



Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware that we had to face some bad news this week when over the weekend our garden area was vandalised. This was unexpected and extremely disappointing, especially for the many children who are active members of our gardening club, or who spend some of their lunchtimes watering plants, watching them grow and enjoying this important aspect of learning.

The police have been involved and they have the CCTV footage from Friday evening when we believe the criminal damage to have been caused. We were not the only school targeted and I know the damage caused at Burnside as well as at Eastlea has caused equal heartache for the pupils and staff of both schools. The concerns have been shared by our local councillors, Northumberland County Council, community police officers and MP Emma Foody who have all been in touch with me in the last couple of days.

Out of such a devastating situation we have been extremely thankful for the show of support from our Eastlea community. We have had support from parents to provide items to help us to repair the damaged poly tunnel, offers of replacement pots for the garden area as well as an amazing response to a 'Go Fund Me' page set up by one family on our behalf. At the time of distributing this letter a staggering **£2700** has been donated. Miss Fox is already making plans for not just how we can repair but also extend our garden area thanks to the generosity of so many people. **THANK YOU!**

Apart from this sad news, we have had plenty to celebrate in recent weeks and the spring term comes to an end tomorrow after a busy 6 weeks in school. The Eastlea children have been involved in a wide range of different events and activities:

- Pupils have taken part in gymnastics, skipping, golf and table top games competitions and festivals with Year 3 also visiting St James' park this week. Feedback from this visit from the tour guide was that our children were "...a joy and a real credit to our school." Superb!
- We have welcomed several visitors to Eastlea in the last few weeks - 'people who help us' to support Nursery pupils with their latest topic, Bikeability instructors for Year 5, a representative from the Cancer Run who led an online assembly for our running club and of course our new Nursery starters who attended an induction event last week.
- Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their online workshop about the Great Fire of London, Year 5 and Year 6 learnt a lot from their safety workshops led by David Burn a few weeks ago and we were grateful for the support of some of our Eastlea pupils and families during our recent RE theme day.
- We have also had the presentation of our spring term writing and maths awards, World Book Day, the popular Rocksteady class bands concert yesterday and singing club / violin concerts will take place this evening, not forgetting the spring term parent appointments which have been very well attended – **THANK YOU!**
- Tomorrow we have our Easter Golden Day which brings the spring term to an end – don't forget we finish at 2pm on Thursday for the start of the Easter holidays.

Charity Fundraising / Easter raffle – thank you!

- A couple of weeks ago we enjoyed our Red Nose Day and the break time treats. The final total raised for **Comic Relief** was **£128**.
- The '**chocolate Easter raffle**' will be drawn in classes on Thursday afternoon as part of Golden Day so there is still time to hand in any last minute tickets/money in the morning. All proceeds go towards our future Golden Day funds.

**COMIC
RELIEF**

Dinner money and Breakfast Club payments

If anyone has any money that still needs to be paid for school dinners and / or breakfast club the office staff have asked me to remind you that these must be paid by tomorrow morning as we need to be able to balance the books for the end of term. Please ring school to speak to Mrs Bainbridge if you have any queries about this or are not sure what you owe.

FSM vouchers for groceries and 'Holiday Activities'

- **The HUGGG vouchers (groceries)** will be available over the Easter holiday for those families eligible for benefit based free school meals. Please look out for the email notification sent earlier this week so that you can activate and use the vouchers over the holiday period. Remember these vouchers have an expiry date of 15th May and NCC have asked us to reinforce the following message:
Please ensure this voucher is 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.
- **'Holiday Activity and Food' programme (HAF) vouchers** have also been made available and there are still places on offer for the Easter camps (see the recent email). I know many families have been able to access several useful activities for their children to take part in, and if we have received any additional information about Easter holiday activities we have shared these via Seesaw/Tapestry.
- **A letter for families eligible for FSM** has also been sent via email which outlines the national changes to the provision of vouchers, which mark the end of the Household Support Fund (HSF) at the end of March 2026. In future, rather than the HUGGG supermarket vouchers, families are encouraged to take up the Holiday Activity and Food provision (HAF) which will still be available. For further information see the links in the emailed letter.

