

Thursday 22nd May 2014



Dear Parents/Carers

The children break up on Friday after another busy half term at Eastlea. Once again the vast majority of pupils have tried very hard with their behaviour and are excitedly looking forward to the Golden day activities planned for tomorrow.

Important Golden Day reminders for Reception to Year 5

For those pupils who have earned the right to attend the visit to Plessey Woods the arrangements remain the same as detailed in the previous letter:

- **A non-uniform day for everyone ... with no fine to pay!** School uniform is not required, but wellies/strong shoes/boots and a waterproof coat are essential due to the recent mixed weather. A cap/hat would be a good idea whatever the weather!
- **Please make sure your child has a 'picnic' lunch and drink for lunchtime.** We will be eating our picnic in the woods and so a **plastic bag to sit on** would be a good idea in case of wet grass!
- 3.15pm – school day finishes at the usual time

Nursery Teddy Bears' Picnic

A teddy bear is the main item to bring tomorrow for Nursery children as well as wellies/suitable footwear for outdoor activities! School uniform is not required and a snack will be provided. Children should be collected as usual at 11.50am

Dates for after half term

When we return to school on Monday 2nd June we will be ready for the busy last half of the summer term. There are plenty of events planned, and you will be provided with details of these after the holiday. However, this is advance notice of some dates which you may wish to put in your diary:

- **Sports day** – last year our sports day event was a big success and the weather was kind to us. This year we have pencilled in the afternoon of **Tuesday 24th June** for Sports day – and fingers crossed we will have a fair afternoon again!!
- **Summer fayre** – this fundraising event is being planned for **Thursday 3rd July** and will be organised in a similar format to last year - probably starting at 2.30pm in the afternoon. More details will be circulated after the half term!
- **Open Afternoons** – rather than the 'Shine' assemblies which usually taken place in July, we have decided to plan a different format this year to give parents a better chance to see what has been happening in each classroom. Two dates for our 'open afternoons' have been planned...**Friday 27th June from 2pm** for parents/carers of pupils from Reception/Year 1/Year 2 and **Friday 11th July from 2pm** for parents/carers of pupils from Year 3/Year 4/Year 5.
- For **Year 6 parents/carers** the **Year 6 Leavers assembly** is planned for Tuesday 15th July at 2pm.

Thank you again for your support this half term! The five weeks seem to have flown by and have once again been a busy time for everyone involved with the school.... SATs assessments, Year 6 residential visit, Children's Cancer Run, Golden Mile competition for Year 2 who came first in Cramlington (well done!!) tri-golf competition and tag-rugby tournament for Year 3 and 4 plus a skipping festival for Year 3. We have also seen the presentation of the first of our **GOLD rainbow reading challenge awards**...45 in total! How many more will we get? Please encourage your child to keep reading as we will also have some special Champion reader awards at the end of the school year!

If you visit **Manor Walks** over the half term take a look at the **Eastlea 'planter'** designed and planted by Year 1 as part of the Cramlington in Bloom campaign. The Eastlea entry is sited near the entrance to ASDA in prime position and looks fantastic!

On the reverse of this newsletter is a copy of a letter from Mrs Daljit Lally which outlines plans for some tests which are to take place with Year 4 pupils in the next half term. We have been asked to send this to all parents.

Enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 2nd June!

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Your Ref:
Our Ref: DL/DA
Enquiries to: Mrs Daljit Lally
Direct Line: (01670) 622682
Fax:
E-mail: Daljit.Lally@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk

Date: 20th May 2014

Dear Parent

You may be aware that the Local Authority has been exploring ways in which to improve outcomes for children in all Northumberland schools. One of the ways that they hope to help achieve this is by improving the quality of information shared between schools when children transfer between phases or just move schools. Obviously, some schools and partnerships have excellent arrangements in place but the quality and accuracy of data does vary and we need to develop a simple method of validating the assessments before transfer.

Considerable thought has gone into how the Local Authority can help with this issue and the decision has been taken that the application of an additional short test in both reading and maths at Year 4 and Year 8 would provide an externally assessed set of baseline data that, along with other school assessment, will enhance the information available about each child. Additionally, the information will help provide a County wide picture of the achievement of children in all our schools.

The actual tests chosen are of a multi-choice variety and specifically designed to allow for ease of access and detailed analysis of the individual child's achievement. There will be a Numeracy test lasting 45 minutes and a Literacy test lasting 30 minutes. The opportunity will be there to study the analysis of data and help plan should any significant gaps be identified.

The tests will be administered with as little disruption as possible and no specific preparation will be required. The tests should be regarded as a normal part of the school's delivery of the curriculum and assessment of progress.

Yours sincerely



Daljit Lally
Executive Director Wellbeing and Community Health Services



Daljit Lally, Executive Director Wellbeing and Community Health Services

County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

(T) 0845 600 6400

(E) ask@northumberland.gov.uk

(W) www.northumberland.gov.uk

