



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome all the children back into school this week. Everyone who was able to attend has been in school and the broad smiles in the classrooms have reinforced just how much the children have missed being with their friends and how much they are enjoying being able to get back into a more usual routine.

Today we had our first 'Zoom assembly' since December and this gave the opportunity for all the children to see all the classes – the only time they get to do this, as we are still not allowed to meet in the hall with the whole school. One of the things we reflected on was how we had managed to stay connected during the lockdown period, including:

- the very positive response to the **online learning** provided – for example this was seen in the fact that since January there have been **14,215 posts added to Seesaw** from pupils/parents/staff in KS1 and KS2. This is a phenomenal number and shows how many pieces of work, feedback, comments and messages were shared during this time. Some special '**Eastlea lockdown home learning commendation letters**' have been awarded to children today for those who completed all the tasks during the 8 weeks we were off school – well done to them all - and a huge thank you for your support with this!
- the positive feedback we had to the '**zoom**' **catch up sessions** for each class in the last few weeks which seemed to be well received by those who were able to access them
- the continuing success of our **Rainbow reading challenge**. So many have kept reading and now earned their bronze and in many cases silver awards – congratulations! **Certificates and specially commissioned badges were presented to our 142 silver award winners today!**



Clubs

After today, we have 2 more school weeks before the Easter holiday and I know these will fly by, which is why we made the decision to restart some clubs as soon as we could. Thank you to those who have responded to these opportunities already and as reminder the grid below outlines the 'face to face' clubs which are currently taking place either before school, at lunchtimes, after school or in the evenings following Covid secure guidelines:

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). <i>This costs £2.50 per day.</i> 	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4 on Tuesdays (£2 per session)	KS2 Singing Club for Y4/Y5 on Wednesdays
	Rugby Rocket Tots for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£2 per session)	Badminton club for Y6 on Thursdays
	Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays	Grassroots Gymnastics club for Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5 on Thursday evenings (5.30pm – 7.00pm; £5 per session)
	Running Club for Y4, Y5, and Y6 on a rota basis on Thursdays	

You also have the opportunity of taking part in 2 'Virtual clubs' – Dance Blast (led by Rachel) and football (led by Cramlington United) – which can be accessed by all year groups from home [probably more suitable for children from Y1 upwards]. These will run for the next couple of weeks and are led by coaches that have previously worked in school and have provided on-line lessons during the lockdown period. They can be accessed throughout the week, or weekend by using the YouTube links which have been shared via Seesaw and are on the school Facebook page and website.

PE kits

As you know, PE lessons are continuing in school with an aim of keeping everyone as active and engaged as possible. Sport has a high profile at Eastlea so we ask that all children have a named PE kit in school during the week so that whenever PE lessons/sports coaching sessions occur, the children are well prepared. As the cooler weather continues children (Y3 upwards) must have suitable outdoor trainers and can also wear plain dark tracksuits for warmth (and gloves may be useful for KS2 as they are doing hockey to start with). Your support with this is appreciated.

Activities and dates for the diary planned for the coming weeks – these are some dates for your diary of what is due to take place before the Easter holidays:

What's on	When and who?
Skipping/dance sessions in PE lessons	Monday afternoons from 8 th March (Year 5 and Year 6)
'Rocksteady' bands	Tuesday mornings in the hall from 9 th March (Reception, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6)
Hockey coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 9 th March (Year 3/Year 4) Thursday afternoons from 11 th March (Year 5/Year 6)
Specialist KS2 French/music	Wednesday afternoons from 10 th March (Year 5 and Year 6)
Gymnastics coaching in PE lessons	Wednesday afternoons from 10 th March (Year 1/Year 2)
'Online' Yoga coaching in PE lessons	Thursday mornings from 11 th March (Nursery/Reception) Friday mornings from 12 th March (Year 1/Year 2)
'Online' Dance sessions in PE lessons	Friday afternoons from 12 th March (Year 3 and Year 4)
Separate Covid secure visits for Nursery pupils who are due to start after Easter	After school on Tuesday 16 th and Wednesday 17 th March
Comic Relief Day (see separate letter)	Friday 19th March – wear something red, think of a joke and make a donation for a break time treat!
Dance Sparks Celebration event	Monday 22nd March (each class to perform/video in the hall during the day, as part of a Cramlington wide event)
Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 24 th March at 4.30pm
Golden Day	Friday 26th March (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for Easter	Friday 26 th March – <u>at 1.45pm/2pm</u>
School reopens after the Easter holiday	Monday 12th April 2021

Easter Grassroots sports activity week

As mentioned in an earlier update letter, we are hosting an **Easter Sports and Activity Week** led by **Grassroots** for Eastlea pupils only for 4 days in the first week of the Easter holiday. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to remain active and spend time with their peers during the Easter break (**Monday 29th March – Thursday 1st April**).

More information is included in the separate letter and if you wish your child to take part then please email Grassroots directly to organise payment. We hope to get a good uptake from the different year groups as this will then make it easier to split those taking part into their class bubbles. Weather permitting as much of the course as possible will be outside on the school field.

N.B. If the numbers who wish to enrol are not high enough to make the course viable, then you will be informed that the sessions are not going ahead.

Y5/Y6 residential visits update

Due to the uncertainty around Covid we have had to take the decision to cancel the Year 6 visit to York which had been planned for July this year. I realise this is very disappointing for all concerned. It means that there have been no residential visits for Year 6 children and there can also be no visit to Hawkthirst for the current Year 5 class either.

We are planning an alternative 'onsite residential activity' in early July and we hope that this will provide our Year 5/Year 6 children with something to look forward to in the coming months. More details will be included in a separate letter for these children next week!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

WELCOME BACK!