



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we head towards the February half term break, this letter provides some updates, a reminder about Golden Day tomorrow and also some advance notice of events happening when we return for the second half of the school year.

Duchess of Northumberland Visit

I'm sure you will have heard about our recent visit from the Duchess of Northumberland! We had a great day in school when she came to raise the Eastlea flag for the first time and she took a real interest in the school, going into every classroom and talking to lots of the pupils. There was a lot of local media attention following The Duchess' visit and you will have seen photographs/videos on the school website, as well as the county and town council Facebook pages. This week we are very proud to have also been featured on the front page of the News Post Leader!

The children have taken a real interest in the 'owl flag' as they call it! Many of them noticed when it seemed to disappear this week. This was purely for safety – we did not want to lose the flag in the recent gales!

Early Years – entrance doors and equipment update

Our new Nursery pupils have settled quickly into their routines since they joined us in January. The arrangements are now in place for the morning and afternoon sessions and feedback seems to indicate that this is running smoothly.

Thank you for your patience with the changes we have had to make regarding the entrance doors and timings. There are just a couple of reminders:

- For those arriving in the morning, please note that only Nursery/Year 5/Year 6 pupils should be coming into school when their entrance door initially opens at 8.45am. Pupils in other year groups should be coming in at 8.50am as usual – early entry for other year groups means that staff may not be available to receive your children in their classes which would not be safe. That extra five minutes makes all the difference so your support with this would be appreciated. [N.B. The Year 1/2/3/4 entrance door still opens at 8.50am as normal, so this had not changed.]
- Although it may be tempting please can you remind your children not to climb on or use the outdoor Early Years equipment. Again this could be unsafe. Thank you!

Valentine's Golden Day

Our February **Golden Day tomorrow is a non-uniform day** with a red/pink theme. The children will be taking part in a range of different activities in their classes to celebrate Valentine's Day as well as having a disco during the afternoon session (and the morning for some Nursery pupils). There is no fine to pay for coming in non-uniform and we are looking forward to an enjoyable day before we break up for the half term holiday. Pupils will finish at the usual time tomorrow!

Advance warning of events after half term

The children return to school on Monday 24th February after their half term break and there is already a lot planned for the next 6 weeks that take us up to Easter. A few key dates are noted below and others will be shared with you in the newsletter in the first week back.

- **Tuesday 25th February** – Year 2 educational visit by coach to Newcastle Castle
- **Tuesday 3rd March** – Year 5/Year 6 educational visit by train to Newcastle (quayside/bridges and the Laing art gallery)
- **Friday 6th March – World Book Day.** We are again going to have a '**Book at bedtime**' theme for this event. The '**fine**' for our '**pyjama day**' will be just £1 and the money raised will go towards our author visits which we try to arrange as often as possible for pupils to attend. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw!
- **Friday 13th March – Sport Relief Day.** The children will have the chance to take part in a range of sporting activities on this day and more details will be shared after half term.
- **Thursday 26th March** – Parents appointments will take place from 2.30 – 6.30pm for parents/carers of pupils from Nursery to Year 6 (additional appointment times for Nursery parents/carers will take place that week too). A letter with more details will be sent out after the holiday.
- **Monday 30th March** – Year 5 set off on their 3-day residential visit to Hawkhirst (Kielder)

Have a lovely half term holiday!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher