



Dear Parents / Carers

On Friday this week the autumn term comes to an end after another busy 7 weeks at Eastlea. This letter provides information for the remaining days of this week as well an update on some of the many events which have happened in recent months.

Eastlea Christmas activities

Our Eastlea Christmas activities have been extremely well supported this year. **THANK YOU** for attending events in such large numbers:

- We had lots of positive feedback from **Nursery and Reception families** who attended our **Christmas craft workshops**. It was lovely to provide the opportunity for you to work alongside your child in school.
- the **Festive Meal prepared and served by Year 6** was a real success. Parents/wider family members/governors thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Our Y6 children prepared and served a 3 course Christmas meal for their guests and sang some Christmas songs too. On that afternoon the children raised a further **£82** for their Enterprise funds thanks to donations for the mini-affle.
- Once again we had lots and lots of people at our annual **Christmas Fair**. In total we raised the amazing total of **£2325.00** and this money goes towards our Golden Day funds. *(Another £162.91 was added to this total from the refreshments and donations last week at the performances – thank you!)*
- Our various performances in recent weeks have had very supportive audiences. We could really see the progression in the skills shown by our **Rocksteady band** members as well as our **KS2 singing club** and **violin group** who performed so confidently – well done! Large audiences also attended the six performances of the **key stage Christmas productions** last week. Having Year 2 and Year 5 children taking a lead in the KS1&KS2 production either on the stage or in a supporting role worked well and we had lots of positive comments about the cheerful singing! Early Years are always the stars of the show with their nativity and they did a super job too!

There are of course still more events going on, with the class parties this week and the Christmas dinner tomorrow, plus Year 6 out carol singing at Sainsbury's Manor Walks on Wednesday at 10am and obviously the countdown continuing to our special Christmas Golden Day on Thursday this week!

The Bethlehem Experience church visit

A big thank you to members of the Church of the Nazarene who led an interactive 'workshop' on Friday 5th December as part of our Christmas themed RE day. It was lovely to have the Christmas story brought to life in this way and I know the children enjoyed 'meeting' all the characters.

School meals this week and after the holidays

Due to the Christmas dinner tomorrow, the school lunch menus for Tuesday and Wednesday will be as follows:

- Tuesday 16th – Christmas dinner
- Wednesday 17th – chicken / turkey (!) curry

The other days will follow the usual Week 1 menu and when we return in w/b 6th January it will be week 1 menus again – *we always start with week 1 after a school holiday!*

Thank you to everyone who has returned the form outlining the pattern of dinners/packed lunches for their child as from January. If you have still not done this then please can we have the completed forms asap. Spare copies are available from the school office if required.

Charity and Fundraising Support

We have had a couple of charity events this half term and wanted to say **THANK YOU** once again for your generosity and support for these...

- **Poppies** – in November, the half term started with some members of Year 5 coordinating our annual support for the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. We are still waiting to hear the total money raised – but the collecting 'tin' seemed very heavy! Thank you!
- **Children In Need** – our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' event took place and we raised the brilliant total of **£461.49** for Children in Need.

End of term awards

- **Reading** – Our Football reading challenge is well underway and almost everyone throughout the school has very good reading routines each week. The first Bronze awards were presented on 28th November and so far we have been able to present certificates/football keyrings to **180** children. These pupils have already started on their silver bookmark! If your child hasn't yet received their bronze award, it is not too late! Encourage them to keep reading and more certificates will be awarded in the New Year! **Reading in the Christmas holiday counts as one sticker on their 'Football' bookmark'**!
- **Writing** – on 26th November 'Writing Award' certificates and letters were presented to the children chosen as autumn term class winners for their enthusiasm, progress and positive attitude shown in writing across the curriculum since September. Well done to them all!
- **Maths** – on 1st December one child from each class was chosen who had shown real enthusiasm, resilience and determination in class-based maths lessons. Each of our maths award winners also received a letter and certificate. Congratulations to all our winners!
- **Sports** – our **Y5/Y6 basketball team** represented Eastlea superbly in the Thunder in the Valley tournament at the Eagles arena on 14th November. They played really well and only just missed out on progressing towards the final. The same evening a large group of KS2 children and family members went to watch the Eagles basketball game and had a great time despite seeing the Eagles narrowly beaten in the fourth quarter.
Our **Year 3 team** loved taking part in their **Hoopstarz** festival on 21st November overseen by two of our Year 6 Sports Leaders. 3 of them were presented with their own hula hoop – they had been specially chosen for showing real perseverance and a positive attitude as they developed their hooping skills. Well done!
The whole school was also involved in the **National Santa Dash** on Thursday 5th December which was organised by our Year 6 Sports Crew. Everyone looked great as they ran around the school grounds wearing festive headgear – and they were rewarded for their efforts with a gingerbread man donated by the North Tyneside Steam Railway. Thank you!

