



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.

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.

### **'Best School in Northumberland'**

I am sure you cannot have failed to notice the very positive news for Eastlea in the local media in recent weeks. The performance league tables for the end of KS2 data (summer 2018) were published nationally towards the end of the autumn term and Eastlea has been recognised as the BEST school in Northumberland in terms of the progress made by pupils throughout school. We are obviously delighted by this. For reading and maths Eastlea is in the top 10% of schools nationally and for writing we are in the top 20% of schools nationally – which is testament to the hard work of all the pupils, staff and families connected with the school. You may remember that this is not a 'one off' for Eastlea...it wasn't that long ago that we were given the accolade of coming top in the Evening Chronicle's best schools guide, but we obviously don't get tired of hearing news like this!!

### **New gate**

The new pedestrian entrance gate is working well so far as an alternative way in/out for pupils coming to school. Already our aim of reducing congestion at the main gates seems to be working. The new gate will be locked during school hours but we hope that it will make things easier for everyone at the start and end of the school day.

### **Bikes and scooters – a reminder**

Once again, 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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. We are likely to have some cold and wet weather 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.

If there is an issue with securing uniform then please make use of the Community Clothing scheme – we are a drop off/collection point for this valuable service – and request forms are available just inside the main doors of the school. Please be aware that requests can be made for uniform for any local school – not just for Eastlea – this has already proved valuable for several families since the scheme started.

### **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 PE 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).

### **Residential visits**

Letters with further information about payments for the residential visits to Ford Castle (Y3/Y4), Hawkthirst (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!

## 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 3** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the autumn term – they did not actually win the trophy during the half term but were often 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> so their average overall (97.8%) was the highest – well done! They beat Year 5 and Year 4 who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in our competition – congratulations!
- **Year 6** won the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term with only 6 'lates' in total during the 7 weeks. Year 6 were delighted to secure the certificate beating Year 5 and Year 2 who were their closest rivals with 9 lates and 10 lates respectively – well done!
- I am also pleased to announce that there were **28 pupils** who will be awarded at assembly this week 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 are continuing with this year's challenge of improving their punctuality even further!! Your support with getting your child(ren) to school on time is much appreciated. Please remember if children arrive after 9am then they are late!

## Reading

Our 'Body Reading Challenge' continues this term. We now have 128 children with their pictures on the skeletons display in the hall 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!

## 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 2019. 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 after Easter for the end of April/whole of 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**. 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 in the weeks after Easter and obviously SATs week itself, so I hope that this advance notice is helpful.

## Clubs and activities

We continue to have a varied and well supported programme of clubs either before school, at lunchtime or after school. This half term the following clubs are taking place – many started last week and more start this week.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day)	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>	Netball club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Mondays</b>
English SATs Booster club for Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Rugby Rocket Tots for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Maths SATs Booster club for Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
Street Dance for KS2 on <b>Thursdays</b> from 8am	Woodland Walk club for various year groups on <b>Wednesdays</b>	Steel Pans music club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
<b>Plus...</b> Owlets toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/carers/childminders on <b>Thursdays from 9am – 10.30am in the school hall</b>	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>	Multi-games club for KS1 on <b>Tuesdays</b>
	Ninja Times Tables/Rock Stars club for various year groups on <b>Thursdays</b>	KS2 Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>

## 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	Various dates from Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January (new intake begin their Nursery sessions)
Paula Bell from the Evening Chronicle to explain the 'Our School' challenge to Year 6	Morning of Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception class 'Sport and Play' sessions	Wednesday mornings from 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Specialist French/music/computing input led by Madame Taylor, Ms Smith and Mrs Powells	Wednesday afternoons from 9 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Year 2 Gymnastics sessions	Wednesday afternoons from 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 6 Pilates sessions	Thursday afternoons in school time from 10 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 5/Year 2 Yoga sessions	Friday mornings in school time from 11 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception/Year 1 multi-skills/rugby sessions led by Bear from Cramlington Rockets	Friday mornings in school time from 11 <sup>th</sup> January
Swimming sessions at Concordia	Tuesday afternoons from 15 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4)
<b>Eastlea 'OUR SCHOOL' Evening Chronicle Year 6 pages published</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>
Multi-skills academy selection event at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
Writers workshop at Shanklea Primary	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January (group of pupils from Year 3 and Year 4)
Judo taster sessions for each class	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January (TBC)
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February (Reception to Year 6)
Educational Class Visit to 'BBC studios' in Newcastle	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February – morning (Year 6 – funded by the pupils' Enterprise fund)
Spring term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 4pm
'Chinese New Year' RE focus day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February – more details to follow (whole school)
School Games Gymnastics competition	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February – morning (team from Year 3/4)
<b>Whole school Maths Focus week</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February (more details to follow)</b>
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)</b>
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February

Yours sincerely,  
**Miss E Beeston**  
 Head Teacher