



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to everyone as we start the second half of the school year. This newsletter outlines all the many things that are underway and planned for the coming weeks – please retain for future reference!

### Clubs and activities

We continue to have a varied and well supported programme of clubs either before school, at lunchtime or after school. This half term the following clubs are taking place – many started this week and more start next week.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am <b>each day</b> )	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>	Netball club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Mondays</b>
English SATs Booster club for Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Rugby Rocket Tots for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Maths SATs Booster club for Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
Street Dance for KS2 on <b>Thursdays</b> from 8am	Woodland Walk club for various year groups on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Steel Pans music club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
<b>Plus...</b> <b>Owlets toddler group</b> for pre-school children and their parents/carers/childminders on <b>Thursdays from 9am – 10.30am in the school hall</b>	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>	Golfing club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
	Ninja Times Tables/Rock Stars club for various year groups on <b>Thursdays</b>	KS2 Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>

### Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline of all the many events and activities which are planned for the Eastlea pupils so far for the first half of the spring term.

What's on	When and who?
'Spheros' Computing resources for programming and robotics in school	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February – Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March New Computing resources on loan from Northumberland – for all classes (supported by Digital Leaders)
Swimming sessions at Concordia <i>(the 2nd half term of lessons for Year 4)</i>	Tuesday afternoons from 26 <sup>th</sup> February until 2 <sup>nd</sup> April (Year 4)
Year 1 Gymnastics sessions	Tuesday afternoons from 26 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>'Greatest Showman' Fundraising Film Night</b>	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – and we raised £237 for English and Maths resources THANK YOU!</b>
Cramlington Library 'Pod' visit	Morning of Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February (group of Year 1 pupils)
Specialist KS2 French/music/computing input led by Mme Taylor, Ms Smith and Mrs Powells	Wednesday afternoons from 27 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Governors School Improvement Committee meeting	4.45pm on Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Class attendance/punctuality certificates and 'light green' letters are presented	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
First of the reading challenge silver awards presented	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March

<b>What's on</b>	<b>When and who?</b>
Reception and Year 6 'Heights and Weights'	Afternoon of Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March (Reception and Year 6)
<b>World Book Day</b> <i>(dress up in pyjamas and bring your favourite 'book at bedtime' – see earlier letter for more details!)</i>	<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> Non-uniform day for the whole school – <b>£1 'fine' to go towards our reading book funds!</b>
National Sing Up Day – 'One Moment, One People'	Afternoon of Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Comic Relief fundraising bun day</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>(more details to follow!)</b>
Skipping Festival	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March at Lakeside Centre (Year 5)
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March (Reception to Year 6)
H Tempest class photographs	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
School Games Year 6 hockey competition	After school on Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March at CLV (Team of players from Y5/Y6)
Spring term assessment week	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March (all KS1 and KS2 classes)
Able Maths Day at Shanklea Primary	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March (group of pupils from Y3/Y4)
Presentation of spring term writing awards	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Presentation of spring term writing/maths awards and Ninja certificates	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March (one child from each class; plus KS2 ninjas)
<b>Parents Evening Appointments</b>	<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm – 6.30pm</b> (parents of all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 – plus extra sessions for Nursery parents at lunchtimes on 26 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup> March)
<b>Residential visit to Hawkstree</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>(Year 5 plus 3 staff)</b>
Visit for new Nursery pupils	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March from 9am (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter)
School Games netball competition	After school on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April at CLV (Team of players from Y5/Y6)
Whole school Easter assembly	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Early Years family workshop	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 9am – 10am (parents/carers of Nursery/Reception pupils)
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for Easter	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April – <b>at 2pm</b>
School reopens after the Easter holiday	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019</b>

### **World Book Day**

We are celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March!** Everyone is invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas with their favourite 'book at bedtime'. As explained in the letter this week, **the 'fine' for our 'pyjama day' is just £1** and the money raised will go towards our reading book funds. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw! There will be opportunities for children to share stories with their classmates and other year groups on the day and all children will be given a voucher to take home which they can exchange for a special World Book Day book.

## Sports update

We continue to provide as many opportunities as we can for pupils to take part in various sporting activities at Eastlea as part of the ongoing sports partnership work in Cramlington. The support we have from parents in terms of encouraging pupils to attend the range of different clubs/activities on offer is not something we take for granted.



I wanted to make you aware that we have also had real success in securing places for Eastlea pupils in the two 'gifted and talented' sports academy ventures in Cramlington. Two pupils have been taking part in the Dance Academy and 4 pupils were selected to take part in the Multi-skills Academy. For one pupil this is the second time they have been selected and this is a 'first' in Cramlington. Well done to all of them!

## PE Kits and School Uniform

So that everyone can continue to take an active part in the PE lessons and sports on offer at Eastlea can we ask that:

- Every child has their PE kit in school all week for PE lessons. As many of the sessions are now outdoors then dark coloured tracksuit bottoms can be worn for warmth and trainers are also required for these lessons.
- Although it is permitted for your child to wear trainers for outdoor PE and to play out at breaks and lunchtimes, they **MUST** have suitable black school shoes to wear in school. Boots with high heels are not appropriate and sitting in full length boots all day can be uncomfortable.

## Reading awards

The vast majority of our pupils have been eagerly reading at home as part of our 'Body' reading challenge and getting you to sign their reading records each week. I am delighted to say that so far **149 children have achieved their Bronze awards** and today we presented the **first 67 of our silver awards!!**

## Punctuality and attendance

We are continuing with our successful focus on improving attendance and punctuality. At the half way point of the school year we have only 10 pupils currently at Eastlea who have attendance below 90% (the national classification for persistent absentees). This number has dropped from 21 in October which is positive.

The weekly winners for the first six weeks of 2019 are listed below...three classes have yet to win the attendance trophy in the spring term an Year 4 would love to earn the punctuality plaque – something to aim for before Easter:

<b>Attendance</b> (One winner per week)	<b>Punctuality</b> (often shared by 2 classes each week)
Reception – twice	Reception – once
Year 1 – once	Year 1 – twice
	Year 2 – twice
	Year 3 – once
Year 4 – twice	
Year 5 – once	Year 5 – three times
	Year 6 – three times

- **Year 5** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the spring term with an average of 98.13%, beating Year 1 who managed 97.65% attendance. Well done!
- **Year 6** were awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – they had 8 'lates' recorded in the first half of the spring term narrowly beating Year 2 who had 9 'lates' followed by Year 1 and Year 5 who both had 11 'lates' – congratulations!!

## Payments for residential visits in KS2 – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

- Just about all payments for the Year 5 visit to Hawkthirst have now been received – thank you. This visit is only a few weeks away and parents/carers of pupils in Year 5 will be receiving more details about the visit in the coming weeks.
- The deadline for final payments for those children from Year 3/Year 4 who are going to Ford Castle on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May has now passed. There are a few to chase up and we must have this money quickly as the final invoice for the castle has to be paid in the coming days.
- For those Year 6 children going to York from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June a reminder that the remaining money is due by 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you are unsure how much is owed then check your payment card or contact Mrs Holdsworth in the school office.

### **School Meals**

The menus for school meals remain the same for this half term and next week, w/b 4<sup>th</sup> March, is week 2 of the cycle. If you require an additional copy of the current menus, then copies are available from the office.

### **Computing**

We are fortunate to have been given access to a set of 'Spheros' for a fortnight this half term. If your child is talking about programmable robots which whizz across the floor or can follow set patterns and directions this is what they will have been working with in school!

We are always trying to provide lots of opportunities for the children in our Computing lessons as well as regularly reminding the children about E-safety and how to keep themselves safe online:

- Keep passwords private
- Report any concerns to a trusted adult
- Only use games/sites which are age appropriate
- Don't share personal information online
- Be kind when posting comments and images online

Anything you can do to support us by re-emphasising these messages at home would be appreciated. Thank you!

### **Parent Governor**

As outlined in the letter before the holiday we had a vacancy for a parent governor on our Eastlea Governing Body. As there have been no further expressions of interest in this role, we do not need to arrange for an election process. I am happy that Mrs Kelsie Raper, who until recently had been an associate member of the governing body will now become a parent governor with immediate effect. She joins a strong and active group of parent governors who include Miss Katrina McDonough (parent of Holly and Noah), Mrs Sam McKeown (parent of Max and Alyssa) and Ms Kathleen Hope (parent of Thomas and Matthew). Thank you!

Yours sincerely

**Miss E Beeston**

Head Teacher