



Dear Parents / Carers

What's going on this half term

What's on	When and who?
Swimming sessions at Concordia <i>(this the final half term of lessons for Year 4)</i>	Monday mornings from 24 th February until 31 st March (Year 4)
Governors Resource committee meeting	Monday 24 th February 4.30pm
Attendance certificates and 'light green' letters are presented	Tuesday 25 th February
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 25 th February (pupils from Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 25 th February (Year 6)
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Wednesday morning before school Literacy sessions from 26 th February (Year 6)
'Fiddles' tuition – part of our continuing traditional music project	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 26 th February (Year 6 and Year 3)
After school 'Eastlea Singing club'	Starts again Wednesday 26 th February 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Before school Street Dance club	8am Thursday mornings from 27 th February (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)
Lunchtime running club	Continuing on Friday lunchtimes from 28 th February – weather permitting (Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)
Golden Mile Challenge week	w/b Monday 3 rd March (Year 4)
Badminton coaching in PE lessons	Mondays from 3 rd March (Year 6)
World Book Day <i>(dress up as a book character – for more details see below!)</i>	Thursday 6th March Non-uniform day for the whole school – £1 'fine' to go towards our library funds!
Presentation of spring term writing awards	Monday 10 th March (one child from each class)
Visit to Azure garden Centre	Tuesday 11 th March (Year 1)
Netball competition	After school on Thursday 13 th March at Seaton Sluice (Team of players from Y5/Y6)
'Heights and weights' session	Tuesday 18 th March (afternoon) (Reception and Year 6 pupils)
Spring term Governors meeting	Wednesday 19th March at 4pm
Sport relief day	Friday 21st March – more details to follow
Newcastle Eagles basketball match	Friday 21st March – evening social event (KS2 pupils, families and staff)
Visit for new Nursery pupils	Tuesday 25 th March 9am – 10am (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter)
Nursery Easter maths activities family event	Thursday 27 th March from 9am (Nursery pupils and parents)
Residential visit to Hawkhirst	Friday 28th – Sunday 30th March (Year 5)
Golden Mile Challenge week	w/b Monday 31 st March (Year 3)
Nursery lunchtime parents appointments	Tuesday 1 st and Wednesday 2 nd April (parents of all Nursery pupils)

What's on	When and who?
Presentation of spring term maths awards	Tuesday 1 st April (one child from each class)
Parents Evening Appointments	Tuesday 1st April 2.30pm – 6.30pm (parents of all pupils from Reception to Year 6)
Skipping Festival	Wednesday 2 nd April at Concordia (morning) (Year 5)
Easter activities	Wednesday 2 nd April (afternoon – for all pupils except Nursery)
Hockey tournament	After school on Wednesday 2 nd April at CLV (two teams from Year 5 and Year 6)
Golden Day	Friday 4th April (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for Easter	Friday 4 th April 2014
School reopens after the Easter holiday	Tuesday 22nd April 2014

Reading awards

The vast majority of our pupils have been eagerly reading at home as part of our rainbow reading challenge and getting you to sign their reading records each week. I am delighted to say that **172 children have now achieved their Bronze award** and next week we will be presenting the first of our **silver awards!!**

World Book Day

Remember...on **Thursday 6th March** we are celebrating World Book Day. We aim to provide the opportunity for everyone to come to school dressed as a book character. The 'fine' for coming dressed in non-uniform is just £1 and the money raised will go towards our library funds. Everyone who brings in their £1 will be given a raffle ticket which will be entered into our prize draw!

Punctuality and attendance

We are continuing with our successful focus on improving attendance and punctuality. At the half way point of the school year we only have 2 pupils who have attendance below 85% (classified as persistent absentees). This means we have maintained the very low figure which has been our target for this year which is extremely positive!!

We have a few more issues with punctuality and are working with several families to support them in their efforts to get their children to school on time. Ann Cannon (Educational Welfare Officer) is also working with us to address punctuality concerns.

- **Year 5** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the spring term with an average of 97.89%, narrowly beating Year 1 who managed 97.6% attendance. This is the second time that Year 5 have won the certificate this year – well done!
- **Year 2** were awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – they had only 11 'lates' recorded in the first half of the spring term, narrowly beating Year 5 who had 12 – congratulations to Year 2 who have now won this certificate twice!!

Payments for residential visits in Year 5 and Year 6 – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

If you have a child in Year 5 or Year 6 who is going to be taking part in the Hawkthirst or York visits please remember that the deadline has now passed for the next instalments of the money to be paid. By now the full £80 should have been paid for Hawkthirst and £75 so far for York. Please contact the school office if there is a problem with payment as we have to confirm and pay for all the many activities which are on offer.

Bikes and scooters

Can I remind everyone that as explained before half term the police have advised us that bikes or scooters without locks should not be brought to school so **please can we insist that any bikes and scooters brought to Eastlea are LOCKED securely to the bike racks provided** in support of our aim to reduce the possibilities of the children's property going missing. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston

Head Teacher