

Friday 23rd February 2018



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to everyone as we start the second half of the school year, especially to those families who have just joined/rejoined us at Eastlea. This newsletter outlines all the many things that are underway and planned for the coming weeks – please retain for future reference!

| What's on | When and who? |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Early Years 'Sport and Play' Futsal sessions | Monday mornings from 19 th February (Nursery and Reception) |
| Pocket Trumpets KS2 music tuition led by Mr Vallance | Monday afternoons from 19 th February (Year 3 and Year 6) |
| Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching' | Tuesday lunchtimes from 20 th February (pupils from Year 3, 5 and 6) |
| Swimming sessions at Concordia (the 2nd half term of lessons for Year 4) | Tuesday afternoons from 20 th February until 27 th March (Year 4) |
| Tag Rugby coaching in PE lessons | Tuesday afternoons from 20 th February (Year 6) |
| After school Tag Rugby coaching | Tuesday after school sessions from 20 th February (Year 5/Year 6) |
| After school Netball team practice | Tuesday after school sessions from 20 th February (team from Year 5/Year 6) |
| Lunchtime Rugby Rocket Tots club | Wednesday lunchtimes from 21 st February (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) |
| Lunchtime 'woodland walks' club | Continues on Wednesday lunchtimes from 21 st February (groups from various classes) |
| Specialist KS2 French/music/computing input led by Mme Taylor, Ms Smith and Mrs Powells | Wednesday afternoons 21 st February (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) |
| KS2 Singing Club | Continues on Wednesdays after school from 21 st February (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6) |
| Before school KS2 Street Dance club | 8am Thursday mornings from 22 nd February (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) |
| Lunchtime running club | Continuing on Thursday lunchtimes from 22 nd February – (Year 4, Year 5, Year 6) |
| Attendance certificates and 'light green' letters are presented | Friday 23 rd February |
| First of the reading challenge silver awards presented | Friday 23 rd February |
| 'Bear's Buddies' lunchtime club led by Rockets staff | Monday lunchtimes from 26 th February (group of boys from various classes) |
| After school Maths boosters/homework club | Monday after school sessions from 26 th February (Year 6) |
| RFL assembly to include opportunity to see the Rugby Super League trophy | Tuesday 27 th February (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6) |
| After school Golfing club | Tuesday after school sessions from 27 th March (Year 3/Year 4) |
| 'Bacon butty' English boosters | Wednesday morning before school English sessions from 28 th February (Year 6) |
| World Book Day (dress up in pyjamas and bring your favourite 'book at bedtime' – see below for more details!) | Thursday 1st March Non-uniform day for the whole school – £1 'fine' to go towards our guided reading book funds! |

| What's on | When and who? |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty | Monday 5 th March (Reception to Year 6) |
| Maths and Science focus day at CLV | Thursday 8 th March (Group of pupils from Year 6) |
| School Games Football competitions at CLV | After school Thursday 8 th March (Team of Year 5/6 girls and team of Year 5 boys) |
| Presentation of spring term writing awards | Monday 12 th March (one child from each class) |
| School Games netball competition | After school on Wednesday 14 th March at CLV (Team of players from Y5/Y6) |
| Home visits for summer term intake of Nursery pupils | Afternoon of Monday 19 th March by Miss Dougall and Mrs Broughton |
| Presentation of spring term maths awards and Ninja certificates | Tuesday 20 th March (one child from each class; plus Year 1 to Year 6 ninjas) |
| H Tempest class photographs | Wednesday 21 st March |
| Skipping Festival | Thursday 22 nd March at Blyth Sports Centre (Year 5) |
| Parents Evening Appointments | Thursday 22nd March 2.30pm – 6.30pm (parents of all pupils from Nursery to Year 6) |
| School Games mixed hockey competition | After school on Thursday 22 nd March at CLV (Team of players from Y6) |
| Sport Relief/Jump for Heart fundraising day | Friday 23rd March (more details to follow!) |
| Residential visit to Hawkthirst | Monday 26th – Wednesday 28th March (Year 5 plus 3 staff) |
| Visit for new Nursery pupils | Tuesday 27 th March from 9am (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter) |
| Early Years Easter activities family event | Wednesday 28 th March 9am – 10am (Nursery and Reception pupils and parents) |
| Easter assembly/class-based activities | Afternoon of Wednesday 28 th March (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6) |
| Golden Day | Thursday 29th March (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy) |
| Pupils break up for Easter | Thursday 29 th March |
| School reopens after the Easter holiday | Monday 16th April 2018 |

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 1st March!** Everyone is invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas with their favourite 'book at bedtime'. **The 'fine' for our 'pyjama day' is just £1** and the money raised will go towards our guided reading book funds. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw!

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. Last half term we had children taking part in lunchtime football, rugby rocket tots, Bear's Buddies and running clubs, the KS2 before school street dance club, selection events for the Year 5/Year 6 multi-skills academy (well done to Kia who was selected!), swimming lessons for Year 4, weekly after school tag rugby and tennis sessions, specialist led gymnastics sessions for Year 3/Year 4 and yoga for Early Years, as well as preparation in PE for skipping and gymnastics competitions.



Reading awards

The vast majority of our pupils have been eagerly reading at home as part of our 'Sport' reading challenge and getting you to sign their reading records each week. I am delighted to say that so far **148 children have achieved their Bronze awards** and today we presented the **first 48 of our silver awards!!**

Ninja maths awards

As you will see from the 'events calendar' above we will be awarding our maths awards and Ninja certificates at a special assembly on 20th March. **We cannot emphasise enough how important it is to encourage your child to learn their times tables as it makes the job of completing calculations in maths so much easier.** The first ones to learn are x2, x10 and x5 then this moves on to include x 3, x4, x 6, x8, x7, x9, x11 and x12. By the end of Year 4 it is expected all children will know all their times tables (up to the 12x12). After that the children will move on to division facts. There is a big focus on this in school, but any help you can give your child in learning their tables can make a huge impact. If you are unsure how to go about this, then speak to your child's teacher and they will be happy to share further strategies and approaches which may be useful. Thank you in advance!

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 had 16 pupils currently at Eastlea who have attendance below 90% (the national classification for persistent absentees). This number has dropped from 20 in October and 18 at Christmas which is positive.

The weekly winners for the first five weeks of 2018 are listed below...only Reception and Year 3 did not win either of the attendance/punctuality trophies last half term – something to aim for before Easter:

| Attendance (One winner per week) | Punctuality (often shared by 2 classes each week) |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Year 1 – once |
| Year 2 – once | Year 2 – twice |
| Year 4 – once | |
| | Year 5 – once |
| Year 6 – three times | Year 6 – five times |

- **Year 6** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the spring term with an average of 99.2%, beating Year 3 who managed 96.48% attendance. Well done!
- **Year 6** were also awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – they had only 1 'late' recorded in the first half of the spring term which is a fantastic achievement; the next closest were Year 2 and Year 5 who both had 6 'lates' – congratulations!!

School Meals

The menus for school meals remain the same for this half term and next week w/b 26th February is week 2 of the cycle. If you require an additional copy of the current menus, then copies are available from the office. The summer menu will probably be starting after Easter and this will be discussed with the cook and further details will be shared with parents at the end of term.

PE Kits and School Uniform

- Please can we remind everyone that it saves a lot of time in searching for kit if 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.
- If you wish your child to wear trainers to play out at breaks and lunchtimes this is permitted, but 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.
- We pride ourselves on having a smart Eastlea school uniform and the owl logo on our navy blue sweatshirts and sports kits for those representing the school is universally recognised! Although we aim to keep the price of sweatshirts/cardigans to the lowest we can, at certain times it can be difficult for some families to purchase brand new school uniform for their children. We are therefore delighted to be part of a venture which aims to help support families when they need it to ensure their child(ren) are always smartly dressed in school uniform – see overleaf.



We collect donations of school uniforms for our Local Schools in the community. We accept donations of all things to do with school life, and hand them out to anyone who needs them.

The items are gifted free of charge.

The scheme is accessible to every parent in the community.

If you would like to make a donation to us here is a list of suggested items.

All donations are gratefully received.

Skirts, Cardigans, Dress up outfits, Trousers, P.E kits, Christmas jumpers, Pinafores, Shoes, Fundraising apparel, Shorts, Trainers, Back-packs, Summer dresses, Coats, Lunch boxes, Cotton shirts, Hats/gloves/scarves, Socks, Polo shirts, Wellies, Brollies, Jumpers, Tights, Revision Books.

We also accept donations of non-school items too, e.g. baby clothes and equipment. This helps us to fundraise for future growth within the scheme, continuing the availability of uniforms
FREE.

If you would like to access the scheme please don't hesitate, as mentioned above the scheme is open to all parents and accessible throughout the year.

Here's how to contact us

You can connect with us Via Facebook group. 'Community School Clothing Scheme'

Twitter. @communityscs

Or email us at communityschoolcs@gmail.com

[this initiative is coordinated by Freema Chambers]

A charity event in support of the 'Community School Clothing Scheme is being arranged by an Eastlea parent to take place in the Pavilion in the next few weeks.

When a date is arranged we will let you know!

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

- If you have a child in Year 5 who is going to Hawkthirst then the deadline has now passed for final payments to be made for this visit.
- Those children going to York in Year 6 should now have paid £100, with the remaining money due by 29th March.

Please contact the school office if you have missed the deadline or there is a problem with payment as we have to confirm and pay the final invoices for all the many activities which are on offer.

Parent Governor

We are fortunate to have a very supportive Governing Body at Eastlea. There are 4 parents represented on this group and Mr Brown has come to the end of his 'term of office' so it is time for us to elect someone new to join our other parent governors – Mrs McKeown (parent of Max and Alyssa), Mrs Rickelton (parent of Jack, Heidi and Harry) and Ms McDonough (parent of Noah and Holly). In terms of a time commitment, there are 3 full governing body meetings each year and some further committee meetings – all of which 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 and I would really welcome your support and encourage expressions of interest from parents who wish to get involved in this different 'aspect' of the life of Eastlea. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston

Head Teacher