



Dear Parents/Carers,

As explained in the Covid update sent out last week, this 'fuller' newsletter is aimed at providing an overall update about the events and activities we have planned for this half term as well as some general reminders.

The second half of the autumn term is always a busy and special time at Eastlea and I am sure you will be aware that despite the restrictions we find ourselves having to face, staff have been working hard to ensure that the Eastlea children have as many exciting opportunities as possible in the run up to Christmas. Our aim is to ensure that as few items as possible are cancelled due to Covid-19. As many things as we can WILL continue to go ahead as part of the Eastlea Christmas, but the format of some events has had to be revised in order to ensure that everyone is safe. We have also added some new things to the calendar of events – see summary grid below!

Going ahead as before or in a revised format	Unable to take place – sorry!	New things for this year
Non-uniform day to collect raffle prizes for the Christmas Fair	Christmas productions for parents/carers in school	Whole school combined socially distant class production – to be shared with pupils and parents!
'Virtual' Christmas Fair – usual raffle and class based fundraising	Scholastic Book Fair	Christmas Jumper Day
Class Christmas parties	KS1 after school Christmas craft club	Santa Cancer Run for Y4/Y5/Y6 running club
Opportunity for pupils to send cards to their classmates and staff	Early Years Christmas craft workshop for parents/carers	
School Christmas dinner	Carol singing inside Manor Walks and at Hartford Court Care Home	
Golden Day (revised format!)	Nativity Service at church	
Virtual 'Carols round the Christmas tree' on the last morning	Year 6 Festive lunch for parents/governors ( <i>we aim to reschedule this for Easter time!</i> )	
Early finish on the last day of term!		


**A full calendar of events planned for this half term (including the Christmas items mentioned above) is laid out below – and these dates can be added into your 'Eastlea' diary!**

What's on	When and who?
<b>STEM person of the week focus</b> (part of the 'Our Past, Your Future' project)	A different STEM career focus each week – raising aspirations and looking at learning qualities (Year 1 to Year 6) <i>[Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths]</i>
Online Parliamentary Workshops	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> November (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings (Reception, Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y6)
Quad athletics coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons (Y3 and Y4)
Specialist Music and French tuition	Continuing on Wednesday afternoons for Y5/6 led by Ms Smith and Mme Taylor
Cricket coaching in PE lessons	Thursday afternoons (Y5 and Y6)
Dance coaching in PE lessons	Monday afternoons (Y5 and Y6) Wednesday afternoons (Y1 and Y2) Friday afternoons (Reception, Y3 and Y4)
<b>Maths focus week</b>	<b>Week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b>
Walk to Cramlington War Memorial	Morning of Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November (Year 6)

<b>What's on</b>	<b>When and who?</b>
<b>Children in Need Day - Pennies for Pudsey non-uniform day</b> coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November – our annual 'Pennies for Pudsey' event <i>[see further details sent out last week]</i>
<b>Friendship week – 'United against bullying'</b>	<b>Week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>
Flu 'nasal spray' immunisations	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November – in class bases (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 pupils)
Year 6 'Our School' Evening Chronicle newspaper pages	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November – deadline for submission Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November – publication date
Virtual author 'visits'	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November (Year 1 and Year 2) Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November (Year 5 and Year 6)
<b>Non-uniform day – bring in prizes for the raffle for our 'Virtual' Christmas Fair</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November (all pupils)</b>
Hoopstarz workshop as part of a 'virtual' festival	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November (Year 3)
Presentation of autumn term writing awards	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Eastlea VIRTUAL Christmas Fair</b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Presentation of first Bronze 'Rainbow Reading Challenge' awards	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December – morning (pupils from all classes)
Visits for new Nursery pupils who are due to start in January	These will be scheduled after school in December once the national lockdown restrictions are lifted
Presentation of autumn term maths awards	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December
Santa Cancer Run – charity event	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December <i>(group of pupils from Y4/Y5/Y6 running club – this is a provisional date for this proposed event – will send more details if confirmed)</i>
<b>Christmas Jumper Celebration Day / charity event</b>	<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December (whole school)</b>
Nursery and Reception Christmas parties	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>afternoon</b> (class based events for Nursery and Reception) <b>(No Nursery morning session on this date except for pupils with 30 hour provision – further details to follow)</b>
<b>Christmas lunch</b>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas parties	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December – afternoon (class based events for Y1 and Y2)
Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas parties	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December – morning (class based events for Y5 and Y6)
Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas parties	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December – afternoon (class based events for Y3 and Y4)
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
School closes for the Christmas holiday <b>Early finish at 1.45pm (Rec/Y1/Y2) and 2pm (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6)</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December ( <b>early finish at 1.45pm / 2pm</b> )
School reopens for the spring term	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b> (N.B. Staff training day on Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January)

## Clubs

As you know the clubs we are currently able to offer have had to be severely curtailed due to the current national lock down restrictions. We will look to restart a wider range of lunchtime/after school clubs when we are given the go ahead to do so.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am <b>each day</b> ). This costs £2.50 per day. 	Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on <b>Wednesdays</b>	
	Running Club for Y4, Y5, and Y6 on a rota basis on <b>Thursdays</b>	

## PE kits

As you know, our PE lessons are able to continue in school and keeping active/engaging in 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) must 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. We still have high numbers wanting to join our Nursery so most of our new younger starters will be attending afternoon sessions. If you have a pre-school child, or know someone who does, a Nursery application form must be completed to secure their place here. These can be completed well in advance. 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 is now open and applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January). **It is essential that you apply in good time, even if your child already attends our Nursery.** Any queries please contact us in school.

## Y5/Y6 residential visits update

The refund the school is owed for **Year 6** parents from Hawkthirst is due later this month. As soon as this is received, money will be repaid to the few who requested it. For the majority, the money will be used as a deposit to secure a provisional booking for a visit to York in July (fingers crossed).

We still have a provisional booking for **Year 5** to visit Hawkthirst in March, but are aware that at the moment this seems unlikely so have not asked for deposits yet. If the situation changes and we are able to organise this visit, we will get in contact with you again in the spring term.

## 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. We continue to embed the 'THRIVE' approach in school with the aim of supporting children to manage and regulate their emotions safely. Our school behaviour policy usually 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.

## Attendance and punctuality

Despite the 'strange' circumstances we find ourselves in, we are still required to keep an eye on the attendance of pupils now that we are back into school routines and the attendance rates have been very high overall. Each class is still eagerly aiming to win a 'Weekly attendance champions' trophy and/or 'Punctuality Plaque' and we are monitoring patterns of attendance closely. **Any Covid-19 related absence is coded separately (X) and is not included within the normal absence figures for individuals – so this means if pupils are off with Covid symptoms/awaiting test results or needing to self-isolate/quarantine then their attendance percentages are not affected.**

I hope you will be interested in the following 'headlines' from the 8 weeks of the first half of the autumn term:

<b>Attendance</b> (Usually one winner per week)	Reception – once		Year 2 – 3 times	Year 3 – 4 times	Year 4 – once	Year 5 – once	Year 6 – twice
<b>Punctuality</b> (often shared by several classes each week)	Reception – 4 times	Year 1 – 6 times	Year 2 – 5 times	Year 3 – 5 times	Year 4 – 5 times	Year 5 – 5 times	Year 6 – 7 times

- **Year 3** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the autumn term – their average for the half term was 98.89% – well done!
- **Year 6** won the certificate for the **best punctuality** with only 1 'late' recorded during the half term! Wow!
- We have plenty of pupils who are on track to gain individual 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term!

Children whose percentage attendance falls below 90% are classified by the government as 'persistent absentees'. Letters were sent out to the families of the small number of pupils (10) who fell below this figure and we hope that they can get back on track with their attendance this half term. If anyone wishes to discuss this further, please contact me in school.

### **Cramlington Foodbank**

Last half term you were very generous in providing items and funds in support of the local Foodbank. We are fully aware that times are hard at the moment and lots of families are facing difficulties. If you require support in the form of a food parcel from the Cramlington Foodbank then we can put in a referral for this to be issued to any families who are in need. Food parcels provided by the Foodbank can either be collected from the Hope Centre or delivered to school to be taken home from Eastlea. Please contact me or your child's class teacher in confidence if this is something which would help you in the coming weeks.

### **And finally...**

I just wanted to thank everyone for the positive feedback and response to our Covid update sent out last week. Other than parents/carers who are exempt, everyone else has immediately started to wear face coverings when on the school site to keep everyone safe, almost every child is now being brought to school or collected by just one adult and the vast majority are arriving at either 8.45am or 9am in the morning rather than coming onto site too early and having to stand around and wait with their child.

Please keep your children with you when you are on site or near the gates and head home as soon as you can so that groups are not congregating near school. This helps to keep everyone safe.

If you wish your child to wear an extra jumper/layer so they are better able to stay warm in the classrooms which we have to keep well ventilated then this is fine – another navy jumper, a long sleeved top under their sweatshirt or something else that will 'fit in' with the Eastlea uniform would work really well – and please ensure that any additional items worn in school are named.

**Your support with all these measures is much appreciated. THANK YOU!**

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston,  
Head Teacher