



Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half of the autumn term started successfully last week and this newsletter will share some important reminders as well as details of what we have planned for the 7 weeks run in to Christmas.

### School Admissions for Reception 2025 – a reminder

For parents of pupils due to start in Reception next September please remember that the admissions portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

It is very important that you complete an application for a place as soon as possible. **Even if your child currently attends our Eastlea Nursery then you must make an admissions application for a place in Reception** September 2025. Here is the link to the portal where you can apply. First time users will need to register an account. [http://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](http://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

If you require any help or need advice please email the school admissions team on [schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk) or contact Mrs Shimmin / Miss Beeston in school.

### PE days for each class and uniform reminder

The current PE days for each class are listed below – if other activities are arranged you will be informed by class teachers if PE kit is required at other times:

- Reception – Friday
- Year 1 – Wednesday
- Year 2 – Wednesday and Friday
- Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday
- Year 4 – Thursday and Friday
- Year 5 – Tuesday and Friday
- Year 6 – Monday and Thursday

Remember that children are asked to come in their PE kit on 'PE days' ONLY– which could be one of the Eastlea tracksuits (including hoodies). Joggers should be plain, without lettering please. **Hoodies should NOT be worn on other days.**

- You may have seen the lost property 'tables' outside last week. Please can we remind everyone that uniform/hoodies/joggers/coats etc **must be named**. Unnamed uniform items can be very difficult to locate and return if they go missing. Your support with this is appreciated.
- As you know earrings cannot be worn in school. Transparent plastic spacers can be provided from the school office as a safer alternative for those who need them. Thank you.

*Remember that the **Hope Centre Uniform and baby bank** is available for collection of good quality school clothing (and they also welcome donations of pre-loved uniform too). **This service is FREE!** They can be contacted by email on: [hope1uniform@gmail.com](mailto:hope1uniform@gmail.com)*

### Parking

Please continue to park considerately without blocking roads/driveways and aim to use the 'park and stride' opportunity from the Church of Nazarene where possible to avoid congestion outside of school. This proved to be a more popular option during Active October and we would love it if this continued. Thank you! We have taken delivery of two 'parking buddy' signs and the Brainwaves group will be sorting out where these will go and arranging an assembly for the school to highlight the need to park considerately outside school.

### Parent/Carer Questionnaire

We had a very high turnout at the parent appointments before the half term break. Appointments can still be arranged for the small number who were unable to meet their child's teacher – please just contact them to arrange a time.

We were also delighted with the level of response to our parent/carers questionnaires with 74% of families returning the questionnaire about mental health and wellbeing as well as providing feedback on 'how things are going' at Eastlea. In answer to the questions on the first page of the general questionnaire the staff were again very proud of the outcomes in terms of the percentage of parents who agree/strongly agree:

- My child is happy in school **98%**
- My child does well at Eastlea **99%**
- My child feels safe at Eastlea **99%**
- Eastlea has high expectations for my child **98%**
- There is a good range of subjects available to my child **98%**
- Eastlea supports my child's wider personal development **98%**
- Eastlea staff make me aware of what my child will learn during the year **96%**
- When I raise concerns, Eastlea staff deal with issues appropriately **97%**
- Eastlea lets me know how my child is doing in school **98%**
- My child can take part in clubs and activities at Eastlea **99%**
- Eastlea makes sure its pupils are well behaved **98%**

- Eastlea has systems in place to deal quickly and effectively with instances of bullying if they occur **97%** (this includes 61% who said this was N/A as they had no experience of it)
- Eastlea gives the support pupils with SEND need to success **96%** (this includes 54% who said this was N/A as their child did not have SEND needs)
- I would recommend Eastlea to another parent **99%**

In terms of the other written comments these are being shared with staff and governors. Suggestions for improvement are being considered and those that can be actioned will be addressed. Lots of parents commented on the welcoming, caring and ‘family feel’ of Eastlea with the fact that staff were approachable and friendly rated very highly. The wide range of experiences offered to the pupils was also noted as a strength especially in terms of both curriculum opportunities and clubs/activities which go beyond that offered elsewhere. The way learning was made fun yet at the same time challenging pupils was also something several families mentioned. Our communication strategies were also rated highly with parents feeling that they were kept informed in good time of events that were happening in school. There was a high demand for a session for parents about mental health in school and Miss Fox is looking at options to arrange this.

**The overwhelmingly positive response from parents is something we never 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.



### Attendance

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of an update on attendance (which is also being sent out as a paper copy). In the letter an attendance ladder outlines the percentages we are aiming for in terms of pupil attendance and how important it is for your child(ren) to be in school every day. How we monitor attendance in school is also outlined as well as the incentives there are for pupils in recognising good attendance/punctuality, your role within this and how we can help if there are any problems.

If there are any issues you wish to discuss further about attendance, then please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

### Clubs and events for this half term

We have lots of clubs planned for this half term and most letters about these have been sent out already. Letters for clubs starting later this month will be sent out nearer the time.

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
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>  <b>This costs £3 per day if booked/paid for in advance or £3.50 if children just turn up on the day</b>	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> (£2 per session)	Irish Dancing Club for pupils from Reception upwards on <b>Mondays</b> (£25 for 5 weeks)
		Christmas Craft Club for a group of Y1/Y2 on <b>Mondays</b> for 3 weeks from 25 <sup>th</sup> November
		Circus fitness club for Y3/Y4 on <b>Tuesdays</b> Bike club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Tuesdays</b> for 4 weeks from 12 <sup>th</sup> November
Street Dance Club for Y1/Y2 on <b>Wednesdays from 8am</b> in the school hall	KS1 Professional football coaching on <b>Wednesdays</b> (£2 per session)	Singing Club for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>
		Violin Progression lessons for group of Y5/Y6 on <b>Wednesdays</b>
<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 Sessions cost £3.00 plus 50p per extra child. 	Running Club for Y4/Y5/Y6 on a rota basis on <b>Thursdays</b>	Ball games club for Y5/Y6 on <b>Thursdays</b>

## Events for this half term

The list below contains outline details of what is in the diary so far for the coming weeks including dates for the Christmas events. Further information will be shared about certain activities nearer the time.

**Please note that for those parents who are used to the 'normal' pattern of when the school Christmas productions take place, there are some changes this year as we are aiming to do a joint production for all children from Y1 to Y6 which we will present 4 times over two days.** This is in addition to the usual single performance of the Early Years nativity (Nursery and Reception).

What's on	When and who?
Poppies for sale for Royal British Legion	From Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
Rocksteady class band sessions	Continuing on Tuesday mornings from 5 <sup>th</sup> November (class bands from various year groups)
Ball skills / Handball / Rugby coaching in PE lessons	Tuesday afternoons from 5 <sup>th</sup> November (Y3/Y5) Thursday afternoons from 7 <sup>th</sup> November (Y4/Y6)
Specialist music, French, Computing and art sessions	Wednesday afternoons for Reception to Year 6 from 6 <sup>th</sup> November
Gymnastics coaching in PE lessons	Wednesday afternoons from 6 <sup>th</sup> November (Y1/Y2)
<b>Friendship week – “Choose Respect”</b>	<b>w/b Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>including RAVEN theatre production for KS1 and KS2 classes on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November...see separate Brainwaves letter</i>
England Rocks – TTRS focus for KS2 classes	from Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November
Autumn term Full Governing Body meeting	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November (4.30pm)
Author visit to CLV with Jack Meggitt-Phillips	Morning of Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November (Y5/Y6)
<b>Children in Need ‘Pennies for Pudsey’ fundraising event</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – whole school [Pudsey dress up day... see separate letter ...please bring in coins]</b>
Hoopstarz Festival at Newbiggin	Morning of Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November (team of children from Y3 with small group of Y6 sports leaders)
Thunder in the Valley basketball tournament and visit to Newcastle Eagles match	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November – after school/evening (teams from Y5/Y6 and KS2 children/families)
Anti-bullying/safety workshops led by David Burn	Morning of Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November (Year 5/Year 6)
Visit for new Nursery pupils who are due to start in January	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November (after school) <i>[details have been shared with these families]</i>
Presentation of autumn term Writing awards	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November
RE Theme Day	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
Science session led by CLV staff	Afternoon lesson on Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November (Y6)
<b>Non-uniform day to bring in raffle prizes for the Christmas Raffle</b>	<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – whole school</b>
Presentation of first of our Bronze Castles reading challenge awards	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Presentation of autumn term Maths Awards	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Early Years Christmas workshops in the school hall for parents/carers and pupils	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December at 2.30pm (Reception) Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December at 9am (Nursery)
Rocksteady class bands concert	9.10am Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December (whole school plus parents/carers of children involved)
Year 6 prepare a Festive meal for a guest	1.45pm on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December – <i>more details to follow</i>
OWLETS toddler group Christmas party	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December from 9.00 – 10.30am
<b>Christmas Fair... and Eastlea Christmas Jumper day</b>	<b>THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> December 3.15pm – 4.45pm</b> <i>[more details to follow]</i>
School Games ‘Santa Dash’	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December

<b>What's on</b>	<b>When and who?</b>
Scholastic Book Fair in school	w/b Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December – <i>more details to follow</i>
KS2 Singing Club and Violin group mini concert	3.45pm on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – <i>for parents of children involved in these clubs</i>
<p><b>Christmas productions</b></p> <p><i>(Please note that we are providing advance notice of the dates/times which are different to previous years – there will be further details sent out nearer the time!)</i></p>	<p><b>Nursery/Reception:</b> one performance only for Early Years on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December (9.30am)</p> <p><b>Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6:</b> joint production for all these year groups which will be performed 4 times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December (10.20am) <i>[after the EYFS production]</i></li> <li>• Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December (2.30pm)</li> <li>• Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December (9.30am)</li> <li>• Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December (2.30pm)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Christmas parties</b></p> <p><i>[more details to follow...we will be asking for a £1 donation per child to fund refreshments]</i></p>	<p>Afternoon of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Reception, Y1, Y2</p> <p>Morning of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery and</p> <p>Afternoon of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6</p>
<p><b>Christmas lunch for pupils</b></p> <p><i>(Further details of menu nearer the time)</i></p>	<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Carol Singing at Sainsbury's, Manor Walks	10am on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (Year 6)
<b>GOLDEN DAY</b>	<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Start of the Eastlea Christmas holiday	<b><u>2PM</u></b> on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Staff Training Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Pupils return for the spring term	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston  
**Head Teacher**

## Eastlea Attendance Guide for Parents



Our Designated Attendance Lead is Miss Beeston, the Head Teacher.

Parents/Carers will receive regular updates on attendance from school and the Head Teacher and all the staff monitor attendance daily, weekly, half termly and termly. Children are encouraged and rewarded in school for classes/individuals who have high levels of attendance and the staff make it clear why excellent attendance is so important:

- Weekly attendance trophy/letters home for the class with the highest percentage attendance
- Assembly 'Party poppers' for any class achieving their target of 100% attendance
- Punctuality plaques for classes who have no 'lates' recorded or fewer 'lates' than the week before
- End of term certificates for any child who has not missed a day of school
- Special rewards for children who have 100% attendance for the whole school year!

### Why is regular school attendance so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships. A regular and punctual attendance pattern will help your child when they go to secondary school and later enter the world of work.

**The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear:** the more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.



### Attendance Ladder



### Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. At Eastlea we think that 96%+ attendance is what every child should really aim for.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

### Punctuality

Schools are legally required to take a register of pupils twice a day. At Eastlea the day begins at 8.45am and the register is taken first thing in the morning and at the start of the afternoon session.

Good punctuality is important because if, for example, a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year! Patterns of poor punctuality are something that is also discussed with the school's Education Welfare Officer.

### **Holidays during term time**

No term time leave of absence for holidays is routinely authorised at Eastlea.

Parents/Carers who choose to take their child out of school without written permission from the school may be issued with a fixed penalty fine.

Only in exceptional circumstances may a head teacher grant permission for leave of absence in term time.

### **How can I help my child attend school regularly?**

- Talk to your child about school.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Keep in touch with school staff by telephone or Tapestry/Seesaw if there is an issue.
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason.
- Attend parents' evenings and other school events.

### **What should I do if I'm worried about my child's school attendance?**

The first thing to do is to contact the school to discuss your concerns so that we can see if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

### **What are my responsibilities regarding my child's school attendance?**

As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to ensure that any child of compulsory school age attends school both regularly and on time. The local authority has a duty to make sure that all parents/carers fulfil this responsibility.

### **What will happen if my child does not attend school regularly?**

School staff will contact you if there are concerns about your child's attendance. Support will be offered where we can. If we see no improvement, or there are particular difficulties involved, a referral can be made to the Education Welfare Service to see what help they can provide.

### **What if I do not seek support and my child's school attendance does not improve?**

Parents whose children are on a school register and fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child(ren), may be guilty of an offence under Section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996 and the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice or take enforcement action through the Courts to secure regular attendance.

### **How will regular school attendance help my child?**

Eastlea gives your child a wide range of opportunities and experiences in the form of academic lessons, educational visits, activities and school clubs allowing them to develop their interests and achieve their full potential. Regular school attendance means that your child can make the most of their education and the opportunities Eastlea has to offer.

*If you need any more information about the systems in place to monitor attendance at Eastlea please just ask Miss Beeston, and if there is any further support that you feel we can offer then talk to your child's class teacher.*