



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very successful first half term since September and this newsletter is just to pass on some information before the children break up for the half term holiday on Thursday.

Thank you

We have had lots of whole school events in the last 8 weeks which have been extremely well supported by parents/carers and families – THANK YOU:

- The launch of our **Body reading challenge and Ninja times tables maths challenge** saw **£224** raised from contributions made by the children plus the parents raffle/other donations for our guided reading and maths resource funds. *Remember that all children are asked to read over the half term holiday next week (or practise their letter sounds in Reception) – and this will ensure they get their next star on the bronze bookmark!*
- Our **'crisp day'** led by the new Brainwaves raised **£65.60** with proceeds going to support reading areas in Early Years
- Our **Great African Welly Walk** raised **£86** for the Farm Africa charity and we also had a huge number of tins, packets and jars of food donated for the **Cramlington foodbank** – all gratefully received.
- The **Hoopstarz** day a fortnight ago was very well supported and we again had excellent feedback from the organisers, KidsRFit, who wrote a letter to the school which said:
"We would like to thank you for hosting another fantastic Hoopstarz day in your school. We are increasingly amazed every year by the children's skills with the hoops, it is obvious to us that they use them regularly in PE lessons and at break times. Please pass on our compliment to your children on their behaviour which was again exemplary."
- We hosted a very well attended **parents' evening** on Monday this week with a really positive atmosphere in the school hall. Analysis of the questionnaires we circulated linked to homework will be shared next half term – and there are spare copies of these questionnaire if anyone else would like to have one – please ask at the school office.
- The **Halloween discos** last night were very well received and the total raised will be in excess of **£300** which again will be used to provide funds for our Maths resources and English reading books. THANK YOU!

Golden Day tomorrow – last day of the half term for pupils (staff training day on Friday 26th)

On Thursday we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year. We have our fingers crossed that every child will have earned the right to take part which is excellent. It is a non-uniform day with no fine to pay and each class has their own focus/theme for the day. Arrangements for lunch are the same as other days – with £2.30 to be paid for a meal if your child usually pays for their lunches (or £2.00 for Nursery 30 hour pupils). Reception and full day Nursery pupils will be going to the park in the afternoon for their teddy bears picnic and Year 5 are planning to go on a geography field study photographic 'mission' as they walk up to the centre of Cramlington village. All other pupils will be in school all day.

Year 3/Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 residential visits reminder

We have been delighted with the response to our planned residential visits to Ford, Hawkhurst and York. Almost all the deposits have now been paid but we are aware that there are some children who have not yet secured their place. It is important you speak to me about it if there are difficulties with getting deposits in for any other children who wish to go so that we can have the correct numbers to confirm the bookings.

School Lunches

We will be starting new 'winter menus' a few weeks after the half term break. Final consultations are needed with pupils before orders of food can be made and when we know the new choices then we will send out the new menus in November.

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2019 – a reminder

If you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is 31st October). **It is essential that you apply before the deadline so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or the school of your choice.** Any queries please contact the school office.

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens on 1st November and closes on 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16th April 2019.*

Handwriting pens

We have an ongoing issue with school handwriting pens for our older children going missing. Despite the best efforts of staff who try to encourage the pupils to store and use their pens sensibly, they are going 'missing' at an alarming rate. To try to tackle this, while we will still replace pens which run out/have been used up free of charge, after half term we are going to start a system of charging pupils a '50p contribution' to the cost of a replacement if a child loses their pen. We hope this will encourage them to be more careful with pens and hope you will support us with this!

Breakfast club

There has been lots of interest in our new 'breakfast club' venture and this facility will be starting on Monday 5th November. Booking forms and payments have been received from parents who wish to make use of this, but we do have spare places and want to offer a flexible service to parents. For £2.50 per day your child can come into school via the main entrance any time from 7.30am and have breakfast/join in with the planned activities in the school hall/library – led by Eastlea staff. Additional copies of the letter/booking forms are available in the school office and you do not have to have a set pattern each week, kit can be arranged on a needs basis.

Advance notice of events after half term

As always a full letter with an outline of the events for the new half term will be sent out after we return in w/b 5th November. Before then I thought you would be interested to know about a few things that we have planned for the first few weeks back:

- We will be commemorating the **100th anniversary of the end of World War 1** with a poppy trail in school the first week back in November and as always hope to have poppies on sale to raise funds for the Royal British Legion
- We will be supporting the **Operation Christmas Child** charity again this year – our Brainwaves are taking a lead on coordinating the annual 'shoe box' appeal and are hoping that people can bring in items to go into the shoe boxes so that we can 'put together' as many as possible for the collection centre at Doxford Church. Items which would be suitable to include and some things to avoid are listed below:

Christmas shoeboxes

DO INCLUDE:

- **TOYS** - *new toys such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals (with CE label), yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc.*
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** – *pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, writing pads or notebooks and paper, solar calculators, colouring in books.*
- **HYGIENE ITEMS** – *toothbrush and toothpaste, bar of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.*
- **OTHER ITEMS** – *hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery, wrapped sweets (sell by date must be at least March 2019).*

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- *Used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives, chocolate or other food items, liquids or lotions including bubbles, medicines, handmade or knitted stuffed toys, anything of a political, racial or religious nature, marbles or sharp objects, glass containers, mirrors or fragile items or clothing other than as listed above.*

- Week beginning 5th November is our Balance Bike Bikeability course for Reception/Nursery pupils who have opted to take part. Balance bikes/helmets will be provided by the instructor on the days of the course that week but if the children can already ride and have their own bikes/helmets then they can bring them in on Monday 5th.
- Friday 9th November is the Y5/Y6 basketball competition and our annual pupils/staff/families **Eagles basketball 'night'** and we still have some seats available on the coach for any who wish to attend – please contact the office for more information asap

And finally... don't forget that the children break up on Thursday this week at 3.15pm. Have a lovely restful half term holiday and we will see everyone again on Monday 5th November.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher