



Dear Parents/Carers,

On Friday, the first half of the summer term comes to an end and when we return in June we will have only 7 weeks left of this school year. This letter includes a few updates and reminders before the children break up on Friday 22nd after Golden Day this week.

National assessments

- Last week our **Year 6** children completed their KS2 SAT tests in reading, maths arithmetic/reasoning and 'SPaG' (grammar and spelling). This was their chance to 'show off' everything they have learned throughout Key Stage 2 and they worked really hard, started each day with a smile and should be very proud of themselves – **well done to them all!**
- In the first two weeks of June the spotlight falls on **Year 4** who will be completing their '**Multiplication Tables Check**' – a big thank you to all the Y4 parents who have really taken on board the importance of helping their children become fluent with their times tables. Year 4 are really proud of their progress and seem to enjoy the challenge of becoming 'Ninjas'. Mrs Thirlwell and Miss Fox are looking forward to seeing how well they do in the national test. We really hope that all the hard work will be rewarded with high scores in the times tables check – good luck!
- The KS1 Phonic check takes place in **w/b 8th June** and all pupils in **Year 1** will have a chance to demonstrate their super reading skills – we wish them good luck too!

Children's Cancer Run

Sunday's weather was perfect for running when 40 children from our **Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 running club**, staff, younger pupils / other family members and ex-pupils again took part in the Cancer Run at Gosforth Park. Each participant ran in their brightly coloured t-shirt and was rewarded with a medal on completion of the race. The Eastlea owl banner was there at the finish line to welcome them back! Well done and thanks to everyone who supported this event!

Out and about – representing Eastlea

This half term we have had several classes and groups of children representing Eastlea in a range of different visits, events and activities. We are always delighted to receive positive feedback on the attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm shown by our pupils – something we expect, but never take for granted!

- **Year 3** had a super visit to St James' Park as a follow up to their work with the Newcastle United Foundation. They had a stadium tour, went pitch side and visited the home and away dressing rooms. On the Monday after half term they will also be taking part in a follow up NUFoundation multi-skills festival at Burnside.
- **Reception** thoroughly enjoyed their time at Whitehouse Farm. The weather may have been a little chilly for their visit but they were enthusiastic and interested in every activity!
- **Year 1** had a very positive visit to the Gosforth Nature Reserve – the children loved taking part in all the activities and if you wish to see at first hand the sort of things on offer at this venue then we have been sent details of **FREE** entry for the May half term week 
- **Year 2** were out at Newcastle Castle yesterday and returned with broad smiles and full of stories about their day spent 'bringing to life' their castles topic work.
- Our **Year 4 Quad athletics team** took part in events at Seaton Sluice Middle School and also came back with beaming smiles. They were praised for their attitude and especially how well they did with the 400m run. Well done!

Homework projects

I would also like to praise the enthusiasm shown by **Year 5** and **Year 2** pupils who have been busy involving their families in the homework projects which are taking place linked to their WWII and Castles topics. It has been lovely to see all the items they have brought in – written research, diagrams, drawings, models...and some super baking following rations recipes in Year 5. Well done everyone!

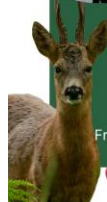
Gosforth Nature Reserve's Free Open Week!

25 - 31 May

What's on offer?

- Free access all week
- Children's seasonal nature trail
- Drop-in crafts in the Field Studies Room
- Pick up some free wildlife identification sheets and resources
- Bookable events on NHSN's Eventbrite (limited spaces available)

Natural History Society of Northumbria



Free public parking available on Gosforth Park Way. A short 5 minute walk from Gosforth Nature Reserve entrance.

Gosforth Nature Reserve, Lake Lodge, Salters Lane, Gosforth NE3 5EP

Gardening club and our Sunflower Project

- The sunflowers each child had been growing since the 20th April were collected last week. The 250 compostable pots from Eastlea will be added to 'The Sunflower Project' field in Seghill. An opportunity to visit this and take part in a day of special events is planned for the end of August. We will share further details once they are available.
- Miss Fox and the gardening club have been very busy this half term. **THANK YOU** again for your very kind donations which helped us to repair the polytunnel. Additional funds are being used to buy each class a raised bed to plant up in the school grounds. Water butts and garden tools are also being purchased. **We are planning to have plant sale before school this coming Thursday.** We have perennials and hanging baskets for sale at £5 each.



Online payments using parentpay.com and Lunch costs

A separate letter will be sent home to each family (in an envelope) tomorrow and a letter of explanation will be shared on Tapestry/Seesaw for all children which outlines the next steps for an online payment option for school meals and breakfast club starting from 8th June. We are one of the first schools to use a new **parentpay.com** system which links to our admin management system and avoids excessive additional charges.

