



Dear Parents/Carers

### Welcome back!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we start our next school year, 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 and PE kits – don't they look smart!

We have heard several comments about how smart the children looked in their uniform when they returned last week. Thank you! **All uniform/PE kit needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name please.** This is so important especially as many of the items are new and we would hate for things to go missing.

Children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' ONLY– which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). **Hoodies, tracksuits and trainers should NOT be worn on other days.**

The current PE days for each class are as follows – if there are changes or other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers so you know if PE kit is required at other times:

- |                      |                                |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Reception – Friday | • Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday  | • Year 5 – Thursday and Friday |
| • Year 1 – Wednesday | • Year 4 – Thursday and Friday | • Year 6 – Monday and Tuesday  |

Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery in school. Thanks for your support with this. For those with pierced ears, clear plastic spacers must be worn rather than earrings which keeps them safe in school. These can be easily purchased, but **if anyone is stuck we can offer sets of these spacers from the school office.**

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.

**Remember...**pre-loved school uniform can be obtained from (or donated to) the **Hope Centre** in Cramlington. Other items of clothing (not school uniform) can be 'recycled' in the Eastlea **Clothes Bank** which is on site alongside the bin store (near the Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4 entrance gate). Every kilogram of clothes helps raise money for the school. Thank you!

### Arrival/Departure times

Staff will be on hand at the wooden gates/entrance ways to greet your child when they arrive, with doors opening at **8.45am**. Work/activities will begin as soon as your child enters the classroom.

The school day finishes at **3.15pm**. To try to avoid congestion we do tend to dismiss Year 1 and Year 2 a few minutes earlier than this – to make space for Year 3 and Year 4 at 3.15pm who leave from the same exit doors. As soon as you have collected your child please make your way home to avoid congestion on site/in carparks. We have some little people in Y1/Y2 who are looking out for their families/carers and can't see past tall adults!! THANK YOU.

Nursery and Reception children will be dismissed from their gates promptly at 3.15pm (or a few minutes earlier) to allow for a slightly staggered departure. Year 5 and Year 6 will be brought out from the main entrance at 3.15pm and can be met from the main gate, or head home independently.

### An update on illness/absence

We all know that the importance of regular attendance cannot be emphasised strongly enough. We do hope that more children will have a higher percentage attendance this academic year and would ask for your support to ensure that your child is in school every day (unless they are too ill to attend).

If your child is unwell they will need time off school, *e.g. if they have signs of a respiratory infection, a high temperature or sickness and/or diarrhoea*. If your child does have sickness or diarrhoea then they are required to be off school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had the runs. This protects everyone in the school community.

**Please can we ask that if you need to inform us about absence that you do so by ringing the school office.** Messages on Tapestry/Seesaw/Facebook cannot be monitored during the school day due to staff teaching in class, so if you have an urgent message it is important that the school office is informed directly.

### 'Flu Immunisations – please complete the online booking form

Children from Reception to Year 6 are able to have their annual nasal 'flu immunisation in school on the morning of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Parents/carers must book this online with the school immunisations team.

**A letter will be shared this week on Tapestry/Seesaw with the unique Eastlea school code [NB122191] which you need to input on the online booking link.** Please do this ASAP. If you have any problems then speak to someone in the school office or Miss Beeston.

## Bikes and scooters

We continue to encourage pupils to come 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. 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 too near to the school site for the safety of all concerned.**

## Parking

As you know, traffic congestion and parking difficulties are problems at all schools. At Eastlea the issues we face tend to centre around double parking/blocking narrow estate roads, inability to access driveways for residents in the local 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.** Bikes/scooters can be safely locked up on site on the cycle/scooter racks provided.
- We would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the **'park and stride'** scheme which is in operation and allows you to park at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and then complete a short walk to school. This hugely reduces parking problems and the families who use it say it is MUCH EASIER and FAR LESS CONGESTED. 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 considerably as you can.** The community police will likely be continuing their periodic patrols of all school sites to offer advice and monitor the situation.
  - 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. This 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 and do not park on the 'Keep Clear' zone at the school gates.
  - Try not to block pavements in the surrounding area – leave space for pedestrians to pass
  - And finally, please 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, break time fruit, **NO NUTS PLEASE** and water bottles

The school lunch menus remain the same as before the summer holiday and are on a 3-week cycle [w/b 11<sup>th</sup> Sept = Week 2]. Copies can be obtained from the school office or are on the school website. 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, and also have fruit provided at break times.

Remember that 30-hour Nursery meals are charged at £2.20 per day (£11 per week) and for children in the older classes, paid meals are £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week). **Children are asked to bring their dinner money to school in an envelope clearly marked with their name/class/amount on the day or in the week that the meals are taken.** Mrs Bainbridge from the school office will be in touch if money is owed.

Fruit can be brought in by older children for break times if they wish and ALL children should have a named water bottle with them each day – this should contain WATER and not juice please.

**Please also remember that Eastlea has a policy in place of not having nuts/seeds in school for the safety of pupils who have nut allergies.** Children who bring in food for packed lunches / snacks need to ensure that these are nut free at all times to protect the health and safety of everyone in school (this includes anything with Nutella and some cereal bars). Thank you in advance for your support with this.

**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. If you have any questions about this then please speak to Mrs Johnson in the school office.

## Holidays and other planned absences

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. **Any family holidays/absence should wherever possible be taken during the designated school holidays.**

If you do need to take your child out of school during term time for any reason 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. These are available from the school office. **Failure to notify school will mean that planned absences 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:**

<b><u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u></b>
October Mid-Term 2023 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Thursday 26 October 2023 <b>FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2023</b>	Monday 6 November 2023
Christmas/New Year 2023/2024 <b>Staff training Days</b>	Friday 22 December 2023 <b>MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024</b>	Tuesday 9 January 2024
Spring Mid-Term 2024	Friday 16 February 2024	Monday 26 February 2024
Easter 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024	Monday 15 April 2024
<b>May Day</b>	<b>Monday 6 May 2024</b>	
Summer Mid-Term 2024	Friday 24 May 2024	Monday 3 June 2024
Summer 2024 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 19 July 2024 <b>MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024</b>	Tuesday 3 September 2024

## School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2024)

I know it seems a long way off, but if you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal opens on 12<sup>th</sup> September and applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.** Any queries, please contact the school office.

For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal will open from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 15<sup>th</sup> January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*

## Two items which need to be returned to school please

As is always the case at the start of September, there are a couple of other documents which will be sent home with your child and 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. Medical information

Whether or not your child has a medical condition please complete and return the medical information sheet – **even if you feel that we 'already know' about an issue.** So many changes can occur with medical information that you will appreciate that we need an annual update.

### 2. Permission for school visits/food tasting 2023-2024

- 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. 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. **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.**

#### **N.B. 'Consent for images and videos' – photo permission**

We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations and will continue to use the existing permissions we have in place unless you inform us otherwise. For children new to the school 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 – this will be sent home separately by Mrs Atkinson (our E-safety Coordinator).

*There may be a need to amend our permissions form in the coming months linked to updated guidance. If there are changes, then we will send a revised letter home to anyone who requires one.*

#### **'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 outlining these details, recently updated by NCC, can be found on the school website [*About Us – information and policies – safeguarding policy*]. If anyone requires more information or would like a paper copy of the letters then please contact me in school.

#### **Events planned for this half term**

On the final pages of this 'bumper' first newsletter you will find an outline of the usual wide range of events and activities planned so far for the Eastlea children for the first half of the autumn term as well as details of the before school, lunchtime and after school clubs. There will be further information sent out about some of the events a little nearer the time.

**AND FINALLY...** we are continuing to reduce the number of paper copies of letters that are sent home this year. Newsletters and general updates on school events will be shared electronically via Tapestry/Seesaw and the school website. **Letters requiring the completion and return of a 'reply slip' will still be sent home with pupils in the usual way.** We can also arrange to have a spare paper copy of letters provided from the school office if needed – please let your child's class teacher or Miss Beeston know if this is required.



Yours sincerely,

**Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher**

### Eastlea events for the first half of the autumn term 2023

What's on	When and who?
Basketball coaching/PE lessons	Thursday afternoons from 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Y4/Y5) Tuesday afternoons from 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Y3/Y6)
Specialist French tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y5 from 6 <sup>th</sup> September
'Brainwaves' elections	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September (whole school elect Y5 and Y6 representatives)
Sports Leader interviews and training	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
Bikeability training sessions	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 5)
Roots and Shoots Celebration event at Alnwick Garden	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 12 <sup>th</sup> September (groups from different classes)
H. Tempest individual/family photos <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September (morning)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 20 <sup>th</sup> September led by Miss Midgley and Mrs Hedley
<b>Launch event for the 2023-24 Reading Challenge</b> <i>[information will be shared in a letter this week with an invitation for a family member to join us at a 'time slot' in the afternoon (or morning for some in Nursery) to get your child started on this year's challenge.]</i>	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September (whole school)</b>
Hoopstarz sessions	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 2/Year 3)
Summer Library Reading Challenge celebration 'picnic'	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September (any children who completed the summer library 'Ready, Set, Read' reading challenge)
<b>ACTIVE OCTOBER BEGINS</b> <i>[further details about activities for this 4 week event to follow]</i>	<b>From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>
<b>Nasal 'flu immunisations</b> <i>[see letter to be sent via Tapestry/Seesaw – parents need to complete on online booking]</i>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (Reception to Year 6)</b>
RE Day	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October (Reception to Year 6)
Parents appointments <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October (afternoon/evening)
Autumn term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October (4.30pm)
GOLDEN DAY	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Pupils return for second half of the autumn term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November

## CLUBS

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
<p>Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am <b>each day</b>).  <i>N.B. Pupils to arrive between 7.30 – 8.15am to allow time for breakfast to be served.</i></p>  <p><b>This costs £2.50 per day and money must be paid on the day or in advance.</b>            Where possible please <b>BOOK</b> a place for your child in breakfast a week in advance – this can be done by contacting the office.</p>	<p>KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>  <i>(£2 per session)</i></p>	<p>Y5/Y6 Gardening Club on <b>Mondays</b></p>
		<p>Multi-sports for Y1/Y2 on <b>Tuesdays</b></p>
		<p>Bike club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>  <i>(later in September/early October)</i></p>
<p>Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b> in the school hall</p>	<p>KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>  <i>(£2 per session)</i></p>	<p>Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b> <i>(from 21<sup>st</sup> September)</i></p>
	<p>Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on <b>Wednesdays</b></p>	<p>Violin Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>  <i>(details to be confirmed - from 21<sup>st</sup> September)</i></p>
<p><b>Owlets toddler group</b> for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders:  <b>Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am</b> in the school hall  <i>Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.</i></p> 	<p>Running Club for Y4, Y5, and Y6 on a rota basis on <b>Fridays</b></p>	<p>Dodgeball club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b></p>