



Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half term of the school year comes to an end tomorrow! For everyone I think it has felt a very **LONG** 8 weeks but despite all the new procedures and changes which have had to be in place and everything that we have all had to deal with I feel that we have had a very successful return to school. This was reflected in the 'settling in reports' which were sent out yesterday (which were written in place of the October parents evenings).



Just a few reminders

I am very grateful for your positive involvement with our return to school process and the way that you have supported all the new protocols which have been in place to keep everyone safe.

There are a few things you can help us with to ensure things run even more smoothly...

- the start times of either 8.45am or 9am are merging into one longer arrival time in some cases. Please can we ask that unless a separate arrangement has been made due to multiple siblings in one family, **pupils in Nursery/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 should arrive at 8.45am** and those in **Reception/Y1/Y2 come at 9am**
- to help reduce the number of people on site there should only be **one adult per child** at drop off and collection times
- please try to **limit the time spent lingering** on site or around the school gates/entrance points as this reduces the opportunities for potential transitory meetings
- in many cases, children having **smaller bags** would allow for more space in the cloakroom/peg areas which will help staff in their quest to limit the number of lost/missing items
- **reducing the number and size of charms/key rings/ etc attached to reading folders** would also make it easier for pupils to fit their folders in their trays – THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support

Despite everything that we have had to put in place in terms of keeping 'Covid secure', we have managed to have as many events and activities as possible in recent weeks which have been extremely well supported by parents/carers and families – thank you once again...

- The launch of our **Rainbow reading challenge** saw **£184** raised from contributions made by the children for our reading resource funds. *The theme has proved to be very popular – and remember that all children are asked to read over the half term holiday next week (or practise their letter sounds in Reception) – and this will ensure they get their next star on the bronze bookmark!*
- Our 'Active October' activities have been superb and very well received – including the **Dance Blast launch event** as well as our **walk to school** week, bike/scooter to school week which culminated in the superb **Bling your bike/snazzle your scooter challenge**, our **Harvest Welly Walk** with generous donations for **Cramlington foodbank**, the Year 5 Bikeability course, the return of our Daily Mile challenge and the start of our **Park and Stride** initiative (Smarter Parker) thanks to backing from the Church of the Nazarene.

Modeshift Stars SILVER Award

We have just been presented with the **SILVER** Modeshift Stars Award. The silver star will be added to our plaque in the main entrance and shared with the children at the Zoom assembly this week.

Modeshift stars is the 'National School Travel Awards Scheme' established to recognise schools who have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel to promote and improve the health and wellbeing of their pupils. We had to complete 30 different initiatives linked to these areas over a period of two years.



We are really proud of this award, however in true Eastlea style we are now going for gold!

Active October Half term holiday information

The Eastlea children have loved taking part in our Active October events this month. Over half term, if they would like to continue to stay active then the most recent Brainwaves letter provided a couple of suggestions of things they may wish to get involved in. We hope you enjoy the **Scavenger Hunt** and the **Halloween At Home activity booklet**.

October Golden Day tomorrow – last day of the half term for pupils (staff training day on Friday 23rd)



Tomorrow we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year and almost every child has earned the right to take part which is great. The day will have a **Halloween theme** and is a non-uniform day (with no fine to pay). If the children wish to dress up for this they are very welcome. We know that they won't be able to get out 'trick or treating' this year but in school we hope to ensure they have some fun with class based activities.

The usual start/finish times will apply and we have a Halloween themed 'Friday menu' for those who have a school dinner. For any attending breakfast club we also have some Halloween treats in store!

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2020 – a reminder

If you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (deadline is 31st October). **It is essential that you apply before the deadline so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or the school of your choice.**

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal opens on 1st November and closes on 15th January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16th April 2021.* Please note that **even if your child is currently attending our Eastlea Nursery then you must make an admissions application for Reception** in September 2021. The information about this is all on the Northumberland County Council website (school admissions).

Advance notice of charity/school events after half term

We will let you know full details of what events and activities we will be able to organise when we return after the half term break, but here are just a few highlights to mention for November...

- As usual, we hope to have poppies on sale to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion** in the first week back ready for Remembrance Sunday on 8th November
- Children in Need takes place on Friday 13th November and although it will be in a slightly different 'class based' format, we will still be having our annual '**Pennies for Pudsey**' appeal

'Team Northumberland' buffs and leaflets

For children in Year 1 upwards we will be sending home a Northumberland 'buff'/mask which they can use at home if they wish to help stay safe when out and about in the community. These were delivered to us in school earlier in the week and are part of a local campaign to protect our county. A leaflet is being sent home together with the **FREE** 'buff' with each child explaining the campaign.

Wellies!

If you will need them to have their **wellies** at home over the half term then please make sure they take them home! We would like to have them back after half term so that we can access the outdoor areas – so if they can bring their wellies back in a named bag to keep on their peg/in the cloakroom that would be great. Thank you!

And finally... don't forget that the children break up for half term after Golden Day on Thursday at their usual time.

Please stay safe and well over the half term and we will see everyone again on Monday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston
Head Teacher