



Dear Parents / Carers,

## Happy New Year

As we are now approaching the end of the first week of the spring term, may I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back and wish you all a very 'Happy New Year'.

At the start of the new term I would also like to pass on a few reminders about policies and procedures at Eastlea:

### 1. School uniform

The vast majority of our pupils have returned to school looking very smart and tidy in their Eastlea school uniform. However, we do have some concerns regarding footwear. May I remind you that trainers are not to be worn in school. **Children should be wearing black school shoes.** If the weather is particularly bad then boots can be brought into school to be changed into at breaks/lunchtimes but they are not suitable to be worn all day and must not have high heels as this is dangerous. Despite the recent milder weather, the winter months can still be cold and wet and to enable the children to keep warm and dry please could you ensure they have a suitable coat and gloves/hats/scarves as appropriate to be worn when they are outside.

### 2. P.E. kits

Everyone now should be fully aware of the need to have PE kits in school so that children can take part fully with the lessons that are going on. Items should be named and suitable footwear is required for outdoor sessions.

### 3. Jewellery

We have had very few cases since September where children have got their ears pierced during the school year – thank you for this. As you know, in common with the Cramlington partnership policy, earrings cannot be worn in school. Please could you continue to support us in only allowing ears to be pierced right at the start of the summer holiday so that the full 6 weeks can be given before earrings have to be removed.

### 4. Hair

May I remind you that long hair must be tied back in school and hair should be thoroughly checked if problems with headlice occur – even when you think the infestation may be over.

### 5. Parking

I have been asked to send the attached letter from the police which has been sent to every school in Cramlington from Sgt M. Aspey. I am aware that almost all parents who have to bring their car to Eastlea are considerate and follow the usual parking regulations – but this provides a reminder for everyone of what is expected (see copy on the reverse of this newsletter).

### 5. Attendance and punctuality

Before the Christmas holiday I told you the latest information with regard to the weekly winners of our attendance and punctuality awards. Here are some further updates:

- **Year 3** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the second half of the autumn term – in total they won the weekly award twice during the half term and had an average of 97.74% attendance which narrowly beat Year 2, Year 6 and Year 5 – congratulations!
- **Year 2** were awarded with a certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term with only 10 'lates' overall during the 7 weeks – well done!
- I am also pleased to announce that there were **49 pupils** who were awarded with individual certificates for achieving **100% attendance** in the autumn term. This is our highest total yet!

Attendance and punctuality will again be closely monitored this term together with support from the EWO. Competition remains fierce for our weekly attendance champions trophy and each class also wants to get their hands on the punctuality plaque – so your support in encouraging pupils to arrive in school on time every day is much appreciated.

### 6. Reading

Our Rainbow reading challenge continues this term. Your continued support with reading at home to help your child climb the 'rungs' towards their bronze or silver awards is much appreciated. We currently have 115 children with their pictures on the Rainbow display and hope to get more 'faces' on the ladders in the hall in the coming weeks!

## Events planned for this half term

Here is an outline of all the many events and activities which are planned for the Eastlea pupils so far for the first half of the spring term...

What's on	When and who?
Swimming sessions at Concordia	Monday mornings from 6 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4)
Attendance certificates and 'light green' letters are presented	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 6 Evening Chronicle journalism project	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January – a full day to write 'Our School' page in the Eastlea ICT suite <b>The Eastlea page will be published on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January!!</b>
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 7 <sup>th</sup> January (pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Eye screening tests for Reception pupils	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January (Reception)
Educational Class Visit to 'Centre for Life'	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – all day (Year 6 – paid for by the pupils' Enterprise fund)
Weekly Rugby coaching in PE lessons	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – 6 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 4)
Skipping coaching session	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – afternoon (Year 5)
New Nursery pupils join Eastlea	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January (new intake begin their Nursery sessions)
'Fiddles' tuition – part of our continuing traditional music project	Wednesday afternoons in music lessons from 15 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 6 and Year 3)
After school 'KS2 Eastlea Singing club'	Starts again Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 3.15pm – 4.15pm (pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Weekly Tennis coaching in PE lessons	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January – 6 <sup>th</sup> February (Year 3)
Thursday Lunchtime activities	Various clubs/activities for Year 5 and Year 6 to continue for pupils on Thursday lunchtimes from 16 <sup>th</sup> January
Lunchtime Running club	Friday lunchtimes from 17 <sup>th</sup> January – weather permitting! (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Multi-skills academy selection event at Sporting Club Cramlington	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January (3.30 – 5.00pm) (group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6)
Before school 'Street Dance' club	Thursday mornings from 16 <sup>th</sup> January - 8am (Year 3 and Year 4)
Governors – School Improvement committee meeting	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January (4.30pm)
Storytelling session led by Schools Library Service – as part of Traditional Tales unit	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 1 and Year 2)
After school Maths boosters/homework club	Tuesday after school sessions from 21 <sup>st</sup> January (Year 6)
'Bacon butty' Literacy boosters	Wednesday morning before school Literacy sessions from 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (Year 6)
Governors spring term visit linked to Pupil Premium	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (morning)
Racket Sports Festival at Concordia	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January (morning) (Year 4)
Gymnastics competition at Concordia	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February (morning) Team of pupils from Year 3/Year 4
<b>Golden Day</b>	<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b> (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
Pupils break up for half term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
School reopens after the half term holiday	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February

### **Children's Centre activities**

There is also plenty going on this term at the Children's Centre on site. Information is available from the centre themselves (01670 739528) or the school office if you are interested in any of the many activities that are being planned:

- **Toddle Time** – starting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 1.00 – 2.30pm
- **Happy healthy Families** – starts Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 – 11.30am
- **Cooking healthy Family meals on a budget** – 4 week course starting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 – 11.30am
- **First Aid awareness** – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 – 8.30pm
- **About Boys Course** – 3 sessions starting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 – 11.30am

### **Parent Governor**

As explained in the newsletter before the holiday Mrs Gemma Alexander, one of our parent governors, is unfortunately no longer able to fulfil the role of governor at Eastlea due to a change in her circumstances. We are therefore seeking a replacement. If there are any parents who would like to consider the role of parent governor, can they please contact me at school **by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**. Depending on the response, an election may then need to be arranged. If you are unsure what the role entails and would like to discuss it (without any obligation) then please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

### **Advance notice for parents of pupils in Year 6**

Mrs Coleby has asked me to mention that the KS2 SATs week this year takes place in the week beginning May 12<sup>th</sup> 2014. Ever since Eastlea became a Primary school our Year 6 pupils have done us proud with their efforts in this important week and I know that this year will be no exception. Arrangements for some of the SATs have altered again this year – thanks to the ever changing government agenda – but in order to 'show off' what they can do it is vital that all the Year 6 pupils are in school every day that week, so I hope that this advance notice of the date is helpful.

If you haven't already seen them the DfE KS2 performance tables for 2013 were published in December. There is a link to these from the school website and they are well worth a look....Eastlea are at the top of the league within Northumberland in terms of many aspects of both attainment and pupil progress!!

Yours sincerely

***E Beeston***

Miss E Beeston  
Head Teacher