HUGGG 'Free School Meal' vouchers for eligible families

This week an order will be placed for the vouchers which can be exchanged for groceries at local supermarkets. As before, this will mean that parents of those children eligible for benefit based free school meals will have a link emailed to them which they can activate to generate a gift card for use over the Christmas holidays at a supermarket of their choice. Please note that the expiry date to activate the vouchers is 16th January 2026.

Christmas Golden Day – Thursday 18th December

Everyone who has earned the right to take part in Golden Day is very much looking forward to Thursday! Nursery children will be in school wearing their pyjamas for their '**Twas the night before Christmas**' interactive workshop, while everyone else will be heading out after an early lunch to Newcastle Theatre Royal for the matinée performance of **Aladdin** which is a **20th anniversary celebration** of Danny and Mick's involvement in the Newcastle pantomimes. We can't wait!!



Please remember that for all children (apart from Nursery) school uniform is required on Golden Day – with the option of festive headgear (Santa hats/reindeer antlers etc).

**** Please can you make sure the permission slip for attendance at the Golden Day for all children from Reception upwards is signed/returned asap. Well done Y6 who have all returned theirs already!**

****Can we also ask that for those going to the theatre, no reading folders, water bottles, bags, scarves/gloves etc are brought into school on Golden Day.** They won't need them and it will make it easier to dismiss the children quickly on our return to school without them needing to go to classrooms/cloakrooms.

****On our return to school from Newcastle the pupils will be taken into the school hall to be dismissed from there by their class teachers** – the timing of 5.15pm is approximate, but we will aim to let you know a more specific time when we are on the way back to school depending on traffic.

Eastlea School Values update

This term we have been exploring our 3 Eastlea values with the children – focusing on showing **respect**, being **kind** and developing **resilience**. Our **Positive Noticing Day** in **Friendship Week** last month was very successful and I know some children (and many staff) still have the labels they were given on that day!



Each class teacher is on the look out for children who demonstrate these values within their classrooms and our Golden badge winners each week have been chosen for showing one or more of these values in school. We will be further considering these values on our staff training day at the start of January and will let you know any further updates in the spring term.

Attendance update

Our high focus on attendance continues and in January we will be in touch with parents of children whose attendance has fallen below 90% (persistent absentees) and those whose attendance percentage is at risk of dropping below this figure (below 94%). We are very grateful to those parents who have spoken to staff about issues they are facing with getting their children into school due to illness or other issues. This has enabled us to discuss the problems being faced and work together to address them.

Just a reminder that in terms of illness, whilst sickness and/or diarrhoea does require an absence of 48 hours to help reduce the risks of bugs being spread, other **minor illnesses do NOT require your child to miss school**. It is fine for children with a sniffly nose, sore throat, headache or other cold symptoms to attend school. In some cases, if it helps, then with your signed permission we can administer a dose of calpol to your child at lunchtime if this will prevent them missing school. The NHS information about this is always our reference point – **“Is my child too ill for school?”** which can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance Ladder



Punctuality

For some children punctuality is becoming a concern with pupils regularly arriving after 8.45am which means they are missing crucial learning – often targeted fluency work in Maths every morning. This seems to be a bigger issue with some KS2 children who are being dropped off a little late or in the case of Year 5/Year 6 are walking to school themselves and failing to arrive on time. **Please can we ask for your support to ensure that other than in exceptional circumstances your child gets into school at 8.45am each morning.** THANK YOU!

Early Years updates

1. Most Nursery parents have now completed their application for Reception places in September 2026. A final reminder that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15th January 2026**. The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions).
2. We have 6 children who are due to join our Nursery next term for full day sessions. They will start during the first few days of January. Details have been shared with the families concerned.
3. Our Nursery continues to be very popular, so I would advise that if you or someone you know has a pre-school age child and they would like a place at our Eastlea Nursery then it is best to apply as soon as possible, even if it is for some way in advance!

School uniform

A reminder that if you require any new school uniform it can be ordered directly from Emblematic using the following link: <https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school/>

Uniform ordered in term time can be delivered to school for you to pick up free of charge. Alternatively Eastlea uniform is stocked in the Bedlington Emblematic shop or in holiday time you can ask for uniform to be delivered to your home address (this does have an extra cost). Parents who have recently ordered items have found the turn around on orders is relatively fast.

A reminder too that if you need to 'refresh' any school uniform over the Christmas holiday, the Hope Centre Uniform and baby bank in Cramlington will still be open over the festive fortnight before the new term starts in January if you need any **FREE** pre-loved items. They can be contacted by email on: hope1uniform@gmail.com

Please can we ask that any uniform/coats etc worn by children in school is clearly NAMED. We have had a mountain of lost property this term and if items are unnamed it is impossible to return them. Unnamed items that have not been claimed have now been donated to the Hope Centre.

Year 4 swimming – advance notice

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session will be on Monday 12th January and the children will have a one hour session at the pool for 10 weeks in the spring term. The cost of each session is £4.50 per child per week. This price includes the school subsidising the costs of the lesson and the transport. The swimming lessons are part of the KS2 PE curriculum but in order for us to provide this for the children we have to pay for the instructors and the coach transport to get us to the pool at Concordia. In common with the other schools in the Cramlington partnership we therefore have to ask for a £4.50 donation from parents/carers each week. Without these contributions, the lessons will not be able to go ahead in this format. A letter with further information about this will be shared with Year 4 parents from Mrs Thirlwell.

Family Hub information

We have been sent some information to share with all families about support that is on offer via the Family Hubs. The QR code below will take you to the Family Hubs app for more information and 'Navigating Parenthood' is just one of the course they can offer. I have also included the December 'What's On' pages for the coming fortnight (on the next page) in case they are of interest.

Check out our exciting new
Family Hub App



SCAN ME



Funded by
UK Government

Family Hubs
Here for everyone

Northumberland
County Council

Navigating Parenthood

A positive, practical parenting course
for families with children aged 6+

- ✓ Stages of behaviour
- ✓ Effective communication
- ✓ Building relationships
- ✓ Clear boundaries and expectations
- ✓ Parenting styles and temperaments
- ✓ Reconciliation gestures
- ✓ Understanding brain development
- ✓ Co-regulation and de-escalation techniques
- ✓ Online safety
- ✓ Useful, practical help and support

Book your
place now -
Nland.cc/fhreg

Starting 12th Jan at 6.30pm Online

Family Hubs
Here for everyone



And finally, I would like to wish everyone a 'Merry Christmas'...and don't forget that the pupils break up at **2pm on Friday 19th December** for their Christmas holidays. Normal school uniform is required on this last day of term.

Have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you all again on **Tuesday 6th January 2026** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Monday 5th January is a staff training day).

