



Dear Parents/Carers

We are now at the 'half way' point of this school year and as we prepare to break up for the half term holiday here are a few updates and reminders before we return for the second half of the academic year.

Golden Day reminder

The vast majority of the pupils have earned the right to attend our Golden Day tomorrow and we are looking forward to the culmination of our themed week in school with an action packed 'European Golden Day'! Remember, for those children who are taking part, Friday is a non-uniform day with no fine to pay...the European theme can include anything inspired by one of the European countries, colours of the flags or as a tourist about to go on holiday!

Recognition and awards for Eastlea

I am sure you will be aware that as a school we have received some fantastic recognition for the hard work that goes into everything we do at Eastlea with our recent **'top of the league' ranking in the Evening Chronicle Real School's Guide**. We were deemed to be the best school with primary age pupils in the whole of Northumberland which is a fantastic achievement and drew attention to our year on year success in terms of pupil achievement, the progress made by all children, how teachers are helping pupils do their best and good attendance.



Pupil Premium Awards 2016 Local Winner

Primary schools with
published KS2 results

On Friday I was also delighted to receive a letter from Sam Gyimah MP informing me that Eastlea had been chosen as a **local winner in the 'Pupil Premium Awards' for 2016**. This award recognises the hard work that goes into providing quality education and outcomes for all of our pupils. It celebrates the fact that we have sustained a pattern of high levels of pupil achievement in our KS2 results over a number of years regardless of the background of pupils. We were the only school in Northumberland to be listed as a 2016 local winner and once again it is super to have the hard work of the whole Eastlea team recognised in such a high profile way.

Outer Space Reading Challenge

Our outer space reading challenge is being very well supported. We have lots of children who have reached their bronze award – with the current total running at 184 (our best yet at this stage of the year by some margin)!! Many are nearing their silver award...and if your child reads in the half term holiday then this counts for a 'sticker' and we hope to reward our first 'silver' winners at the beginning of March!

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. I would like to thank the many parents who have encouraged their children to take part in the lunchtime football, rugby rocket tots, or running clubs; before school street dance club, swimming lessons for Year 4, weekly after school rugby or netball sessions; basketball, skipping, hula hooping and rugby coaching lessons and the Year 5/Year 6 multi-skills and KS2 dance academy selection events all of which have taken place this half term.



In particular I also wanted to mention:

- **Eagles basketball match** – this social event has now become an annual occasion and was enjoyed by a group 56 pupils, parents, staff and families earlier in January. The Eagles were comfortable winners in their match against the Surrey Scorchers and at half time the Year 5 Eastlea basketball team won the 'Cramlington Cup' in a nail biting penalty shoot-out against Shanklea Primary! Well done!
- **Year 3/4 gymnastics** in which a team of 6 pupils took part in the area school games competition – we did not win, but the determination, enjoyment and team work shown were a credit to those taking part!
- **Gifted and talented selection events** – we have had a total of 19 pupils taking part in the 'try outs' for KS2 dance and Y5/Y6 multi-skills this half term. Creditable scores were achieved by those completing the multi-skills challenges and 3 of our dancers from Year 4 and Year 6 were chosen to represent Eastlea in the 'dance academy' sessions which will take place next half term on Wednesdays after school at Beaconhill. Well done to all who took the opportunity to join in with these events!

We have lots planned for the next half term including the continuation of the popular before school, lunchtime and after school clubs as well as school games football and netball competitions, the Year 5 skipping festival and Sport Relief activities.

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 five weeks of 2016 are listed below:

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

Internet Safety update

You will have all received the letter sent out last week by Mrs Atkinson (E-safety coordinator) regarding the potential dangers of the 'oovoo' open video chat forum. We were pleased to welcome PC Andrew Wells into school this week and he took the time to remind all our KS2 pupils about some of the measures that they can take to keep themselves safe online. Thank you for your continued support in being vigilant about the various apps/programs/websites/games which your children are accessing. Only by doing so 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). The vouchers look a little different this year, but still provide us with an excellent opportunity to add to our school resources. 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:

- **Thursday 3rd March** – Eastlea will be celebrating **World Book Day**. We are planning a change to the usual format, and this year will 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 library funds.
- **Thursday 10th 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 be arranged separately).
- **Friday 18th March** – we will be supporting the national 'Sport 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 on Monday 22nd February.

Yours sincerely

E Beeston

Miss E Beeston,
Head Teacher