



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

It has been great to see everyone back in school this week. There are some new Nursery children who will be joining us to start their Eastlea journey in the coming days and by Wednesday we will have a full complement in school. I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone, and especially to any families who are 'new' to Eastlea. I hope you feel happy with the way your child has settled and are getting used to any new routines and procedures.

School uniform

We were all very impressed with how smart everyone looked in their Eastlea school uniform last week. A PE kit is the other essential part of our school uniform and it is best to have these in school all week, so that they are available whenever required. If you have any queries about this, then please contact your child's teacher. **All uniform/PE kit needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name please.**

Thanks also for your support for our request to ensure that earrings are not worn in school. Almost every family ensured that any newly pierced ears were done at the start of the summer holiday. Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery in school. It is also important to ensure that your child's hair is tied back as this helps to avoid problems which can occur when hair is left loose.

Covid-19 safety measures and procedures

As outlined in the update shared in the last week of the summer holidays we are balancing 'getting back to normal' with maintaining strict control measures and adopting a cautious approach to ensure, as best we can, that pupils, staff and parents/carers are safe at Eastlea. A copy of the latest risk assessment and contingency plan is available on the school website in the Coronavirus section. The children seem to have enjoyed some of the opportunities to 'mingle' a bit more freely with other children at breaks and lunchtimes and we had a socially distant, whole school assembly in a well ventilated hall on Friday for the first time since March 2020. It really did feel very special to have the whole Eastlea community back together again.

Classrooms are all well ventilated and this will continue even when the late summer sunshine disappears – so if you wish your child to wear an extra 'layer' under their school sweatshirt/cardigan for warmth in the coming weeks/months this is fine.

It is also important that your child **brings a water bottle each morning**. These are stored in classrooms for pupils to access throughout the day.

Please continue to be vigilant for any signs of coughs/high temperatures and if your child shows any Covid symptoms please ring us, keep your child off school and seek a PCR test for them to keep the whole school community safe.

Arrival/Departure times

Getting back to a single start and finish time is something we wanted to have in place this term. As we predicted it has felt 'busy' at these arrival and departure times, but things will settle down over the coming days and we thank you for your patience with this.

Reception pupils are now in for full days so this will add to the number of people leaving from that side of the building at 3.15pm, which is why we are bringing Year 5 and Year 6 children out from the main entrance door to help reduce congestion. At the other exit door, you will have noticed that we aim to get Year 1 and Year 2 children out first promptly a couple of minutes before 3.15pm before Year 3 and Year 4 follow at 3.15pm.

Bikes and scooters

We love to see the children coming to school on a bike or scooter and have storage racks at both sides of the building. It is very important that any bikes/scooters which are left on the school premises are locked in order to keep them secure. **Helmets can be kept in school, and we would strongly urge all children who have a bike/scooter to wear one to keep them safe.** Please can we also remind you that children who come to/leave school on their bike or scooter should get off when they arrive on the school premises and wheel them to the storage racks.

Dogs at the gates

Please can I give my annual reminder about dogs at or around the school gates in the mornings and at the end of the school day. Dogs, even if they are on leads, can be intimidating to younger children (and some adults too) so we must insist that **no dogs are allowed on the school grounds/premises and also no dogs should be brought near to the school site for the safety of all concerned.**

Parking

As we mentioned in newsletters before the summer holiday, parking at all schools is difficult and at Eastlea the issues we face tend to centre around double parking on narrow estate roads, problems with access to the school, inability to access driveways in the neighbourhood and hazards caused to pedestrians with cars parked on pavements.



Here is a reminder of some of the things we can all do to help alleviate the problems with parking:

- If it is possible, please try to walk to school or encourage your children to use their bikes or scooters. This is certainly an option in the better summer weather and the bikes/scooters can be safely locked up on site on the cycle/scooter racks provided.
- Why not take advantage of our 'park and stride' scheme which is still in operation and allows you to park at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and then complete a short walk to school. Several families use this system and it works well. Permits for this can be collected from Miss Beeston or the school office.
- If you have to use your car due to the distance needed to travel to and from school then please park as considerately as you can:
 - The estate roads are narrow and if cars are parked on both sides then this can block the road for other vehicles and make access to local houses/driveways difficult and would cause a major hazard if an emergency vehicle needed to get through.
 - Where single white lines are in place on smaller estate roads this indicates that the narrow roads could be easily blocked by cars, so avoid parking here
 - Try not to block pavements in the surrounding area – leave space for pedestrians to pass
 - Try not to hang around once you have dropped off/collected your child so that spaces are cleared quickly for others to use where possible.

