



Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year

A belated 'Happy New Year' to anyone I have not yet spoken to since the new term started last week.

As always, this newsletter contains information about key events which are planned for the coming weeks as well as reminders/updates about policies and procedures at Eastlea:

Bikes and scooters

As we did at this time last year, it is lovely to see so many children cycling to school or coming on their scooters – a great form of exercise! The number of new bikes was clear when the children returned on 9th January but can we please remind everyone that if these items are to be left on the school premises then they need to be locked on the bike/scooter racks provided. We would hate any bikes to be taken which would be upsetting for all concerned. Staff are also happy to look after cycle helmets in school and we would encourage pupils to wear these as they travel to and from school each day. Please speak to staff if there is a problem with locking up bikes or scooters – several can always be locked together if this makes things easier.

Dogs, buggies and keeping the gates clear

We are continuing with our aim to keep the gates clear in the morning to allow a trouble-free entry into school for everyone. Please can you continue to support us with this and try to avoid blocking the gate with buggies and groups which can cause difficulties for those arriving at school. No dogs are allowed on the school premises for safety reasons and thank you to those families who now leave their dogs at home in the mornings or after school at pick up times. Smoking and vaping can still cause some concerns so if this could be done away from the school gates to avoid children and other parents/carers having to walk through clouds of smoke this would also be appreciated – thank you!

Staffing update

I'm pleased to inform you that Mrs Johnson is starting her return to Eastlea this month and you may see more of her in the school office in the coming weeks. It will be great to have her back to work alongside Mrs Holdsworth and Mrs Clarke.

School uniform

The vast majority of our pupils have returned to school looking very smart and tidy in their Eastlea school uniform. However, as we mentioned before the Christmas break, we do have some ongoing concerns regarding footwear. May I remind you that trainers are not to be worn in school, other than for PE lessons. **Children should be wearing black school shoes.** If the weather is particularly bad, then boots can be brought into school to be changed into at breaks/lunchtimes but they are not suitable to be worn all day and must not have high heels as this is dangerous. It is likely to be cold and wet this term and to enable the children to keep warm and dry please could you ensure they have a suitable coat and gloves/hats/scarves as appropriate to be worn when they are outside.

We also have some children who are 'forgetting' to remove their nail varnish or earrings before they come into school. If your child wears earrings, please can they be removed before school and if nail varnish is used at a weekend, please make sure it is removed before Monday morning!

P.E. kits

Everyone now should be fully aware of the need to have PE kits in school so that children can take part fully with the lessons that are going on. Items should be named and suitable footwear is required for outdoor sessions. Plain, dark tracksuits can also be worn for outdoor sessions this term.

Hair

May I remind you that long hair must be tied back in school and hair should be thoroughly checked if problems with headlice occur even when you think the infestation may be over (this needs to be done every night for at least two weeks otherwise the problem can reoccur).

Attendance and punctuality

Before the Christmas holiday I told you the latest information with regard to the weekly winners of our attendance and punctuality awards. Here are some further updates:

- **Year 6** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the autumn term – in total they won the weekly award three times during the half term and were awarded the best class attendance certificate on Friday – well done! With an average attendance of 97.79% they beat Year 5 and Year 3 who came 2nd and 3rd in our competition – congratulations!

- **Year 6** also retained the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term with only 9 'lates' in total during the 8 weeks. Year 6 were delighted to secure 'both certificates' beating Year 5 who were their closest rivals with 17 lates – well done!
- I am also pleased to announce that there were **49 pupils** who were awarded with individual certificates for achieving **100% attendance** in the autumn term.

Attendance and punctuality will again be closely monitored this term together with support from the EWO. Competition remains fierce for both the weekly attendance champions trophy/punctuality plaque and the children have been set the challenge of improving their punctuality even further this term!! Your support with getting them to school on time is much appreciated.

Reading

Our 'Sports Reading Challenge' continues this term. We now have 117 children with their pictures on the running track hall display and hope to get more 'faces' in the coming weeks! Class teachers will be in touch with you if your child is not yet into a regular routine of reading at home and it is never too late to get the bronze award so the incentive is there for all children to get started! Reading folders are needed in school each day so that staff can monitor reading on a daily basis. Thank you for your support!

Maths

We awarded our autumn term maths awards and 'Ninja certificates' just before the holiday. Congratulations to all our winners! A display of their work has been put up in the school hall. If your child was a Maths award winner and you wish to come into school to see their work on display just pop in at the start or end of a day and your child can take you to the hall!

Homework routines

By now I'm sure you are fully aware of the timetable for homework in your child's class. Your role in supporting your child at home with reading, learning spellings/times tables and completing English/maths or other curriculum tasks is very important. We do appreciate the help you provide with this as it is such an important part of working together to help children make progress in their learning. If you have any issues or queries about this, please contact school and speak to staff in your child's class.

Advance notice for parents/carers of pupils in Year 2 and Year 6

- Miss Betham has asked me to remind parents that the KS1 SATs assessments take place in May 2018. Unlike the KS2 SATs, the Year 2 children will be involved in several different assessments (or quizzes as we like to call them!) during that month so it is important that the children are in school for those weeks in May so that they can have the best chance of showing off what they can do!
- Mrs Stafford has asked me to mention that the KS2 SATs week this year takes place in the week beginning **Monday 14th May 2018**. We know that in common with every other year, our Year 6 pupils will do us proud with their efforts in this important week. It is vital that all the Year 6 pupils are in school every day that week, so I hope that this advance notice of the date is helpful.

Residential visits

Letters with further information about payments for the residential visits to Hawkhurst (Y5) and York (Y6) have already been sent out for those taking part. It is important that the final payment deadlines are noted and adhered to so that the bills can be paid to the various venues and activity centres. Thank you!

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?
New Nursery pupils join Eastlea	Wednesday 10 th and Monday 15 th January (new intake begin their Nursery sessions)
Lunchtime 'Woodland Walk' club	Wednesday lunchtimes from 10 th January (groups from various classes)
Specialist French/music input led by Madame Taylor and Ms Smith	Wednesday afternoons from 10 th January (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
After school 'KS2 Eastlea Singing club'	Wednesdays from 10 th January 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Before school KS2 'Street Dance' club	Thursday mornings at 8am from Thursday 11 th January (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Lunchtime running club	Thursday lunchtimes from 11 th January (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)

What's on	When and who?
Attendance certificates, 'light green' letters and autumn term commendations are presented	Friday 12 th January
Early Years Yoga sessions	Friday mornings in school time from 12 th January
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 15 th January (Reception to Year 6)
'Bear's Buddies' lunchtime club led by Rockets staff	Monday lunchtimes from 15 th January (group of boys from various classes)
Specialist gymnastics input in PE lessons led supported by Miss Smith	Monday afternoons from Monday 15 th January (Year 4 & 3)
Pocket Trumpets music tuition led by Mr Vallance	Monday afternoons from 15 th January (Year 3 and Year 6)
After school tag rugby club	Mondays from 15 th January (Year 5/Year 6)
Educational Class Visit to 'BBC studios' in Newcastle	Tuesday 16 th January – morning (Year 6 – funded by the pupils' Enterprise fund)
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 16 th January (pupils from Year 3, 5 and 6)
Swimming sessions at Concordia	Tuesday afternoons from 16 th January (Year 4)
After school Tennis club	Tuesdays after school from 16 th January (Year 2)
After school Maths SATs/homework club	Tuesdays after school from 16 th January (Year 6)
'Bacon butty' SATs English club	Wednesday morning before school from 17 th January (Year 6)
Multi-skills academy selection event at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 19 th January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
Early Years 'post box' visit	Tuesday 23 rd January (Nursery and Reception)
Writers workshop at Shanklea Primary	Tuesday 30 th January (group of pupils from Year 3 and Year 4)
'Number Day'	Fundraising Maths focus day – more details to follow (whole school)
Author visit – to meet Ross Welford at CLV	Afternoon of Tuesday 6 th February (Year 6)
Spring term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 7 th February 4pm
School Games Gymnastics competition	Thursday 8 th February – morning (team from Year 4)
Golden Day	Thursday 8th February (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Fundraising 'bun day' event in support of Jessica's Sarcoma Awareness charity	Friday 9 th February (whole school)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 9 th February
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 19 th February

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher