



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week brings to an end the first half of the autumn term. We have had a busy 8 weeks with such a lot happening since the new school year started in September and an especially 'active' time this month. **THANK YOU** for the support you have provided for our many events and activities.

- The launch of our **Football themed reading challenge** saw **£180** raised for reading resources and incentives. We had our best turn out yet at the launch event – THANK YOU! Almost all the children are now in good routines with reading at home and getting their reading record books signed. The bookmarks are filling up with the weekly star stickers and we will look forward to our first Bronze awards being presented at the end of November. ***Remember that all children are asked to read over the half term holiday next week (or practise their letter sounds in Reception) – and this will ensure they get their next star on the bronze bookmark!***
- Over the summer holiday we were delighted with the huge number of children who took part in the libraries '**Story Garden**' summer reading challenge. **72** Eastlea pupils completed the challenge and as well as their certificates and wooden medals which some received from the library, everyone was rewarded with a reading celebration picnic thanks to Mrs Lister.
- Our **parent appointments** in the last fortnight were extremely well attended and there seemed to be a really positive atmosphere in the hall on both afternoons/evenings – something we do not take for granted. **Thank you for making the time to come and see your child's class teacher and completing the feedback on the top 3 Eastlea values** – you will hear more about this after half term.
- Our team of Y5/Y6 Brainwaves have been very keen to promote the activities planned for Active October. We have had a super 4 weeks of varied events and opportunities for all classes:
  - Week 1: **Environment week** which started with workshops and a concert led by the very active **Pearl of Africa children's choir**, then our Hike for Harvest placing our decorated walking stones around Eastfield playing fields/Northburn Park. 227kg of food and £61 in cash were donated for the **Cramlington Foodbank**. Staff/pupils were trained to use the **WOW walk to school tracker** app and all classes from Reception upwards enjoyed the **scooter/skateboard** workshops, Our **KS2 Moki band challenges** also began with Year 5/Year 6 starting the competition.
  - Week 2: **Walk to school week** with stickers for those arriving on foot/bike/scooter presented by the Brainwave 'astronauts' at the school gates. **Sainsbury's** healthy eating/activity workshops led by Gemma – making strawberry caterpillars, fruit cones and healthy salads plus an exercise session and **Breakdance workshops** for the whole school. Year 3/Year 4 wore the **Moki bands** and Year 6 were out at Sainsbury's to purchase ingredients for their challenge next week, at the Safety works in Newcastle and at a Dodgeball festival too. Well done to **Year 5** who won the KS2 Moki band class challenge!
  - Week 3: **Bike/scooter week** with Brainwaves presenting 'luminous' reflectors to the many children who came to school on bikes/scooters, **Green Cross Code** workshops for 4 classes, **Jiu Jitsu** workshops for Reception/Year 1, **Yoga** for 4 classes, our **Sponsored Enterprise Fundraising events** – wheels/bike/scooter/walking in the school yard, Northburn Park and to Blyth as well as some colourful **Blinged bikes and scooters**. Year 6 completed their cooking on a budget challenge at JLV and the Sports Crew had a training session before **Dancercise** fitness workshops for all classes completed the week. We had some great feedback from Molly from Fizzy Studios who led these sessions who said she always loves coming to Eastlea as the children are just superb! The **Moki Challenge** for the most active rocket group got started too!
  - Week 4: **Be Bright Be Seen week** with Y5 **litter picking** in the local area, **yoga** sessions for the remaining classes, a **Hula Hooping** workshop for Year 3 plus taster sessions for 3 other classes and everyone looking forward to our **Active October Golden Day** which completes the month.

N.B.

1. If your child still has some **sponsorship money** to return to school then it would be good to have this before the half term break – or in the first couple of days of the new half term. THANK YOU!
2. We are still encouraging the children to keep active and hope that as many as possible can continue to walk, cycle or scooter to school after half term. If a car is the only option, then please make use of the **Park and Stride facility from the Church of the Nazarene**. Parking is so much easier there and the children seem to enjoy the few minutes walk along the path, under the underpass and up to the school.

## Active October Golden Day – last day of the half term for pupils



On Thursday this week (23<sup>rd</sup> October) we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year - something everyone is looking forward to.

Remember that Thursday is a **brightly coloured non-uniform day** with NO FINE TO PAY. Children from all classes will be taking part in a silent disco with foam light glow sticks and then weather permitting for pupils from Reception upwards they are invited to join the Eastlea Colour Run. **Remember a change of clothes is required for this – old clothes and sunglasses/swimming goggles if they have them! The children will be dismissed from the normal gates but will be covered in paint when they come out!!** [If it cannot

happen we will postpone it until another time.]

If your child wants to have the 'something and chips' then jelly/ice-cream Golden Day lunch then money should be paid in the usual way (£2.50 for Year 3/4/5/6 and £2.20 for Nursery). ALL dinner money and breakfast club payments must be paid by Thursday please.

**The children will finish at their normal time and this is their last day of term – as the staff have a training day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October.**

## HUGGG half term vouchers

Families entitled to benefit based free school meals will have received an email/link to enable them to access a HUGGG supermarket voucher funded by UK Government/DWP Household Support Fund for groceries etc over the half term break.

*Please note that this voucher has an expiry date (21<sup>st</sup> November 2025) and must be used for its intended purpose only. The voucher must not be sold, passed on or used for any other purpose. If you are not able to use it, or do not require the vouchers for food/clothing please contact the school and arrange for its return. Northumberland County Council reserve the right to carry out checks to ensure the vouchers are used for their intended purpose, and by accepting this voucher you agree to these checks being undertaken. If anyone is found to mis-use the voucher Northumberland County Council may take action to recover the money, in full, from you as well as taking any other action they deem appropriate.*

## School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2026 – a reminder

As far as we are aware every Year 6 parent has now made an application on the Northumberland admissions portal to secure their child a place in Year 7 for September 2026. If anyone has not yet done this then the portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October). **It is essential that you apply before the deadline so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or the secondary school of your choice.**

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens on 1<sup>st</sup> November and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026*. Please note that **EVEN IF YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING OUR EASTLEA NURSERY then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception September 2026.** The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions).

## Advance notice of charity/school events after half term

We will let you know full details of further events and activities when we return after the half term break, but here are just a few highlights to mention for November...and December

- We will have poppies on sale in the first week back to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion** ready for Remembrance Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- **Friendship week** takes place in the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- 'Children in Need' takes place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November and we will be having our usual dress up day and annual '**Pennies for Pudsey**' appeal...so now would be a good time to start collecting coins!
- The **Thunder in the Valley** competition and evening **Eagles basketball match** takes place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November too. Remember to return your request for tickets/money by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November if you wish to take part in these events.
- Our **Christmas Fair will take place after school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**
- The **Eastlea Christmas productions** will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** (9.30am for Early Years and 10.30am / 2pm for the rest of the school on both days)

**And finally...** don't forget that the children break up for half term after Golden Day on Thursday at their usual time.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, when most of our Y5 class will be heading to Robinwood for their residential visit.

Yours sincerely, **Miss E Beeston**, Head Teacher

