



Dear Parents / Carers,

We had a successful return for the start of the spring term last week and were pleased to welcome 11 new starters in Nursery as well as 4 children who joined other classes across the school. For any families who are new to Eastlea I hope that you are happy with the way your child has settled and if you have any questions then please approach staff directly so we can help.

**Eastlea are TOP of the League**

The outcome of the Northumberland Gazette ‘league table’ of the top 15 state funded primary schools across Northumberland made excellent reading. **Eastlea were placed at NUMBER 1** and as a team we were all delighted with this! Thank you for the very positive comments shared on the school Facebook page about this achievement. The determination of all staff to ensure the very best of outcomes for ALL children is at the heart of our success.

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/education/northumberland-15-top-state-primary-schools-latest-official-performance-data-4931390>

**School uniform, PE kits**

The Eastlea children continue to be very smartly presented in their school uniform and/or PE kits on the relevant days each week. A reminder that plain black trainers can be worn on school uniform or PE days if this makes things easier and more cost effective. Other types of trainers should only be worn on PE days and tracksuits worn on these days need to be **PLAIN** dark blue – lighter colours, stripes or large logos are not permitted. Thank you!. We do have some items of school uniform, school tracksuit bottoms and hoodies with the Eastlea owl logo in stock if anyone needs them. The Hope Centre also has a good stock of **FREE** previously loved Eastlea uniform and I would recommend using this facility if required.

At the moment the class PE days are:

**Reception** = Friday **Y1** = Wednesday **Y2** = Monday/Wednesday **Y3** = Monday/Tuesday

**Y4** = Friday (and swimming kits needed on Monday) **Y5** = Tuesday/Thursday **Y6** = Monday/ Thursday

Class teachers will keep you updated with any changes to this or extra days when PE kits are required.

**Jewellery**

As you know jewellery is not permitted in school. We had some instances last week of children wearing bracelets or necklaces. Please can these be left at home. Earrings should not be worn in school either. Plastic spacers are fine to be worn (and are available from the school office if required), but there should be no earrings. Thank you!

**Attendance**

As part of the continued high profile to promote school attendance, we explained to the children that we are aiming to ‘**get to green**’ for Eastlea school attendance (96% or above). The attendance ladder was shared at assembly and each week the classes will try to ensure their average attendance percentage is ‘green’. Your help with encouraging attendance and punctuality is very much appreciated. We rely on your support and if you feel that we can help in any way then please do get in touch.

A couple of reminders...

- The Eastlea school day starts at **8.45am**. This is the time the gates/doors open and learning starts as soon as the children are in the classroom. Children who arrive after this miss the important start of the school day.
- In terms of illness, whilst sickness and/or diarrhoea does require an absence of 48 hours to help reduce the risks of bugs being spread, other **minor illnesses do NOT require your child to miss school**. It is fine for children with a sniffly nose, sore throat, headache or other cold symptoms to attend school. If it helps, then with signed permission we can give a dose of calpol to your child at lunchtime if this will prevent them missing school. The NHS “**Is my child too ill for school?**” website can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



## Break time snacks and packed lunches

At morning break time, milk / fruit is provided for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We also provide milk for those who order it in Year 3 and Year 4. Fruit can be brought in by older children for a break time snack if they wish – but not chocolate bars, bags of crisps etc which are not the healthiest of options and are leading to increased litter around school. Can we also ask that chocolate bars and sweets in lunch boxes should be limited please. There seem to be more and more bags of sweets and chocolates being brought in rather than sandwiches/fruit/yoghurts etc.

**Please also remember that Eastlea has a policy in place of not having nuts/seeds in school for the safety of pupils who have nut allergies.** Children who bring in food for packed lunches / snacks need to ensure that these are nut free at all times to protect the health and safety of everyone in school (this includes anything with Nutella and some cereal bars). Thank you for your support with this.

## Scooters, bikes and cars

Once again this January we have been pleased to see several pupils coming to school on scooters and bikes newly acquired over Christmas. Please make sure that any that are left on the school site are securely locked on the bike/scooter racks in order to keep them safe. Helmets can be left in school during the day if required.

**As always, please can I also remind those who come to school by car where possible to use the Church of the Nazarene carpark to ease congestion in the roads around the school. Please avoid parking cars on narrow estate roads which cause a hazard to local residents and real issues for any emergency vehicles which need access to the estate.** Cars should only be left unattended during drop off and collection times and not for extended periods. Thank you for your support with this.



As we mentioned before Christmas, we do need access to the **'SCHOOL BUS ONLY'** parking space for a taxi at the end of the school day on Monday (3.15pm)/Tuesday (3.15pm)/Wednesday (4.15pm)/Thursday (4.15pm). **Please can we ask that the school bus bay is left clear at these times.** The **KEEP CLEAR** markings should also be left clear at all times for emergency access.

## Reading

Reading remains a top priority at Eastlea. We know there will be more bronze award winners this term and we will also be presenting the first of the SILVER Castles reading challenge awards later this half term. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home each week and support them by signing their reading record books. Remember that reading books that are brought home, especially those which are part of our RWInc scheme for younger readers should continue to be well looked after and returned to school in good condition ready for the next child who will need them. Costs are high if any books need to be replaced. THANK YOU.

## Events, dates for the diary and clubs planned for this half term

We continue to aim to provide a wide range of activities for the children at Eastlea. A list of planned events for this half term is included overleaf as a checklist for the coming weeks. Further details will be sent out about some of the activities where required nearer the time.


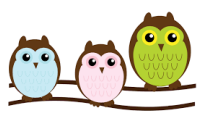
Some clubs started last week and most of the others begin this week – either before school, at lunchtime or after school. The list for these is also included for reference.

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

## Events and Activities for the first half of the spring term 2025

What's on	When and who?
Hockey / badminton coaching	Tuesday afternoons from 7 <sup>th</sup> January (Y3 and Y5) Thursday afternoons from 9 <sup>th</sup> January (Y6 and Y5)
Skipping workshop	Morning of Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 5)
Ball skills coaching	Wednesday afternoons from 8 <sup>th</sup> January (Y1 and Y2)
Specialist Music, French and Computing sessions	Wednesday afternoons for Reception to Year 6 from 8 <sup>th</sup> January
Visit from Education Mental Health Practitioners	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Peer Mentor training sessions	Friday mornings from 10 <sup>th</sup> January for 4 weeks (group from Year 5)
Educational Visit to Nissan – Monozukuri Caravan	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 6)
Newcastle Foundation ball skills/teamwork sessions	Monday afternoons from 13 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 2 and Year 3)
Pilates workshops	Monday afternoons from 13 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 6)
Weekly swimming lessons	Monday afternoons from 13 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 4)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 14 <sup>th</sup> January
Heights and Weights (school health team)	Afternoon of Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January (Reception / Year 6)
STEM Communities assembly and class workshops	Morning of Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January (KS2 assembly and Y4/Y5 workshops)
<b>School Games Multi-skills 'zoom' final</b>	<b>Morning of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January (Year 3)</b>
Gymnastics workshop led by Newcastle Foundation	Morning of Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 1)
Vision screening	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January (Reception)
<b>Maths / STEM focus week</b>	<b>Week beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February (whole school)</b>
'Roots and Shoots' project pre-visit to Eastlea	Afternoon of Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February (Year 5)
STEM family workshops <i>[more details to follow]</i>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> (9am) and Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> (2pm) February – for pupils/parents of Y4 and Y5 classes
<b>NSPCC Number Day</b>	<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Dance workshop led by Newcastle Foundation	Morning of Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January (Year 2)
Safer Internet Day – 'too good to be true?'	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
RE Theme Day	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Presentation of first Castles reading challenge silver awards	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>February GOLDEN DAY</b>	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>

## CLUBS

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 style="text-align: center;"><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>NUFC Foundation ball skills club for Y3 and Y4 on <b>Mondays</b></p>
		<p>Gymnastics club for Y1 and Y2 on <b>Tuesdays</b></p>
		<p>Munchie Maths Booster club for Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> <i>[starting from 28<sup>th</sup> January]</i></p>
<p>Bacon butty Literacy Booster club for Y6 on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b> in the Y6 classroom <i>[starting from 29<sup>th</sup> January]</i></p>	<p>Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on <b>Wednesdays</b>  <i>(£2 per session)</i></p>	<p>Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b></p>
<p>Street Dance Club for Reception on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b> in the school hall</p>		<p>KS2 Violins Progression group 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>Net games club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b></p>