



Dear Parents/Carers

Tomorrow marks the 'half way' point of this school year and as the children prepare to break up for half term here are a few updates and reminders before we return for the second half of the academic year.

Golden Day reminder

The vast majority of the pupils have earned the right to attend our Golden Day tomorrow and we are looking forward to a super Eastlea celebration of Chinese New Year! Remember, for those children who are taking part Friday is a non-uniform day with no fine to pay...the Chinese theme can include anything red, Chinese or to do with sheep (colour and symbols of the 2015 new year!).

Lunch has been ordered from the Mandarin Bay restaurant in Cramlington Village and the school hall will be decorated to provide a stylish 'Chinese banquet' for the children from Reception to Year 6 at lunchtime. There is nothing to pay for lunch as this is all part of the Golden Day treat.

For those who have contacted us, separate arrangements have been made to bring in a packed lunch but we have been delighted with the response from almost everyone to 'give it a try!' Thanks also go to the parents who have supported us further by using their contacts to provide additional 'Chinese treats' for the children during the day.

Maths Open Afternoon

We were delighted with the response to our recent Maths Open Afternoon. The feedback from those who attended was that the event was positive, helpful and worthwhile. Something we do not take for granted is the level of support provided for such occasions and the turn out for the event last Thursday was superb with over 75% of parents/carers/family members coming to take part in the range of activities provided in the classrooms throughout the school. **Thank you!**

Circus Reading Challenge

Our circus reading challenge is being very well supported. We have lots of children who have reached their bronze award – with the current total running at 169 (our best yet at this stage of the year)!! Many are nearing their silver award...and if your child reads in the half term holiday then this counts for a 'sticker' and we hope to reward our first silver winners when we get back after half term!

Sports update

Lots of opportunities continue to be provided for pupils to take part in various sporting activities at Eastlea as part of the sports partnership work that is ongoing in Cramlington. Thank you to the many parents who have encouraged their children to take part in the lunchtime football, upper key stage 2 girls football, or running clubs; before school street dance club, swimming lessons for Year 4, weekly after school dance academy or netball sessions, skipping coaching and the Year 5/Year 6 multi-skills academy selection event all of which have taken place this half term.



In particular I also wanted to mention:

- **Year 4 gymnastics** in which a team of 6 pupils took part in the area school games competition – we did not win, but the teamwork, self-belief and determination shown by our competitors was super!
- **Sports Council** – we continue to have regular meetings of our Sports Council (2 representatives from each class from Year 1 to Year 6) who work with Mrs Merryweather. They have recently undertaken a questionnaire to find out from pupils more about the clubs they would like us to arrange in school and this will inform future plans for the programme of activities we provide.
- **Eagles basketball match** – this social event is now becoming an annual occasion and was enjoyed by a group 53 pupils, parents, staff and families last Friday evening. The atmosphere at Sports Central in Newcastle is always good and the Eagles did not disappoint, with a well-earned 104 – 81 victory over the Leicester Riders. Thanks to Anthony Sampson (basketball coach) we also managed to have a photo of the pupils taken with the team, and Mrs Birdsey secured us some autographs as well!

We have lots planned for the next half term including the continuation of the popular before school, lunchtime and after school clubs as well as tag rugby coaching, school games football and hockey competitions, girls' football league matches, the Year 5 skipping festival, some new after school club opportunities and a first time evening visit to a Superleague netball game for KS2 pupils!

Parking update

We have received positive feedback from a local resident about the fact that problems about parking outside of school have been much better in recent months. Please can we continue to remember to respect the needs of our 'neighbours' and ensure that cars coming to school are not parking illegally or blocking drive ways etc. Thank you!

Attendance and punctuality

The coveted attendance trophy and punctuality plaque continue to be awarded each week and the 'party poppers' for 100% class attendance in a week have also been used on two occasions this half term (well done to Year 4 and Year 6!) Our overall half term class winners won't be announced until after the holiday but the weekly winners for the first five weeks of 2015 are listed below:

Attendance (One winner per week)	Punctuality (often shared by 2 classes each week)
Year 2 – once	Year 2 – three times
Year 3 – once	Year 3 – once
Year 4 – twice	Year 4 – once
	Year 5 – once
Year 6 – once	Year 6 – four times

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Sainsbury's are again running their Active Kids vouchers scheme (until the beginning of May). Thank you to those who have already sent vouchers into school. Any more would be gratefully received – there is a collection box in the library. Our Sports Council will then be able to take the opportunity to look through the Active Kids Catalogue and exchange the vouchers for some new playground games/sports equipment or cooking utensils/recipes!

Pupil Health Update – IMPORTANT!

Can we please request that we are informed immediately if any child/siblings/family members of a pupil develop chicken pox or measles. This is due to the ongoing treatment for an illness of a pupil who has just started at Eastlea. It is important that we inform this family if any signs of the chicken pox or measles virus become known to us so that the appropriate medical treatment can be sought for this child. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Free Childcare for 2 year olds! (A message from Northumberland County Council)

Is your child 2 or turning 2 before the 31st March 2015?

Find out if you could be entitled to 15 hours of free childcare from April 2015:

www.northumberland.gov.uk/freechildcare or 01670 623592

Advance notice...some important dates for your diary

We will be sending out information of what is planned for next half term after the holiday, but wanted you to be aware in advance of some dates to put in your diary:

- **Thursday 5th March** – Eastlea will be celebrating **World Book Day** with children asked to come to school dressed up as a character from a book. The £1 'fine' which will be requested for this event will go towards our library funds.
- **Friday 13th March** – we will be supporting the national 'Comic Relief' charity event - more details will follow after half term.
- **Wednesday 18th March** – evening social occasion for pupils with their families in the form of a 'Maths family bingo' event (more details will follow after half term)
- **Thursday 26th March** – Parents appointments will take place from 2.30 – 6.30pm for parents/carers of pupils from Reception to Year 6 (with lunchtime appointments that week for Nursery parents/carers)

The children break up on Friday at the usual time after Golden Day. Enjoy the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school for the second half of the spring term on Monday 23rd February.

Yours sincerely

E Beeston

Miss E Beeston,
Head Teacher