

# OUR SCHOOL

Produced by students of Eastlea Primary School, Northumberland

## » A 'wheelie good Golden Day'

AS A REWARD for their fantastic behaviour, children at Eastlea have a special activity day each half term known as Golden Day.

After enjoying an Active October project which involved lots of different active activities including lots of biking events, staff decided that Golden Day should have a Wheels theme.

The children were encouraged to bring their bikes, scooters, prams or even skateboards into school to be decorated and 'blinged'.

Classes were each given a shopping trolley, donated by Aldi to transform into a float. All the children quickly worked together to create some amazing trolley designs, including an under the sea theme, a jungle theme, a Viking long boat and even a Woolly Mammoth!

Once ready, wheel-themed music was blasted and the parade on the yard began.

"Our Wheelie Golden Day was a great success! I was amazed at the creativity of each class," said Miss Beeston, head teacher.

By Heidi Rickelton and Verity Brown

## » Awesome authors

READING IS AN ESSENTIAL life skill. Everyone at Eastlea is passionate about not only improving their reading ability, but also about promoting an ethos of reading for enjoyment.

Mrs Lister, English Coordinator said, "Reading opens minds by giving children the knowledge and help they need to understand the world around them." She is always looking for new and exciting initiatives. This term the children have had the opportunity to work with published authors including Chloe Daykin, Sophie Anderson, Sibeal Pounder and even Eoin Colfer.

Storytelling is a really important key skill and Years 1 and 2 attended a storytelling workshop with Ian Douglas at Cramlington Library. He told some great stories and all to the beat of his bodhran drum! The children loved it.

Working with these different authors has brought story writing to life and has motivated them into becoming authors of the future!

By Kiya Charlton and Molly Pattie

# Recycling success



Holly and Joseph receiving their Love Northumberland Award from the Duchess of Northumberland and BBC Radio's Anna Foster

CHILDREN AT EASTLEA are always looking for ways to help improve the environment. They were delighted to have their work recognised, both locally in the Love Northumberland Awards, and nationally becoming regional champions in the Premier League Primary

Stars Plastic Pollution Challenge.

The work started with a school recycling station and then grew as the children researched the issue of plastic pollution. They joined forces with Primary Stars to make a pledge to recycle bottle tops. The

school were having a big focus on learning times-tables so they decided to use the tops to make games for each class.

They became regional winners and national finalists. They headed to the Sky Studios in London to make a film on plastic pollution which was released on the Primary Stars website for everyone to see.

Following this success, the children were nominated for Best Children's Project in the Love Northumberland Awards and were really proud to attend the prestigious evening at Alnwick Gardens. Successfully, they were awarded the prize for joint runner up and were presented their award by the Duchess of Northumberland. The children were joined at the awards by staff member Mrs Holdsworth, who was receiving an outstanding individual award for work within the school and community! Mrs Holdsworth told us, "It was amazing and such a privilege to be there."

Eager to not only continue to recycle, but support community projects, the children are now recycling hangers and plastic bags for the Cramlington Clothing Bank. The Year 4 children are also working with Councillor Christine Dunbar to tidy up their local environment. They donned gloves and high vis jackets and armed with litter pickers took to the local area to clear the rubbish. After seeing the improvement, the children are now keen to make this a regular event.

By Holly Hughes, Kayde Alexander, Lucas Davidson and Joseph Watson

# Eastlea are rocking their times tables

CHILDREN ARE ROCKING their times tables due to the new computer program, Times Tables Rockstars.

Children compete to become Rock heroes, answering 60 questions in 60 seconds! There have not been any Rock heroes yet this year - many of the children are very close and have reached the status of Rock stars.

Whether they are Rock heroes or buskers they love to play, at school and home. It's fun and motivates pupils to learn their times tables.

Miss Fox, Maths Coordinator is really impressed with the increase in the recall of the children, "Times Table Rockstars is an excellent resource that is a fun and musical way to learn times tables. It is a real challenge to become a Rock Hero!"

By Sierra Bell and Caitlyn Taylor



Miss Beeston (Headteacher) and children at the launch of the Times Table Rockstar Challenge

# Ofsted 10/10 questions



Miss Beeston (Headteacher), Di Oliver (Chair of Governors) and children from Eastlea all celebrating the great inspection report

**1. What did you think when you got the Ofsted call?**

We were relieved - we had waited a long time and were ready.

**2. What judgement did the inspectors make?**

Ofsted said Eastlea was a good school in all areas.

**3. What did the inspectors say about the**

**teaching and learning at Eastlea?**

Some fantastic things. One of the best parts was noticing how broad a curriculum we provide and how many experiences we offer.

**4. How did the children get on with the inspectors?**

They were very keen to talk to our 'special visitors' in lessons, around school and outside. Ofsted noticed how proud the

pupils were of Eastlea and everything that goes on here.

**5. What did the inspectors think of the pupil's books?**

They were blown away by the standard of work, the staff feedback provided and the pupil progress that they saw. They really liked our 'Eastlea expects' which highlights the importance of good presentation.

**6. Did the parents provide feedback to Ofsted?**

Yes, the inspection team read comments from parents and also spoke to them. Parents were extremely positive about Eastlea.

**7. Did Ofsted think the school was well led and managed?**

Yes, the consistently good leadership at all levels was recognised.

**8. What did Ofsted say about behaviour in and around school?**

They said that good behaviour was promoted and we provided a safe and nurturing environment.

**9. Were you pleased with the outcome?**

YES - we were delighted. Eastlea is a great school and it was wonderful to have this recognised.

**10. What has been the impact since the inspection?**

We have had several new families joining the school and others coming to have a look ready to enrol when their children become old enough! Our Nursery provision has been extended to cater for the higher numbers.

By Anine Ramsay, Kaitlin Stevenson and Conner Ellis

## » Motorcar motivators

YEAR SIX TOOK PART in the Nissan Monozukuri Caravan experience at the Sunderland plant.

They began designing and building lego cars before setting up their own assembly line. This required skill and teamwork, especially when they were timed and quality assured.

They visited the training workshops and met 'Casper' the drawing robot. Casper showed them how precise his work is by drawing detailed pictures, even writing some names. Children then used factory tools giving them the experience of the factory environment. They enjoyed wearing all the safety equipment as well as using the tools.

"The whole day was an amazing experience. It inspired the children to think about careers as engineers and designers," teacher, Mrs Stafford said. Nissan were really impressed with the children and have invited them back for the Eco School programme later in December. They cannot wait and have set about their new challenges already!

By Niamh Worth, Sam Cruci and Joseph Watson

## » Internet legends

CHILDREN AT EASTLEA love modern technology - in fact they thrive on mastering new ideas. New technology is supported by the school's very own Digital Leaders. The Digital Leader team are made up of two children from each KS2 class who have been trained to support computing projects, lessons and even staff meetings throughout school. They have also led lessons with Sphero balls, Big Trak and even VR sets.

E-Safety is a big feature in lessons and the children really enjoyed taking part in the Google Internet Legends Interactive Roadshow. Google instructors introduced the Internet Legends Game that the children have really enjoyed playing.

Ponteland Middle School came into school to help the younger children with their understanding of coding and algorithms. The sessions were very active and all the children got involved. "They learnt basic coding techniques through dance and play-dough! The sessions were really interactive," said Miss Betham.

By Kelsie Thorpe, Maddox Binney and Michael Robson

## » Eastlea's own elections



Mrs Blackburn, Brainwaves and some voters in our election

WITH THE ELECTION LOOMING, Brainwaves (School Council) thought it would be excellent for the children to understand the election process and actually have their own school election. They called in the help of Governor and Presiding Officer, Mrs Blackburn. She brought in the real polling booths, posters and a ballot box and the Computer Suite was transformed into a polling station.

Local Councillor, Christine Dunbar had donated funds for a flagpole for the school and the children were asked to vote on the design for their new flag.

Brainwaves took on the official clerk roles and ensured everyone voted anonymously, even arranging postal votes for staff out at a meeting! Then the count began, results were recorded and the outcome announced in assembly.

Pupils are now awaiting the arrival of the flag. In January there will be an official unveiling by the Duchess of Northumberland. Everyone is really excited!

By Aspen Luongvan and Morgan Lumsdon

Next Week

Westgate Hill Primary School  
Newcastle upon Tyne

# Sensational sporting school



Charlie, Ellie and Niamh receiving the Platinum Award at St James' Park

EASTLEA LOVE TO BE ACTIVE and sport has a high profile. We were proud to receive our Platinum School Sports Award, for the second year, at the recent Sports Awards held at St James' Park. Children enjoy two hours of curriculum PE weekly run by specialist coaches. Currently, coaches in Badminton, Hockey, Rugby and Yoga work in school. Alongside this is a full programme of sports clubs before school, at lunchtime and after school. If children prefer a less competitive sport, then there's even a Woodland Walking Club

Eastlea are part of the Cramlington and Seaton Valley School Sports Partnership which provides support and amazing sporting opportunities. Yearly timetables of festivals and tournaments are organised which Eastlea love to compete in - they've already won the Girls Football shield and were really successful in the Thunder in the Valley Basketball Tournament at the Eagles Arena - an amazing night where three Eastlea teams played on the Eagles court before being joined by 76 members of school to watch and cheer the Eagles on to victory.

Research shows activity increases focus and concentration, therefore Eastlea introduced the Daily Mile, Go Noodle and Wake Up-Shake Up. Classes compete weekly to win the trophies for the most active class. Themed Sporting Days like the recent skateboarding and Jiu Jitsu workshops are a regular feature throughout the year where the children have the opportunity to try new and exciting sports.

Eastlea have a really active playground - Year 6 Sports Leaders run games and activities for Key Stage 1 whilst Brainwaves (School Council) run playground games for the rest of the school. There's music to dance and hoop to and games equipment available for the children to play with.

Children that are active are happy and healthy and Eastlea is definitely a happy school!

By Niamh Worth, Evan Weir, Lexi Millican, Lily Cotton, Kiya Charlton and Poppy Stroughton