



Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see everyone back after the Easter break including a small group of new Nursery starters – a special welcome to them! This half term is just 5 weeks long, but as always there will be plenty going on and a list of events as well as various other updates are included here for your reference.

Summer weather

Over the summer term, we all have our fingers crossed for some bright sunny weather. Fortunately we were able to allow access to the field at breaks and lunchtimes before the holiday and as long as the weather remains dry, this will continue. On sunny days please apply sun cream before children come to school if appropriate. A cap/hat would also be a good idea. Water bottles should continue to be brought in every day. Please note that regular size bottles are needed for school please so that they can be stored and accessed more easily by the children, and water bottles should contain **plain WATER**, not juice (unless a separate arrangement has been previously made with your child's class teacher). Thank you!

Uniform and PE kits

As we start the summer term we have planned as many outdoor sessions as possible for our summer PE topics. Class teachers will keep you informed about which days PE kit is required and on these days school tracksuits or **PLAIN** dark blue or black jogging bottoms/leggings can be worn as well as the school sweatshirt or PE hoodie and trainers. Blue/black shorts can also be worn (perhaps under the school tracksuit to cover all weather options!)

On the days when there is no PE, then school uniform should be worn as usual with black school shoes/plain black trainers. Grey/black 'uniform' shorts can be worn or blue/check summer dresses etc. If cartwheels, handstands or other 'gymnastic' moves are to be undertaken on the field at breaks or lunchtimes then trousers/shorts must be worn for obvious reasons!

Remember pre-loved Eastlea uniform can be obtained FREE of charge from the Hope Centre in Cramlington. Rather than buying new items for the remaining weeks of the school year, this might be a good option before the summer holidays.



Anyone who does wish to purchase new school uniform is reminded that this is done directly through Emblematic. Orders can be made online using the link below for school sweatshirts, cardigans, book bags, PE hoodies and PE tracksuits: <https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school/>

There is **FREE** delivery for orders delivered to school or you can pay to have items delivered to your home address. Alternatively uniform can be collected direct from the nearest Emblematic outlet which is in Bedlington. If you have any queries about this please speak to Mrs Johnson in the school office and she will be happy to help.

Parking

We hope that as usual in the summer term, the better weather will encourage **more children where possible to walk to school or use their bikes/scooters** to come to and from Eastlea each day. A big thank you to those who have realised the benefits of **parking at the Church of the Nazarene** and are walking from there – it really does only take a few minutes to do this.

Can we please ask that if you need to continue to use your car and come right into the estate, that you do so with care and consideration for local residents, pedestrians and other car users. Thank you!



It would also help if those who park near to the school leave promptly having dropped off or collected their child so that the space is available for someone else – this might also help to ease congestion. Thank you!

Fire and lock down drills – update on requirements for schools

As I am sure you are aware, schools are required to complete fire drills to ensure that the children know how to vacate the building safely. Thankfully we have never needed to put this into practice ‘for real’ but we are confident that systems in place would mean everyone was able to evacuate the building safely. Schools are now also required to rehearse the procedures they would follow if it is deemed necessary for staff / pupils to remain inside the building and so this will become part of our regular ‘drill procedures’. We will follow clear systems to keep everyone safe whether this is by leaving or remaining inside the school building.



The new ‘lockdown procedures’ will be explained to the children sensitively and in an age-appropriate manner later this term. They could be needed in response to any number of situations, *e.g. a reported incident in the local community, a major fire in the vicinity of the school, an intruder on the site with potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils, a warning received regarding local risk of air pollution (smoke plume) etc.* Hopefully, we will never have a situation where we would need to use lockdown but we will all feel safer knowing that we have procedures in place for any eventuality that would keep our children safe.

Dinner money and Breakfast Club payments



The office staff have asked me to remind you that any payments for school meals or breakfast club must be paid in the week the meals are eaten or sessions are attended. This helps us to keep the funds balanced and prevents larger ‘debts’ building up which can become difficult for families to pay. At the current time the payment app we are due to be using in the future to allow online payments is not fully operational. As soon as it is we will let you know.

Reading challenge

Most of the children are keeping up with this year’s reading challenge which is great news – with more than ever achieving their bronze and silver awards so far this year – thank you for your support with this. We will soon be presenting the first of our Football GOLD reading awards. If you are not regularly seeing and signing your child’s reading record then please get in touch with their class teacher so we can work with you to get them back on track!

