



Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018



Dear Parents / Carers

The end of another busy term at Eastlea is fast approaching, and this letter is to update you on some of the many events which have been happening in recent weeks and to thank you once again for your generosity, especially this half term.

### **British Legion Poppy Appeal**

As you know, this year the focus of the Remembrance Day annual event was the Centenary of World War 1 and the children were very interested in this, especially Year 6 who researched the local connections and were in charge of selling the British Legion poppies. With only a few days to sell the poppies/other items, as a school we still returned a very 'heavy' collection box by 11<sup>th</sup> November. Well done!

### **Children In Need**

Thank you for all your support with our traditional 'Pennies for Pudsey' fundraising activities on Children in Need day. You will be pleased to hear that we raised **£321.57** for this national charity.

### **Christmas Fair**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the 'Friends of Eastlea' organised our annual Eastlea Christmas Fair. We always raise fantastic totals at these events and thanks to your support we did so again! This year was especially successful and **£1601.80** was raised to support our Golden Day events! **A HUGE THANK YOU** for the support of everyone who came to the fair and/or bought raffle tickets.

### **'The Body' reading challenge awards**

Our 'The Body' reading challenge started at the end of September and seems to have really caught the imagination of everyone with very large numbers quickly getting into good reading routines each week. The first Bronze awards were presented on 7<sup>th</sup> December and so far we have been able to present certificates/bronze award 'bugs'/pencils to **111** children – our best total yet for this stage of the year. These pupils are already starting on their silver bookmark! If your child hasn't yet received the bronze award, it is not too late! Encourage them to keep reading and more certificates will be awarded in the New Year! **Reading in the Christmas holiday counts as one sticker on their 'Body bookmarks'!**

### **Writing and Maths awards**

This month we have presented our autumn term writing and maths awards to children from each class who have shown real enthusiasm, improvement and perseverance in these subjects. Certificates were given out in special assemblies – well done to all of our winners!

### **Year 6 Festive Lunch for parents**

Parents and family members of our Year 6 pupils as well as school governors were invited to a Festive Lunch in the school hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December - part of the Year 6 'Enterprise project'. This is the third time that we have organised such an event and I have to say that this year especially the class worked brilliantly as a team to prepare the food, set up the tables, decorate the hall, serve and clear the meal as well as entertain their guests with carol singing. **The feedback we received from our 40 guests was excellent** – thank you to everyone who attended and **£35** was raised from the 'mini raffle'!

### **Christmas productions**

As I said in the hall last week, I must also thank everyone for their support when each key stage performed their Christmas plays. The fact that we have a 'full hall' for each of the performances is not something that we take for granted. The refreshments were also well received and **£79** was raised in donations. This also goes towards our Golden Day funds.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

The book fair, coordinated by Mrs Lister took place in the week of the performances. We sold **£302** worth of books and this total is 'matched' by our 100% commission deal so it means that we have been able to add another £302 worth of fiction and non-fiction books to our class libraries for all the children to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who bought books!

## Carol service at St Nicholas' Church

Yesterday we had the traditional Eastlea nativity service at St Nicholas' Church. Revd Wullie was pleased to welcome so many to church for this event which gives us all the chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you for your support!

## Carol Singing

Our talented carol singers are 'out and about' in Cramlington this week. This morning the KS2 singing club performed a selection of songs and carols at Hartford Court care home – always gratefully received by the residents and staff! Tomorrow morning, Year 6 will be at Sainsbury's in Manor Walks from approx. 10.30 – 11.00am to sing carols and hopefully raise some more money for their Enterprise Fund to support future class visits and activities.

## Christmas Golden Day

As I am sure you are aware, everyone who has earned the right to take part in Golden Day is excitedly looking forward to Thursday!! 'Magic Mick' will entertain the pupils in Nursery/Reception in the morning and we expect the pantomime visit to see 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle that afternoon to be superb! The children are really excited about going to the theatre and Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3 will also see the 'Snowman' themed Fenwick's window before the matinee performance. **May I remind you that school uniform is required for Golden Day, although 'Santa hats' can also be worn. Please remember that the pupils will not be back until at least 5.15pm from the theatre – and to ensure a safe and orderly return/dispersal after the event ALL PUPILS will be dismissed from the school hall on our return (not from the gates).**

## Sports Awards success

On 21<sup>st</sup> November four KS2 pupils accompanied Mrs Stafford, Miss Beeston and Ms McDonough (parent governor) to Astley High School for the fourth Cramlington & Seaton Valley Sports Awards event. We were very proud to receive a **PLATINUM School Games award** which we were awarded as a result of retaining the GOLD award for five consecutive years. There were only 7 schools in the whole county to achieve the Platinum award so it marks an incredible achievement. We were also very proud to be presented with not one but TWO other special awards – one for '**Developing Leadership and Volunteering**' and the other, the most prestigious event of the night, which we retained from last year – for the school which most successfully '**Demonstrates and Promotes the School Games Values**'.



## Attendance

The overall half term class winners for attendance and punctuality in the second half of the autumn term will receive their certificates in January, once the outcomes for this final week have been calculated. However, I thought you would be interested to see the weekly attendance champions' trophy and punctuality plaque winners for the previous six weeks of this half term - included in the following table:

<b>Attendance</b> (One winner per week – 1 was a tie!)	Reception – twice	Year 1 – once	Year 2 – once		Year 4 – once	Year 5 – 3 times	Year 6 – once
<b>Punctuality</b> (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)		Year 1 – once	Year 2 – 3 times	Year 3 – once		Year 5 – twice	Year 6 – 3 times

*N.B. Year 4, who did not manage to earn one of the awards in the first half term, did earn the attendance trophy for one week – meaning every class has now won something during the term!*

## New entrance gate

The new entrance gate is now just about completed and will be operational in the new term. CCTV cameras have been fitted to allow us to monitor this access point as well as the other entrance doors in the same way as we do for the main front entrance. Both pedestrian gates can be used for access to/exit from the school grounds and we hope that this will help to ease the congestion that previously existed at the single entrance point.

### **Year 4 swimming – advance notice**

Swimming starts for pupils in Year 4 in the spring term. The first session is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January and we have again managed to secure a longer afternoon session for our lessons, which we are delighted about. This means that the children will have a one hour session at the pool for 12 weeks in the spring term rather than short half hour lessons over two terms. We are pleased to announce that we will be able to offer the sessions at the same price as last year, £4.50 per week. This price includes the school subsidising the costs of the lesson and the transport (£300 in total). The swimming lessons are part of the KS2 PE curriculum but in order for us to provide this for the children we have to pay for the instructors and the coach transport to get us to the pool at Concordia. In common with the other schools in the Cramlington partnership we therefore have to ask for a £4.50 donation from parents/carers each week. Without these contributions, the lessons will not be able to go ahead in this format. A letter with further information about this will be sent out in the first week back in January.

### **Important Reminder for parents of Nursery pupils**

We have been asked by county to remind parents that the **closing date for Reception school admissions is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. Any children born between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015 need to apply for entry to Reception 2019. Parents need to make an application for their child to join Eastlea Reception class in September, even if they already attend our Nursery. Information, Handbooks and application forms are available online at: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/primaryadmissions). Alternatively, paper forms are available on request from: School Admissions Team, Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

### **Breakfast Club**

Our Eastlea breakfast club continues to go from strength to strength and is very popular with those who attend. Booking forms (blue paper) are available for any family who wishes to use the breakfast club – and the cost is £2.50 per pupil per day. Children can arrive any time from 7.30am and preferably before 8.15am so that breakfast can be served in good time. Bookings can be made for any number of days per week and we can also take ‘one off’ bookings on the day itself as long as £2.50 is paid on arrival.



### **Owlets – toddler group – restarting 10<sup>th</sup> January**

Our weekly ‘Owlets’ sessions on Thursday mornings during term time are also well attended and appear to be gaining in popularity which is lovely to see. The parents/staff involved will be continuing to organise the sessions from 9am – 10.30am each Thursday in the school hall so if you know of anyone with toddlers who would like to come along then please spread the word. Owlets will restart on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### **Happy Christmas...and don't forget the early finish on Friday!!**

And finally, just a reminder that the pupils break up on Friday for their Christmas holidays with **an early finish at 2pm.**

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. Have a happy holiday and we will see you all again on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019** when we reopen for pupils for the spring term! (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January is a staff training day)

Yours sincerely

**Miss E Beeston**

Head Teacher