



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to everyone as we start the second half of the school year. After the unexpected closure due to a total mains electricity failure on Wednesday it was good to get everyone back into school again yesterday. As many of you will be aware, in common with this section of Cramlington, we have been having intermittent electricity problems for well over a month and it has taken Northern Powergrid a while to isolate the problem. They did so this week and on Wednesday, following the complete power failure, found a corroded cable deep underground at the corner of our garden area near to the Year 1/2/3/4 entrance.

A replacement cable has now been fitted and we are back onto mains power. The large hole left from the digging works is to be backfilled today and the area will then be landscaped and seeded for us. Clearly at present this area remains out of bounds for the children. We have been informed that the other holes on the nearby paths and walkways outside of the school grounds are to be made good during the coming week. Thank you for your patience yesterday, and we hope not to have an incident of this nature again!!

### What's going on this half term

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?
Attendance certificates and 'light green' letters are presented	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 23 <sup>rd</sup> February (pupils from Year 3, 5 and 6)
Swimming sessions at Concordia (the 2nd half term of lessons for Year 4)	Tuesday afternoons from 23 <sup>rd</sup> February until 22 <sup>nd</sup> March (Year 4)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 23 <sup>rd</sup> February (Year 6)
After school Netball club	Tuesday after school sessions from 23 <sup>rd</sup> February (Year 5/Year 6)
After school Steel Pans Music Club	Tuesday after school sessions from 23 <sup>rd</sup> February (Year 4/Year 5)
Lunchtime Rugby Rocket Tots club	Wednesday lunchtimes from 24 <sup>th</sup> February (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
'Fiddles' tuition/music lessons – led by Mr Boyle and Mrs Smith	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 24 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Gifted and Talented Dance academy	Wednesdays after school from 24 <sup>th</sup> February at Beaconhill (3 pupils from KS2 – with children from across the town)
KS2 Singing Club	Wednesdays after school from 24 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
School Games Football competition at CLV	After school Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February (Team of Year 5/6 girls)
<b>Spring term Governors meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm</b>
Before school Street Dance club	8am Thursday mornings from 25 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 1 and Year 2)
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Thursday morning before school Literacy sessions from 25 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 6)
Lunchtime running club	Continuing on Thursday lunchtimes from 25 <sup>th</sup> February – weather permitting (Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)
Author visit to CLV (Katherine Rundell)	Morning of Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February for Year 5

What's on	When and who?
<b>World Book Day</b> <i>(dress up in pyjamas and bring your favourite 'book at bedtime' – for more details see below!)</i>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> Non-uniform day for the whole school – <b>£1 'fine' to go towards our library funds!</b>
'Heights and weights' data collection by school health nursing team	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March for Reception and Year 6 pupils
Presentation of spring term writing awards	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March (one child from each class)
Nursery parents appointments	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March (parents of all Nursery pupils)
KS2 SATs information session for Year 6 parents	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March at 4pm (during last part of the SATs booster session that evening)
Governors visits to school – including lunch	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> and Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Skipping Festival	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March at Blyth Leisure Centre (Year 5)
<b>Parents Evening Appointments</b>	<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm – 6.30pm</b> (parents of all pupils from Reception to Year 6)
Wildlife Trust session – linked to community project focused on Horton Burn	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March - morning (Year 2)
School Games Netball competition	After school on Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March at CLV (Team of players from Y5/Y6)
Early Years Easter activities family event	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 9am – 10am (Nursery and Reception pupils and parents)
<b>Residential visit to Hawkhurst</b>	<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March (Year 5 plus 3 staff)</b>
<b>Sport Relief day</b>	<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – for all classes except Year 5 (more details to follow!)</b>
Visit for new Nursery pupils	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March from 9am (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter)
Presentation of spring term maths awards	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March (one child from each class)
Easter assembly	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March (morning)
Easter activities	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March (afternoon – for all pupils except Nursery)
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for Easter	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
School reopens after the Easter holiday	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>

### World Book Day

Remember on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** we are celebrating World Book Day. We aim to provide the opportunity for everyone to come to school dressed in their pyjamas and ask pupils/staff to bring their favourite 'book at bedtime'. **The 'fine' for our 'pyjama day' is just £1** and the money raised will go towards our library funds. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw! Year 1 will be leading an assembly that morning to share ideas about their favourite stories.

### Reading awards

The vast majority of our pupils have been eagerly reading at home as part of our outer space reading challenge and getting you to sign their reading records each week. I am delighted to say that **187 children have now achieved their Bronze award** and next week we will be presenting the first 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 14 pupils currently at Eastlea who have attendance below 90% (the new national classification for persistent absentees). This number has dropped from 18 at Christmas which is positive.

- **Year 4** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the spring term with an average of 97.68%, very narrowly beating Year 5 who managed 97.67% attendance. Well done!
- **Year 5** were awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – they had only 3 ‘lates’ recorded in the first half of the spring term; the next closest was Year 4 who had 5 ‘lates’ – congratulations to Year 5 who have been working hard to get this award!!

### **Payments for residential visits in Year 5 and Year 6 – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!!**

If you have a child in Year 5 or Year 6 who is going to be taking part in the Hawkhirst or York visit, please remember that the deadline has now passed for the next instalments of the money to be paid. By now the full £80 should have been paid for Hawkhirst and £75 so far for York. Please contact the school office if there is a problem with payment as we have to confirm and pay 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.

### **School Meals**

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

- w/b 29<sup>th</sup> February – week 2
- w/b 7<sup>th</sup> March – week 3
- w/b 14<sup>th</sup> March – week 1
- w/b 21<sup>st</sup> March – week 2

If you require an additional copy of the current menus, then copies are available from the office. The summer menu will be starting after Easter and this will be discussed with the cook and the ‘Kitchen committee’ of pupils before being shared with parents at the end of term.

Yours sincerely

**Miss E Beeston**

Head Teacher