



Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017



Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of another busy term at Eastlea, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the many events which have been happening in the build up to Christmas and to thank you for the part you have played in making everything happen so successfully...and for your generosity, especially this half term.

### **British Legion Poppy Appeal**

This term started with the annual Remembrance Day poppy appeal. Year 6 were in charge of selling the poppies and other British Legion items in school and we raised **£195.04** for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you!

### **Children In Need**

Thank you for all your support with our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' fundraising activities. We raised another huge total this year with **more than £300** going towards this national charity event.

### **Christmas Fair**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the 'Friends of Eastlea' organised our annual Eastlea Christmas Fair. We always raise fantastic totals at these events and thanks to your support we did so again! This year **£1550.09** was raised to support our Golden Day events! **A HUGE THANK YOU** for the support of everyone who came to the fair and/or bought raffle tickets.

### **'Sport reading challenge awards**

Our 'Sport reading challenge started at the end of September and the children have been eagerly reading at home and getting their reading records signed each week. The first Bronze awards were presented on 8<sup>th</sup> December and so far we have been able to present certificates to **98** children. These pupils are already starting on their silver bookmark! If your child hasn't yet received the bronze award, it is not too late! Encourage them to keep reading and more certificates will be awarded in the New Year! **Reading in the Christmas holiday counts as one sticker to convert into climbing one rung of the reading ladder!**

### **Writing and Maths awards**

In November we presented our autumn term writing awards to one child from each class who had shown real strength in this aspect of learning. Tomorrow we turn our attention to autumn term maths awards as well as some new 'Ninja' awards for those who have shown real determination with extending their knowledge of times tables this term.

### **Year 6 Festive Lunch for parents**

Parents and family members of our Year 6 pupils as well as school governors were invited to a Festive Lunch in the school hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December - part of the Year 6 'Enterprise project'. We were delighted with the success of this year's event – in which the Year 6 children prepared the food, set up the tables, decorated the hall, served and cleared the meal as well as entertained their guests with carol singing. All of this followed their visit 'behind the scenes' at Nandos earlier this half term. **The feedback we received from our 40 guests was superb** – thank you to everyone who attended!

### **Christmas productions**

I must also thank you for your huge support last week when each key stage performed their Christmas plays. The response as always was fantastic, but is not something that we take for granted. It was lovely for the children to have such a full audience for each one of their productions. The refreshments were also well received and **£139.70** was raised in donations for these and the Christmas items which were on sale. This goes towards our Golden Day funds.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

The book fair, coordinated by Mrs Lister also proved to be very successful this year. Once again your generosity meant that we sold **£505** worth of books. This total is 'matched' by our 100% commission deal so it means that we have been able to add another £505 worth of fiction and non-fiction books to our class libraries for all the children to enjoy.

## Carol Singing

Our talented carol singers have been 'out and about' in recent days in Cramlington. This morning the singing club performed a selection of songs and carols at Hartford Court care home – which was gratefully received by the residents and staff! Yesterday morning, Year 6 completed a festive 'carol singing and bag back' session at Manor Walks – visiting both Sainsbury's and ASDA. This was another part of their Enterprise Fundraising project and today they will be counting the money raised – used to support future class visits and activities.

## Carol service at St Nicholas' Church

Tomorrow we have the traditional Eastlea nativity service at St Nicholas' Church. This event is always well supported and I know that Revd Wullie Docherty, the new Team Rector who the children met when he visited Eastlea, is keen to welcome us to church and give us all a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Please feel free to join us at 2pm at the church if you wish to take part.

## Christmas Golden Day

As I am sure you are aware from your children, everyone who has earned the right to take part in Golden Day is excitedly looking forward to Thursday!! 'Magic Mick' will entertain the pupils in Nursery/Reception in the morning and I know that the pantomime visit to see 'Peter Pan' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle that afternoon will be superb! The children are already excited about the fun they are going to have at the theatre and KS1 will also see the Paddington Bear themed Fenwick's window. **May I remind you that school uniform is required for Golden Day, although 'Santa hats' can also be worn. Please remember that the pupils will not be back until at least 5.15pm from the theatre – and all pupils will be dismissed from the school hall on our return.**

## Sports Awards success

On 30<sup>th</sup> November four pupil representatives from KS2 accompanied Mrs Stafford and Miss Beeston to Astley High School for the third Cramlington & Seaton Valley Sports Awards event. We were very proud to receive our **GOLD School Games award** which we have now retained for the last 4 years! Some of our Year 6 Sports leaders were asked to perform an 'active routine' as part of the event and did so with much enthusiasm. We were also the proud winners, for the second time, of the most prestigious event of the night – for the school which '**Demonstrates and Promotes the School Games Values**'. We were delighted to achieve this!



## Attendance

The overall half term class winners for attendance and punctuality in the second half of the autumn term will receive their certificates in January, once the outcomes for this final week have been calculated. However, I thought you would be interested to see the weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the previous seven weeks of this half term - included in the following table:

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

*N.B. Year 5, who did not manage to earn one of the awards in the first half term, did earn the punctuality plaque for two weeks on this occasion – meaning every class has now won something during the term!*

## Year 4 swimming – advance notice

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January and we have again managed to secure a longer afternoon session for our lessons, which we are delighted about. This means that the children will have a one hour session at the pool for 12 weeks in the spring term rather than short half hour lessons over two terms. We hope to be able to offer the sessions at the same price as last year (£4.50 per week) but have yet to have confirmation from the coach company. This price includes the school subsidising the costs of the lesson and the transport.

The swimming lessons are part of the KS2 PE curriculum but in order for us to provide this for the children we have to pay for the instructors and the coach transport to get us to the pool at Concordia. In common with the other schools in the Cramlington partnership we therefore ask for a donation from parents (hopefully £4.50) each week. Without these contributions, the lessons will not be able to go ahead in this format. A letter with further information about this will be sent out in the first week back in January.

### **Important Reminder for parents of Nursery pupils**

We have been asked by county to remind parents that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Any children born between 01/09/2013 and 31/08/2014 need to apply for entry to Reception 2018. Parents need to make an application for their child to join Eastlea Reception class in September, even if they already attend our Nursery. Information, Handbooks and application forms are available online at: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions) Alternatively, paper forms are available on request from: School Admissions Team, Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

### **Other reminders and advance updates**

- In recent weeks we have had some 'lapses' in school uniform with more children wearing trainers, leggings or jeans which are NOT school uniform, and some not having their PE kit in school. We hope that black school shoes and trousers will be smartly worn again by all pupils in January and that PE kits will be in school every day. Everyone always comments on how smart the children look in their Eastlea uniform and we would like to maintain these high standards. Your support with this is much appreciated.
- We have also had some difficulties with 'lateness' from pupils – and although we have taken account of the weather and poor road conditions on some mornings, we hope that punctuality can be a priority for pupils when they return in January. Your support with this would be gratefully appreciated.

### **Happy Christmas...and don't forget the early finish on Friday!!**

And finally, just a reminder that the pupils break up on Friday for their Christmas holidays with **an early finish at 2pm.**

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. Have a happy holiday and we will see you all again on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January is a staff training day)

Yours sincerely

**Miss E Beeston**  
Head Teacher