



Wednesday 14th February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

On Friday the children break up for the February half term holiday. This brings to an end an action packed 6 weeks since Christmas and marks the 'half way' point of the school year.

NSPCC Fundraising 'thank you'

Our NSPCC Number Day on Friday 2nd February was a really successful way to launch our maths focus which has been running alongside our Careers work for the last fortnight. The non -uniform day once again was very well supported and we raised **£168** which has been split between the NSPCC and school maths funds. Thank you!

Activity Challenges

In December, the children took home a Christmas Activity challenge booklet and we were very pleased that 19 pupils completed this challenge and returned the booklet to school. Each child who managed to finish this was presented with a certificate. Nineteen was good...but we think we can do better, so we have today set a follow up challenge for the February half term break. **Our aim is to see how many children can complete their holiday activity diary...**please encourage your child to keep active over the half term and then bring in their completed diary after the holiday! Let's see if we can present more than 19 certificates this time!

HOW ACTIVE ARE YOU?

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____

*As part of a healthy, active lifestyle, it is recommended that young people are physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes each day.

*During February half term, record how many minutes of physical activity that you do each day.

*Physical activity includes organised sessions such as football clubs, swimming lessons, dance classes etc, but also other times you are active such as walking the dog, walking to the shops, riding your bike or scooter, kicking a ball around in the garden or park, dancing in the living room etc.

*Work out your daily average for the week (add up all the minutes and divide by 5). Is your average at least 60 minutes per day?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	AVERAGE MINUTES PER DAY (Add up all the minutes and divide by 5)
20 minutes in the garden with my dog					

RETURN YOUR COMPLETED ACTIVITY DIARY TO SCHOOL AFTER HALF TERM TO RECEIVE YOUR CERTIFICATE!

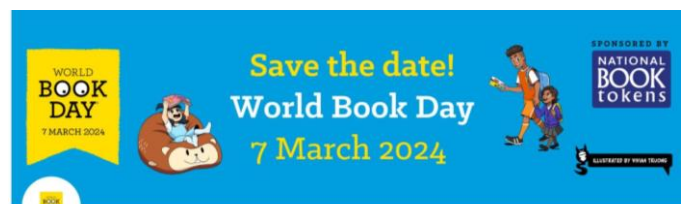


Careers Fortnight

Tomorrow will be the last day of our 'Careers Focus' fortnight and we have had a brilliant time in (and out of) school with everything that was planned. We feel very proud of all the experiences we have been able to provide for the children and could not have done this without the support of parents, wider family members, contacts of staff and local companies which has been amazing. Our aim was to raise awareness of possibilities, raise aspirations and show just what can be achieved in the future for our children. Thank you to everyone who supported in any way with this in the last two weeks.

Reading Challenge and World Book Day

- Today we presented the first of the silver awards for the whole school '**Planets Reading Challenge**'. **127** children now have their next certificate and a silver star badge. Well done! If your child reads over the half term break and has their reading record signed then this will count as a sticker on their current bookmark...bronze, silver or gold! So, please encourage them to keep reading!
- Not long after the half term break it will be **World Book Day** which this year Eastlea is celebrating on **THURSDAY 7TH MARCH**. At Eastlea children are again encouraged to come to school on that day in their pyjamas/dressing gowns and/or onesies together with their favourite book for some reading themed activities in school. A reminder and further details will be sent out after the holiday.



Residential visits for Year 5/Year 6

The response to the Year 5 residential visit to Hawkthirst has been excellent and their visit is confirmed for 15th – 17th April. A reminder that final payments are due for this visit by Friday 22nd March. Thank you! A letter about the York visit for Year 6 which has been booked for June will be distributed after half term.

HUGGG vouchers

We have again been informed by the county that vouchers will be available over the February half term holiday for those families eligible for benefit based free school meals. An email notification will be sent out this week so that you can activate and use the vouchers over the holiday period.

Clothes recycling bank and Hope Centre reminder

- The clothes recycling bank which we have based at Eastlea is working well. The white bin, positioned by the bin store, near to the small entrance gate is emptied regularly and the school is benefiting from all the items that are donated. We receive money for every kilogram of clothing. Since November we have had **£164.50** paid into school funds which is great! The more clothes etc that are donated, the more money we get, so if you are having a clear out of clothes over half term please bring in any unwanted items (apart from school uniform – see below) and place them in the white recycling bin.
- Any pre-loved, good quality items of school uniform can be donated to the Hope Centre in Cramlington. Items can be taken there directly or we can arrange to have them collected from school. For anyone who needs it, remember clean, good quality school uniform such as sweatshirts/cardigans, trousers, skirts, pinafores, shoes, PE kit, coats etc for all the local schools (including Eastlea and CLV) can be obtained **FREE OF CHARGE** from the Hope Centre. There is no need for a referral – just turn up on Monday to Friday 10am – 2pm to see what is available.



HOPE UNIFORM & BABY BANK



As well as the logoed clothing for all our local schools we can supply all uniform items needed by our students. We have trousers, skirts, pinafores, shirts, polo shirts, sportswear, shoes, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, tights, bags and socks from nursery to Y11. All free from charge or referral. Hope to see you soon.

Keeping It Local

Monday to Friday 10:00–14:00
Nursery by appointment please.
Email: hope1uniform@gmail.com
Follow us on 

Garden damage and replacement poly tunnel...and request for unwanted gardening equipment

As you will be aware, we have all had to face some awful weather since Christmas with persistent rain, strong gales and storms. Roof tiles dislodged in the storms were repaired immediately and the ripped felt on the roofs of our bike sheds etc has been replaced. Our garden area was also damaged by storm Isher and then just a day or so later storm Jocelyn destroyed our poly tunnel completely. This was such a shame and was particularly sad for Miss Fox and our Gardening Club.

We have used some of our school fund money to replace the poly tunnel. This has now been bought and after the area had been cleared the new one was put in place yesterday. Thanks to Chris, Miss Fox and an Eastlea parent who have all worked hard to get things sorted out as quickly as possible.

If anyone has any unwanted gardening equipment please - pots, compost, bark chippings etc we could make good use of it. Quite a lot was lost or damaged when the tunnel blew away.

Golden Day reminder

Please remember that on Friday this week (16th February) we are ending the half term with our **'Smart Thinkers'** Golden Day. This is a non-uniform day for everyone and the children will be involved in class based games, challenges and workshops led by the Happy Puzzle Company.

On Golden Day, there will be the usual arrangements for school lunch so if your child wants to have a school meal on Friday then money (£2.50 for Y3 to Y6 children who pay; or £2.20 for Nursery) should be paid as normal. See the previous Golden Day letter for further details. We are looking forward to another day of fun!

This half term finishes on Friday 16th February at the usual time. Please enjoy a break over the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone for the start of the second half of the spring term on Monday 26th February.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

Happy Half Term!

Creating happiness...
one puzzle at a time!