



Dear Parents / Carers

### Welcome back

This newsletter contains a full outline of everything that is planned for another action packed half term at Eastlea. But I must begin by thanking you for the continued support which you give for the all the many activities and events which take place at school – and especially for those which happened in the run up to the Easter holidays.

- Our delayed '**World Book Day**' book at bedtime theme which was postponed until after the 'snow days' was a great success with everyone getting involved! We raised **£171** for our guided reading funds – thank you!
- The **Sport Relief** fundraising day on 23<sup>rd</sup> March raised a fantastic total of **£165.30** which was split between the Sport Relief and British Heart Foundation charities. The range of opportunities to 'try out' different sports coordinated by Mrs Stafford was well received and certainly made for an action-packed sporting day.
- The **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 this year did especially well at progressing with their swimming skills each week. We hope to have some certificates to present soon to recognise their achievements in the pool.
- The **Year 5 residential visit to Hawkhurst** in the week before Easter was a high point of the term for Year 5 – almost everyone in the class chose to take part and I know that the staff who travelled with the children were very proud of what they achieved during the week. Thanks to Mrs Thirlwell, Mrs McInnes and Mrs Scott for being prepared to make this event happen!
- The **Early Years Easter activities morning** was thoroughly enjoyed by the parents who attended and the range of craft activities which took place in the hall was great fun – for both the children and the adults!!
- Our **Easter raffle** raised a magnificent sum of **£205** towards our Golden Day funds. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and well done to our winners – I'm sure they enjoyed their prizes (mostly of the 'chocolate' variety!)
- **Parents' appointments** – the turn out for these is always very high, but this time it was our highest yet with 96% parents/carers coming to speak to the class teachers. Your support for these events is so important and much appreciated – thank you! If you are one of the few who have not yet spoken to your child's class teacher, please contact the school to arrange an appointment, as these can still be arranged in the next few weeks.
- The March **Golden Day** on the final day produced lots of broad smiles from the pupils who earned the right to attend and we had some super feedback from the two venues for the way that the children conducted themselves on the visits out of school. We expect nothing less, but it is always lovely to hear!

### Reading awards

Our Sport Reading Challenge awards have been presented in large numbers this half term. **104** 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 have their reading record signed each week this will help them to fill their net bookmark with stickers and help them towards their next award!

### Ninja maths awards

Towards the end of March we presented the spring term Ninja Maths awards which now run alongside our termly writing and maths awards for each class. As mentioned in the newsletter last half term **it is very important 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 and then the children target all the others – all the way up to 12 x 12, learning their multiplication and division facts as they progress. The focus on this in school is continuing and at the end of the summer term we will be presenting our next Ninja awards. Any help you can give to support your child in learning their times tables would be appreciated. Thank you in advance!

## What's going on this half term

What's on	When and who?
Starting dates for new intake in Nursery	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Trumpets - instrumental tuition	Monday afternoons in music lessons from 16 <sup>th</sup> April (Year 3 and Year 4)
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 17 <sup>th</sup> April (pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Tennis coaching in PE lessons	Tuesdays from 17 <sup>th</sup> April (Year 3 and Year 4)
After school Maths SATs Booster club	Tuesday after school sessions on 17 <sup>th</sup> April, 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 1 <sup>st</sup> May and 8 <sup>th</sup> May (Year 6)
Before school English SATs Booster club	8am Wednesday mornings on 18 <sup>th</sup> April, 25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May and 9 <sup>th</sup> May (Year 6)
Math workshop at Shanklea Primary	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April (Group of pupils from Year 3 and Year 4)
Lunchtime Rugby Rocket Tots club	Wednesday lunchtimes from 18 <sup>th</sup> April (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
Lunchtime 'woodland walks' club	Continues on Wednesday lunchtimes from 18 <sup>th</sup> April (groups from various classes)
Specialist KS2 French/music/computing input led by Mme Taylor, Ms Smith and Mrs Powells	Wednesday afternoons from 18 <sup>th</sup> April (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
After school 'Eastlea Singing club'	Starts again Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
KS2 after school cricket club	Wednesdays from 18 <sup>th</sup> April (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Governors Resource Committee meeting	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April at 5pm
Before school 'Street Dance' club	8am Thursday mornings from 19 <sup>th</sup> April (Reception to Year 6)
Attendance certificates, 'light green' letters and commendations are presented	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> April
Revd Wullie to lead a whole school assembly	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April
KS2 Tag Rugby after school club	Mondays from 23 <sup>rd</sup> April (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Year 4 Tri golf competition at Seaton Sluice	Morning of Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May (team of pupils from Year 4)
Lunchtime running club	Continuing on Thursday lunchtimes from 26 <sup>th</sup> April (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Year 5/Year 6 football competitions at CLV	After school on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April (teams from Year 5 and Year 6)
KS1 SATs assessments	During May – these will form part of the overall teacher assessment judgement made by Eastlea staff (Year 2)
<b>May Day Bank Holiday – school closed</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – school closed</b>
Early Years Educational Visit – part of Transport topic	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May – all day (Nursery and Reception)
Mental health workshop led by 'The Children's Foundation' charity	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May – morning and afternoon (Year 5)
Governors Resource Committee meeting	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May at 5pm
First of the reading challenge gold awards presented	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May

What's on	When and who?
'SATs Saturday' (A fun day to revise maths and English!)	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> May (Year 6)
KS2 SATs week	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May (all Year 6 pupils – we wish them the very best of luck!)
Children's Cancer Run	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May – Gosforth Park race course – a group of staff and Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 pupils take part in this charity event
Summer Term Full Governing Body Meeting	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May from <b>4.00pm</b>
Tag Rugby School Games competitions	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May (Morning = team from Year 3/Year 4 at Astley Afternoon = team from Year 5/Year 6 at Astley)
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June

### Uniform – PE kits and school shoes

There is a lot of sport planned for this term and hopefully with some better weather the PE sessions for most classes will be taking place outside. It is therefore important that pupils have their PE kits in school each week and this should include black shorts, plain white t-shirt and trainers. Plain dark tracksuits could also be brought to wear. It is very important that all PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name – as this will save lots of delays and frustrations at the beginning of PE sessions!

We also still have some children who are 'forgetting' their black school shoes. Please can you help to remind them!

### Punctuality and attendance

Here are the 'headlines' from last half term in terms of attendance and punctuality:

- The weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the six weeks of the second half of the spring term are included in the table below:

<b>Attendance</b> (usually one winner per week, but can be shared)		Year 2 – twice	Year 3 – once	Year 4 – once	Year 5 – once	Year 6 – twice
<b>Punctuality</b> (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception – twice	Year 2 – once	Year 3 – once	Year 4 – once	Year 5 – twice	Year 6 – <b>SIX</b> times

*N.B. Year 1 did not win either the trophy or the plaque...something to aim for this term!*

- Year 6** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the spring term – their average for the half term was 98.72% – well done!
- Year 6** were also awarded with the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term. They had not a single late recorded during the whole half term and therefore won the plaque every week!!
- We also had a large number of individuals from across the school who managed to maintain full attendance and excellent punctuality for a whole of the spring term. We had **57 pupils in total** who achieved this and they were **awarded with special certificates for 100% attendance in the spring term**. 20 of them are on track for a full year of 100% attendance having not missed a day in either the autumn or spring terms...good luck!!
- In terms of what is classed nationally as 'persistent absence' the number of pupils at Eastlea with **attendance below 90% is not very high – which we are pleased about**. There are 16 pupils with less than 90% attendance out of the whole school. This is a great achievement and we are working with these families with the aim of reducing this figure even further!

**Miss Betham (Year 2) and Mrs Stafford (Year 6) will be especially keen to encourage perfect punctuality and good attendance this half term as they embark on their 'Secret Agent Training' or SATs in May!**

### Eastlea 'Hungry Hatch' School Lunches – new menus

The 'summer menus' for school lunches will be starting in a couple of weeks. We will keep you up-to-date with any alterations.

**Smoking and vaping!**

I have recently had some further concerns raised about individuals who persist in smoking at the school gates first thing in the morning and at the end of the school day. As you are aware there can be no smoking in or around the school building/grounds and I would be grateful if parents who do smoke don't do so just outside the school or next to the school gates. Please could I ask that they either do not smoke at these times or move further from the school gates so that other children and adults who are entering and leaving do not have to come through a cloud of vaping/cigarette smoke. Your support with this would also be greatly appreciated.

**Parent Governor – update**

Following my request at the end of February, I am very pleased to say that we are in the fortunate position of having 2 parents who are willing to be considered for the vacancy of parent governor at Eastlea. As there is one space available we need to have an 'election' and with this in mind there will be some further information circulated next week so that you can find out a little more about the two 'candidates' and 'vote' for who you would like to represent you on the school governing body. My aim is to get this process completed as soon as possible so that whoever is elected is able to attend the summer term meeting on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Sunny weather and sun cream**

We have finally had some lovely sunny weather this week and are hoping for more in the days and weeks to come this term. Please can we ask that on sunny days, pupils come to school with sun cream applied and for younger pupils (30 hour Nursery and Reception) sun cream is brought to school to be reapplied ready for outdoor afternoon sessions. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston  
Head Teacher