



Dear Parents / Carers,

We had a successful return for the start of the spring term this week, despite the wintry weather, and were pleased to welcome 6 new starters in Nursery as well as 2 other children who joined our Year 3 / Year 4 classes. For any families who are new to Eastlea I hope that you are happy with the way your child has settled and if you have any questions then please approach staff directly so we can help.

School uniform, PE kits

The Eastlea children continue to be very smartly presented in their school uniform and/or PE kits on the relevant days each week. A reminder that plain black trainers can be worn on school uniform or PE days if this makes things easier and more cost effective. Other types of trainers should only be worn on PE days and tracksuits worn on these days need to be **PLAIN** dark blue/black – lighter colours, stripes or large logos are not permitted. Thank you! If you need to order any school uniform this is now done directly through Emblematic: <https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school/>. The Hope Centre also has a good stock of **FREE** previously loved Eastlea uniform and I would recommend using this facility if required. *Please also remember to ensure all items of uniform / coats are NAMED so that we avoid the issues which arose last term with the lost property 'mountain'.*

At the moment the class PE days are:

Reception = Friday **Y1** = Wednesday/Friday **Y2** = Wednesday/Friday **Y3** = Monday/Tuesday
Y4 = Friday (and swimming kits needed on Monday) **Y5** = Wednesday/Friday **Y6** = Monday/ Wednesday
 Class teachers will keep you updated with any changes to this or extra days when PE kits are required.

Jewellery

As you know jewellery is not permitted in school. We have had some instances of children wearing bracelets, necklaces or earrings in school. Please can these be left at home. Plastic spacers are fine to be worn for those with pierced ears (and are available from the school office if required), but there should be no earrings. Acrylic / gel nails are not permitted in school either. Thank you!

Attendance

As part of the continued high profile to promote school attendance, the children know that we are aiming to '**get to green**' for Eastlea school attendance (96% or above). Each class is trying to ensure their average attendance percentage is 'green'. Your help with encouraging attendance and punctuality is very much appreciated. We rely on your support and if you feel that we can help in any way then please do get in touch.

A couple of reminders...

- The Eastlea school day starts at **8.45am**. This is the time the gates/doors open and learning starts as soon as the children are in the classroom. Children who arrive after this miss the important start of the school day.
- 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. If it helps, then with signed permission you can provide us with some calpol so we can give a dose to your child at lunchtime if this will prevent them missing school. The NHS "**Is my child too ill for school?**" website can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance Ladder



Registers

This week the staff started to use an electronic system for recording morning / afternoon attendance each day. This makes our registration system more efficient. If a child has to come in via the main entrance due to arriving after 8.45am then it is important that they make office staff aware that they have arrived / give their name so the daily registers can be amended.

Thank you to everyone who has provided the meal pattern information which we requested. The next stage of our system of online registers will be to link these meal patterns to the daily attendance. Remember if the meal pattern changes you will need to inform us (in advance if at all possible).

Break time snacks and packed lunches

A reminder that pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a free break time fruit/vegetable snack. For our KS2 classes we will be continuing with our '**fruit/vegetables' only policy for break time snacks.**

Eastlea also has a policy in place of not having nuts/seeds in school for the safety of pupils who have nut allergies. Children who bring in food for packed lunches / snacks need to ensure that these are nut free at all times to protect the health and safety of everyone in school (this includes anything with Nutella, some cereal bars, chicken satays etc). Thank you for your support with this.

Scooters, bikes and cars

Once the snow and ice has gone, I am sure that as in previous years we will see several pupils coming to school on scooters and bikes newly acquired over Christmas. Please make sure that any that are left on the school site are securely locked on the bike/scooter racks in order to keep them safe. Helmets can be left in school during the day if required.

As always, please can I also remind those who come to school by car where possible to use the Church of the Nazarene carpark to ease congestion in the roads around the school. Please avoid parking cars on narrow estate roads which cause a hazard to local residents and real issues for any emergency vehicles which need access to the estate. Cars should only be left unattended during drop off and collection times and not for extended periods. Thank you for your support with this.



Reading

Reading remains a top priority at Eastlea. We know there will be more bronze award winners this term and we will also be presenting the first of the SILVER Football reading challenge awards later this half term. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home each week and support them by signing their reading record books. Remember that reading books that are brought home, especially those which are part of our RWInc scheme for younger readers should continue to be well looked after and returned to school in good condition ready for the next child who will need them. Costs are high if any books need to be replaced. **THANK YOU.**

Events, dates for the diary and clubs planned for this half term

We continue to aim to provide a wide range of activities for the children at Eastlea. A list of planned events for this half term is included overleaf as a checklist for the coming weeks. Further details will be sent out about some of the activities where required nearer the time.

*Remember...our **Owlets group** of pre-school children and their family members/child minders takes place each Thursday from 9am – 10.30am in the school hall during term time if you or any of your friends have a baby/toddler and would like to attend, please just get them to ring the school office for more details!*

Most of our before school, lunchtime and after school clubs begin next week. The list for these is also included for reference.

We are looking forward to another busy and exciting half term at Eastlea!

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher

Events and Activities for the first half of the spring term 2026

What's on	When and who?
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 6 th January
Hockey coaching	Tuesday afternoons from 6 th January (Y3) Wednesday mornings from 7 th January (Y5 and Y6)
Ball skills coaching	Wednesday afternoons from 7 th January (Y1 and Y2)
Specialist Music, French and Computing sessions	Wednesday afternoons for Reception to Year 6 from 7 th January
Skipping workshop	Afternoon of Monday 12 th January (Year 5)
Newcastle Foundation ball skills/teamwork sessions	Monday afternoons from 12 th January (Year 3 and Year 6)
Weekly swimming lessons	Monday afternoons from 12 th January (Year 4)
School Games Multi-skills 'zoom' final	Morning of Tuesday 13th January (Year 3)
Heights and Weights (school health team)	Afternoon of Tuesday 13 th January (Reception / Year 6)
Cricket coaching sessions	Fridays from 16 th January (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y5)
Moki Band challenge weeks with other Cramlington schools	w/b 19 th January – Year 6 vs Burnside w/b 26 th January – Year 4 vs Beaconsfield w/b 9 th February – Year 5 vs Craggside
Dental Health Check for 5 year olds	Morning of Wednesday 21 st January (5 year olds from Rec/Y1)
Educational Visit to Nissan – Eco schools	Monday 26 th January (Year 6)
Theatre Visit	Morning of Thursday 29 th January (Year 5/Year 6)
Vision screening	Morning of Thursday 29 th January (Reception)
Maths focus week	Week beginning Monday 2nd February (whole school)
Volleyball transition festival hosted by CLV	Morning of Wednesday 4 th February (Year 6)
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 6th February
Level 2/3 Bikeability training sessions	w/b Monday 9 th February (Year 5)
Safer Internet Day – 'Smart tech, safe choices'	Tuesday 10 th February (Reception to Year 6)
Presentation of first Football reading challenge silver awards	Wednesday 11 th February
RE Theme Day	Thursday 12 th February
February GOLDEN DAY	Friday 13th February

CLUBS

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
<p>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></p>  <p>This costs £3 per day if booked/paid for in advance or £3.50 if children just turn up on the day.</p>	<p>KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays <i>(£3 per session (£15 for the half term) – payable directly to PFC – please note the price increase and use the revised bank details to make a payment)</i></p>	<p>NUFC Foundation ball skills club for Y3 and Y4 on Mondays</p> <p>Ball skills club for Y1 and Y2 on Tuesdays</p> <p>Munchie Maths Booster club for Y6 on Tuesdays [starting from 27th January]</p>
<p>Bacon butty Literacy Booster club for Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am in the Y6 classroom [starting from 28th January]</p>	<p>Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays <i>(£3 per session (£15 for the half term) – payable directly to PFC – please note the price increase and use the revised bank details to make a payment)</i></p>	<p>Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays</p>
<p>Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5 on Wednesdays from 8am in the school hall</p>		<p>KS2 Violins Progression group on Wednesdays</p>
<p>Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders: Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am in the school hall <i>Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.</i></p> 	<p>Running Club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 on Thursdays</p>	<p>Cricket club for group of Y4/Y5/Y6 pupils on Thursdays</p>