



Dear Parents / Carers

Tomorrow we come to the end of the spring term at Eastlea and all those who have earned the right to attend are very much looking forward to our Easter Golden Day. It has been a busy but successful half term and I wanted to pass on my thanks for all the support you have given for our many activities and events in recent weeks.

- The '**Greatest Showman Film Night**' proved to be very popular and a total of **£237** was raised which is being used by Miss Fox and Mrs Lister to purchase some extra Maths resources and English books.
- Our '**World Book Day**' book at bedtime theme was also a great success with everyone getting involved and enjoying a day focused on reading, relaxing in pyjamas! We raised **£151.80** for our phonics reading book funds – thank you!
- **Comic Relief** was the national fundraising day on 15<sup>th</sup> March and our bun day/cake sale provided a welcome breaktime treat. This, together with a staffroom sweepstake, meant that we raised a total of **£110.15** which has been sent to this national charity.
- Last week the **parent appointments** for parents/carers of children from all classes were very well attended. There were some very positive comments about the work the children had been doing and how much they enjoy coming to school. We do not take such high attendance at these events for granted are very grateful for your continued support. We know there are still a few parents who have appointments scheduled or still to be arranged and these are taking place this week/after Easter.
- Year 5 pupils involved in the **residential visit to Hawkthirst** returned yesterday evening and were exhausted and exhilarated in equal measure after 3 days of outdoor activities which saw children 'testing themselves' by conquering fears and challenging themselves to do things they did not think they were capable of. I know that the staff were once again very proud of what the children achieved during the week and received lots of VERY positive comments about the attitude and behaviour of our pupils. Thanks to Mrs Thirlwell, Mrs McInnes and Mrs Scott for being prepared to make this event happen!
- Our **Easter raffle** has once again proved to be a big success. So far we have raised a total of **£152** towards our Golden Day funds. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and during Golden Day tomorrow we will be drawing the winners...so there is still a last chance to buy tickets as long as we have them and the money in first thing tomorrow!

### Sporting success

As always there have been lots of children involved in a range of sporting activities this half term. The before school, lunchtime and after school clubs have been well attended and there will be further opportunities for this after Easter. We have also had some coaching sessions in PE lessons as well as competitions which children have been involved with after school:

- The weekly **Year 4 swimming lessons** coordinated by school have now been completed. Thank you to the parents/carers of Year 4 pupils who funded this every week. The class thoroughly enjoyed their time at the pool and I had the privilege of going to see them at Concordia this week to see how well they had done after the 11 week course. We hope to have some certificates to present after the holidays to recognise their achievements in the pool.
- **Year 5** took part in the annual Cramlington **skipping festival** on 15<sup>th</sup> March and did themselves proud. They came away with lots of certificates – a mix of bronze, silver and gold for individual/paired skills as well as overall class performance. All the practice was worth it!
- Our **Year 6 hockey teams** represented the school superbly a fortnight ago. It was good to see their confidence grow as the competitive games went on, and thanks must go to Mr Rhodes who came in to provide some coaching sessions in the week before the tournament.
- **Year 1** have had **gymnastics coaching** sessions in PE each week this half term led by Miss Smith (Cramlington Sports Partnership) and have made good progress with their skills.
- Those selected from **Year 5 and Year 6** to take part in the **multi-skills** and **dance academies** have continued to enjoy the sessions. Last week was the final multi-skills session and we were very proud to have 4 children selected to take part in this event – they can now proudly wear their t-shirts which they were presented with on Friday.
- This evening it is the turn of our **Year 5 and 6 Netball team** as they take part in the school sports partnership competition at CLV. They recently won a friendly match against a neighbouring school and we wish them 'good luck' tonight!

Children will all need their full PE kit for outdoor sessions after Easter and a full list of clubs will be sent out after the holiday, e.g. Reception, Y1 and Y2 rugby rocket tots continues on Wednesday lunchtimes.

## **Best School in Northumberland – more recognition**

I'm sure, like the pupils, staff and governors, you will have been delighted with the increased positive publicity which Eastlea has received in recent weeks. The 'video' which was filmed in school by representatives of Northumberland County Council took a great deal of organising and as always with these ventures the final outcome was in many ways 'out of our control'. Technical difficulties meant that the clips featuring pupil interviews were unable to be included, but the resulting short video does give a real 'flavour' of our school and is now linked from social media accounts for the county council and is also featured on our school website/Facebook account.

Perhaps as a result of this, we have had lots of other visitors and requests to look around or take up places during the last half term. I offer a warm welcome to any new families who have joined us and a reminder that if you have a pre-school child who you have not yet registered with our Nursery for the term after their third birthday then application forms can be collected from/returned to the school office so that you can secure your child's place at Eastlea! It is important to hand application forms in as soon as possible.

## **Owlets and Early Years equipment**

Our popular Owlets toddler group goes from strength to strength and this has also brought new families into school with many commenting on the friendly atmosphere which they find here. Funds raised from the Owlets group have been put to good use within Early Years thanks to a donation to purchase a dumper truck and a digger for a new outdoor gravel pit play area. Thank you!

While mentioning the Early Years equipment, please can I remind parents that children should not be allowed to climb on/play with or access the outdoor play equipment either before school or at the end of a day when they are picked up from school. We realise it is 'tempting', but we are not insured for this and therefore the equipment is 'out of bounds' for all children (including school children) after 3pm and before school starts. Thank you for your support with this.

## **Reading awards**

Our Body Reading Challenge awards have been presented in large numbers this half term. **101** children are proudly wearing their silver award badges and we now have **159** pupils who have achieved their bronze awards. Don't forget to encourage your child to keep reading – and if they read over the Easter holiday this will gain them another sticker on their bronze, silver or gold bookmark!

## **Writing and maths awards**

Last week we presented the spring term Writing and Maths awards to children from each class, plus certificates for determination and progress in learning times tables (our Ninja awards). As well as certificates, our winners took home a special letter to recognise their achievement and after Easter their photos, samples of their work will be available to look at in the hall/library. Well done to them all!

## **'Parenting Drop in' session**

Some parents will have had the chance to meet staff from the county Early Help team who attended our Eastlea during our parents appointments on Thursday evening last week. I am very pleased to announce that starting on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April we will be hosting a 'Parenting drop in' session from 4.00 – 5.30pm every fortnight.** Anyone who is interested in discussing strategies to support children at home or would like to seek advice on behaviour, health or financial matters etc can have an appointment with Early help workers in school who can signpost them to what support might be available.

## **Golden Day/End of term – a reminder**

Tomorrow is our Easter Golden Day and, as explained in the earlier letter, for the children who have earned the right to take part it is a non-uniform day with no specific theme and no fine to pay(!) The children will be involved in a range of Easter activities including craft making, challenges and Easter egg hunts during the morning and may come home with a prize from the Easter raffle which is being drawn that day too! Nursery and Reception parents/family members have also been invited to an Easter workshop from 9.00 – 10.00am that morning in the school hall and we hope you will be able to support your child with this event.

**Please remember that as part of their Golden Day treat the school day will finish at 2pm tomorrow...and I would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter holiday!** The children return for the summer term on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Have a very happy Easter break!

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Beeston, Head Teacher