School Lunches – and payment

We have enjoyed being able to get back to some more normal lunchtime arrangements for pupils in the dining hall and our youngest children in Nursery and Reception made a great start to getting their school lunches last week.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can still take advantage of the FREE meals available for all children thanks to the government's 'Universal' offer. 30 hour Nursery meals are charged at £2.00 per day and for children in the older classes, remember that paid meals remain at £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week). Children are asked to bring their dinner money to school in an envelope clearly marked with their name/class/amount and Mrs Bainbridge coordinates the payments and will be in touch if money is owed.

Please also be aware that Eastlea has a policy in place of not having nuts/seeds in school for the benefit of any pupils on roll who have nut allergies.

If parents are in receipt of benefits and are entitled to 'Free School Meals', even if your child is in Reception/Year 1/Year 2, it is important that these are applied for in the usual way so that parents can continue to access free meals for their child even if government policy changes and so they have the option to order free milk. At the same time Eastlea will also receive the pupil premium funding to which we are entitled.

'Operation Encompass' and 'Operation Endeavour' – annual reminder

Eastlea continues to be part of initiatives promoted by Northumberland County Council together with Northumbria Police to support better communication between key agencies to promote the safeguarding of children.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to (Operation Encompass). The same procedure also happens if for any reason a child goes missing from home. As a result of better multi-agency communication, information about this will be shared with schools (Operation Endeavour).

Copies of letters which were sent to parents when these initiatives were launched can be found on the school website. If anyone requires more information then please contact me in school.

Morrisons supermarket 'It's Good to Grow' vouchers



If you have a connection with someone who shops at Morrisons then Miss Fox has signed Eastlea up for the latest gardening vouchers scheme. Our Gardening Club will be very grateful for any we receive!

Events planned for this half term

We are now able to organise a wider range of events and activities for the children in school and below you will find an outline of some of the events/activities which we are hoping to arrange (with caution) for the first half of the autumn term. Staff are aware that if contingency plans are needed due to an increase in Covid cases/higher transmission then things may need to change.

What's on	When and who?
Multi-skills and/or rugby coaching/PE lessons	Thursday afternoons from 9 th Sept (Y4 and Y6) Tuesday afternoons from 14 th Sept (Y3 and Y6)
Specialist French tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y6 from 8 th September
Futsal coaching	Wednesday afternoons from 8 th September (Y1 and Y2)
'Brainwaves' elections	Friday 10 th September (whole school elect Y5 and Y6 representatives)
Sports Leader interviews and training	Friday 10 th and Friday 17 th September (Year 6)
Pilates sessions	Friday afternoons from 10 th September (Y4/Y5) Monday afternoons from 13 th September (Y1/Y2/Y3)
Weekly swimming lessons	Monday afternoons from 13 th September (Year 5)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 14 th September (class rota and participation to be confirmed depending on interest)
2020-2021 Rainbow Reading Challenge 'delayed' Champion Reader awards	Friday 17 th September
H. Tempest individual photos	Wednesday 22 nd September (morning)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 22 nd September led by Ms Smith and Ms Hedley
Launch event for the 2021-22 Reading Challenge and Times Table Rockstars	Friday 24 th September
Bikeability training sessions	Monday 27 th – Thursday 30 th September (Year 5)
Summer Library Reading Challenge celebration 'picnic'	Friday 1 st October (any children who completed the library 'Wild World Heroes' reading challenge)
ACTIVE OCTOBER BEGINS	From Monday 4 th October (including proposed bike week w/b 18 th October)
Hoopstarz workshop	Morning of Wednesday 6 th October (Year 3 and Year 2)
Online 'STEM Fest' Space themed day	Thursday 7 th October (Year 6)
Educational visit to Nissan Eco school	Friday 8 th October
Educational visits to Wildfowl Centre	Monday 11 th October (Year 6) Tuesday 12 th October (Year 5)
GOLDEN DAY	Thursday 21 st October – last day of the half term for pupils
Staff Training Day	Friday 22 nd October
Pupils return for second half of the autumn term	Monday 1 st November

Eastlea Clubs for this half term

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). <i>This costs £2.50 per day.</i> 	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (£2 per session)	Rugby club for Y3/Y4 on Tuesdays
		Bike club for Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (from 5 th October)
		Grassroots Gymnastics club for Reception to Y6 on Tuesday evenings (5.30 – 7.00pm) . <i>This costs £5.00 per session</i>
Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders: Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am in the school hall <i>Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.</i> 	Rugby Rocket Tots for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£2 per session)	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays (from 22 nd September)
	Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays	Fiddles Progression lessons for group of Y4 on Wednesdays (details still to be confirmed - from 22 nd September)
Street Dance Club for Y1/Y2 on Thursdays from 8am in the school hall	Running Club for Y4, Y5, and Y6 on a rota basis on Thursdays	Sports club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays

Holidays

As you know, national guidelines regarding school attendance mean that leave of absence for holidays taken during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. I realise that there is still a high level of uncertainty about taking holidays at the moment, but any family holidays/absence should wherever possible be taken during the designated school holidays. Having missed so much time in school over the last 18 months this is more important than ever this school year.

If you do need to take your child out of school during term time it is vital that we know in advance when your child is not going to be in school so a leave of absence form should be completed at least two weeks before the intended absence in the usual way. These are available from the school office. **Failure to notify school will mean that holidays are automatically unauthorised.** There is space on the form to indicate why the absence may be deemed an 'exceptional circumstance' and each case will be considered individually.

We have been well supported by parents in recent years with our common sense approach to this situation and I hope we can still rely on your continued support with this matter.

A reminder of the holiday dates for this school year is listed below for your reference:

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
October Mid-Term 2021 Staff training Day	Thursday 21 October 2021 FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2021	Monday 1 November 2021
Christmas/New Year 2021/2022 Staff training Day	Friday 17 December 2021 TUESDAY 4 JANUARY 2022	Wednesday 5 January 2022
Spring Mid-Term 2022	Friday 18 February 2022	Monday 28 February 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 8 April 2022	Monday 25 April 2022
May Day	Monday 2 May 2022	
Summer Mid-Term 2022	Friday 27 May 2022	Monday 6 June 2022
Summer 2022 Staff training Day	Friday 22 July 2022 MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022	Tuesday 6 September 2022

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2022)

I know it seems a long way off, but if you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal opened on 12th September and applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is the end of October). **It is essential that you apply in good time so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or another secondary school of your choice – you will receive confirmation about places on 1st March 2022.** Any queries please contact the school office.

For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens on 1st November and closes on 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 15th April 2022.*

AND FINALLY...three attached items which need to be returned to school please

As is always the case at the start of September, this is a 'bumper' newsletter with three other documents attached which need to be returned by everyone (*other than those new to Nursery who have just completed them!*) Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response!!

1. Information sheet/contact form [for everyone]

It is important to ensure that we have the correct and most up-to-date contact information for your child. Over recent months/years we are aware of several changes to family details/phone numbers so this September we are sending a form out to all parents to complete and **we would request a speedy return of these documents.** I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it is for us to have accurate contact information. If the numbers we have are incorrect and we need to contact you in an emergency then this can cause added anxiety for your child as well as the staff trying to deal with the situation. **If there are any further changes to the address/phone number/contact names during the school year please make sure you inform us.**

2. Medical information [for everyone]

If your child has a medical condition it is vital that you complete the attached medical information sheet – **even if you feel that we 'already know' about the issue.** So many changes can occur with medical information that you will appreciate that we need an annual update.

3. Permission for school visits/food tasting [for everyone]

- School visits are an important part of our broad and rich curriculum at Eastlea – and as you know we aim to go 'out and about' as much as possible, as well as taking part in sports events and making links with other schools etc. As we begin to consider additional visits out of school again, to help to reduce the number of times we need you to complete permission slips we have attached the usual annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all non-residential school visits for this school year for which no cost/voluntary contribution is required.

If you grant permission for your child to take part in school visits we will continue to inform you when a visit is due to take place and provide you with the usual letter so that you know where your child is going, what they need and any special arrangements for the day – it will just remove the need for you to send a permission slip back to us.

- There are also times when teachers provide opportunities for children to try different foods as part of their class work – for example in relation to their topic work. As always Eastlea follows the usual food hygiene requirements when doing work of this nature and will also have additional measures in place to make sure that any activities involving food tasting are 'Covid secure'. **If you give permission for your child to taste food as part of their school work this year, this will save the need for separate letters/permission slips during the year.** We will take notice of any allergies which you alert us to and be sensitive to requests if there are certain foods which you do not wish your child to taste for religious or cultural reasons. **If your child has a new diagnosis of a food allergy or medical condition during the year it is very important that you let us know.**

'Consent for images and videos' (GDPR) [any who we do not yet have updated consent]

We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations and for those who have not already done so we therefore ask that our consent form linked to taking photographs/videos of children in school or for use in newspaper articles, websites or Facebook is completed and returned.

Most parents have already completed this form and the permissions we had in place in previous years will be followed unless a newly updated form is received. Thank you!

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher