





Dear Parents / Carers,

The new half term started with a very busy time last week involving class visits and activity days. Please find below an outline list of the events and activities which are planned for the children for the remaining weeks of this half term:

What's on	When and who?
Weekly swimming sessions	Monday afternoons from 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> March (Y4)
'Rocksteady' class bands	Tuesday mornings from 4 <sup>th</sup> March (including concert for pupils/parents on 8 <sup>th</sup> April)
Net games / fitness / tennis coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 4 <sup>th</sup> March (Year 3/Year 6) Thursday afternoons from 13 <sup>th</sup> March (Year 6/Year 5)
Specialist Music, French and Computing sessions	Wednesday afternoons for Reception to Year 6 from 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Sending & receiving and Invasion games coaching in PE lessons	Wednesday afternoons from 5 <sup>th</sup> March (Y1/Y2)
Northumberland Sport Development lunchtime sessions on the yard	Weekly from Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March (open to the whole school at lunchtimes)
Cricket coaching sessions	Fridays from 14 <sup>th</sup> March (Rec/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y5)
Health and Wellbeing workshops for parents/carers – 'Anxiety'	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March at 5pm <u>OR</u> Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March at 9.15am
Creative Writing Challenge at Eastlea led by author Guy Bass	Afternoon of Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March (KS2)
Y4 Gymnastics competition at Wansbeck	Morning of Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March (team from Year 4)
<b>Comic Relief Day</b> (separate letter will be sent)	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March – wear something red and make a donation for a break time treat!</b>
<b>Spring term parent appointments</b> (separate letter will be sent nearer the time)	<b>Afternoon/evening of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and/or Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Presentation of spring term writing/maths awards	Week beginning Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Induction visits for new Nursery starters	After school on Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March (pupils due to start Nursery after Easter)
Y5 Skipping competition at Newbiggin	Morning of Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March (group from Y5)
'Roots and Shoots Project' visits to Alnwick Garden	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March – full day (Year 5)
<b>Residential visit to Robinwood</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April (Year 5)</b>
Tri-Golf competition at Astley	Morning of Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April (team from Year 3)
RE Theme Day	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Easter chocolate raffle	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April
Pupils break up for Easter	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April – <b><u>at 2pm</u></b>
School reopens after the Easter holiday	<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>

## Clubs for this half term:

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
<p>Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am <b>each day</b>).  <i>N.B. Pupils to arrive between 7.30 – 8.15am to allow time for breakfast to be served.</i></p>  <p><b>This costs £3 per day if booked/paid for in advance or £3.50 if children just turn up on the day.</b></p>	<p>KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b>  <i>(£2 per session)</i></p>	<p>Gymnastics club for Y3 and Y4 on <b>Tuesdays (4.00pm finish)</b>  <i>(starting 11<sup>th</sup> March)</i></p>
<p>Bacon Butty Literacy Booster for Y6 on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b></p>	<p>Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>  <i>(£2 per session)</i></p>	<p>Munchie Maths Booster Club for Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b></p>
<p>Street Dance Club for Y1/Y2 on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b> in the school hall</p>		<p>Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b></p>
<p><b>Owlets toddler group</b> for pre-school children and their parents/carers/ childminders:  <b>Thursdays 9.00 – 10.30am</b> in the school hall  <i>Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child.</i></p> 	<p>Running Club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b></p>	<p>Sports club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays (from 13<sup>th</sup> March)</b></p>

## Parking / use of bikes and scooters

The arrival of spring will hopefully bring some better weather which may encourage more pupils to come to school on foot or by bike/scooter. As you know we have space for bikes and scooters to be parked safely at school but please make sure that they are securely locked when left during the school day. Pupils can keep their helmets with their coats/bags in the cloakrooms.

As with all schools we know that when it gets busy at the gates at 'peak times' it can cause frustration to both parents / carers as well as local residents, especially if their driveways are blocked or cars are parked on dropped kerbs etc.

So, if you do still have to come to school by car then please aim to park a little further away from the school to keep congestion down where possible. How about opting for the 'park and stride' which we offer from the Church of the Nazarene which is a very easy alternative to avoid congestion at the gates? The 3 minute walk from the carpark is straightforward and is well worth a try! THANK YOU!



## Attendance and Punctuality

As you may have noted in the recent Ofsted inspection report, our efforts to improve attendance and punctuality have been recognised and we continue to appreciate your support with this by encouraging the children to be in school every day and ensuring they arrive on time.



Our weekly assemblies always highlight the attendance percentages and number of lates recorded for each class. Great excitement is generated if we are able to reduce the total of 'lates' and each class aims to get a GREEN card for attendance which indicates they have 96%+ attendance for the previous week.

Year 2 are our attendance 'champions' so far this school year! They have been presented with the half term attendance certificate for having the best average attendance for each of the 3 half terms. I wonder if another class can beat them for this half term?

Attendance letters were sent out last week to parents/carers of any pupil with less than 94% attendance and we hope to reduce even further the number of 'persistent absentees' (children with attendance below 90%) as the rest of the school year progresses.

If your child is really unwell then we know that they cannot be in school but as soon as they are well enough to attend, or if they just have a slight cold, sore throat etc then they are fine to be in.

### And finally...Peer Mentors

Our Year 5 Peer Mentors have introduced themselves to the whole school at an assembly today and wanted to add the following message to the newsletter to let you know how they plan to help the other children:

*"Peer Mentors are at our school now and they will be helping the children around the school. There are 11 Peer Mentors at Eastlea who have been highly trained. The Peer Mentors are in Year 5 and they will be supporting children at play times and at other times of the day. You will see us with our high viz jackets on and our peer mentor badges. Look out for our posters around school."*



Yours sincerely,  
**Miss E Beeston**, Head Teacher