



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday this week will be the final day of the summer term at Eastlea and the end of another school year. Thank you again for all your support this year and especially for the superb turnout for our summer fayre which raised **£2137.30** for our school funds. This newsletter provides some end of term updates as well as looking ahead to some items for over the summer and into September.

Pupils who are leaving Eastlea

- Today parents/family members, staff and governors will be attending the Year 6 Leavers' celebration event in the school hall. We wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck at whichever school they are moving to in September and know that if they believe in themselves and keep working hard they will achieve everything they set out to do.
- We also say farewell to some Nursery children who are moving to different schools from September. I know they are sad to have to leave us and we will miss them very much. We hope they all settle well in their new schools and look forward to hearing about how they are getting on in the future.

Staffing and room changes

- When we return in September the only teaching staff change will be that Mrs Lister will not be in school on Mondays. Mrs Forsyth will be teaching Year 1 on Mondays each week – she is a teacher who is well known to the class having worked with them each week while in Reception.
- Our Haven provision will continue for pupils who require individual or small group support with their emotional health and wellbeing, but the base for this will be in the library (which is having a designated area set up for this purpose).
- The room next to the Reception class will be named 'The Cove' and will be the base for a small group of pupils with additional needs from across the school who require bespoke targeted support each morning. In the afternoon, intervention groups will take place in the Cove for pupils supported by class based staff.

National changes to Free School Meal entitlement

As you will have seen in the letter shared on Seesaw / Tapestry yesterday, the number of children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) is being extended by the Government which we think is great news for many of our Eastlea families. From September 2026 there will be two categories of benefits-based FSM:

- **TARGETED** – based on the existing threshold covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- **EXPANDED** – a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

We encourage anyone in receipt of any amount of Universal Credit to apply for FSM as this will mean your child can have a FREE school lunch every day. This can be done via the Northumberland County Council's Citizen Portal – see *earlier letter*. Even if your child will be in Reception/Year 1/Year 2 it is important you apply so that the FREE meals your child is entitled to will be available (as we do not know what changes might occur with the current system of universal free meals for children in these classes).

Golden Day reminder



On Thursday we will be having our end of year '**Football**' Golden Day. We are looking forward to a great day of football fun. All the details were provided in the previous letter (see Seesaw/Tapestry/school website).

School uniform is not required on Thursday and there is no fine to pay. Please make sure your child wears something suitable for sport – this can be football kit if they wish. Remember if they wish to have the Golden Day lunch of **world cup pizza and chips plus an ice lolly** dessert then money for this needs to be paid by tomorrow for those in KS2 classes or full day Nursery (£2.50 please).

N.B. Don't forget that Y6 pupils are being dismissed at 3pm on Golden Day so they have time to get home/changed/back to school at 4pm ready to head out for their Leavers meal at Sambucas with the staff.



Reading Challenge and Champion Readers

We have again had good 'totals' for awards in our Football Reading Challenge' at the end of the year with **234 bronze, 209 silver and 173 gold award winners**. Tomorrow we will be presenting Champion Reader awards to those pupils who have kept reading / getting their reading record signed for at least another 8 weeks, even after they have achieved their gold award and without regular staff reminders! If your child comes home with a gold balloon tomorrow then they are Champion Reader and should be very proud of themselves.

Over the summer we would again encourage your child(ren) to get involved in the reading challenge run by the local libraries. We have already shared information about the '**Read to the Beat**' holiday challenge which encourages children to borrow and read 6 books throughout the summer holidays. There are lots of prizes and incentives on offer and it is not too late to get started. Children can either enrol at their local library or online at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Mrs Lister will reward the children who complete the challenge with a reading picnic in September. This challenge is always very well supported by the Eastlea children and I wonder how many will complete it this summer?

School uniform – a reminder

Any further orders for sweatshirts/cardigans/tracksuits/reading folders can be made directly with Emblematic via the Eastlea order link:

<https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school/>

If you place an order before 19th July then uniform can be delivered to your home before the start of the new term. Online orders placed after this date won't be delivered until September.

Remember that pre-loved school uniform can also be obtained FREE OF CHARGE from the Hope Centre.

As a reminder the uniform requirements at Eastlea are listed below:

Uniform list

- Sweatshirt / cardigan in navy blue (with or without the Eastlea logo) [N.B. school hoodies are not to be worn other than on PE days]
- White / light blue shirt or polo shirt
- Grey / black trousers / shorts or skirt (leggings are not appropriate)
- Summer option – **blue** check/stripe dress
- Black school shoes or ****PLAIN totally black trainers**

HOPE UNIFORM & BABY BANK



We accept donations of good quality pre-owned school clothing and redistribute it to parents/guardians and children through our uniform bank. This service is free and no referral is required.



Donated baby and nursery items are free to collect by parents or guardians following a referral from a professional person, e.g. midwife, social worker, health visitor.

Uniform Monday-Friday 10:00–16:00
Nursery by appointment
Email hope1uniform@gmail.com
Forum Way NE23 6SJ

Keeping It Local 

***We will continue to allow plain totally black trainers as part of school uniform. Plain black trainers can therefore be worn on both uniform and PE days to avoid families having the expense of buying a pair of school shoes AND a different pair of trainers. If you wish to continue with black school shoes (for uniform days) and a different pair of trainers for PE days (another colour) that is fine.*

P.E. kit

- School tracksuit bottoms/and hoodie (if you have one) – or PLAIN navy tracksuit without logos.
- Plain white t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers
- Younger children can wear black sandshoes or bare feet for indoor P.E.