Holiday reminders

- Information from the **Family Hub** is attached at the end of this letter – there always seems to be plenty going on and hopefully there are things which you or your children can benefit from. Use the QR codes to access further information.
- Our **Football Reading Challenge** doesn't stop over Easter. If your child reads and has their reading record signed once at any time over the Easter break then this counts as a sticker on their bookmark...it is 'Gold 9' on our weekly schedule. The first GOLD awards will be presented at the beginning of May.
- **Parents of Nursery pupils will hear on 16th April about the allocation of places for Reception 2026.** As has been the case in recent years we believe we are likely to be over-subscribed, which may mean that a small number of families who have children attending our Eastlea Nursery will not secure a place for their child in our Reception class for September 2026.
Unfortunately, this is something that is totally out of our hands. We are bound by what is called 'infant class size legislation' which means we are legally not allowed to go over our school admission number of 30 in Reception. For families who do not get their first choice of schools it is always a difficult time and the fact that allocation day falls in the Easter holidays again makes things tricky.
If there are any questions or concerns we will be more than happy to discuss these as soon as we return after Easter.

Advance notice

When we return after the Easter break we have class photos booked in the diary to be taken by Phototronic on Tuesday 21st April...so smart uniform and beaming smiles will be requested on this day!!

Happy Easter and Golden Day

Golden Day takes place **tomorrow**. It is a **non-uniform day** with no particular theme and no fine to pay. If your child is a winner in the Easter raffle then they will bring their prize home with them. **Remember the children finish early at 2pm** (except for morning Nursery pupils who finish at the usual time of 11.45am) ready to start their Easter holiday

I hope you all have a good break over the holidays and we look forward to seeing everyone back when Eastlea reopens for all pupils on Monday 20th April.

Miss Beeston, Head Teacher



South East Family Hubs Easter 2026

MONDAY
6th April

TUESDAY
7th April

WEDNESDAY
8th April

THURSDAY
9th April

FRIDAY
10th April

MORNING

Easter Monday

AFTERNOON



CALM
Stay and Play
Blyth West Family Hub
10:00 - 11:00am
(see page 3 for info)

Weigh & Stay
Blyth Central Family Hub and Cramlington Community Hub with Feeding Friends
9:30am-11:30am
(see page 3 for info)

Movie Afternoon
Blyth West Family Hub
Movie will start at 2:30pm
BOOKING NECESSARY
(see page 3 for info)

Sensory Room
Blyth West Family Hub
12:00pm-5:00pm
(see page 3 for info)

Family Fun Session
Astley Pavilion
10:00 -11:00am

Weigh Clinic
Health Team with Feeding friends
Blyth West Family Hub
12:30pm-3:00pm
(see page 3 for info)

Sensory Room
Blyth West Family Hub
9:30pm-12:00pm
(see page 3 for info)

Birth Registration
Blyth Central Family Hub
9:00am-4:00pm
To register your new baby and obtain their birth certificate, book an appointment via Birth Registration on Northumberland County Council's website, or call on 0345 600 6400

Family Fun Session
Cramlington Community Hub
1:30-2:30PM

Sensory Room
Blyth West Family Hub
9:00-3:00pm
(see page 3 for info)

Family Fun Session
Blyth Central Family Hub
10:00 -11:30am

Sensory Room
Blyth West Family Hub
9:00-16:30pm
(see page 3 for info)

MONDAY
13 April

TUESDAY
14th April

WEDNESDAY
15th April

THURSDAY
16th April

FRIDAY
17th April

MORNING

Family Fun Session
Blyth West Family Hub
1:00-2:30pm
(see page 3 for info)

AFTERNOON

CALM
Stay and Play
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10:00-11:00am
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Sensory Room
Blyth West Family Hub
9:00-16:30pm
(see page 3 for info)

SEND Family Chillout
Blyth Central Family Hub
1:00-2:30pm
(see page 3 for info)

QR CODES

Family
Hubs
Website



Family
Panels



What's on
Padlet



Growing
Healthy
Android



Scan Me!
Facebook



Growing
Healthy
Apple
App



Membership
&
Request for
Service



Solihul
Approach



Healthy
Relationships

