



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

The new term started successfully last week and I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we begin this new school year. We have been joined by several new families in Reception and Nursery (the last of whom start this week) and I hope you feel happy with the way your child is settling in and are getting used to any new routines and procedures. This quite 'weighty' newsletter includes lots of information – some of which will be 'reminders' for those who have been part of Eastlea for a while!

Staffing update

This year we have no new teaching staff at Eastlea, but as we explained before the summer there are a few changes which you might hear your children talking about:

- Mrs Forsyth will be at Eastlea for two days a week and will be class based in Year 1 every Monday and Reception on a Wednesday afternoon.
- Mrs Thompson who supports in Year 4 and is a qualified teacher will continue to lead the learning in this class every Friday.
- There have been some changes to where support staff are deployed across the school and we have a new learning space called 'The Cove' in addition to 'The Haven' for some of our pupils who need additional support with their learning.
- In the school office Mrs Johnson and Mrs Bainbridge have slightly reduced their hours and alongside Mrs Holdsworth they will be joined by Mrs Whitmore who will be based in the office for the afternoon sessions.
- And finally, we are pleased to welcome Mr Craig who has joined the cleaning/caretaking team.

School uniform, PE kits, footwear and jewellery

As I seem to say each year, we were so pleased with how smart the children looked in their uniform when they returned last week. Thank you! Any branded items with the Eastlea owl logo that you need can be bought from Emblematic via the following link <https://studentuniform.co.uk/eastlea-primary-school/> or at the Bedlington shop.

All other uniform can be purchased from local supermarkets and **remember**...pre-loved, high quality items of school uniform can be obtained from (or donated to) the **Hope Centre** in Cramlington.

Can we remind you that it would really help if **all uniform/PE kit/coats are clearly labelled with your child's name**. This is so important and helps to avoid things going missing.

Children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' ONLY– which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). **Hoodies and tracksuits should NOT be worn on other days**. Remember that if your child has **plain totally black trainers** then these can be worn to school on any day as part of school uniform in an effort to keep down the costs of having to have different footwear.

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

The current PE days for each class are as follows. If other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers so you know if PE kit is required at other times:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • *Reception – Thursday
(*starting later this half term) | • Y2 – Wednesday & Thursday | • Y5 – Wednesday & Friday |
| • Y1 – Wednesday | • Y3 – Monday & Tuesday | • Y6 – Monday & Wednesday |
| | • Y4 – Tuesday & Friday | |

Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery in school. SMART watches are not allowed in school either. Thanks for your support with this. For those with pierced ears, clear plastic spacers must be worn rather than earrings which keeps them safe in school. These can be easily purchased, but **if anyone is stuck we can offer sets of these spacers from the school office**.

It is also important to ensure that your child's hair is tied back as this helps to avoid problems which can occur when hair is left loose.

Eastlea Values

Last year after a consultation process we confirmed our three school values – **at Eastlea we show respect, kindness and resilience.**

These values underpin all we do and are the foundation upon which we can develop key learning behaviours which we will encourage the children at Eastlea to demonstrate and will support them with on their journey through our school. Our school rules are interlinked with our values and we have recently updated our 'Relational approach to Behaviour' policy which will be circulated later this term once it has been ratified by the governing body.



Kindness

Respect

Resilience

Arrival/Departure times

Staff will be on hand at the wooden gates/entrances to greet your child when they arrive, and the school day starts at **8.45am**. Work/activities will begin as soon as your child enters the classroom so **it is important that your child arrives at 8.45am ready for a prompt start to learning each day.**



Our school day finishes at **3.15pm**. To try to avoid congestion we do tend to dismiss Year 1 and Year 2 a few minutes earlier than this – to make space for Year 3 and Year 4 at 3.15pm who leave from the same exit doors. As soon as you have collected your child please make your way home to avoid congestion on site/in carparks. We have some little people in Y1/Y2 who are looking out for their families/carers and can't see past tall adults!! THANK YOU.

Nursery and Reception children will be dismissed from their gates and Year 5 and Year 6 will be brought out from the main entrance at 3.15pm and can be met from the main gate, or head home independently.

A reminder about illness/absence and attendance

We all know that the importance of regular attendance cannot be emphasised strongly enough. Patterns of attendance are improving nationally and locally. At Eastlea our attendance figures are better than the national average and this has been the case for the last two years. This is due to the support from our families who work with us to make sure that wherever possible their child is in school every day. *A copy of the Eastlea attendance guide for parents is attached to this newsletter for reference.*

If your child is too unwell for school, e.g. if they have a **persistent high temperature or sickness and/or diarrhoea please can we ask that you inform us by ringing the school office.** Messages on Tapestry/Seesaw/Facebook cannot be monitored during the school day due to staff teaching in class, so if you need to let us know that your child is absent then it is important that the school office is informed directly.

If your child does have sickness or diarrhoea then they are required to be off school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had the runs. This protects everyone in the school community. The NHS website 'Is my child too ill for school?' is a good reference point to let you know the protocols to follow if your child has something like chicken pox etc. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

Holidays and other planned absences

As you know, national guidelines regarding school attendance mean that leave of absence during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. **Holidays in term time should be avoided wherever possible, but if there is an exceptional circumstance where your child needs to be absent from school then please inform us in advance.** A leave of absence form should be completed **two weeks before** the intended absence. These are available from the school office. **Failure to notify school will mean that planned absences are automatically unauthorised.** There is space on the form to indicate why the absence may be deemed an 'exceptional circumstance'. Each case will be considered individually and we ask that these forms are also completed for Nursery pupils to keep our absence records accurate.

We have been well supported by parents in recent years with our common sense approach to this situation and are confident that this can continue in the coming year.

Attendance Ladder



A reminder of the holiday dates for the rest of this school year is listed below for your reference:

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
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 <u>MAY DAY</u>	Thursday 25 March 2027 <u>MONDAY 3 MAY 2027</u>	Monday 12 April 2027
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

'Flu Immunisations – please complete the online booking form

Children from Reception to Year 6 will have their annual nasal 'flu immunisation in school on the morning of Tuesday 6th October. Parents/carers must book this online with the school immunisations team. The online consent can be accessed via any online device. Please click on the following link <https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using the following Eastlea school code **NB122191**

Please do this ASAP. **A letter with this link was shared before the summer and will also be resent on Tapestry/Seesaw.** If you have any problems then speak to someone in the school office or Miss Beeston.

Bikes and scooters

We continue to encourage pupils to come to school on a bike or scooter and have storage racks at both sides of the building. Bikes/scooters should be wheeled to the storage racks when on the school site. It is very important that any bikes/scooters which are left on the school premises are locked in order to keep them secure. **Helmets can be kept in school, and we would strongly urge all children who have a bike/scooter to wear one to keep them safe.**

Dogs at the gates

Please can I give my annual reminder about dogs at or around the school gates. Dogs, even if they are on leads, can be intimidating to younger children (and some adults too) so we must insist that **no dogs are allowed on the school grounds/premises and also no dogs should be brought too near to the school site for the safety of all concerned.**

Another reminder about parking

As you know, traffic congestion and parking difficulties are problems at all schools. At Eastlea the issues we face tend to centre around double parking/blocking narrow estate roads, inability to access driveways for residents in the local neighbourhood, especially those living in the cul-de-sac closest to the school, and hazards caused to pedestrians with cars parked on pavements.



These are some of the things we can all do to help alleviate the problems with parking:

- If it is possible, **please try to walk to school or encourage your children to use their bikes or scooters.** Bikes/scooters can be safely locked up on site on the cycle/scooter racks provided.
- We would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the **'park and stride'** opportunity, parking at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and then completing a short (2-3 minute) walk to school. This hugely reduces parking problems and the families who use it say it is MUCH EASIER and FAR LESS CONGESTED.

- If you have to use your car due to the distance needed to travel to and from school then **please park as considerably as you can**. The community police / council staff will be continuing their periodic patrols of all school sites to offer advice and monitor the situation.
 - The estate roads are narrow and if cars are parked on both sides then this can block the road for other vehicles and make access to local houses/driveways difficult. This would cause a major hazard if an emergency vehicle needed to get through.
 - A particular bottle neck is where the road narrows on Silverdale Road as it goes over the cycle track leading towards Northburn Park. Please can you take extra care not to leave vehicles near here which will block the view of drivers and cause problems for pedestrians. **The Skipton Close 'cul-de-sac' should also be kept clear of cars. Thank you!**
 - Where single white lines are in place on smaller estate roads this indicates that the narrow roads could be easily blocked by cars, so avoid parking here and do not park on the 'Keep Clear' zone at the school gates.
 - Try not to block pavements in the surrounding area – leave space for pedestrians to pass
 - And finally, please try not to hang around once you have dropped off/collected your child so that spaces are cleared quickly for others to use where possible.

School Lunches, meal patterns, payments and a reminder about entitlement to Free School Meals

There will be some changes to the school lunch menus as the year goes on as we put into place the new government school food guidelines which have to be in place from September 2027, but for the time being our school lunch menus remain the same as before the summer holiday and are on a 3-weekly cycle [*w/b 7th September = Week 2*]. Copies can be obtained from the school office or are on the school website.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can still take advantage of the FREE meals available for all children thanks to the government's 'Universal' offer. Paid school meals for Nursery children and pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 cost £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week).

It is very important that we have an up-to-date '**meal pattern**' entered into the school register/payment systems so that we know which days your child is having a school meal. Changes to the meal pattern may be necessary for this term for those newly eligible to targeted / enhanced (benefit based) free school meals, or perhaps for children in Year 3 who are now required to pay for school lunches etc. Please make sure your child's class teacher or the school office staff know what your child's meal pattern is so that you are not charged unnecessarily for meals.

Many of our families have applied for the **newly expanded FREE school meals** offered by the government for any families in receipt of Universal Credit (however small the amount).

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- Please confirm with the school office staff if you get confirmation of eligibility so that we can check that your child's name is on our list.
 - We also think there may be more families who are eligible and may not yet have applied and would advise anyone who is unsure to contact the office who can explain what you need to do to make a claim.

For parents who are required to pay for their child's meals, where possible this should be done via the **parentpay.com** website. If you are new to Eastlea and have not yet set up an account or have forgotten your log in password then again if you contact the office, staff who will be happy to help you. **Please bear with us when getting accounts for new pupils activated as the new details take a while to come through on the system.** Cash payments can still be made if required and any money should be brought to school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name/class/amount on the day or in the week that the meals are taken. Thank you!

Breakfast Club

Children from any year group are welcome to attend Breakfast Club sessions. Pupils can be dropped off at the main entrance any time from 7.30am to 8.15am. The club is based in the library / hall and is supervised by Eastlea staff. Bookings and payments for Breakfast Club also need to be made through the parentpay.com website. This must be done by 2pm the day before the booking is required please.

- The daily charge for Breakfast Club is **£3.00** if a booking is made a day or more in advance
- The price will be **£3.50** if children just turn up on the day with no advance booking made.

Year 5 Residential Visit

Just a quick reminder to parents of Year 5 pupils that the deadline for final payments for the Robinwood residential visit is Friday 18th September. It is important that all monies are received by then – if there is an issue with this then please speak to Miss Fox or Miss Beeston. Thank you.

Breaktime fruit, lunchtime salad bar and fewer sweets/biscuits

Over the last few years we have been increasing our focus on healthier eating.

- We ask that wherever possible, water bottles which the children have in school contain WATER only – unless a separate arrangement has been made by parents with staff.
*N.B. Metal water bottles tend to last longer and are less easy to break, although we are aware that they are a little more expensive. Also, please can we ask that water bottles are of a **standard size**! Some of the newer brands of water bottles are enormous and we do not have space to store them.*
- At breaktimes we continue to provide FREE fruit/vegetable snacks for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and have the policy in place that KS2 pupils bring in a fruit/vegetable snack to eat at breaktime as well. Classes who have attended the Roots and Shoots project at Alnwick Garden in recent years have also learned a lot about healthy eating and found out about the range of tastier/healthy options for snacks. Our fruit only policy has been a real success and it is lovely to see the range of healthy items brought in by the children. Thank you.
- Last year new government guidance for Early Years provided more robust 'rules' for the snacks, drinks and foods which Nursery and Reception children could have in school. This led to changes in our procedures for morning/afternoon snack times and the replacement of juice/milk shakes on the school lunch menu with water.
- The Brainwaves (school council) last year spearheaded a project to look more closely at improving our school lunchtimes and as part of this we now have a well-used and much enjoyed salad bar which offers additional healthy options 4 days a week for children who have school meals.
- Our gardening club have been actively growing a wider range of salad vegetables etc which are then harvested and given to the cooks to prepare for our salad bar and the homegrown tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce and cucumbers have been a big hit with the pupils.
- The next stage of our healthy eating focus is to start to incorporate more of the new government school food guidelines which, as mentioned above, have to be in place for next September. Staff will be having fewer 'sweets' as rewards in school time and we will also be looking at the dessert options which we provide as part of the school meals this year too. Alongside this we explained to the children on Friday that we are asking that they no longer bring in birthday cakes/sweet treats to give out to their classmates in school. Children can obviously still share things at their family gatherings or parties but we ask that they do not bring them into school – **your support with this is much appreciated. Thank you!**



N.B. A reminder that for those who bring packed lunches, please can sweets, multiple chocolate biscuits etc be avoided as 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.

Summer Libraries Reading Challenge

We are in the process of collating names of all the pupils who completed the summer holiday libraries 'Read to the Beat' reading challenge. For those who finish the challenge then certificates are available from your local library and if the challenge was done digitally then a certificate can be downloaded. Please make sure your child's class teacher knows if they have completed the challenge so they can be invited to our school celebration event in a few weeks' time. Thank you!



School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2027)

I know it seems a long way off, but if you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal opens on 12th September and applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31st October). The portal can be accessed via the link on the Northumberland School Admissions website: [Citizen Portal - Sign in](#)

It is essential that you apply in good time so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or another secondary school of your choice – you will receive confirmation about places on 1st March 2027. Any queries, please contact the school office.

N.B. For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal will open from 1st November until 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16th April 2027.*

Items which need to be returned to school please...

As is always the case at the start of September, there are 2 documents which will be sent home with your child and must be returned by everyone (*except for Nursery pupils who have recently joined us as they have just completed them!*) Pupils new to Reception will also have 2 further letters to return. **Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response...and we ask that all forms are back with us by Friday 11th September (at the latest).**

1. Medical information

Whether or not your child has a medical condition please complete and return the medical information sheet – **even if you feel that we ‘already know’ about an issue.** So many changes can occur with medical information that you will appreciate that we need an annual update.

2. Permission for school visits/food tasting 2026-2027

- School visits are an important part of our broad and rich curriculum at Eastlea – and as you know we aim to go ‘out and about’ as much as possible, as well as taking part in sports events and making links with other schools etc. To help to reduce the number of times we need you to complete permission slips we have attached the usual annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all non-residential school visits for this school year for which no cost/voluntary contribution is required.

If you grant permission for your child to take part in school visits we will continue to inform you when a visit is due to take place and provide you with the usual letter so that you know where your child is going, what they need and any special arrangements for the day – it will just remove the need for you to sign and send a permission slip back to us every time.

- There are also times when teachers provide opportunities for children to try different foods as part of their class work – for example in relation to their topic work. As always Eastlea follows the usual food hygiene requirements when doing work of this nature. **If you give permission for your child to taste food as part of their school work this year, this will save the need for separate letters/permission slips during the year.** We will take notice of any allergies which you alert us to and be sensitive to requests if there are certain foods which you do not wish your child to taste for religious or cultural reasons. **If your child has a new diagnosis of a food allergy or medical condition during the year it is very important that you let us know.**

FOR THOSE NEW TO RECEPTION: ‘Consent for images and videos’ – photo permission

We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations and will continue to use the existing permissions we have in place unless you inform us otherwise. For children new to the school we therefore ask that our consent form linked to showing photographs of children on the school website/Facebook page or including pupils on class photographs taken by the professional photographer in the summer term is completed and returned asap so that Mrs Atkinson (our E-safety Lead) has an up-to-date list.