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston,
Head Teacher



South East Family Hubs December 2025



Monday 15th Of December - Friday 19th of December

MONDAY

15th Dec

PEEP Stay and
Play drop in
Blyth West
Family Hub
1:00-14:30pm

Family Christmas
Movie Night
'HOME ALONE'
Blyth West
Family Hub
Movie Starts at 4:15
*Booking Required



TUESDAY

16th Dec

Calm Stay & Play
Blyth West
Family Hub
09:30-10:30am

Weigh Clinic
(Health Team)
Blyth Central
Family Hub
9:30-11:30am
Cramlington
Community Hub
1:00-3:00pm
0300 3732488 to book

Family Christmas
Movie Night
'HOME ALONE'
Blyth Central
Family Hub
Movie Starts at 4:15
*Booking Required

Family Drop In
Blyth Central
Family Hub
3.30-4:45pm

WEDNESDAY

17th Dec

PEEP Stay and
Play drop in
Astley Pavilion
Seaton Deval
10:00-11:00am

Feeding Friends
Blyth West Family
Hub
12:30-2:00pm

Weigh Clinic
(Health Team)
Blyth West
Family Hub
1:00pm-3:00pm
Cramlington
Community Hub
1:00-3:00pm
0300 3732488 to book

Free to Be
Blyth Central
Family Hub
4:30-7:15pm

THURSDAY

18th Dec

Birth Registration
Blyth Central
Family Hub
To register your new baby &
obtain their birth certificate,
book an appointment via
Birth Registration on
Northumberland County
Council's website, or call
on 0345 600 6400

Thursday Tales
Short Movies, Stories
& Crafts
'SNOWMAN &
SNOWDOG'
Blyth Central
10:00-11:30am
*Booking required

Calm Movie Night
The Boy, The Mole, The
Fox & The Horse
Blyth West
Family Hub
Movie Starts at 4:15
*Booking Required

FRIDAY

19th Dec

PEEP Stay and
Play drop in
Blyth Central
Family Hub
09:30-11:00am

Sensory Chillout
Blyth Central
Family Hub
4:00-5:30pm



Merry
CHRISTMAS!

South East Family Hubs December 2025



Monday 22nd Of December - Tuesday 23rd of December

MONDAY

22nd Dec

Family
Christmas
Movie Night
'POLAR EXPRESS'
Blyth West
Family Hub
Movie starts at
3:30pm
*Booking Required

Teenage
Christmas
Movie Night
'Red One'
Blyth West
Family Hub
Movie starts at 6pm
*Booking Required

TUESDAY

23rd Dec

Weigh Clinic
(Health Team)
Blyth Central
Family Hub
9:30-11:30am
Cramlington
Community Hub
1:00-3:00pm
0300 3732488 to book

Family Christmas
Movie Night
'POLAR EXPRESS'
Blyth Central
Family Hub
Movie starts at 3:30pm
*Booking Required

Teenage
Christmas Movie
Night
'Red One'
Blyth Central
Family Hub
Movie starts at 6pm
*Booking Required

PEEP Stay & Play 0-5years (previously known as LTTP 0-5)
Sessions for families to play and explore together, gain
tips and techniques to support your child's development.

Calm Stay & Play (0-5 years)
A quieter and more relaxed Stay and Play session for those
with additional needs and/or disabilities

Calm Movie night
A calmer and more relaxed showing for Children with
additional needs and/or disabilities

Feeding Friends
Come along for infant feeding advice and support, to have
a chat and share tips with other parents

Free to Be
For young people 13-18 years who identify as LGBTQIA. Get
support and advice, take part in activities and lots more.
Free food/refreshments.

Weigh & Stay
Free session for parents/carers, have your baby/ies weighed,
speak to a health professional. Stay and play together to
explore activities and receive your baby book start pack.
Book your appointment by ringing the single point of contact
Health Team on 0300 3732488.

Sensory Chilli Out (Additional Needs & Disabilities)
For the whole family who have children with learning or
physical disabilities.

Address

Blyth Central Family Hub
103 Wright Street
Blyth, NE24 1HG
Tel: 01670 798800

Blyth West Family Hub
Devonworth Place
Blyth, NE24 5AQ
Tel: 01670 625574

Astley Park Pavilion
Seaton Delaval
NE25 0AE

Cramlington Community
Hub Cramlington
NE23 6YB

Warm Space, Manor Walks
Shopping Centre
Cramlington, NE23 6UT

Hop-in Building
Hareside Primary School
Cramlington, NE25 6BH