Gardening repair fund

Before the holiday, we let you know that Eastlea had been one of a number of local schools targeted by vandals who caused criminal damage. Over Easter the ‘Go Fund Me’ contributions were transferred to our school funds and these together with some other kind donations will now be used to upgrade our garden area. Repairs have already been made to secure the polytunnel and Miss Fox and the gardening club are now hard at work on Mondays after school and over lunchtimes growing a range of plants and salad vegetables. We are already looking forward to the next plant sale! THANK YOU again!

Sunflower planting project

One thing we have ALL been planting this week are sunflower seeds! If you have heard your child talking about planting sunflowers this is because Eastlea has signed up to be part of the **Alwick Garden Trust Sunflower Project**. Seeds, pots and compost have been provided by W L Straughan & Son and Suez UK so that each child can plant two seeds which they will nurture in school over the coming weeks. Once they start to grow, the sunflowers will be collected and brought together to be replanted along the path to the nature trail at Suez’s Seghill site to create a spectacular community sunflower field.



Schools and families will also be invited to a public **Sunflower Fun Day in August** (date TBC) where children can choose from the thousands of beautiful blooms they have helped to grow and take part in a variety of fun activities to celebrate the project. We will keep you updated with further details when we receive them, but it looks set to be quite a spectacle!

And finally... a calendar of events planned for the rest of this half term is included below together with a list of the clubs which are running before school, at lunchtimes and after school in the coming weeks.



Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

Events and activities for the first half of the summer term

What's on	When and who?
Suez / Alnwick Garden Sunflower project	w/b 20th April – whole school
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 21 st April <i>(with new bandleader)</i>
'Phototronic' class photos	Tuesday 21 st April
Athletics coaching (PE)	Tuesday afternoons from 21 st April (Y3) Wednesday mornings from 22 nd April (Y4 and Y5) Thursday afternoons from 23 rd April (Y6) Friday mornings from 24 th April (Y2)
Net & wall/invasion games (PE)	Wednesday afternoons from 22 nd April (Y1 and Y2)
Specialist Music, French and Computing sessions	Wednesday afternoons for Reception to Year 6 from 22 nd April
Cricket coaching (PE)	Friday afternoons from 24 th April (Y3 and Y6)
TCS Mini London Marathon	w/b Monday 27th April – whole school
Educational Visit to Whitehouse Farm	Tuesday 28 th April (Reception)
Presentation of the first GOLD Football reading challenge awards	Friday 1 st May
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY – Eastlea closed	Monday 4th May – Eastlea closed
Educational Visit to Gosforth Nature Reserve	Thursday 7 th May (Year 1)
Quadkids athletics event	Morning of Thursday 7 th May (team from Y4/Y3)
KS2 SATs week	Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th May (Year 6...GOOD LUCK!)
Girls Cricket Festival at Whytrig Middle	Morning of Thursday 14 th May (Y3/Y4 Girls)
Children's Cancer Run	Morning of Sunday 17 th May (Y4/5/6 running club)
Educational visit to Newcastle Castle	Monday 18 th May (Year 2)
Health and Wellbeing workshops for parents/carers – 'Self-esteem' <i>(see separate letter nearer the time)</i>	Monday 18th May at 5pm <u>OR</u> Tuesday 19th May at 9am
May GOLDEN DAY	Friday 22 nd May
Break up for summer half term holiday	Friday 22nd May
Pupils return for second half of the summer term	Monday 1 st June

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> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">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 – to be paid online direct to: PFC Pro Football Coaching Ltd)</i></p>	<p>KS2 Gardening club on Mondays <i>(NOT 27th April or 4th May)</i></p>
		<p>Cricket skills club for Y1 and Y2 on Tuesdays</p>
		<p>Munchie Maths Booster club for Y6 on Tuesdays <i>[restarted 21st April for 3 weeks]</i></p>
<p>Bacon butty Literacy Booster club for Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am in the Y6 classroom <i>[restarted 22nd April for 3 weeks]</i></p>	<p>Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays <i>(£3 per session – to be paid online direct to: PFC Pro Football Coaching Ltd)</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> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Running Club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 on Thursdays</p>	