



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back for the second half of the autumn term. I hope everyone had a good half term break and has returned ready for the eight school weeks which take us up to Christmas! This newsletter contains some important reminders/information as well as advanced notice of forthcoming events and feedback from the latest parental questionnaire.

PE kits

Considering our continuing focus on PE/Sport, it is important that all children have a named PE kit in school during the week so that whenever PE lessons/sports coaching sessions occur, the children are suitably prepared. As the cooler winter weather arrives the children should have suitable outdoor trainers and can also wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms to keep warm. Your support with this is appreciated.

Behaviour Policy



Each year we review our behaviour policy and if any amendments are made then a revised copy is provided for all parents/carers. This year there have been no significant changes to the systems we already have in place. Additional information in the policy recognises the fact that we are now embedding the 'THRIVE' approach in school to help support all children to manage and regulate their emotions safely. We know our school behaviour policy works very successfully and is something which receives a very positive response from parents.

The full policy, with the minor amendments, is now on our website and hard copies are available from the school office if required.

School Lunches

As explained before the holiday, the winter menus started this week on the usual 3 weekly cycle. Further copies of the menus are available from the office.

Nursery applications

We are now looking ahead to preparing for the next group of children who will be starting Nursery at Eastlea in the spring term. If you have a pre-school child, or know someone who does, and would like an application form to secure their place here please come to the school office to collect a form. These can be completed well in advance and confirmation will be sent out when the form is received to confirm the child's place and their starting date. If you have any queries about this then please contact Miss Dougall, Mrs Atkinson or the school office.

School Admissions for Reception

If you have a child due to start Reception next September the county admissions portal opens on 5th November and applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is 15th January). **It is essential that you apply in good time so that a place is allocated at Eastlea, even if your child already attends our Nursery.** Any queries please contact Mrs Holdsworth or Mrs Clarke in the school office.

Parent Questionnaire

We were delighted with the level of response to our recent parent/carer questionnaire with 70% of families providing feedback on 'how things are going' at Eastlea. In answer to the questions on the first page the staff were again very proud of the following outcomes in terms of the percentage of parents who agree/strongly agree:

- My child is happy in school **98%**
- My child is well looked after **99%**
- My child feels safe **100%**
- My child makes good progress **98%**
- My child is taught well **98%**
- My child receives appropriate homework for their age **98%**
- Eastlea is well led and managed **100%**
- Staff respond well to any concerns I raise **97%**
- I receive valuable information from staff about my child's progress **99%**
- Eastlea provides a good range of additional opportunities for pupils **100%**
- Eastlea makes sure its pupils are well behaved **96%**
- Systems are in place to deal effectively with instances of bullying if they occur **85%** (*with a further 13% 'not sure' as they have not had any experience with this!*)
- Would you recommend Eastlea to another parent **98%**

In terms of the other written comments these have been shared with staff and governors. Many parents commented on the number of positive opportunities provided for pupils, the success of our Golden Days and behaviour reward systems, the fact that there is a wide range of 'fun' educational experiences on offer, our good communication and the fact that staff are friendly, approachable and always available to discuss concerns. Any issues raised by parents have been considered and will be addressed as appropriate and the overwhelming positive response is something we do not take for granted. Thank you! Please remember that we offer an 'open door' policy at Eastlea and that if any parents do have concerns or issues to raise then we are always willing to arrange for this to happen.

Parents congregating at the school gates

One of the concerns raised by parents in recent weeks has been the issue of adults congregating at the school gates first thing in the morning when children are being dropped off both here and at Kids Club. This can cause difficulties with the entrance way being blocked and has led to complaints about the use of inappropriate language and smoking/vaping which I know I have already outlined in previous letters. I'm sure everyone will agree that we do not want children/parents/carers to have to hear bad language as they come into school or have to enter through a 'cloud of smoke'. We are taking further advice on how this issue can be addressed and your continued support with helping to avoid these problems is appreciated – thank you!

Attendance and punctuality

We are continuing to have real success in terms of encouraging good punctuality and attendance at Eastlea, but there is still room for some improvement! I hope you will be interested in the following 'headlines' from the first half of the autumn term:

Attendance (One winner per week)	Reception – once	Year 1 – once	Year 2 – 3 times	Year 3 – twice	Year 4 – once	Year 6 – once
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)			Year 2 – once	Year 3 – 3 times	Year 4 – once	Year 6 – 4 times

Year 5 have yet to win either the attendance trophy or the punctuality plaque – something to aim for this half term!

- **Year 2** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the autumn term – in total they won the weekly trophy three times with 100% – and their average for the half term was 97.97% – well done!
- **Year 6** were the winners of the certificate for the **best punctuality** with only 6 'lates' recorded in total during the half term!
- We have plenty of pupils who are on track to gain individual 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term – and I hope they have a healthy eight weeks in the run up to the Christmas holiday!

Children whose percentage attendance falls below 90% are classified by the government as 'persistent absentees' and as a school we are obliged to send separate letters to the families of those individuals who fell below this figure in the first half of the autumn term; as well as those who dropped below 92% to alert them to the potential issue. If anyone wishes to discuss this further, please contact me in school.

Residential visits

A final reminder that for those who made alternative arrangements to pay the deposit and secure a place for their child on the forthcoming residential visits for Year 5 and Year 6 that this money is now due as soon as possible. We will be in contact with parents who have not yet responded so that final numbers can be confirmed.

Events planned for this half term – including advance notice of some Christmas dates...as we are aware how important it is to get these key dates in the diary!

What's on	When and who?
Fire Safety talks	Morning of Monday 30 th October – Reception, KS1 and KS2
Training for group of playground leaders	Morning of 30 th October – group from Year 6
Pocket trumpets tuition led by Mr Vallance	Continuing on Monday afternoons from 30 th October – Year 3 and Year 5

What's on	When and who?
Poppies and British Legion items for sale	From 1 st November – as part of the national 'poppy appeal'
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 31 st October for 6 sessions (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Lunchtime indoor board games club	Tuesday lunchtimes from 31 st October (group of pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Lunchtime Rugby Rocket Tots club	Wednesday lunchtimes from 1 st November (Year 1 and Year 2)
Lunchtime Woodland Walk club (on the school grounds)	Wednesdays from 1 st November – group of pupils
Specialist Music and French tuition	Continuing on Wednesday afternoons for KS2 led by Ms Smith and Mme Taylor
After school 'Eastlea Singing club'	Continuing from Wednesday 1 st November for 6 weeks (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
After school cycling club	Wednesday 1 st and 8 th November (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
Before school 'Street Dance' club	Thursday mornings from 2 nd November - 8am (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
Chloe Daykin (author) to lead 'quest' activities and creative writing workshops	Thursday 2 nd & Friday 3 rd November and Monday 18 th & Tuesday 19 th December (Year 5 and Year 6)
Lunchtime Lacemaking club - <i>this made the local press last week!!</i>	Thursday lunchtimes from 2 nd November (Group of pupils from Year 6)
Lunchtime 'Ninja times tables' club	Thursday lunchtimes from 2 nd November (group of pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Lunchtime Running club	Thursday lunchtimes from 2 nd November (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Newcastle Falcons Rugby coaching	Friday afternoons from 3 rd November for 5 weeks (Year 4 and Year 5)
Before school KS2 Judo club	Monday mornings from 6 th November – 8am (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Assembly led by Revd W Docherty (new Cramlington Team Rector)	Monday 6 th November – whole school
Hula Hoop festival	Tuesday 7 th November – afternoon (Year 3)
After school Tag Rugby club	Tuesdays from 7 th November (Year 3 and Year 4)
Playground Games festival at Blyth Sports Centre	Friday 10 th November - afternoon (Year 2 plus 8 Year 6 Sports Leaders)
Friendship week – 'All different, all equal'	Week beginning Monday 13 th November
Bike and Hike Enterprise Fundraising event	Monday 13 th November – Year 5 and Year 6 [details have already been sent to these classes]
After school netball club	Tuesdays from 14 th November (Year 5 and Year 6)
Children in Need Day - Pennies for Pudsey 'Spotacular'/Pudsey non-uniform day coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	Friday 17 th November morning – our annual 'Pennies for Pudsey' event [more details to follow]
Basketball competition at Sport Central	After school on Friday 17 th November (Year 5 and Year 6 basketball team)
Our annual evening visit to see an Eagles Basketball match	Friday 17 th November – evening [see earlier letters]
Flu 'nasal spray' immunisations	Tuesday 21 st November – afternoon (Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils)
Year 6 Educational Visit to Nandos – <i>yet to be confirmed?</i>	Friday 24 th November [more details to follow]
Presentation of autumn term writing awards	Monday 27 th November

What's on	When and who?
After school KS1 Christmas Craft Club	Monday 27 th November and 4 th / 11 th December (group of pupils from Year 1 and Year 2)
Maths workshop at Shanklea Primary	Thursday 30 th November (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
PE/Sports school kitemark presentation event	Thursday 30 th November at Astley High School – evening (group of 4 pupils)
Non-uniform day – bring in prizes for the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair	Friday 1st December (all pupils)
Festive lunch for Year 6 parents/grandparents and governors	Tuesday 5 th December 2pm in the hall [separate invitations will follow]
Nursery new intake visit	Wednesday 6 th December: 9.00 – 10.00am (for Nursery pupils due to start in January)
Eastlea Christmas Fair Coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	Friday 8th December 3.15pm – 4.45pm
Scholastic Book Fair delivered to school	w/b Monday 11th December – parents welcome to come in and have a look/place orders
French Christmas Workshop	Afternoon of Wednesday 13 th December (Year 5 and Year 6)
Christmas productions <i>(Further details and ticket orders nearer the time!)</i>	Nursery/Reception: Thursday 14 th December (9.30am) Year 1/Year 2: Thursday 14 th December (1.45pm) and Friday 15 th December (9.30am) Yr 3/Yr 4/Yr 5/Yr 6: Thursday 14 th December(2.30pm) and Friday 15 th December (10.15am)
Carol Singing at Manor Walks (Sainsburys and ASDA)	Monday 18 th December – lunchtime/afternoon (Year 6)
Nursery and Reception Christmas party	Monday 18 th December – afternoon (<u>No</u> Nursery morning session on this date except for pupils with 30 hour provision – further details to follow)
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas party	Monday 18 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Early Years Christmas workshop for parents	Tuesday 19 th December: 9am – 10am (Nursery and Reception parents/carers)
Christmas carol singing at Hartford Court care home – <i>still to be confirmed?</i>	Morning of Tuesday 19 th December (KS2 Singing Club members)
Christmas lunch <i>(Further details of cost and menu soon)</i>	Tuesday 19 th December
Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party	Tuesday 19 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Presentation of autumn term maths awards	Wednesday 20 th December
Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas' church	Wednesday 20 th December at 2pm (Reception to Year 6 – parents/carers welcome to join us)
Golden Day	Thursday 21st December (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Upper KS2 Christmas parties	Friday 22 nd December – morning (class based events for Y5 and Y6)
School closes for the Christmas holiday Early finish at 2pm	Friday 22 nd December (early finish at 2pm)
School reopens for the spring term	Tuesday 9th January 2018 (N.B. Staff training day on Monday 8 th January)

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher