



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back for the second half of the autumn term. I hope everyone had a good half term break and returned ready for the seven school weeks which take us up to Christmas!

PE kits

In light of our strong focus on PE/Sport, can I take this opportunity to emphasise how important it is for the children to have a PE kit in school during the week so that whenever PE lessons/sports coaching sessions occur, the children are suitably prepared for their lessons. As the cooler autumn/winter weather arrives the children should have suitable outdoor trainers and can also wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms to keep warm. Your support with this is appreciated.

Attendance and punctuality

In support of our continuing drive to improve attendance and punctuality the 'weekly attendance champions' trophy and 'punctuality' plaque are awarded each week with great excitement! We are continuing to have real success in terms of encouraging good punctuality and attendance at Eastlea. I hope you will be interested in the following 'headlines' from the first half of the autumn term:

Attendance (One winner per week)	Reception – 3 times	Year 1 – once	Year 2 – once	Year 3 – twice	Year 4 – 3 times	Year 5 – twice	
Punctuality (often shared by 2 or 3 classes each week)	Reception twice			Year 3 – twice	Year 4 – 3 times	Year 5 – 5 times	Year 6 – once

Year 6 have yet to win the attendance trophy – something to aim for this half term!

The 'party poppers' were used a record 10 times last half term to celebrate a class gaining their target of 100% attendance!! I hope we can use just as many this half term as well!!

- **Reception** won our overall award for the **best attendance** for the first half of the autumn term – in total they won the weekly trophy 3 times – and their average for the half term was 97.4% – well done!
- We had joint winners for the certificate for the certificate for the **best punctuality** during the half term – **Year 4** and **Year 5** had only 7 'lates' recorded in total during the half term – very good!
- We have plenty of pupils who are on track to gain individual 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term – and I hope they have a healthy seven weeks in the run up to the Christmas holiday!

Children whose percentage attendance falls below 90% are now classified by the government as 'persistent absentees' and separate letters have been sent to families of those individuals who fell below this figure in the first half of the autumn term.

Parent Governors

Last half term I asked for any expressions of interest from parents who wanted to consider becoming a parent governor at Eastlea. I am delighted to say that we have secured the support of two parents who are currently being set up/verified by county as new governors. Mrs Samantha McKeown (parent of Max and Alyssa) and Miss Katrina McDonough (parent of Holly) will join Mr Spencer Brown (parent of Verity and Freyja) and Mrs Samantha Rickelton (parent of Jack, Heidi and Harry) as the four parent governors on our Governing Body. Thank you!

Parent Questionnaire

We were delighted with the level of response to our recent parent/carer questionnaire with almost three quarters of families providing feedback on 'how things are going' at Eastlea. In answer to the questions on the first page the staff were rightly very proud of the following outcomes in terms of the percentage of parents who agree/strongly agree:

- My child is happy in school 99%
- My child is well looked after 100%
- My child feels safe 95%
- My child makes good progress 100%
- My child is taught well 99%
- My child receives appropriate homework for their age 98%
- Eastlea is well led and managed 99%
- Staff respond well to any concerns I raise 96%
- I receive valuable information from staff about my child's progress 98%

- Eastlea provides a good range of additional opportunities for pupils 99%
- Eastlea makes sure its pupils are well behaved 94%
- Systems are in place to deal effectively with instances of bullying if they occur 80% (*with a further 14% 'not sure' as they have not had any experience with this!*)
- Would you recommend Eastlea to another parent 98%

In terms of the other written comments these have been shared with staff and governors. Many parents commented on the success of our Golden Days and behaviour reward systems, the wide range of extra activities available for the children, the focus on reading and the incentives offered and the fact that staff are always available to discuss concerns. Issues raised by parents have been considered and will be addressed as appropriate and the overwhelming positive response is something we do not take for granted. Thank you! Please remember that we offer an 'open door' policy at Eastlea and that if any parents do have concerns or issues to raise then we are always willing to arrange for this to happen.

Events planned for this half term – including advance notice of some Christmas dates...as we are aware how important it is to get these key dates in the diary!

What's on	When and who?
Fire Brigade visit school to lead firework safety sessions	Monday 2 nd November – all day [all classes]
Final Basketball coaching session	Tuesday 3 rd November (Year 5)
Lunchtime 'Professional football coaching'	Tuesday lunchtimes from 3 rd November for 6 sessions (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Fiddles project – class tuition	Continuing on Wednesday afternoons from 4 th November (Year 5 and Year 4 pupils with Mr Boyle)
Autumn term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 4 th November at 4pm
Before school 'Street Dance' club	Thursday mornings from 5 th November - 8am (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Running club	Thursday lunchtimes from 5 th November (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Flu 'nasal spray' immunisations	Tuesday 10 th November – afternoon (Year 1 and Year 2 pupils)
After school 'Eastlea Singing club'	Continuing from Wednesday 11 th November for 4 weeks (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Hoopstarz experience day	Monday 9 th November – all day [pupils from Reception to Year 5]
Hoops for health basketball tournament at Blyth Leisure Centre	Thursday 12 th November – all day (two teams of pupils from Year 5)
Children in Need Day - Pennies for Pudsey 'Superhero'/Pudsey non-uniform day coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	Friday 13 th November – morning 'Pennies for Pudsey' [see earlier letter!]
Friendship week	Week beginning Monday 16 th November (activities coordinated by Brainwaves)
NSPCC assembly/workshop sessions	Monday 16 th and 23 rd November (Year 5 and Year 6)
Yoga	Monday 16 th and 23 rd November – afternoons (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils)
PE/Sports school kitemark presentation event	Tuesday 17 th November – evening (group of 4 pupils)
Parliament Outreach workshop	Thursday 19 th November – afternoon (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)
Hula Hooping festival at Blyth Sports Centre	Friday 20 th November - morning (Year 3)

What's on	When and who?
After school KS1 Christmas Craft Club	Monday 23 rd and 30 th November and 7 th December (group of 12 pupils from Year 1 and Year 2)
Non-uniform day – bring in prizes for the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair	Friday 27th November (all pupils)
Presentation of autumn term writing awards	Monday 30 th November
Nursery new intake visit	Tuesday 1 st December: 9.00 – 10.00am (Nursery pupils due to start in January)
Indoor Sportshall Athletics competition at Concordia	Wednesday 2 nd December – morning (Group from Year 5/Year 6)
Eastlea Christmas Fair Coordinated by the 'Friends of Eastlea'	Friday 4th December 3.15pm – 4.45pm
Scholastic Book Fair delivered to school	w/b Monday 7th December – parents welcome to come in and have a look/place orders
Christmas productions <i>(Further details and ticket orders nearer the time!)</i>	Nursery/Reception: Thursday 10 th December (9.30am) Year 1/Year 2: Thursday 10 th December (1.45pm) and Friday 11 th December (9.30am) Yr 3/Yr 4/Yr 5/Yr 6: Thursday 10 th December(2.30pm) and Friday 11 th December (10.15am)
Cramlington 'Big Christmas Sing' at CLV	Friday 11 th December – afternoon/after school (KS2 Singing club – parents/carers invited to attend this event – which includes performance and refreshments – more details to follow nearer the time)
Christmas carol singing at Hartford Court care home	Morning of Monday 14 th December (KS2 Singing Club members)
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas party	Monday 14 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Presentation of autumn term maths awards	Tuesday 15 th December
Christmas lunch <i>(Further details of cost and menu soon)</i>	Tuesday 15 th December
Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party	Tuesday 15 th December – afternoon (further details to follow)
Nursery and Reception Christmas party	Wednesday 16 th December – morning (further details to follow)
Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas' church	Wednesday 16 th December at 2pm (Reception to Year 6 – parents/carers welcome to join us)
Golden Day	Thursday 17th December (all pupils who have followed our behaviour policy)
KS2 Christmas parties	Friday 18 th December – morning (class based events for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6)
School closes for the Christmas holiday Early finish at 2pm	Friday 18 th December (early finish at 2pm)
School reopens for the spring term	Tuesday 5th January 2016 (N.B. Staff training day on Monday 4 th January)

Yours sincerely,
E Beeston

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher