



Dear Parents/Carers,

It was good to welcome everyone back for the start of the second half of the autumn term this week. The 'run in' to Christmas is always a busy time at Eastlea and this newsletter shares some important reminders as well as details of what we have planned for the coming 7 weeks.

Year 5 have now completed their residential visit to the Robinwood activity centre. The feedback has been very positive. I know they all had a super time and a big thank you to the staff who accompanied them.

At the time of writing, we are hoping that our **Colour Run** can go ahead today...we will do our best to make it happen, but if the weather stops us again, then we will postpone it until the spring / summer term instead!

Eastlea Values – thank you for your input in our decision making

Before the half term break we asked for your help in choosing 3 key values which we want to highlight at Eastlea. Thank you to everyone who filled in one of the sheets at the parent appointments. The same process was completed with staff, governors and some of the older pupils before they left us in the summer term. At the staff training day before the October half term break the outcomes were shared with staff by Miss Fox our Senior Mental Health Lead and this half term we are exploring 3 values with the children...RESPECT, KINDNESS and RESILIENCE. As many of you noted, it was such a difficult decision to choose 'just three' and so we are continuing to develop our thinking around this to incorporate other characteristics of learning which underpin the key values. More information will be shared as these ideas are developed.

As part of this, look out for the letter about our **Positive Noticing Day** on Monday 10th November - it should be a lovely start to Friendship Week which some of the Brainwaves team introduced to the children at the assembly this morning.

School Admissions for Reception 2026 – a reminder

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September please remember that the admissions portal opened on 1st November and closes on 15th January.

It is very important that you complete an application for a place as soon as possible. **Even if your child currently attends our Eastlea Nursery then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception September 2026.** First time users will need to register an account. The link to the Admissions Portal is here [Admissions Portal](#)

If you require any help or need advice please email the school admissions team on schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk or contact Mrs Shimmin / Miss Beeston in school.

PE days for each class and uniform reminder

The current PE days for each class are listed below – if other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers if PE kit is required at other times:

- Reception – Monday
- Year 1 – Wednesday
- Year 2 – Wednesday and Friday
- Year 3 – Tuesday and Wednesday
- Year 4 – Wednesday and Friday
- Year 5 – Thursday and Friday
- Year 6 – Monday and Thursday

Remember that children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' ONLY– which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). Joggers should be plain, without lettering please. **Hoodies should NOT be worn on other days.**

- You may have seen the lost property 'tables' outside before half term. We seem to have even more items this year. Please can we remind everyone that uniform/hoodies/joggers/coats etc **must be named**. Unnamed uniform items can be very difficult to locate and return if they go missing. Your support with this is appreciated.
- As you know earrings cannot be worn in school. Transparent plastic spacers can be provided from the school office as a safer alternative for those who need them. Thank you.

Remember that the **Hope Centre Uniform and baby bank** is available for collection of good quality school clothing (and they also welcome donations of pre-loved uniform too). **This service is FREE!** They can be contacted by email on: hope1uniform@gmail.com

Parking

Please continue to park considerately without blocking roads/driveways and aim to use the 'park and stride' opportunity from the Church of Nazarene to avoid congestion outside of school. This proved to be a popular option during Active October and it would be great if this continued. Thank you!



School Lunch menus and guidance for food in schools



New guidelines for school lunch menus, snacks and packed lunch policies have been produced which staff are coming to terms with. These are especially for our Early Years children but there is also guidance for all ages.

One change that will take effect from next week is that **water** will be served each day for the children to have with their school meals (rather than juice) and **milk** will replace milkshakes on Mondays. This has been successfully trialled during this week with Nursery/Reception children.

Other options we are looking at are widening the range of vegetables on offer for the children and having a salad bar to provide more choice for the children to accompany their main course. We will be seeking views from the children for these changes – especially our 'Roots and Shoots' experts (Year 6). Once we have further information you will be updated about any changes to the school lunch menus that we need to put into place.



Attendance and punctuality

Our rates of attendance are continuing to improve and we are above national averages, which is excellent news. Last half term our average attendance was 95.8% - almost at our 96% target! Thank you for your support with this. Punctuality for some children/families does however remain an issue - please remember that the time that children should be coming into school each morning is **8.45am**. If there are any issues you are facing with attendance or punctuality please talk to us and we can see what can be done to help.





Enterprise Fund - thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who returned sponsor money after the completion of our Enterprise fundraising events in Active October. Today we were very pleased to let the children know that we had raised a grand total of **£2408**. Each class has their own 'pot' of money which the staff will be planning to use for resources or activities for the children in the coming terms.

Clubs and events for this half term

We have lots of clubs planned for this half term and most letters about these have been sent out already. Letters for clubs starting later this month will be sent out nearer the time.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). <i>N.B. Pupils to arrive between 7.30 – 8.15am to allow time for breakfast to be served.</i>  This costs £3 per day if booked/paid for in advance or £3.50 if children just turn up on the day	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (£2 per session)	Christmas Craft Club for a group of Y1/Y2 on Mondays for 3 weeks from 17 th November Multi-skills club for Y1/Y2 on Tuesdays
Street Dance Club for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays from 8am in the school hall	KS1 Professional football coaching on Wednesdays (£2 per session)	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays
	Lacemaking for Y6 on Wednesdays	Violins Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays
Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/childminders: Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am in the school hall Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child. 	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays	Badminton club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays

Events for this half term

The list below contains outline details of what is in the diary so far for the coming weeks including dates for the Christmas events. Further information will be shared about certain activities nearer the time.

What's on	When and who?
Residential visit to Robinwood (Cumbria)	Monday 3 rd – Wednesday 5 th November (Y5)
Poppies for sale for Royal British Legion	From Monday 3 rd – Friday 7 th November
Pedestrian Training sessions	Weekly on Monday afternoons from Monday 3 rd November (Y3)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 4 th November (class bands from various year groups)
Mighty Minds Health and Wellbeing workshops	Tuesday afternoons from Tuesday 4 th November (4 sessions for Y5 / Y6)
Basketball / multi-skills / handball coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 4 th November (Y3) Wednesday mornings from 5 th November (Y3/Y4) Thursday afternoons from 6 th November (Y5/Y6)
Specialist Music, French, PE and Computing sessions	Wednesday afternoons for Reception to Year 6 from 5 th November
Friendship week – “Power for Good”	w/b Monday 10th November <i>including Positive Noticing Day on 10th November – see separate letter</i>
Autumn term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 12 th November (4.30pm)
Educational Visit to Nissan	Thursday 13 th November (Year 6)
Children in Need ‘Pennies for Pudsey’ fundraising event	Friday 14th November – whole school <i>[Pudsey dress up day... see separate letter ...please bring in coins]</i>
Thunder in the Valley basketball tournament and visit to Newcastle Eagles match	Friday 14 th November – after school/evening (teams from Y5/Y6 and KS2 children/families)
Rocksteady Assembly	Morning of Monday 17 th November (Reception to Y6)
England Rocks – TTRS focus for KS2 classes	from Tuesday 18 th – Thursday 20 th November
Hoopstarz Festival at Newbiggin	Morning of Friday 21 st November (team of children from Y3 with small group of Y6 sports leaders)
Visit for new Nursery pupils who are due to start in January	Tuesday 25 th November (after school) <i>[details have been shared with these families]</i>
Presentation of autumn term Writing awards	Wednesday 26 th November
Non-uniform day to bring in raffle prizes for the Christmas Raffle	Friday 28th November – whole school
Presentation of the first of our Bronze Football reading challenge awards	Friday 28 th November
Presentation of autumn term Maths Awards	Monday 1 st December
Early Years Christmas workshops in the school hall for parents/carers and pupils	Monday 1 st December at 2.30pm (Reception) Wednesday 3 rd December at 9am (Nursery)
Rocksteady class bands concert	9.10am Tuesday 2 nd December (whole school plus parents/carers of children involved)
Year 6 prepare a Festive meal for their guests	1.45pm on Tuesday 2 nd December – <i>more details to follow</i>
OWLETS toddler group Christmas party	Thursday 4 th December from 9.00 – 10.30am
Christmas Fair... and Eastlea Christmas Jumper day / Santa Dash	<u>THURSDAY</u> 4th December 3.15pm – 4.45pm <i>[more details to follow]</i>
RE Theme Day	Friday 5 th December

What's on	When and who?
KS2 Singing Club and Violin group mini concert	3.45pm on Wednesday 10 th December – <i>for parents of children involved in these clubs</i>
<p>Christmas productions</p> <p><i>(Please note that as outlined in the earlier newsletter we have added an extra Early Years performance and slightly changed the timings of the KS1/KS2 performances on both days – there will be further details sent out nearer the time!)</i></p>	<p><u>Nursery/Reception:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 11th December (9.30am) Friday 12th December (9.30am) <p><u>Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6:</u> joint production for all these year groups which will be performed 4 times over 2 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 11th December (10.30am) Thursday 11th December (2pm) Friday 12th December (10.30am) Friday 12th December (2pm)
<p>Christmas parties</p> <p><i>[more details to follow...we will be asking for a £1 donation per child to fund refreshments]</i></p>	<p>Afternoon of Monday 15th December - Reception, Y1, Y2</p> <p>Morning of Tuesday 16th December - Nursery and</p> <p>Afternoon of Tuesday 16th December - Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6</p>
<p>Christmas lunch for pupils</p> <p><i>(Further details of menu nearer the time)</i></p>	Tuesday 16th December
Carol Singing at Sainsbury's, Manor Walks	10am on Wednesday 17 th December (Year 6)
GOLDEN DAY	Thursday 18th December
Start of the Eastlea Christmas holiday	<u>2PM</u> on Friday 19 th December
Staff Training Day	Monday 5 th January 2026
Pupils return for the spring term	Tuesday 6 th January 2026

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, **Head Teacher**