And finally, **Contact information sheets** will also be sent out with those new to Reception

Emergency contact information / data collection sheets

Over the coming weeks, the admin team will be sending home a confidential copy in a sealed envelope of the emergency contact information, address/phone number details etc that we hold on file for your child. When this letter comes home, we ask that you check the information we hold and:

- Sign and return the document if it is accurate
- Make any changes if there are amendments we need to know about, sign and return the form

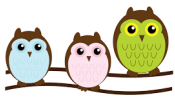
‘Operation Encompass’ and ‘Operation Endeavour’ – annual reminder

Eastlea continues to be part of statutory policy followed by Northumberland County Council together with Northumbria Police to support better communication between key agencies to promote the safeguarding of children.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children’s Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to (Operation Encompass). The same procedure also happens if for any reason a child goes missing from home. As a result of better multi-agency communication, information about this will be shared with schools (Operation Endeavour).

Copies of the most recent letters outlining these details from NCC, can be found on the school website [*About Us – information and policies – safeguarding policy*]. If anyone requires more information or would like a paper copy of the letters then please contact me in school.

Clubs for this half term – before school, at lunchtime and after school

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
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>  This costs £3 per day if booked/paid for in advance or £3.50 if children just turn up on the day	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (£3 per session)	KS2 Gardening Club on Mondays <i>[for a couple of weeks while the weather holds]</i>
		Multi-skills for Y1/Y2 on Tuesdays – 4pm finish
Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am in the school hall	KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£3 per session)	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays (from 16 th September)
		Violin Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays (from 16 th September)
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> 	Golden Step Club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 on Thursdays	

Events planned for this half term

On the next page of this 'bumper' first newsletter you will find an outline of the usual wide range of events and activities planned so far for the Eastlea children for the first half of the autumn term. There will be further information sent out about some of the events a little nearer the time.

Parent Governor – vacancy

We continue to be in the fortunate position of having a very supportive Governing Body at Eastlea. There are 4 parents represented on this group and one of them has just come to the end of their 'term of office'. Parent governors are elected by the parents and so we are looking for expressions of interest from any parent of children currently at Eastlea who would like to take on this role. **Please could you let me know by Friday 18th September.**

In terms of a time commitment, there are 3 full governing body meetings each year (which are usually held on Wednesday evenings from 4.30pm) and some further committee meetings which also take place after school hours. If this is something you would consider taking on and wish to find out more about then please come and talk to me/ring me in school. This is an important role for anyone who wishes to get involved in this different 'aspect' of the life of Eastlea. Thank you!

AND FINALLY... we are continuing to reduce the number of paper copies of letters that are sent home this year. Following this initial letter, future newsletters and general updates on school events will be shared electronically via Tapestry/Seesaw and the school website. **Letters requiring the completion and return of a 'reply slip' will still be sent home with pupils in the usual way.** We can also arrange to have a spare paper copy of letters provided from the school office if needed – please let your child's class teacher or Miss Beeston know if this is required.

If your contact details change during the year (new mobile phone number, address or email) then please let us know as soon as possible so that our records can be updated.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

Events planned for the first half of the autumn term 2026

What's on	When and who?
'Brainwaves' elections	Friday 4 th September (whole school elect Y5 and Y6 representatives)
Rugby/Multi-skills coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 8 th Sept (Y3/Y4) Wednesday mornings from 9 th Sept (Y5/Y6)
Specialist French tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y3/Y5 from 9 th September led by Mme Taylor
Specialist Computing tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y6 from 9 th September led by Mrs Powells
Sports Leader interviews and training	Wednesday 9 th / Wednesday 16 th September (Year 6)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 8 th September (groups from different classes)
Phototronic individual/family photos <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Wednesday 16 th September (morning)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 16 th September led by Mrs Rowell and Mrs Hedley
Educational visit to Nissan – Monozukuri Caravan	Thursday 17 th September (Year 6)
Launch event for the 2026-27 Reading Challenge <i>[information will be shared in a letter this week with an invitation for a family member to join us at a 'time slot' in the afternoon (or morning for some in Nursery) to get your child started on this year's challenge.]</i>	Friday 18th September (whole school)
RE Day	Monday 21 st September (Reception to Year 6)
Summer Library Reading Challenge celebration 'picnic'	Friday 25 th September (any children who completed the summer library 'Read to the Beat' reading challenge)
ACTIVE OCTOBER BEGINS <i>[further details about activities for this 4 week event to follow]</i>	From Monday 28th September
Year 4 parents Maths meeting with Mrs Thirlwell and Miss Fox about the Times Tables check	Afternoon of Tuesday 29 th September (either 2.30pm or 4.30pm – more details to follow)
Nasal 'flu immunisations <i>[see letter sent via Tapestry/Seesaw – parents need to complete on online booking]</i>	Tuesday 6th October (Reception to Year 6)
Safety Works visit	Morning of Friday 9 th October (Year 6)
Parents appointments <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Thursday 15 th and Monday 19 th 20 th October (afternoon/evening)
GOLDEN DAY	Wednesday 21st October
Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils	Thursday 23rd October
Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils	Friday 24th October
Pupils return for second half of the autumn term	Monday 2 nd November
Year 5 residential visit to Robinwood	Monday 2 nd – Wednesday 4 th November

Eastlea Attendance Guide for Parents



Our Designated Attendance Lead is Miss Beeston, the Head Teacher.

Parents/Carers will receive regular updates on attendance from school and the Head Teacher and all the staff monitor attendance daily, weekly, half termly and termly. Children are encouraged and rewarded in school for classes/individuals who have high levels of attendance and the staff make it clear why excellent attendance is so important:

- Weekly attendance trophy/letters home for the class with the highest percentage attendance – each class aims for 96%+ attendance
- Assembly 'Party poppers' for any class achieving their target of 100% attendance
- Punctuality plaques for classes who have no 'lates' recorded or fewer 'lates' than the week before
- End of term certificates for any child who has not missed a day of school
- Special rewards for children who have 100% attendance for the whole school year!

Why is regular school attendance so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships. A regular and punctual attendance pattern will help your child when they go to secondary school and later enter the world of work.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear: the more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.



Attendance Ladder



Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. At Eastlea we think that 96%+ attendance is what every child should really aim for.

We follow the national guidelines for our attendance 'aims' and are aware that attendance percentages can be misleading.

e.g. 90% (the national threshold for persistent absence) may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

Punctuality

Schools are legally required to take a register of pupils twice a day. At Eastlea the day begins at 8.45am and the register is taken first thing in the morning and again at the start of the afternoon session.

Good punctuality is important because if, for example, a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year! Patterns of poor punctuality are something that is also discussed with the school's Education Welfare Officer.

Holidays during term time

No term time leave of absence for holidays is routinely authorised at Eastlea.

Parents/Carers who choose to take their child out of school without written permission from the school may be issued with a fixed penalty fine.

Only in exceptional circumstances may a head teacher grant permission for leave of absence in term time.

How can I help my child attend school regularly?

- Talk to your child about school.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Keep in touch with school staff by telephone or Tapestry/Seesaw if there is an issue.
- Contact school (by telephone – 01670 732261) on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason.
- Attend parents' evenings and other school events.

What should I do if I'm worried about my child's school attendance?

The first thing to do is to contact the school to discuss your concerns so that we can see if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

What are my responsibilities regarding my child's school attendance?

As a parent/carers it is your responsibility to ensure that any child of compulsory school age attends school both regularly and on time. The local authority has a duty to make sure that all parents/carers fulfil this responsibility.

What will happen if my child does not attend school regularly?

School staff will contact you if there are concerns about your child's attendance. Support will be offered where we can. If we see no improvement, or there are particular difficulties involved, a referral can be made to the Education Welfare Service to see what help they can provide.

What if I do not seek support and my child's school attendance does not improve?

Parents whose children are on a school register and fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren), may be guilty of an offence under Section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996 and the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice or take enforcement action through the Courts to secure regular attendance.

How will regular school attendance help my child?

Eastlea gives your child a wide range of opportunities and experiences in the form of academic lessons, educational visits, activities and school clubs allowing them to develop their interests and achieve their full potential. Regular school attendance means that your child can make the most of their education and the opportunities Eastlea has to offer.

If you need any more information about the systems in place to monitor attendance at Eastlea please just ask Miss Beeston and if there is any further support that you feel we can offer then talk to your child's class teacher.