



Dear Parents/Carers

### Welcome back!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we start our next school year, and especially to any families who are 'new' to Eastlea. I hope you feel happy with the way your child has settled and are getting used to any new routines and procedures. This letter includes lots of information – some of which will be 'reminders' for those who have been part of Eastlea for a while!

### School uniform and PE kits – don't they look smart!

We were so pleased with how smart the children looked in their uniform when they returned last week. Thank you! We know many of the items were 'new' so it would really help if **all uniform/PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name**. This is so important and helps to avoid things to go missing.

Children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' **ONLY**– which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). **Hoodies and tracksuits should NOT be worn on other days**. Remember that if your child has **plain totally black trainers** then these can be worn to school on any day as part of school uniform in an effort to keep down the costs of having to have different footwear.

The current PE days for each class are as follows. If other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers so you know if PE kit is required at other times:

- \*Reception – Wednesday (\*starting later this half term)
- Y1 – Wednesday
- Y2 – Wednesday & Friday
- Y3 – Monday & Tuesday
- Y4 – Thursday & Friday
- Y5 – Tuesday & Friday
- Y6 – Monday & Thursday

Please remember that your child is not allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery in school. Thanks for your support with this. For those with pierced ears, clear plastic spacers must be worn rather than earrings which keeps them safe in school. These can be easily purchased, but **if anyone is stuck we can offer sets of these spacers from the school office**.

It is also important to ensure that your child's hair is tied back as this helps to avoid problems which can occur when hair is left loose.

**Remember**...pre-loved school uniform can be obtained from (or donated to) the **Hope Centre** in Cramlington. Other items of clothing (not school uniform) can be 'recycled' in the Eastlea **Clothes Bank** which is on site alongside the bin store (near the Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4 entrance gate). Every kilogram of clothes helps raise money for the school. Thank you!

### Arrival/Departure times

Staff will be on hand at the wooden gates/entrance ways to greet your child when they arrive, with doors opening at 8.45am. Work/activities will begin as soon as your child enters the classroom so **it is important that your child arrives at 8.45am ready for a prompt start to learning each day**.

The school day finishes at **3.15pm**. To try to avoid congestion we do tend to dismiss Year 1 and Year 2 a few minutes earlier than this – to make space for Year 3 and Year 4 at 3.15pm who leave from the same exit doors. As soon as you have collected your child please make your way home to avoid congestion on site/in carparks. We have some little people in Y1/Y2 who are looking out for their families/carers and can't see past tall adults!! THANK YOU.

Nursery and Reception children will be dismissed from their gates promptly at 3.15pm (or a few minutes earlier) to allow for a slightly staggered departure. Year 5 and Year 6 will be brought out from the main entrance at 3.15pm and can be met from the main gate, or head home independently.

### An update on illness/absence

We all know that the importance of regular attendance cannot be emphasised strongly enough. It is so important for children to be in school and we know that we can rely on your support with this. Our aim is to increase the percentage attendance for the children and we will be taking on board the new guidelines which came into effect in August for monitoring and supporting families with any attendance issues.

**Holidays in term time should be avoided wherever possible, but if there is an exceptional circumstance where your child needs to be absent from school then please inform us in advance.**

If your child is unwell they will need time off school, *e.g. if they have a high temperature or sickness and/or diarrhoea*. If your child does have sickness or diarrhoea then they are required to be off school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had the runs. This protects everyone in the school community.

**Please can we ask that if you need to inform us about absence that you do so by ringing the school office**. Messages on Tapestry/Seesaw/Facebook cannot be monitored during the school day due to staff teaching in class, so if you have an urgent message it is important that the school office is informed directly.

### **‘Flu Immunisations – please complete the online booking form**

Children from Reception to Year 6 are able to have their annual nasal ‘flu immunisation in school on the morning of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Parents/carers must book this online with the school immunisations team. The online consent can be accessed via any online device using the following school code **NB122191**. Please do this ASAP. **A letter with a link was shared before the summer on Tapestry/Seesaw and will be resent for anyone who did not receive it.** If you have any problems then speak to someone in the school office or Miss Beeston.

### **Bikes and scooters**

We continue to encourage pupils to come to school on a bike or scooter and have storage racks at both sides of the building. Bikes/scooters should be wheeled to the storage racks when on the school site. It is very important that any bikes/scooters which are left on the school premises are locked in order to keep them secure. **Helmets can be kept in school, and we would strongly urge all children who have a bike/scooter to wear one to keep them safe.**

### **Dogs at the gates**

Please can I give my annual reminder about dogs at or around the school gates. Dogs, even if they are on leads, can be intimidating to younger children (and some adults too) so we must insist that **no dogs are allowed on the school grounds/premises and also no dogs should be brought too near to the school site for the safety of all concerned.**

### **A reminder about parking**

As you know, traffic congestion and parking difficulties are problems at all schools. At Eastlea the issues we face tend to centre around double parking/blocking narrow estate roads, inability to access driveways for residents in the local neighbourhood and hazards caused to pedestrians with cars parked on pavements.



These are some of the things we can all do to help alleviate the problems with parking:

- If it is possible, **please try to walk to school or encourage your children to use their bikes or scooters**. Bikes/scooters can be safely locked up on site on the cycle/scooter racks provided.
- We would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the ‘**park and stride**’ scheme which is in operation and allows you to park at the Church of the Nazarene carpark and then complete a short walk to school. This hugely reduces parking problems and the families who use it say it is **MUCH EASIER** and **FAR LESS CONGESTED**.
- If you have to use your car due to the distance needed to travel to and from school then **please park as considerably as you can**. The community police / council staff will be continuing their periodic patrols of all school sites to offer advice and monitor the situation.
  - The estate roads are narrow and if cars are parked on both sides then this can block the road for other vehicles and make access to local houses/driveways difficult. This would cause a major hazard if an emergency vehicle needed to get through.
  - Where single white lines are in place on smaller estate roads this indicates that the narrow roads could be easily blocked by cars, so avoid parking here and do not park on the ‘Keep Clear’ zone at the school gates.
  - Try not to block pavements in the surrounding area – leave space for pedestrians to pass
  - And finally, please try not to hang around once you have dropped off/collected your child so that spaces are cleared quickly for others to use where possible.

### **School Lunches, break time fruit, NO NUTS PLEASE and water bottles (for water only!)**

The school lunch menus remain the same as before the summer holiday and are on a 3-week cycle [w/b 9<sup>th</sup> Sept = Week 2]. Copies can be obtained from the school office or are on the school website. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can still take advantage of the **FREE** meals available for all children thanks to the government’s ‘Universal’ offer, and also have fruit provided at break times.

Remember that 30-hour Nursery meals are charged at £2.20 per day (£11 per week) and for children in the older classes, paid meals are £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week). **Children are asked to bring their dinner money to school in an envelope clearly marked with their name/class/amount on the day or in the week that the meals are taken.** Mrs Bainbridge from the school office will be in touch if money is owed.

Fruit can be brought in by older children for break times if they wish and **ALL** children should have a named water bottle with them each day – this should be of a standard size and contain **WATER ONLY** not juice.

**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 in advance for your support with this.

If parents are in receipt of benefits and are entitled to 'Free School Meals', even if your child is in Reception/Year 1/Year 2, it is important that these are applied for in the usual way so that parents can continue to access free meals for their child even if government policy changes and so they have the option to order free milk. At the same time Eastlea will also receive the pupil premium funding to which we are entitled. If you have any questions about this then please speak to Mrs Johnson in the school office.

### Holidays and other planned absences

As you know, national guidelines regarding school attendance mean that leave of absence during term time can only be granted by head teachers in exceptional circumstances. **Any family holidays/absence should wherever possible be taken during the designated school holidays.**

If you do need to take your child out of school during term time for any reason it is vital that we know in advance when your child is not going to be in school so a leave of absence form should be completed before the intended absence. These are available from the school office. **Failure to notify school will mean that planned absences are automatically unauthorised.** There is space on the form to indicate why the absence may be deemed an 'exceptional circumstance'. Each case will be considered individually. We have been well supported by parents in recent years with our common sense approach to this situation and will update you with any revised information regarding the new national guidance on attendance.

A reminder of the holiday dates for this school year is listed below for your reference:

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
October Mid-Term 2024 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Thursday 24 October 2024 <b>FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2024</b>	Monday 4 November 2024
Christmas/New Year 2024/2025 <b>Staff training Days</b>	Friday 20 December 2024 <b>MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2025</b>	Tuesday 7 January 2025
Spring Mid-Term 2025	Friday 21 February 2025	Monday 3 March 2025
Easter 2025 <b>May Day</b>	Friday 11 April 2025 <b>Monday 5 May 2025</b>	Monday 28 April 2025
Summer Mid-Term 2025 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Thursday 22 May 2025 <b>FRIDAY 23 MAY 2025</b>	Monday 2 June 2025
Summer 2025 <b>Staff training Day</b>	Friday 18 July 2025 <b>MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2025</b>	Tuesday 2 September 2025

### School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception (2025)

I know it seems a long way off, but if you have a child due to start Year 7 next September the admissions portal opens on 12<sup>th</sup> September and applications need to be submitted straight away (the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October). **It is essential that you apply in good time so that a place is allocated at Cramlington Learning Village or another secondary school of your choice – you will receive confirmation about places on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.** Any queries, please contact the school office.

For parents of Nursery pupils who are due to start in Reception next September the admissions portal will open from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 15<sup>th</sup> January – *you will receive confirmation of places on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.*

### Two items which need to be returned to school please

As is always the case at the start of September, there are a couple of other documents which will be sent home with your child and need to be returned by everyone (*other than those new to Eastlea who have just completed them!*) Rocket points are on offer for your child for a prompt response!!

#### 1. Medical information

Whether or not your child has a medical condition please complete and return the medical information sheet – **even if you feel that we 'already know' about an issue.** So many changes can occur with medical information that you will appreciate that we need an annual update.

#### 2. Permission for school visits/food tasting 2024-2025

- School visits are an important part of our broad and rich curriculum at Eastlea – and as you know we aim to go 'out and about' as much as possible, as well as taking part in sports events and making links with other schools etc. To help to reduce the number of times we need you to complete permission

slips we have attached the usual annual consent form which will be used to grant permission for all non-residential school visits for this school year for which no cost/voluntary contribution is required.

**If you grant permission for your child to take part in school visits we will continue to inform you when a visit is due to take place and provide you with the usual letter so that you know where your child is going, what they need and any special arrangements for the day – it will just remove the need for you to send a permission slip back to us.**

- There are also times when teachers provide opportunities for children to try different foods as part of their class work – for example in relation to their topic work. As always Eastlea follows the usual food hygiene requirements when doing work of this nature. **If you give permission for your child to taste food as part of their school work this year, this will save the need for separate letters/permission slips during the year.** We will take notice of any allergies which you alert us to and be sensitive to requests if there are certain foods which you do not wish your child to taste for religious or cultural reasons. **If your child has a new diagnosis of a food allergy or medical condition during the year it is very important that you let us know.**

#### **N.B. ‘Consent for images and videos’ – photo permission**

We are required by law to have consent which complies with GDPR regulations and will continue to use the existing permissions we have in place unless you inform us otherwise. For children new to the school we therefore ask that our consent form linked to taking photographs/videos of children in school or for use in newspaper articles, websites or Facebook is completed and returned – this will be sent home separately by Mrs Atkinson (our E-safety Coordinator).

*There may be a need to amend out permissions form in the coming months linked to updated guidance. If there are changes, then we will send a revised letter home to anyone who requires one.*

#### **‘Operation Encompass’ and ‘Operation Endeavour’ – annual reminder**

Eastlea continues to be part of initiatives promoted by Northumberland County Council together with Northumbria Police to support better communication between key agencies to promote the safeguarding of children.

**As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children’s Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff.** This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to (Operation Encompass). The same procedure also happens if for any reason a child goes missing from home. As a result of better multi-agency communication, information about this will be shared with schools (Operation Endeavour).

Copies of the most recent letters outlining these details from NCC, can be found on the school website [*About Us – information and policies – safeguarding policy*]. If anyone requires more information or would like a paper copy of the letters then please contact me in school.

#### **Events planned for this half term**

On the final pages of this ‘bumper’ first newsletter you will find an outline of the usual wide range of events and activities planned so far for the Eastlea children for the first half of the autumn term as well as details of the before school, lunchtime and after school clubs. There will be further information sent out about some of the events a little nearer the time.

#### **ASDA Cashpot for schools**

I hope you will have seen the information we sent out about the ASDA scheme which is providing funds for primary schools. Eastlea is set up on the CASHPOT scheme and we are enrolled in Parentkind, so if you use the ASDA rewards app then **please nominate Eastlea to receive the ‘cashpot’ funding!**  
Thank you!



**AND FINALLY...** we are continuing to reduce the number of paper copies of letters that are sent home this year. Following this initial letter, future newsletters and general updates on school events will be shared electronically via Tapestry/Seesaw and the school website. **Letters requiring the completion and return of a ‘reply slip’ will still be sent home with pupils in the usual way.** We can also arrange to have a spare paper copy of letters provided from the school office if needed – please let your child’s class teacher or Miss Beeston know if this is required.

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

## Eastlea events for the first half of the autumn term 2025

What's on	When and who?
Basketball/ball skills/dodgeball coaching in PE lessons	Thursday afternoons from 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Y4/Y6) Tuesday afternoons from 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Y3/Y5)
Specialist French tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y3/Y5 from 6 <sup>th</sup> September led by Mme Taylor
Specialist Art tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y1/Y3 from 6 <sup>th</sup> September led by Mrs Tweddle
Specialist Computing tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Y4/Y6 from 6 <sup>th</sup> September led by Mrs Powells
'Brainwaves' elections	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September (whole school elect Y5 and Y6 representatives)
Sports Leader interviews and training	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> /Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 10 <sup>th</sup> September (groups from different classes)
Writers workshop at Shanklea Primary	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September (group of pupils from Y6)
Phototronic individual/family photos <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September (morning)
Specialist Music tuition	Wednesday afternoons for Reception/Y2/Y4/Y5/Y6 from 18 <sup>th</sup> September led by Music Hub tutors
<b>Launch event for the 2024-25 Reading Challenge</b> <i>[information will be shared in a letter this week with an invitation for a family member to join us at a 'time slot' in the afternoon (or morning for some in Nursery) to get your child started on this year's challenge.]</i>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September (whole school)</b>
Hooping workshops	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September (Year 3/Year 6 Sports Leaders)
Educational visit to Gosforth Nature Reserve	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 1)
RE Day	26 <sup>th</sup> September (Reception to Year 6)
Summer Library Reading Challenge celebration 'picnic'	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September (any children who completed the summer library 'Marvellous Makers' reading challenge)
First Aid workshops	Friday afternoons from 27 <sup>th</sup> September (Year 6)
<b>Eastlea hosts a 'Pearl of Africa' Dance / Choir Event / concert</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September (whole school – more details to follow)</b>
<b>ACTIVE OCTOBER BEGINS</b> <i>[further details about activities for this 4 week event to follow]</i>	<b>From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>
<b>Nasal 'flu immunisations</b> <i>[see letter sent via Tapestry/Seesaw – parents need to complete on online booking]</i>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October (Reception to Year 6)</b>
Parents appointments <i>[further details to follow]</i>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October and Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October (afternoon/evening)
<b>GOLDEN DAY</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Staff Training Day – school closed for pupils</b>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Pupils return for second half of the autumn term	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November

## 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><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> (£2 per session)</p>	<p>Y5/Y6 Gardening Club on <b>Mondays</b></p>
		<p>Circus Fitness for Y1/Y2 on <b>Tuesdays</b></p>
		<p>Bike club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> (later in September/early October)</p>
<p>Street Dance Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b> in the school hall</p>	<p>KS1 Professional football coaching for Y1/Y2 on <b>Wednesdays</b> (£2 per session)</p>	<p>Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b> (from 18<sup>th</sup> September)</p>
		<p>Violin Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b> (details to be confirmed - from 18<sup>th</sup> September)</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 a rota basis on <b>Thursdays</b></p>	<p>Dodgeball club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b></p>