit to Hawkhirst | Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th April (Year 5 plus 3 staff) |
| Early Years Easter activities family event | Wednesday 5 th April 9am – 10am (Nursery and Reception pupils and parents) |
| Tri-golf competition at Arcot Hall | Wednesday 5 th April (team of players from Year 3/Year 4) |
| Easter assembly | Thursday 6 th April (morning) |
| Easter activities | Thursday 6 th April (afternoon – for all pupils except Nursery) |
| Golden Day | Friday 7th April (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy) |
| Pupils break up for Easter | Friday 7 th April 2017 |
| School reopens after the Easter holiday | Monday 24th April 2017 |

World Book Day

Remember we are celebrating World Book Day, tomorrow – **Friday 3rd March!** Everyone is invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas with their favourite 'book at bedtime'. **The 'fine' for our 'pyjama day' is just £1** and the money raised will go towards our guided reading book funds. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw!

Reading awards

The vast majority of our pupils have been eagerly reading at home as part of our 'Around the UK' reading challenge and getting you to sign their reading records each week. I am delighted to say that **173 children have now achieved their Bronze award** and this week we presented the **first 69 of our silver awards!!**

Punctuality and attendance

We are continuing with our successful focus on improving attendance and punctuality. At the half way point of the school year we have 18 pupils currently at Eastlea who have attendance below 90% (the national classification for persistent absentees). This number has dropped from 28 in October and 19 at Christmas which is positive.

- **Year 5** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the spring term with an average of 98.21%, beating Year 6 who managed 97.34% attendance. Well done!
- **Year 5** were also awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – they had 5 'lates' recorded in the first half of the spring term; the next closest was Reception who had 7 'lates' – congratulations!!

Payments for residential visits in KS2 – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

If you have a child in Year 3/Year 4 or Year 5 who is going to Ford Castle or Hawkhurst then the deadline has now passed for final payments to be made for these visits.

Those children going to York in Year 6 should now have paid £75, with the remaining money due by 27th March. Please contact the school office if you have missed the deadline or there is a problem with payment as we have to confirm and pay the final invoices for all the many activities which are on offer.

PE Kits/School uniform

Please can we remind everyone that it saves a lot of time in searching for kit if every child has their PE kit in school all week for PE lessons. As many of the sessions are now outdoors then dark coloured tracksuit bottoms can be worn for warmth and trainers are also required for these lessons. If you wish your child to wear trainers to play out at breaks and lunchtimes this is permitted, but they **MUST** have suitable black school shoes to wear in school. Boots with high heels are not appropriate and sitting in full length boots all day can be uncomfortable.

Buggies at the gates/entranceways

A couple of people have mentioned that it can be difficult to get into the school gates if they are 'blocked' by people standing with buggies in front of the pathways/openings. Is it possible to ask that more space can be made for people to be able to get through – perhaps by parents gathering further away from the school gates, especially at the start and end of the school day. Thank you!

School Meals

The menus for school meals remain the same for this half term and the rota is as follows:

- This week (w/b 27th February) – week 1
- w/b 6th March – week 2
- w/b 13th March – week 3
- etc

If you require an additional copy of the current menus, then copies are available from the office. The summer menu will probably be starting after Easter and this will be discussed with the cook and further details will be shared with parents at the end of term.

Yours sincerely
Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher