



Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to welcome everyone back after Easter and I wish to extend an especially warm welcome to our new Nursery starters who joined us in recent days.

Involvement in Easter / holiday activities

We shared several opportunities for children and families to get involved with various activities over the Easter holiday. It is always great to see how many Eastlea children take up these opportunities. We were very pleased to see how many were able to join in with the Rockets sports/rugby camps despite the soggy ground and wet weather in the first week of the holiday. Six families also braved the heavy rain last Tuesday to attend the Y5/Y6 STEM communities event at Woodhorn Colliery Museum. The feedback which I have heard has been very positive and we hope that there will be follow up sessions in the coming months.

We are looking forward to seeing how many children were able to join in with the **School Games Easter Activity Challenge!** Most of those who did have already returned their coloured 'Easter egg' sheet ...but if there are any more to come in please can we receive them as soon as possible!

Summer weather

We have had more than our fair share of rain in recent months, and all have our fingers crossed for some brighter weather over the next term. Getting the grass cut on the field has been problematic due to the wet ground, but we hope to allow access to the field at lunchtimes as soon as we are able to do so. On sunny days please apply sun cream before children come to school if appropriate. A cap/hat would also be a good idea. Water bottles should continue to be brought in every day – there are a few children who are forgetting which makes things awkward in school. Thank you!

Uniform and PE kits

As we start the summer term we have planned as many outdoor sessions as possible for our summer PE topics. Class teachers will keep you informed about which days PE kit is required and on these days school tracksuits or **PLAIN** dark blue or black jogging bottoms/leggings can be worn as well as the school sweatshirt or PE hoodie and trainers. Blue/black shorts can also be worn (perhaps under the school tracksuit to cover all weather options!)

On the days when there is no PE, then school uniform should be worn as usual with black school shoes. Grey/black 'uniform' shorts can be worn or blue/check summer dresses etc. If cartwheels, handstands or other 'gymnastic' moves are to be undertaken on the field at breaks or lunchtimes then trousers/shorts must be worn for obvious reasons!

Remember pre-loved Eastlea uniform can be obtained FREE of charge from the Hope Centre in Cramlington. Rather than buying new items for the remaining weeks of the school year, this might be a good option before the summer holidays.

Reception allocation of places for September 2024

As was the case last year we have a small number of families who have children attending our Eastlea Nursery who have not managed to secure a place for their child in our Reception class for September 2024. This is a difficult situation which I know has been upsetting for those concerned. We all feel very sorry about this but it is totally out of our hands. We are bound by what is called 'infant class size legislation' which means we are legally not allowed to go over our school admission number of 30 in Reception. Families who did not secure a place have all been allocated their second choice of school. If you feel we can be of any more help with this situation then please continue to liaise with me so we can support you with transition arrangements in the coming weeks/months.

Northumberland School Games
Easter Activity Challenge

Northumberland
SCHOOL GAMES

- Can you complete activities and decorate the Easter egg?
- Choose activities from each list. As you complete each activity colour one of the sections of the egg.
- Return your completed sheet to school after the holidays to get your certificate

Get ACTIVE - Pink

- Take part in an Easter Egg Hunt
- Play a ball game with family or friends
- Climb, hang, slide and swing at the local park
- Use your scooter or bike to visit family or friends
- Go for a walk with your family
- Make up a dance to your favourite song

Be SOCIAL - Yellow

- Challenge your family and friends to an egg and spoon race
- Hold a teddy bear's picnic
- Make something Easter themed to give as a present
- Help with some jobs around the house
- Bake or help cook a meal with a family member
- Plant some bulbs, seeds or flowers

Engage your BRAIN - Blue

- Try Geocaching with an adult
- Decorate an egg
- Make and play a board game
- Learn a magic trick and show it to family or friends
- Whilst outdoors, find something starting with each letter of the alphabet
- Read a book
- Write a poem or story

Go OUTDOORS - Green

- Look for baby animals
- Fly a kite
- Visit a beach, woods or the countryside
- Search for a rainbow
- Whilst outdoors, listen for 10 different things you can hear
- Watch a sunrise or sunset

#MAKEACTIVEMEMORIES

Residential visits

The Year 5 children had a super time away at Hawkthirst this week. The weather was kind and Miss Fox noted how fabulous the children were in challenging themselves to get involved in all the different activities and new experiences. The children were a pleasure to take away and huge thanks go to the staff who were willing to arrange the visit and accompany the children for the 3 days. Later this term it will be Year 6's turn to enjoy an Eastlea residential visit when they head to York in June. **A reminder that any final payments for this visit are due by Monday 22nd April.** Thank you!

Reading books and water bottles...a reminder!

At the start of May we will be presenting the first of our Planets GOLD reading awards. Most of the children are still on track with this year's reading challenge which is great news – thank you for your support with this. If you are not regularly seeing and signing your child's reading record then please get in touch with their class teacher so we can work with you to get them back on track!

As we mentioned in a newsletter earlier this year we regularly remind children to take extra care with school reading books which are brought home each week for them to read. We do still have some books that have been damaged due to water bottles being kept in reading folders which then leak and ruin the books. These then have to be paid for to be replaced. Your support with this is much appreciated!

Parking

The issues with parking continue, but as usually happens we hope that the better weather in the summer term will encourage **more children where possible to walk to school or use their bikes/scooters** to come to and from Eastlea each day. A big thank you to those who have realised the benefits of **parking at the Church of the Nazarene** and are walking from there – it really does only take a few minutes to do this.

Can we please ask that those who do still continue to use their cars and come right into the estate, do so with care and consideration for local residents, pedestrians and other car users. The area by the school gates is distinctly marked for emergency vehicle access and should be **KEPT CLEAR** of cars. Thank you!



It would also help if those who park near to the school leave promptly having dropped off or collected their child so that the space is available for someone else – this might also help to ease congestion. Thank you!

A meeting has been arranged for the coming week with local councillors, residents and representatives of the county Highways team to discuss whether any more can be done to reduce the impact of the number of cars around the school at drop off and collection times. Everyone recognises that this is a problem for all schools and I will let you know if there are any suggestions made which can help to further improve the situation and make things as easy as possible for all concerned.

Online safety

You will no doubt be aware from recent media coverage that the need for online safety continues to be a high priority for all families. Please remind your children of what they need to do to remain safe when online especially if they are taking part in games where there is a chat facility and links can be made with 'unknown' people. The children know that they must not share passwords or personal information on line and we also advise them to tell an adult if they are concerned about anything. Children have also been advised that they should not be added to any social media 'groups' without permission and we would recommend keeping parental control settings high and monitoring your child's internet use.

And finally... a calendar of events planned for the rest of this half term is included below together with a list of the clubs which are running before school, at lunchtimes and after school in the coming weeks.


Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

Events and activities for the first half of the summer term

| What's on | When and who? |
|--|--|
| Year 5 residential visit to Hawkhurst | Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th April |
| Rocksteady class band sessions | Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 16 th April |
| Athletics coaching (PE) | Tuesday afternoons from 16 th April (Y3 and Y5) Thursday afternoons from 18 th April (Y4 and Y6) |
| Breakdancing taster sessions | Morning of Wednesday 17 th April (Y3/Y4/Y6) |
| Net/wall/invasion games (PE) | Wednesday afternoons from 17 th April (Y1 and Y2) |
| Specialist French / Spanish tuition | Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y5/Y6 led by Mme Taylor from 17 th April and Monday afternoons for Y3 led by CLV staff from 15 th April |
| Specialist Music tuition | Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 17 th April led by Miss Midgley and Mrs Hedley |
| 1 st Educational Visit to Nissan – Monozukuri Caravan | Tuesday 23 rd April (Year 6) |
| Educational Visit to Whitehouse Farm | Tuesday 23 rd April (Reception) |
| Educational Visit to Newcastle Castle | Tuesday 23 rd April (Year 2) |
| Newcastle Foundation follow up visit to St James' Park | Tuesday 23 rd April (Year 3) |
| 'Phototronic' class photos | Tuesday 30 th April |
| Local Elections – polling station in the computer suite (<u>Eastlea open as normal</u>) | Thursday 2 nd May – <u>Eastlea open as usual</u> |
| Presentation of the first GOLD Planets reading challenge awards | Friday 3 rd May |
| MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY – Eastlea closed | Monday 6th May – Eastlea closed |
| Quad Kids Athletics competitions at Astley | Morning of Thursday 9 th May (Year 4) Morning of Thursday 23 rd May (Year 6) |
| SATs Saturday <i>Mrs Stafford will share more information about this nearer the time</i> | Saturday 11 th May (Year 6) |
| KS2 SATs week | Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May (Year 6) |
| Moki Band 'battles' versus other Cramlington schools | Monday 13 th May (Year 3) Monday 20 th May (Year 6) |
| Children's Cancer Run | Morning of Sunday 19 th May (Y4/5/6 running club) |
| RE Focus day – Jewish festivals (KS1) and Christians – Pentecost (KS2) | Monday 20 th May (Reception to Year 6) |
| 2 nd Educational Visit to Nissan – Eco-school | Tuesday 21 st May (Year 6) |
| AIM High Maths workshop at Shanklea | Wednesday 22 nd May (group of pupils from Y3/Y4) |
| May GOLDEN DAY | Friday 24 th May |
| Break up for summer half term holiday | Friday 24th May |
| Pupils return for second half of the summer term | Monday 3 rd June |

Clubs

| Before school | Lunchtime | After school |
|---|--|---|
| Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). This costs £2.50 per day.  | KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Tuesdays (from 23 rd April) (£2 per session) | Irish Dancing Club on Mondays (Rec to Y6) (£24 for 6 weeks) |
| | | Gardening Club on Mondays (from 22 nd April) |
| | | Rounders club for Y3/Y4 on Tuesdays (from 23 rd April) |
| | | Munchie Maths Club for Y6 on Tuesdays (16 th , 23 rd & 30 th April / 7 th May) |
| Bacon Butty Literacy Booster for Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am (19 th & 26 th April / 3 rd May) | Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays | Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on Wednesdays |
| Bacon Butty Literacy Booster for Y6 on Wednesdays from 8am (17 th & 24 th April / 1 st & 8 th May) | Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays | KS2 Violin Progression group for on Wednesdays |
| Street Dance Club for Reception on Wednesdays from 8am in the school hall | KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£2 per session) | Summer sports club for Y5/Y6 on Thursdays |