- To pay online for lunches and to book/pay for breakfast club then an account on parentpay.com must be set up. Please note this is **NOT** the ParentPay app. Follow the instructions in the letter you receive tomorrow to set up your parentpay.com account between before 8th June.
- **For parents of pupils in Nursery, as from 8th June we will have to increase the price of a school meal to £2.50.** We have tried hard over recent years to make the cost for Nursery lunches slightly cheaper, but increased food charges, together with the parentpay.com changes mean that the school meal charges have to be brought in line with the rest of the school. Our apologies for the short notice of this change in price.

Golden Day reminder

On Friday this week, it is a non-uniform day for all children – no particular theme and no fine to pay. Nursery will have their storyteller themed event any who are having a school lunch that day will need to pay £2.20 as usual please – thank you!

The rest of the classes travel to Alnwick, visiting Lilidorei and the Alnwick Gardens. I know how much they are all looking forward to their visit! Please remember that **THE CHILDREN WILL NEED TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL AT 8.30AM** so we are ready for a prompt departure and can make the most of the day. Pupils travelling to Alnwick will also need a packed lunch, drinks, a coat... and a jumper / sunhat and suncream etc depending on the weather. **KS2 pupils need a bag with a change of clothing/footwear if they want to get wet in the water features.** Please check the previous letter (Seesaw/Tapestry/website) for full details.

Football Reading Challenge...who will become a Champion Reader?

147 children have now been presented with their GOLD Football reading challenge award, with a few more to add to the list at assembly this week! This is brilliant news and we know that there are more GOLD awards still to come. We are also wondering who will become a Champion Reader? To do this, having gained bronze, silver and gold the children are required to maintain their reading homework routines for at least another 8 weeks. **Please can we ask that you continue to encourage your child to read at home and make time to sign their reading records each week.** We will continue to present reading awards until the end of the school year so bronze, silver or gold awards can also be achieved up until July.

School Uniform, Emblematic orders and the Hope Centre

As the summer approaches, rather than buying brand new items for just a few weeks, remember there are stocks of **FREE** uniform at the **Hope Centre** – if you are not sure where this is, just ask a member of staff or email directly at: hope1uniform@gmail.com In addition to this, rather than buying new black school shoes for just a few weeks, also remember that **plain** black trainers can be worn as part of normal school uniform as well as on PE kit days.

Our school uniform will continue to be supplied by Emblematic and 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/>

Uniform can be delivered to Eastlea for you to collect (**FREE** delivery), or can be collected from the Bedlington shop (**FREE** collection) or alternatively can be delivered to your home address (delivery charges will apply).



Advance notice of dates for after half term

I know how keen everyone always is to support school events so here is advance notice of some dates for the diary in June/July to which parents are invited:

- Friday 5th June: Charity fundraising 'wear something red' for the "**HEARTS IN OUR HANDS**" and "**BRIGHT RED**" campaigns to raise money for life saving defibrillators in Cramlington and to support people in the north east with blood disorders. We will send more details out after half term.
- Sports Day: 1.30 – 3.00pm Monday 15th June (Reception to Year 6)
- Nursery Sports Day: morning of Tuesday 16th June (morning Nursery pupils)
- Singing / Violin Club end of term concert: Wednesday 24th June at 3.45pm (Years 3/4/5/6)
- Summer Fair: 2.00 – 3.30pm Friday 3rd July (whole school)
- Rocksteady concert: 9.10am Tuesday 7th July (band members from across the school)
- Leavers Celebration event – 3.30pm Tuesday 14th July (Year 6)

Plus...these are the planned dates of other school events to note in your diary:

- Year 6 Residential visit to York: Monday 8th to Wednesday 10th June
- Transition Day: Thursday 25th June (when all classes 'step up' to the next year group)
- End of Year Golden Day – Thursday 16th July (whole school)
- Year 6 Leavers Meal out – early evening of Thursday 16th July
- End of summer term – 2pm finish on Friday 17th July

And finally...we finish at the usual time this Friday after our May Golden Day ready for the half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 1st June for the remaining 7 weeks of the school year. I have also been asked to provide a list of the school term dates for 2026-2027 so that families can ensure any holidays are booked outside of term time. The list of holidays is set out below for future reference.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher



EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIST FOR 2026 / 2027

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
Summer 2026 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Friday 17 July 2026 <u>TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2026</u>	Wednesday 2 September 2026
October Mid-Term 2026 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u> <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Wednesday 21 October 2026 <u>THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026</u> <u>FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026</u>	Monday 2 November 2026
Christmas/New Year 2026/2027 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Friday 18 December 2026 <u>MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2027</u>	Tuesday 5 January 2027
Spring Mid-Term 2027	Friday 12 February 2027	Monday 22 February 2027
Easter 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027	Monday 12 April 2027
<u>MAY DAY</u>	<u>MONDAY 3 MAY 2027</u>	
Summer Mid-Term 2027 <u>STAFF TRAINING DAY</u>	Thursday 27 May 2027 <u>FRIDAY 28 MAY 2027</u>	Monday 7 June 2027
Summer 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027	Tuesday 7 September 2027