

OUR SCHOOL



Produced by the students of Eastlea Primary School, Northumberland

» Brilliant behaviour

CLASSROOMS AT EASTLEA are calm, working environments where the children can learn. This is due to the school's positive behaviour system.

The system works exceptionally well and good behaviour is recognised and celebrated through weekly Golden time and half-termly Golden Days. Headteacher, Miss Beeston stated, "Golden Days are our way of celebrating just how good our children are. It gives the children something to aim for and makes them really happy when they achieve them."

Every Golden Day is fun. Staff always try to think of new activities and places to visit and have included Wet'n'Wild, beach days and even getting the train to Newcastle Discovery Museum. The Golden Day Christmas visit to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal is the highlight of the year and has become an Eastlea tradition.

The children are already wondering what exciting day the staff have planned for their next Golden Day!

By Kara Youngs, Emily McGeachie, Chloe Wilson and Jay Nichols

» Charitable children

EASTLEA CHILDREN are always ready to support and help others who are less fortunate than them.

Harvest-time saw them support 2 charities - one local and one in Africa. Through their contact with St Nicholas' church they brought in food to be used in packages made up by the Cramlington food bank.

To support Farm Africa they pulled on their wellies and completed a welly walk raising funds to educate African farmers. A whopping £86.00 was raised.

In November, excited children brought in change to cover life-size Pudseys for their annual Pennies for Pudsey. Staggeringly £321.57 was raised.

Eastlea always give a heart-warming gift of kindness at Christmas. An incredible 16 shoeboxes and many bags of gifts were filled and delivered to the Shoebox Appeal, with the children helping volunteers at the drop off station to fill many more.

Next event for these generous children is Comic Relief - there's no stopping them!

By Grace Elliott, Holly Bryceland and Deserae Jenkins

Remarkable reading



Staff and children enjoying the launch of the Human Body Reading Challenge

READING FOR PUPILS AT EASTLEA is fundamental to their education. All children attending the school realise how important it is and are passionate about improving their reading.

The school have many great ideas to support this: the annual reading challenge, Book Fairs, author visits, the golden library ticket and pupils becoming trained librarians.

The annual Reading Challenge has different themes - this year's is the body. Every week children read a book of their choice at home, then move up the skeleton on their class display. Certificates and prizes are awarded in the school's assembly. Finally

the ultimate challenge is to reach Champion Reader status at the end of the school term.

Year 6 take on the role of librarians and run lunchtime sessions. Every Friday assembly sees two Golden tickets being drawn. Two winning classes get the opportunity to read together in the library during the lunchtime. Mrs Lister, English Coordinator, said, "It's great to see the children share their love of reading with the younger ones."

Working with authors is really important at Eastlea, the school aim for every child to have the opportunity to do this every year. Mrs Lister is really enthusiastic about this, "Working with published authors' help the

children understand how books are created and where authors get their ideas from."

Year 2 took part in a workshop led by Tom Percival; and Tom Warless, a new author, worked with Year 1. Children from Years 5 and 6 have spent a day working with Colin Parsons. He gave them lots of ideas to support their own writing. A similar day is already organised for Years 3 and 4.

Eastlea love to read and the school want to build on this and create a love of reading that will stay with children their whole life.

By Lucy Robson, Molly Wilson and Maicey Jones

Wise decision to open Owlets

EASTLEA HAVE INTRODUCED their very own toddler group called the Owlets. Parents and their toddlers are welcome into school every Thursday morning to play and socialise with each other.

Starting school can be daunting so Eastlea looked for different ways of supporting parents and children in this transition. They decided to invite parents to bring their babies and toddlers into school and with the help of parents set up the toddlers group. Mrs Holdsworth told us, "Owlets was formed to allow families with younger children to interact and socialise."

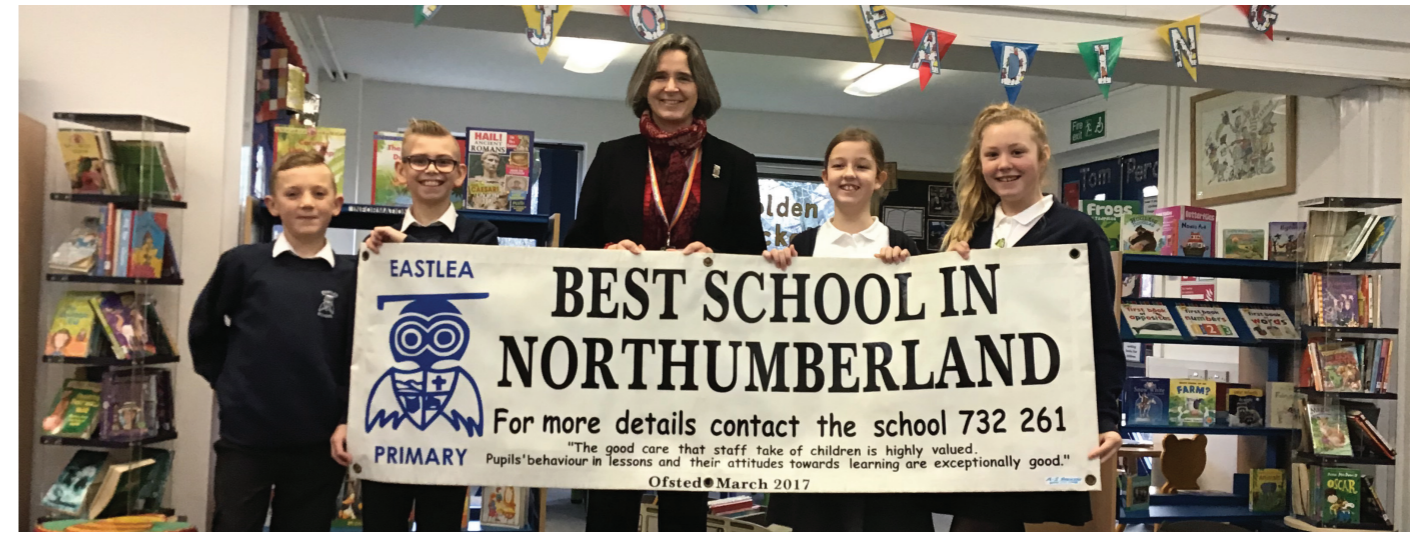
Recognising the work being done, local Councillor Dunbar donated £250 and the school also received £350 from the Northumberland County Community Chest. The money was used for toys and activities for the club. The morning session consists of time for play and also crafts and activities before finishing with storytime. Eastlea would love to welcome new members so please just come along.

By Summer Phillips, Lana Dowd and Alyssa McKeown



Councillor Dunbar enjoying his visit to the Owlets Toddler Group

Headteacher's 10/10



Miss Beeston and the children are extremely proud of being rated, "Best school in Northumberland."

1. How long have you been Headteacher? I have been Headteacher for 10 years.

2. What do you like best about working with children at Eastlea? I think the attitude that the Eastlea children have is amazing! They will always have a go at trying new things.

3. Which subject did you teach before becoming headteacher? I was an English consultant across Northumberland.

4. Which part of school life do you think is the most important for your pupils? We offer a wide range of opportunities for the pupils. Learning is so important in all aspects of life and at Eastlea we focus on the 'whole child' - looking at the academic,

social and emotional development.

5. What do you want the Eastlea children to aim for? I would like them to be the best that they can be.

6. Why did you become a teacher over other possible careers? Since being a young girl, I have never wanted to do anything else but be a teacher.

7. Can you describe to us a typical day in the life of a headteacher. There is no such thing as a typical day, every day is so varied.

8. What is the best part of your job? The best part of my job is being with the children as their enthusiasm is contagious! They always make me smile!

9. Have there been any highlights or stand out moments for you in your time at Eastlea? Lots! Being recognised as a good school by Ofsted in 2012, coming top of the Chronicle's good school guide in 2016, when the hard work of staff and pupils is recognised by awards for promoting sporting values and being rated as the 'Best school in Northumberland' just this month!

10. Which is your favourite event of the school year? Christmas at Eastlea, it's a very magical time.

Interview by Scarlett Butler, Joseph Murray, Alan English, Kyle Richardson and Bethany Watt

Sporting super school



Eastlea proudly accepted 3 awards at the Sports partnership Awards ceremony

SPORT AT EASTLEA has a very high profile and this was celebrated when they proudly accepted 3 awards at the Cramlington and Seaton Valley Sports Partnership Awards Evening.

The partnership felt it was important to celebrate the achievements of different schools and the evening culminated in Eastlea receiving not only the Platinum Sports Mark, the first Cramlington school to ever achieve this, but also 2 special awards: the first for leadership and volunteering, and second, the most prestigious award of the evening for 'Promoting and Demonstrating The School Games Values'. This was a real honour!

Children enjoy two hours of curriculum sport every week, often delivered by PE

specialists. Since September, coaches for cycling, basketball, dance and badminton have taught lessons. Eastlea also enjoyed a whole school Hoopstarz Day. "I really enjoyed Hoopstarz and learning lots of the tricks," said Scarlet Coulthard, Year 1.

In addition to PE, a full programme of clubs are run before or after school and at lunchtimes, with over 80% of key stage 2 attending at least one club a week. These include traditional sports such as football, basketball, rugby, running and street dance. Children across the school also attended boxing when this was introduced, putting their gloves on to learn different moves and punches.

Children enjoy two hours of curriculum sport every week, often delivered by PE

maintenance. Children cycled to local parks with the final ride ending at Azure Garden Centre for the Christmas celebrations. Children not keen on competitive sport can also keep active by joining the Woodland Walk Club, learning about the environment and nature.

Miss Smith, Cramlington School Sports Partnership Coordinator said, "Eastlea has a fantastic range of extra-curricular activities and an active playground. Pupils take on leadership roles and all staff are involved in developing their skills for enhancing PE lessons and introducing new activities."

By Milly Cooper, Kia Pattie, Torri Hudson and Tori Clark

» Cycling to success

CYCLING HAS REALLY TAKEN OFF at Eastlea Primary School and the children are thoroughly enjoying the different activities and sessions being offered.

Balance bikes has been really successful in Early Years, Bike clinic and Bikeability have ensured children are safe on the roads and the weekly Bike Club has given children a chance to ride for pleasure. Clive Eve, from Cycle Experience, stated, "Eastlea is striving to keep all its pupils active and engaged with their biking."

Staff wanted cycling to be for 'all' so used prize money from the Love Northumberland Award to buy a bike-shed, and Northumberland County Council donated 7 bikes. The Bike Club visited different places of interest around Cramlington culminating in their last session - a visit to Azure Garden Centre. "I loved all the rides, especially the last one. It was really exciting riding using our lights in the dark," said pupil Deserae Jenkins.

By Justin Bailey, Blake Bennett and Aiden Liston

» Tree-mendous woodland walkers



Woodland Walkers have achieved their Bronze Award CHILDREN AT EASTLEA are passionate about their environment and their Woodland Walk Club has been so successful that they have already been awarded their Bronze award from the Woodland Trust.

Mrs Scott, teaching assistant, told us, "Woodland Walk was set up to encourage all children to participate in outdoor activities while learning about the environment and nature." Although it started with walks around the school it is now so much more. Activities have included scavenger hunts, tree dressing, wildlife photography and even planting trees! Anita Foster from the Woodland Trust came into school to hold an assembly. She was really impressed with the children's knowledge and enthusiasm.

Currently the club are working on setting up a recycling station in school and have already recycled Christmas cards. Paper and batteries are next. Eastlea are really proud of their bronze award. However they are determined to achieve the silver award by Easter.

By Bobby Pearson, Teagan Matthewson and Jayden Speirs

» Ninjas rock their challenge

MATHS HAS ALWAYS BEEN FUN at Eastlea Primary School and now with the introduction of the Ninja Challenge and Times Table Rockstars, children are desperate to learn their times-tables!

Miss Fox, Maths Co-ordinator, stated, "This is the second year of the Ninja Challenge, it has really improved the children's recall of their multiplication and division facts. The children love it!" As the children learn their different multiplication facts they move through their Ninja belts. Classrooms have interactive displays where the children can track their progress.

Eastlea also uses a variety of other activities and strategies including lunchtime times-table club, homework projects and an app - Times-tables Rockstars - which the children can access at home. Times-tables Rockstars makes times-tables fun and visual. Children love playing against classmates and on-line against other children across the country.

These strategies have made a huge, positive impact and all children have improved greatly.

By Cole Edwards, William Yarwood and McKenzie Thornton

Next week:
Farrington Academy
Sunderland

Eastlea Primary School

We offer you a warm and friendly welcome to come and see what our school can provide for you and your child

Ring us to make an appointment or drop in at any time



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Every pupil matters and every moment counts

'Best school in Northumberland' News Post Leader January 2019

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