



Dear Parents/Carers

We had a busy five days to start the second half of the autumn term last week and there is lots more planned for the coming weeks. This newsletter contains some important reminders/information as well as advanced notice of forthcoming events and feedback from the latest parental questionnaire linked to homework.

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 major changes to the systems we already have in place. The policy recognises the fact that we are continuing to embed 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 is on our website and hard copies can be made available from the school office if required.

PE kits

As you know, PE/Sport has a high profile at Eastlea so 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 well prepared. As the cooler winter weather arrives children (Y3 upwards) should have suitable outdoor trainers and can also wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms for warmth. Your support with this is appreciated.

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 Mrs Shimmin, 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 opened on 1st 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 Johnson in the school office.

Parent Questionnaire

We were delighted with the number of parents/carers who attended the parents appointments before the half term break. Appointments can still be arranged for the small number who were unable to meet their child's teacher – please just ring to arrange a time. The feedback from the questionnaire linked to homework was also very encouraging and is being considered by staff to decide whether any changes or follow up are required. A summary of the headlines from the responses is included below:

- **81%** parents felt that the homework their child(ren) received was **about right**
[6% not enough, 5% too much, 8% varies too much to say]
- **79%** parents felt that the 'level' of homework tasks provided was **about right**
[3% too easy, 5% too hard, 11% varies too much to say]
- **95%** parents provided **help with homework** – 67% said yes and 28% said sometimes
- **57%** parents would welcome a '**parents maths workshop**' to share more information about homework
[28% were unsure and 15% felt this was not necessary]
- **46%** of parents felt that homework **sometimes caused friction/tension** at home and **37%** felt it **didn't**
[7% said very often, 10% said often]
- **77%** parents felt homework helped to develop **independent working**
- **64%** felt homework **kept parents informed about school work**
- **56%** felt it **reinforced work begun in school**, **55%** saw it as **good practice for secondary school** and **39%** felt it **raised children's attainment**
- **57%** parents **preferred short homework tasks** such as reading, learning weekly spellings, times tables or maths facts and a further **38%** had **no preference either way**
[4% did not prefer short tasks and 2% were unsure]
- There were a **large number of very positive comments** about **project style homework** and how much the children (and wider families!) enjoyed these. **THANK YOU!**

Attendance and punctuality

We are continuing to strive to further improve the high rates of attendance and good punctuality at Eastlea. I know the children are very aware of this and eagerly await the announcement of who has won the weekly class attendance champions trophy and punctuality plaque which is given out in assembly each Friday. Children arriving in school after the main doors have closed at 9am are 'late' and the vast majority do make it into school before this time – thank you! I hope you will be interested in the following 'headlines' from the 8 weeks of the first half of the autumn term:

Attendance (One winner per week)		Year 1 – 5 times	Year 2 – once	Year 3 – once	Year 5 – once	
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception – 3 times	Year 1 - twice	Year 2 – twice	Year 3 – 4 times	Year 5 – twice	Year 6 – 5 times

Year 4 have yet to win either the attendance trophy or the punctuality plaque – something to aim for this half term!

- **Year 1** 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 98.49% – well done!
- **Year 3** were the winners of the certificate for the **best punctuality** with only 5 '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 seven 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

We now have final numbers for the forthcoming residential visits for Year 3&4, Year 5 and Year 6 and deposits have been received. We would encourage all those involved to pay off manageable amounts of money weekly so that there are no large 'debts' to pay when final reminders are sent out. Dates for the remaining costs will be sent out in the coming days so that you can see what is required and by when.

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. You will either have had letters about these or will be notified nearer the time.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day) – see below	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays	KS2 Rugby club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Mondays
Street Dance for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on Thursdays from 8am	Rugby Rocket Tots for Reception/Year 1/Year 2 on Wednesdays	KS1 Christmas Crafts club for Y1/Y2 on Mondays for 3 weeks (late Nov/Early Dec)
	Woodland Walk club for various year groups on Wednesdays	KS2 Boxing club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays
	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on Thursdays	KS2 Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays
	Ninja Times Tables club for various year groups on Thursdays	Cycle Club for Year 5/Year 6 on Wednesdays

Breakfast Club

Our Eastlea breakfast club got off to a really good start last week. It was well attended and the pupils who were there for all or some of the mornings had a good breakfast and seemed to enjoy themselves as well! Booking forms (blue paper) are available for any family who wishes to take advantage of the breakfast club – and the cost is £2.50 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.



New pedestrian entrance gate

Later this week we are anticipating that work will start on providing a new entrance for pedestrians into the school grounds. This will be sited off the main footpath approach to school, but 'nearer to the kitchen end' of the building and will provide another way in and way out to ease congestion at the main gates. We have been fortunate to receive a large contribution towards the funding for this project (£2500) from Councillor Dunbar which we hope will make the entrance/exit to the building safer for all concerned. THANK YOU! Additional CCTV cameras are also being purchased as part of the scheme so that we can have a clear view of the new entrance and the main entrance/exit doors.

We have been advised that this work will take one to two weeks so your patience in the meantime is much appreciated – especially if we have to have 'diversions' in place during the works!

School address and signage

Anyone recently receiving a letter from school with the letterhead at the top may have noticed that as from half term we have changed our address to indicate that the school is on **Skipton Close**. Nothing else has changed and the postcode remains the same, but we hope that by arranging this officially with the GPO that we will have fewer visitors getting lost when they are trying to find Eastlea/using google maps/sat nav etc. As part of this process we are also looking to secure better signage to direct people who are driving to school. A previous sign (from over 10 years ago) before Eastlea moved onto the current site has been found which needs to be replaced – and we are negotiating with the county council to get this arranged.

Remembrance Day

We received lots of very positive feedback from parents as well as other visitors on site towards the end of last week when our poppy trail Remembrance display to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 took pride of place in the school grounds. On Thursday we were visited by local councillors and representatives of the Cramlington Town Council, who took photos which should hopefully be in the local press this week. On Friday a representative from the Royal British Legion came to see the children as part of our Remembrance Assembly and he was very impressed with all the work the children had done and the money raised as part of the annual poppy appeal – thank you for your support with this!

Community Clothing Scheme



From today Eastlea is going to have a 'request box' in school for the Community Clothing scheme organised by Freema. If anyone would like to take advantage of the superb service that this scheme provides to give out FREE pre-loved school uniform or FREE loans of Nursery equipment or interview wear then a request box will be inside the main entrance – near to the office hatch. This service is completely confidential and uniform requests for any school, not just Eastlea can be made. Governors are taking a lead on this initiative and will make sure Freema gets any requests so that uniform can be provided ready for collection.

Operation Endeavour

This month a new safeguarding initiative has been launched by Northumberland County Council called Operation Endeavour. This is similar to Operation Encompass which has been in place for a few years and provides information for schools about any children who have been involved with police domestic issues/violence concerns. Operation Endeavour seeks to alert schools quickly about **any child who has gone missing** so that appropriate support can be put in place – and a letter explaining this is included on the back of this newsletter.



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?
Badminton coaching	Monday afternoons from 5 th November for 6 weeks (Year 4 and Year 6)
Specialist Music and French tuition	Continuing on Wednesday afternoons for KS2 led by Ms Smith and Mme Taylor
Friendship week – ‘Choose respect and choose friendship’	Week beginning Monday 12 th November ...culminating in an ‘Odd Socks’ day on Friday 16 th November <i>As part of this the Brainwaves are collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal and any items would be gratefully received by 15th November – thank you in advance!</i>
Children in Need Day - Pennies for Pudsey ‘Spotacular’/Odd socks non-uniform day coordinated by the ‘Friends of Eastlea’	Friday 16 th November morning – our annual ‘Pennies for Pudsey’ event [letter was sent out last week]
Visit to the Vue Cinema to see ‘Wonder’ film	Friday 16 th November – morning (Year 6)
Author visits Eastlea	Monday 19 th November – afternoon (Year 1)
PE/Sports school kitemark presentation event	Wednesday 21 st November at Astley High School – evening (group of 4 pupils, plus staff and governor)
Educational visit to Newcastle castle	Thursday 22 nd November – more details to follow (Year 2)
Assembly led by Revd Wullie Docherty	Monday 26 th November – whole school
Visits for new Nursery pupils who are due to start in January	Tuesday 27 th /Wednesday 28 th November: 9.00 – 10.00am [separate letters will be sent to these families]
Non-uniform day – bring in prizes for the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair	Friday 30th November (all pupils)
Presentation of autumn term writing awards	Monday 3 rd December
Writers workshop at Shanklea Primary	Monday 3 rd December (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
Festive lunch for Year 6 parents/grandparents and governors	Tuesday 4 th December 2pm in the hall [separate invitations will follow]
Flu ‘nasal spray’ immunisations	Wednesday 5 th December – afternoon (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 pupils)
Eastlea Christmas Fair Coordinated by the ‘Friends of Eastlea’	<u>THURSDAY 6th December 3.15pm – 4.45pm</u> [please note the change of day this year!]
Presentation of first Bronze reading awards	Friday 7 th December – morning (pupils from all classes)
Scholastic Book Fair delivered to school	w/b Monday 10th December – parents welcome to come in and have a look/place orders
Presentation of autumn term maths awards	Monday 10 th December
French Christmas Workshop	Afternoon of Wednesday 12 th December (pupils from Year 4/5/6 – arrangements to be confirmed)
Christmas productions <i>(Further details and ticket orders nearer the time!)</i>	Nursery/Reception: Thursday 13 th December (9.30am) Year 1/Year 2: Thursday 13 th December (1.45pm) and Friday 14 th December (9.30am) Yr 3/Yr 4/Yr 5/Yr 6: Thursday 13 th December(2.30pm) and Friday 14 th December (10.15am)
Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas’ church	Monday 17 th December at 2pm (Reception to Year 6 – parents/carers welcome to join us)

What's on	When and who?
Early Years Christmas workshop for parents	Tuesday 18 th December: 9am – 10am (Nursery and Reception parents/carers)
Christmas carol singing at Hartford Court care home	Morning of Tuesday 18 th December (KS2 Singing Club members)
Christmas lunch <i>(Further details of cost and menu soon)</i>	Tuesday 18 th December
Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party	Tuesday 18 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Carol singing at Manor Walks <i>YET TO BE CONFIRMED!</i>	Wednesday 19 th December – morning (Year 6)
Nursery and Reception Christmas party	Wednesday 19 th December – <u>afternoon</u> (<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	Wednesday 19 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Golden Day	Thursday 20th December (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Upper KS2 Christmas parties	Friday 21 st December – morning (class based events for Y5 and Y6)
School closes for the Christmas holiday Early finish at 2pm	Friday 21 st December (<u>early finish at 2pm</u>)
School reopens for the spring term	Tuesday 8th January 2019 (N.B. Staff training day on Monday 7 th January)

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston,
Head Teacher

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

November 2018



Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about Operation Endeavour. This is an innovative project in which schools and colleges in Northumberland are participating, and which is run in partnership with Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police.

Operation Endeavour which commences in November 2018, aims to support children and young people who go missing from home. Children who go missing from home are at risk of significant harm and they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

As a result, following any report of a child going missing to the Police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff.

Each school has members of staff (key adults) who have been fully trained in liaising with the Police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following their return.

I believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our key adult in school who is Miss Beeston.

Yours sincerely

Miss Beeston

(letter sent on behalf of Northumberland County Council)