



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week brings to an end the 8 weeks of the first half of the autumn term. We have had a very 'active' time with such a lot happening since the new school year started in September and have been very grateful for the support you have provided for our many events and activities – **THANK YOU!**

- The launch of our **Castles themed reading challenge** saw **£183** raised for reading resources. We had a super turn out at the launch event – THANK YOU! The reading challenge has caught the imagination of almost all the children who are now in good routines with reading at home and getting their reading record books signed. The bookmarks are filling up with the weekly star stickers and we will look forward to our first Bronze awards being presented in early December. **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!**
- Over the summer holiday we were delighted with the number of children who took part in the libraries '**Marvellous Makers**' summer reading challenge. **52** Eastlea pupils completed the challenge and as well as their certificates and medals received from the library they were rewarded with a reading celebration picnic thanks to Mrs Lister.
- Our latest **parent appointments** were extremely well attended and once again there seemed to be a really positive atmosphere in the hall on both afternoons/evenings. **Thank you for making the time to come and see your child's class teacher.** We will analyse the responses to the questionnaires and feedback on this next half term. If anyone did not get the questionnaires and would like a copy, please call in to the school office.
- Our new team of Brainwaves have been very enthusiastic about the activities they have planned for Active October. We have had a super 4 weeks of varied events and opportunities for all classes:
 - Week 1: **Walk to school week** with stickers for those arriving on foot presented by the Brainwave 'wizards' at the school gates. Our **Castles challenge run** (which **Year 4** were the first to complete), the first of Sainsbury's workshops led by Gemma – making fruit cones and healthy salads, **KS2 Heelies workshops**, the start of weekly **Little Movers** sessions for our younger children and a rugby festival for Year 3 supported by our Year 6 sports leaders. Our **KS2 Moki band challenges** also started with **Year 3** winning the class award for being the most active in the first week.
 - Week 2: **Environmental week** with our Hike for Harvest around Horton Park, 272kg of food donated for the **Cramlington Foodbank**, KS2 **litter picking** in the school grounds and the local area, rugby workshops led by the Rockets for Reception to Year 4, the first of our Drumba sessions and Year 5 and Year 6 completing their Sainsbury's food making challenges. Well done to the **Orange rocket group** who won the next KS2 Moki band challenge!
 - Week 3: **Bike/scooter to school week** with Brainwaves presenting stickers to the many children who came to school on bikes/scooters, a colourful **Bling your bike / Snazzle your scooter** parade on the playground, Bike security marking, a visit to the Blyth Rugby club for Year 5 and Year 6 and **Cheerleading** fitness workshops for all classes. We had some superb feedback from Tracey who led these sessions from Kidzrfit...the behaviour of the Eastlea children was described as impeccable! The **boys** won the gender Moki band challenge – well done to them!
 - Week 4: **Stay safe and healthy week** with the nasal 'flu immunisations, **Dogs Trust** safety workshops, the last of the First Aid sessions for Year 6 and playground games workshops for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

N.B. We continue to encourage the children to keep active and hope that as many as possible can continue to walk, cycle or scooter to school after half term. If a car is the only option, then please make use of the **Park and Stride facility from the Church of the Nazarene**. Parking is so much easier there and the children seem to enjoy the few minutes walk along the path, under the underpass and up to the school.

Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

The children in KS2 are showing great interest in our TTRS personal challenges and battles. We are always keen to celebrate pupil achievement in learning and becoming fluent in recalling their times tables facts. We have presented a **ROCK HERO** certificate already this year and our lunchtime club for KS2 has often been oversubscribed with children keen to beat their scores or raise their standing within TTRS.



We have some children who have turned their **HEAT MAP GREEN** either for the first time or a repeat achievement from last year, and at the assembly last week presented the first **SOUND CHECK 25 GOLD MEDAL** of this school year. I wonder who will be next to earn a TTRS award?

October Golden Day – last day of the half term for pupils



On Thursday this week (24th October) we will be celebrating our first Golden Day of the school year - something everyone is looking forward to.

Remember that Thursday is a **non-uniform day** with **NO FINE TO PAY**. Children from Reception to Year 6 will be walking up to the Vue cinema in the morning and then back to school after the film for their special Golden Day lunch. If your child wants to have the hot dog, chips, cookie and juice meal then money should be paid in the usual way (£2.50 for Year 3/4/5/6 and £2.20 for Nursery). **The children will finish at their normal time and this is their last day of term – as the staff have a training day on Friday 25th October.**

For Nursery, their activities will have a Halloween theme and Halloween costumes can be worn.



ASDA Cashpot

We continue to keep a close eye on our 'Eastlea' total in the Cashpot scheme arranged by ASDA. Each week in assembly we have seen the total increase and today the value is **currently £574.90**. The fundraising scheme lasts until the end of November so we have another 5 weeks left. I wonder what our final total will be?

HUGGG half term vouchers

Having thought that these vouchers were due to stop at the end of the last school year, I am pleased to say that once again, families entitled to benefit based free school meals will receive an email/link to enable them to access a £20 HUGGG voucher for groceries etc over the half term break. Supermarket vouchers can be used for groceries or uniform/clothing if these are available in store. Please note that these vouchers have an expiry date (1st December 2024) and must only be used for buying the food/clothing.

School Admissions for Year 7 and Reception 2025 – a reminder

As far as we are aware every Year 6 parent has now made an application on the Northumberland admissions portal to secure their child a place in Year 7 for September 2025. If anyone has not yet done this then the portal is still open and any remaining applications need to be submitted straight away (the 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 secondary 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 2025*. Please note that **EVEN IF YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING OUR EASTLEA NURSERY then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception September 2025.** 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 further events and activities when we return after the half term break, but here are just a few highlights to mention for November...

- We will have poppies on sale in the first week back to raise funds for the **Royal British Legion** ready for Remembrance Sunday on 10th November.
- **Friendship week** takes place in the week beginning Monday 11th November. This will be the next focus for our Brainwaves team and we have a real treat planned with a theatre performance in school on the afternoon of Monday 11th which we know the KS1 and KS2 classes will enjoy.
- 'Children in Need' takes place on Friday 15th November and we will be having our usual dress up day and annual '**Pennies for Pudsey**' appeal...so now would be a good time to start collecting coins!

And finally... don't forget that the children break up for half term after Golden Day on Thursday at their usual time. Look out for the **ACTIVE JOURNAL** which Brainwaves will be sending home with the children to record the time they spend being active over the half term week. Completed journals can be sent in after the break!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 4th November.

Yours sincerely

Miss E Beeston, **Head Teacher**

