



Dear Parents/Carers

We've had a busy start the second half of the autumn term and there is lots more planned for the coming weeks. This newsletter contains some important reminders/information as well as advanced notice of forthcoming events and feedback from the latest parental questionnaire.

Enterprise sponsored events – THANK YOU!

As part of our 'Active October' focus before half term the Enterprise sponsored fundraising events were a huge success. We were delighted with the response and families did a super job of finding sponsors and collecting in their money. We now have had almost all the money returned to school and, as a result, each class now has their own Enterprise 'fund' which will be used to support them in future visits or resources for their class. In total, as a whole school I'm sure you will be delighted to hear that we raised just over **£2000**.
An amazing total!

PE kits

As you know, PE/Sport has a high profile at Eastlea so it is important that all children have a named PE kit in school during the week so that whenever PE lessons/sports coaching sessions occur, the children are well prepared. As the cooler winter weather arrives children (Y3 upwards) must have suitable outdoor trainers and can also wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms for warmth. Your support with this is appreciated.

Nursery applications

We are now looking ahead to preparing for the next group of children who will be starting Nursery at Eastlea in the spring term when due to high numbers we will be having afternoon as well as morning Nursery sessions for 15 hours and continuing our offer of 30 hours (full days) for those who are eligible. If you have a pre-school child, or know someone who does, a Nursery application form must be completed to secure their place here. These can be completed well in advance. If you have any queries about this then please contact Mrs Shimmin, Mrs Atkinson or the school office.


School Admissions for Reception

If you have a child due to start Reception next September the county admissions portal opened on 1st November and applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is 15th January). **It is essential that you apply in good time so that a place is allocated at Eastlea, even if your child already attends our Nursery.** Any queries please contact Mrs Johnson in the school office.

Clubs and activities

We continue to have a varied and well supported programme of clubs either before school, at lunchtime or after school.

This half term the following clubs are taking place – some started this week and more start next week. You will either have had letters about these or will be notified nearer the time.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day) 	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays	Year 5/Year 6 Netball club on Mondays
Street Dance for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays from 8am	Rugby Rocket Tots for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on Wednesdays	KS1 Christmas Crafts club for Y1/Y2 on Mondays for 3 weeks (late Nov/Early Dec)
	Woodland Walk club for various year groups on Wednesdays	KS1 Multi-sports club for Y1/Y2 on Tuesdays
	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays	KS2 Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays
	Gardening clubs for various year groups on Mondays/ Wednesdays (weather permitting!)	Cycle Club for Year 5/Year 6 on Wednesdays for 4 weeks
	Homework/ Times Tables Rockstars club for various year groups each day	Badminton club for Year 6 on Thursdays

Residential visits

Letters have now been sent out regarding the forthcoming residential visits for Year 5 and Year 6 and deposits are required as soon as possible to secure your child's place. We would encourage all those involved to pay off manageable amounts of money weekly so that there are no large 'debts' to pay when final reminders are sent out. Dates for the remaining costs will be sent out in the coming weeks so that you can see what is required and by when.

Parent Questionnaire

We had a very high turnout at the parent appointments before the half term break. Appointments can still be arranged for the small number who were unable to meet their child's teacher – please just ring to arrange a time.

We were also delighted with the level of response to our parent/carer questionnaire with 70% of families providing feedback on 'how things are going' at Eastlea. In answer to the questions on the first page the staff were very proud of the outcomes in terms of the percentage of parents who agree/strongly agree:

- My child is happy in school **99%**
- My child does well at Eastlea **100%**
- My child feels safe at Eastlea **100%**
- Eastlea has high expectations for my child **97%**
- There is a good range of subjects available to my child **99%**
- Eastlea supports my child's wider personal development **99%**
- Eastlea staff make me aware of what my child will learn during the year **97%**
- When I raise concerns, Eastlea staff deal with issues appropriately **96%** (*and 4% said they 'did not know' as they had not raised any issues*)
- Eastlea lets me know how my child is doing in school **100%**
- My child can take part in clubs and activities at Eastlea **94%** (*6% did not know – Nursery pupils do not attend clubs*)
- Eastlea makes sure its pupils are well behaved **99%**
- Eastlea has systems in place to deal quickly and effectively with instances of bullying if they occur **88%** (*12% 'did not know' as they have not had any experience with this*)
- I would recommend Eastlea to another parent **100%**
- In addition to this, **96%** of parents/carers of pupils with identified Special Educational Needs felt that Eastlea gave their child the support needed to succeed.

In terms of the other written comments these have been shared with staff and governors. Many parents commented on the friendly atmosphere at Eastlea and how approachable the staff are. Children were almost unanimously deemed to be 'happy' and enjoying school because what was provided was 'fun' as well as being educational. The wide range of opportunities both in lessons and in extra-curricular activities was also applauded and the way that children's individual strengths are developed and encouraged. Any issues raised by parents have been considered and will be addressed as appropriate. **The overwhelmingly positive response is something we do not take for granted. Thank you!** Please remember that we offer an 'open door' policy at Eastlea and that if any parents do have concerns or issues to raise then we are always willing to arrange for this to happen.

Behaviour Policy



Each year we review our behaviour policy and if any amendments are made then a revised copy is provided for all parents/carers. This year there have been no major changes to the systems we already have in place. The policy recognises the fact that we are continuing to embed the 'THRIVE' approach in school to help support all children to manage and regulate their emotions safely. We know our school behaviour policy works very successfully and is something which receives a very positive response from parents. The full policy is on our website and hard copies can be made available from the school office if required.

Storytelling area – reading garden

We have had several comments from parents about the new items in our courtyard/storytelling area. The brightly coloured 'sentry box' storage units, which are in various places around the school grounds, were sourced 'free of charge' by Mrs Holdsworth from a local garden centre which has also given us some really good deals on plants and other 'planters' for our garden and wild life areas. We are always on the lookout for these 'lucky finds' which can be used to enhance the environment at Eastlea!

Attendance and punctuality

We are continuing to have a high focus on good attendance and punctuality at Eastlea. I know the children are very aware of this and eagerly await the announcement of who has won the weekly class attendance champions trophy and punctuality plaques which are given out in assembly each Friday. Children arriving in school after the main doors have closed at 9am are 'late' and the vast majority do make it into school before this time – thank you! I hope you will be interested in the following 'headlines' from the 8 weeks of the first half of the autumn term:

Attendance (Usually one winner per week)	Reception – once	Year 1 – twice		Year 3 – twice	Year 4 – twice	Year 5 – once	Year 6 – once
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception – 7 times	Year 1 – 3 times	Year 2 – 4 times	Year 3 – 3 times	Year 4 – 4 times	Year 5 – twice	Year 6 – twice

- **Year 6** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the autumn term – their average for the half term was 97.48% – well done!
- **Year 2 and Reception** were the joint winners of the certificate for the **best punctuality** with only 8 'lates' recorded in total during the half term!
- We have plenty of pupils who are on track to gain individual 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term – and I hope they have a healthy seven weeks in the run up to the Christmas holiday!

Children whose percentage attendance falls below 90% are classified by the government as 'persistent absentees' and as a school we are obliged to send separate letters to the families of those individuals who fell below this figure in the first half of the autumn term; as well as those who dropped below 92% to alert them to the potential issue. If anyone wishes to discuss this further, please contact me in school.

Parent Governors – update

Following the information in the previous newsletter regarding vacancies on the Governing Body for parent governors, we had two nominations for the two vacancies and therefore no election will be required. I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Sam McKeown and Ms Katrina McDonagh are therefore duly appointed as Parent Governors for a further 4 year term. They re-join Mrs Kelsie Raper and Miss Kathleen Hope who are the other 2 parents on our Governing Body.

Events planned for this half term – including advance notice of some Christmas dates...as we are aware how important it is to get these key dates in the diary!

What's on	When and who?
Rugby coaching	Tuesday afternoons from 5 th November (Y3 and Y4) Thursday afternoons from 21 st November (Y5 and Y6)
Specialist Music and French tuition	Continuing on Wednesday afternoons for Y4/5/6 led by Ms Smith and Mme Taylor
PE/Sports Partnership Celebration event	Thursday 7 th November at St James' Park – morning/lunch (group of 3 KS2 pupils, plus 2 staff)
Basketball coaching	Thursday afternoons on 7 th and 14 th November (Year 5 and Year 6)
Parenting 'Drop-in' sessions led by Early Help team staff	Alternate Thursdays in Computer Suite (4pm – 5.30pm) 7 th Nov, 21 st Nov, 5 th Dec, 19 th Dec
Visits to the Vue Cinema as part of a <u>FREE</u> films promotion	Friday 8 th November – morning (Year 3/Year 4) Friday 15 th November – morning (Year 1/Year 2)
Yoga sessions	Friday mornings from 8 th November (Nursery, Reception and Year 2)
'Poppy biscuits' on sale for Remembrance	Breaktime on Friday 8 th November – made and coordinated by Y6 for the whole school
Badminton coaching	Friday afternoons from 8 th November (Y5 and Y6)
Friendship week – 'Change starts with us'	Week beginning Monday 11 th November
Reverse Advent Calendar collection starts – any items gratefully received	Monday 11 th – Monday 25 th November (whole school – see attached leaflet)

What's on	When and who?
Gymnastics taster sessions	Wednesday 13 th November (Year 1 to Year 5)
Reception eye tests	Thursday 14 th November – morning
Author visit to see Sibéal Pounder at CLV	Thursday 14 th November – morning (Year 4/Year 5)
Children in Need Day - Pennies for Pudsey non-uniform day coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	Friday 15 th November morning – our annual 'Pennies for Pudsey' event <i>[see earlier letter]</i>
Annual 'Thunder in the Valley' basketball competition and Eagles night	Friday 15 th November – <i>letters/details were sent out before half term</i>
Local litter picking project with Councillor Dunbar	Monday 18 th November – morning (Year 4)
'Hate Crime' workshop led by Michelle Redfern, Police Community Engagement Officer	Monday 18 th November – afternoon (Year 6)
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 25 th November – whole school
Educational Visit to the BBC Studios in Newcastle	Tuesday 26 th November – morning (Year 6)
Visits for new Nursery pupils who are due to start in January	Wednesday 27 th November – afternoon <i>[separate letters will be sent to these families]</i>
KS1 'Christmas window' decoration at St Nicholas' church	Thursday 28 th November – as part of the church Christmas Tree festival
Non-uniform day – bring in prizes for the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair	Friday 29th November (all pupils)
Futsal competition at Concordia	Friday 29 th November – team of pupils who attended the Futsal club (Year 3/Year 4)
Presentation of autumn term writing awards	Monday 2 nd December
Festive lunch for Year 6 parents/grandparents and governors	Tuesday 3 rd December 2pm in the hall <i>[separate invitations will follow]</i>
Year 6 'Our School' Evening Chronicle newspaper pages	Wednesday 4 th December – deadline for submission Monday 16 th December – publication date
Governors Resource Committee meeting	Wednesday 4 th December at 4.30pm
OWLETS toddler group Christmas party	Thursday 5 th December from 9.00 – 10.30am
Eastlea Christmas Fair Coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	<u>THURSDAY</u> 5th December 3.15pm – 4.45pm
Presentation of first Bronze reading awards	Friday 6 th December – morning (pupils from all classes)
Educational Eco-schools visit to Nissan	Friday 6 th December – all day (Year 6)
Scholastic Book Fair delivered to school	w/b Monday 9th December – parents welcome to come in and have a look/place orders
Presentation of autumn term maths awards	Monday 9 th December
POLAR EXPRESS fundraising film night - <i>watch out for more details nearer the time</i>	Monday 9 th December – after school (Reception to Year 6)
Flu 'nasal spray' immunisations	Tuesday 10 th December – afternoon (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 pupils)
French/Music Christmas Workshop	Afternoon of Wednesday 11 th December (pupils from Year 4/5/6 – arrangements to be confirmed)

What's on	When and who?
Polling Station in Computer Suite for general election – school open as usual	Thursday 12 th December – Eastlea open as usual
Christmas productions <i>(Further details and ticket orders nearer the time!)</i>	Nursery/Reception: Thursday 12 th December (9.30am) Year 1/Year 2: Thursday 12 th December (1.45pm) and Friday 13 th December (9.30am) Yr 3/Yr 4/Yr 5/Yr 6: Thursday 12 th December (2.30pm) and Friday 13 th December (10.15am)
Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas' church	Monday 16 th December at 2pm (Reception to Year 6 – parents/carers welcome to join us)
Christmas carol singing at Hartford Court care home	Morning of Tuesday 17 th December (KS2 Singing Club members)
Christmas lunch <i>(Further details of menu soon)</i>	Tuesday 17 th December
Nursery and Reception Christmas party	Tuesday 17 th December – afternoon (<u>No</u> Nursery morning session on this date except for pupils with 30 hour provision – further details to follow)
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas party	Tuesday 17 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Early Years Christmas workshop for parents	Wednesday 18 th December: 9am – 10am (Nursery and Reception parents/carers)
Carol singing at Manor Walks YET TO BE CONFIRMED!	Wednesday 18 th December – morning? (Year 6)
Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party	Wednesday 18 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Golden Day	Thursday 19th December (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas parties	Friday 20 th December – morning (class based events for Y5 and Y6)
School closes for the Christmas holiday Early finish at 2pm	Friday 20 th December (<u>early finish at 2pm</u>)
School reopens for the spring term	Tuesday 7th January 2020 (N.B. Staff training day on Monday 6 th January)

Reverse Advent Calendar – charity collection

This year we have chosen to support the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' Changing Lives charity collection. Items which are donated will be used to support local projects for men and women in immediate need of help this Christmas – adults in refuges, recovery centres, emergency and long-term accommodation etc. Miss Fox will be coordinating the Eastlea collection and she has asked that any items for our advent calendar boxes be brought in by pupils and sent to Year 3 where the children will help to sort them out before we deliver them to our nearest distribution centre. Suggested items for donation are on the leaflet overleaf. We must have items by Monday 25th November please. THANK YOU in advance!

The Sun 'Books for Schools' campaign

Eastlea have registered for the Sun newspaper 'Books for Schools' campaign. Tokens will be printed in the Sun newspaper from 23rd November and this will continue until January 18th. If you get any tokens then Mrs Lister will be collecting them in school. Once again your support with this would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston,
Head Teacher