Jewellery...A REMINDER ABOUT EARRINGS!!

No jewellery can be worn in school and we have a policy of **NO EARRINGS**. ***So if you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced it needs to be done at the very start of the summer holidays so they can remove earrings before they come back to school in September.*** Clear plastic spacers can be worn in school if required once ears are pierced and these can be obtained from the school office if needed.

Seesaw and Tapestry update

The Tapestry and Seesaw systems will be inactive over the summer holiday until a few days before the start of the new school year. If you have an urgent message to share with us then the admin email (via the school website) and school Facebook page will be monitored periodically over the school holidays.

In the last week of the summer holiday the Seesaw systems will be updated by Miss Betham to 'move children up' to their next class. Year 1 children / parents will be set up on Seesaw in September.

Payment of outstanding dinner and breakfast club money

If you have any money left to pay for breakfast club sessions or school dinners then **tomorrow is the deadline for payment**. All balances have to be cleared before the end of the school year. THANK YOU!

Parentpay.com – school meal and breakfast club payments

Payments for school meals and breakfast club can continue to be made via your account on Parentpay.com. As we have explained, more online payments using this facility will be possible from next school year so if you have not yet set up the account for your child then this would be a good idea to get sorted before the summer. Please speak to the office staff if you no longer have the letter which has the unique username and password which you will need to set up the account.

- **Breakfast club:** from September the price per child per day will remain the same as this year as long as money is paid on time to allow us to fund the staff salaries and food costs.
 - **£3.00** if a booking is made by 2pm a day or more in advance (using parentpay.com wherever possible).
 - **£3.50** if children just turn up on the day with no advance booking made.
- **School lunches:** We are aiming to keep the price of school meals the same in September at least initially – but remain aware that increased food costs may mean we have to look at this again during the academic year. The costs for those parents/carers who pay for school meals will be **£2.50 per day**. Money must be paid on the day/week that lunches are taken. If money is not paid and debts start to build then parents will be asked to provide a packed lunch for their child/children until the balance is paid off. The meal pattern set up for your child will remain in place for September. Changes made to this in exceptional circumstances can be made by the office staff.

N.B. As the children return on a Wednesday in September the timing of our order/deliveries will mean that the WEEK 1 menu will be slightly different – Wednesday will be chicken burgers, with meatballs on Thursday and pizza on Friday.



Our salad bar, introduced this term has been a big 'hit' with the children (and staff!)

Thanks to our cooks who have provided a range of tasty alternatives in the salad bar and also to our Year 5 gardeners who have ensured a regular supply of fresh lettuce and more recently tomatoes and potatoes which have been available to add to the selection on offer.

For those who bring packed lunches, please can sweets, multiple chocolate biscuits etc be avoided as again we wish to promote healthier options. Can we also remind everyone that due to allergies experienced by some children at Eastlea we need to reinforce our **NO NUTS in school policy**. Children who bring in food for packed lunches 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, satay sauce and some cereal bars). Thank you for your support with this.

Looking ahead to September

- **Breaktime fruit:** For KS2 classes we will be continuing with our 'fruit/vegetables' only policy for break time snacks. This system works well and it is always good to see the range of healthy items brought in by the children. It also means the amount of litter on the school site is significantly reduced. Thank you. For pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 free break time fruit/vegetable snacks will continue to be provided.

N.B. Early Years fruit at snack times is chopped appropriately following the new safety guidelines.



- **Water bottles:** Can we again remind everyone that **standard size** water bottles should be brought to school each day containing **WATER only** and not transported in reading folders. Having juice instead of water is not good for dental health and also makes a real mess if there are spillages in the classrooms. *If there is a particular reason why this will be a problem for your child then this will need to be discussed with your child's class teacher and we will see what we can do to support.* Metal water bottles tend to last longer and are less easy to break, although we are aware that they are a little more expensive.
- **Cuddly toys, chew necklaces, squishies, 'fidget toys' etc:** Can we ask that from September you continue to support us by encouraging your child to leave their 'toys' at home. Bringing toys into the classroom can make things hard to manage and distract the children from their learning. Leaving them at home also avoids the potential upset caused if personal items go missing in school. *If your child has a professionally diagnosed condition which means they require an item in school then please discuss this with your child's class teacher.* Thank you!
- **Attendance / punctuality:** thank you for all your support with encouraging good patterns of attendance and punctuality for your child(ren) this year. The doors will be continue to open at 8.45am and teacher led classroom learning will start from 8.50am so please make sure your child is here by **8.45am** each morning so they don't miss the vital start to the school day. Thank you in advance.
N.B. Another copy of the Eastlea term dates is included below which should help in planning family holidays avoiding term time.

EASTLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIST FOR 2026 / 27

<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

And finally...end of term at 2pm on Friday 17th July

Please remember that the pupils will finish school at 2pm on Friday for the end of term. I'm sure the children won't forget!! **School uniform is required on the last day of term please.**

I would like to once again thank everyone for their support this year. I hope that you have a safe and restful summer holiday before the children return on Wednesday 2nd September!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher