

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Spring End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another busy and exciting term at Eskdale. Once again, the hard work of all associated with the school has ensured that your children continue to receive an enriching and 'memory making' school experience. A perfect time therefore to thank all the staff of Eskdale, P.T.F.A, volunteers, governors, parents/carers and of course our wonderful pupils for making this school such a special place. Have a well-deserved and restful Easter break.

ESFA Schools Football Week

We finally got to the end of our small sided football competition for girls and boys across all years earlier this half term after a number of postponements due to the weather.

After a number of games during lunchtimes we had two league winners face each other in finals. In the girls final, the Marvellous Minions beat the Cheese Toasties 3-0 and, in the boy's, final Emmanuel's Amazing Champions beat Zach and his Little Minions 3-0. Winning teams received a mini trophy and runners up a medal with all children celebrated in assembly!

A great way to end the tournament! Well done to all those pupils who took part, not forgetting all those football squad children who volunteered to referee the matches!

World Thinking Day

It was great to be able to support the Guides and Scout movement's 'World Thinking Day' by inviting pupils to attend school in their club uniform. I was astonished to see how many children we have in school who are part of the movement- they all looked fantastic! Many thanks to all those pupils who took part.



Y5 Assembly Romeo & Juliet

Y5 wowed parents and carers as they performed an amusing take on the Shakespeare classic 'Romeo and Juliet'. A perfect time to celebrate this classic tale both as part of Make Time to Read month and National Shakespeare Week. The children were excellent, remembering all their lines and delivering a great performance that was enjoyed by all. Well done to all those pupils who took part, thank you to Mrs Briggs, Miss Tabram and the Y5 team for a huge effort (in such a short timescale too!) and finally a huge thank you to over 100 parents/carers who were able to come and watch!

PTFA Easter Egg Colouring Competition

Busy as ever, our P.T.F.A set pupils the challenge of designing and colourfully decorating an Easter egg in the hope of receiving a chocolaty prize. All pupils were given a small treat for participation and the following winners were rewarded with a chocolate Easter egg:

Y3- Sophie Dorsett - Runner up Raven Yu
Y4- Frankie Owen - Runner up Quorra Thapa
Y5- Emelia Sohal - Runner up Jessica Weston
Y6- Grace Jenkins - Runner up Edith Russell



Torch Bearers Initiative

We began our trial of our Torch Bearers initiative this half term. Y6 pupils were incredibly lucky to have parent and Historian Dr Gritt visit school to talk to the children about what it is like to think, read and write like a Historian. In an excellent session, pupils found out more about what a Historian does and the skills and knowledge that are needed as well as the range of jobs that also utilise those skills. Many thanks to Dr Gritt for taking the time out of his busy schedule to support both the school and our Y6 children. We have had a number of parents/carers approach school about becoming Torch Bearers. More news on this to follow...

Football

We began our football league campaign this half term with a number of football matches-both league and friendly fixtures for both boys and girls. In our first league fixture, the boys couldn't replicate the success of the girls earlier this term, losing 7-4 to Trowell Primary in an entertaining encounter. They had better luck against Albany Junior, winning 6-0 in an away fixture. In friendly games, they beat John Clifford Academy 7-1 and drawing 1-1 in a challenging match with Fairfield Spencer Academy. The girls continued their winning ways, beating Bramcote Hills Primary 4-3 in a home fixture (many thanks once again to parent Mr Ward for his support for the girl's team) A huge well done to all those children have taken part this term. Lots more football to come for both teams in the summer term!

Netball

Our netball team began their season of fixtures. In the first match, they lost 14-1 to a strong John Clifford side and in their second match, narrowly lost out to Wadsworth Fields Primary 5-4 (despite being ahead in the later stages of the match!). Many thanks to Miss Hackett, Miss Groves and Mrs Prokaza for their work with the team and well done to all those children who have represented school-here's hoping for some better luck for the team in the summer term!

Grandparents Lunch

It was lovely to see grandparents from across all year groups join us for an opportunity to read (as part of Make Time to Read month) with their grandson or daughter followed by a meal with the children of Eskdale and then finally having their arm twisted to purchase a book at the Book Fair! Many thanks to all those grandparents who were able to join us and to the huge team of staff (and pupils!) who made this event possible: Mrs Dorn, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Clowes, midday supervisors, our pupil servers and not for getting Mrs Wharmby and Miss Tredgold in the school kitchen!



PTFA Book to Film Nights

Our fab P.T.F.A organised two great films 'book to film' nights for pupils across school in support of Make Time to Read Month. Y3 and 4 enjoyed the film adaptation of the Ted Hughes classic the 'Iron Giant' while Y5 and 6 watched the big screen version of 'The Spiderwick Chronicles' by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black. All pupils were able to enjoy a bag of popcorn and eat all manner of sweet treats while enjoying the films. Many thanks to P.T.F.A members Mrs Heath and Mrs Owen for their hard work and support for



Bikeability

It was great to welcome back Bikeability to Eskdale earlier this half term. Y6 pupils who hadn't previously taken the opportunity were able to sharpen their road-safety skills as they looked to navigate our busy roads! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching experience for the children.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Thank you to all those members of staff who have taken the time to enrich the children's experience at Eskdale this term. Commando Joe for his morning and after school club, Mrs Bennett and Miss Graves for School Council, TAS for homework club, Mrs Dorn for Library Squad, Miss Knightsbridge for cross-stitch, Ms Howes for Young Voices Choir, Miss Tabram for Maths Ambassadors and Miss Groves and Miss Hackett for netball and Mrs Kiraly for Book Club. We are constantly looking for more opportunities to provide for the children outside of the school day and there is more to come in the summer term.

Discover Rugby

It was great to be able to host an afternoon of tag Rugby for both Eskdale and other local schools, supported by Michael Green from Nottingham rugby. The children had a fantastic time with many playing the sport for the first time! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this great opportunity for the children.



Comic Relief 2023

It was a pleasure to see our take care value in action as we took part in fundraising for Comic Relief with the theme this year being 'do something funny for money'. Pupils didn't disappoint wearing all manner of wild and wonderful additions to their school uniform for a small donation to this worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone for making this such a memorable day. School raised £114.00.



Bikes & Scooters

As we enter into the warmer months, we typically see more pupils wanting to bring a bike or scooter to school. Please remember, you will need to have signed the school contract (available at the school office) for your son or daughter to take advantage of this opportunity and above all else, **ensure that they have a helmet to wear** for their safety. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Make Time to Read Month

We celebrated all things Reading throughout March this term with Mrs Dorn putting together a huge menu of opportunities for pupils, parents (AND grandparents!) Assemblies had a reading theme, looking at pupil's (and Mr Scruton's!) reading journey, poetry as part of World Poetry Day as well as celebrating National Shakespeare Week.

Parents/carers were invited into school for tours with Mr Scruton and Mrs Dorn to find out more about how reading (and writing) are taught in school and had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see the teaching of reading and writing 'live'. Thank you to all those parents/carers who provided such positive feedback from the experience. Those pupils who read throughout the month with increased frequency were able to enter into our 'Reading Raffle'. Our popular 'Book Swap' returned with a huge number of books being donated so pupils could exchange their older books for a new read! The Scholastic Book Fair was back with many pupils buying a new title, enabling school to raise £1090.04 to be able to be spent on reading in school.

Teaching staff became a 'Secret Story Teller' at the end of the school day, appearing in a different year group to read to pupils.

All staff and pupils took part in 'Drop Everything and Read' over the month where as soon as the school bell tolled, everyone literally dropped everything and read! In Shakespeare week, pupils found out more about this notable figure in our country's literacy history in assembly and back in classrooms experienced some Shakespearean language through studying some of his most famous works. For World Book Day children were invited to create/make a clue from their favorite story with the winners all getting to choose a fabulous new book to keep from our Book Fair. There were some truly amazing entries which are now on display in the school reception. Well done to the winners!



Bake and Read made a welcome return with all year groups tucking into a cake treat while reading with a parent/carer. In addition to this, our Library Squad planned three reading themed events that pupils could participate in across the month. The first, a 500-word story competition for pupils in Y3 and 4, a reading challenge and a reading Bingo activity. Mrs Kiraly also ran an after-school Book Club. Children read our Book to Movie Night book of the Spiderwick Chronicles and investigated Spiderwicks Field Guide.



Easter Egg Competition

It was great to welcome back our annual Easter Egg competition. Always a highlight of the spring term, pupils demonstrated high level of creativity to produce something truly original. Despite a lower number of entries than previous year, the standard was egg-specially high, making it egg-traordinarily difficult to pick winners!

Y3-Winner: Thomas Gordon
Runner up: Alyssa Gray

Y4-Winner: Jayme Rae Shepard
Runner up: Oneth Jayasekara

Y5: Winner: Phoebe Hadley
Runner up: Aoife Miller

Y6-Winner: Oliver Chesterton
Runner up: Grace Jenkins

All winners and runners up received a chocolate Easter egg and all those who took part were rewarded with a little Easter treat.

Winners:



Entries:



PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Many thanks to our fabulous P.T.F.A who organised an Easter egg hunt around the school grounds at the end of this term. All the children who took part had a great time answering the Easter-themed questions and then searching for the answers to win some chocolatey prizes. Many thanks to parents Mrs Heath and Mrs Owen for organising this lovely moment for the children and to all those volunteers that were able to support the event on the night. A huge thank you also to all those parents/carers and pupils who took part-over a 100!



Trent College Story Celebration Evening

It was a privilege to be invited to Trent College to see if our Y5 and 6 pupils had been successful in the recent 500 words writing competition earlier this term. Hosted by the college and children's author Alex Foulkes (of Rules for Vampires fame) Eskdalers Oliver in Y6 and Phoebe and Aoife in Y5 listened nervously as 10 of the stories from over 200 hundred entries were read out. We were all thrilled to hear Phoebe's story make the shortlist then waited with anticipation to see if her story had made the top 3 that would be selected for prizes. In an amazing end to the evening, both myself, Mrs Dorn, our Eskdalers and their families were thrilled to hear Phoebe announced as the overall winner! A fabulous moment for Phoebe and her family and a proud moment for Eskdale Junior! Well done to all those children who took part!



Arrival Time at School a Polite Reminder

It has come to my attention that we have had an increasing number of pupils arriving at the school gate on Ghost House Lane up to 30 minutes before the gate opens. This term we have had more than one incident where pupils have been playing outside the school gate during this time. In one incident, the children were covered in mud after slipping on the grass and the other, a pupil was found walking around with a huge lump of wood that had been found! Can parents ensure that their children are arriving at school no earlier than 8:35am in anticipation of the school gate opening at 8:45am. School staff are unable to supervise pupils before 8:45am outside of school. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Y4 Musical Performance

Y4 pupils impressed parents and carers as they demonstrated their musical talent, learning and knowledge gain from their music time with Ms Howes this term. The children were excellent, showing a wonderful understanding of the musical elements, with a particular focus on percussion. Pupils played a range of percussion instruments: Boomwhackers, triangle and tambourine before showcasing their expertise through a rendition of the Star Wars theme tune! Such a pleasure to see how much the children have learnt. A huge well done to all the children and many thanks to Ms Howes for her excellent work with the children.

Extra-curricular clubs

We have worked incredibly hard to try and offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities since the pandemic to ensure the children continue to have an enriching experience at Eskdale. We have recently noticed an increase in parents consenting to their children attending a club and then the pupil deciding not to attend without speaking to school nor getting notification from a parent/carer. We are committed to ensuring that pupil remain safe and this presents a safeguarding challenge for school. Please can parents notify school if their son or daughter is not going to attend a club or if children have parent/carer permission to walk home after clubs, so that we can update registers and keep pupils safe at all times.

Reminders!

Children return to school on **Monday 15th April** for the start of the summer term.

Week Commencing 15th April Year 6 Mock SATS Week

Friday 19th April Year 4 visit Beaumanor

Wednesday 24th–Fridays 26th April – Year 5 Residential

PE Kit/Kit for Clubs

A polite reminder to all parents to check the weekly menu to see when P.E days are and for any other events that require a change of clothes for physical activity. P.E kit (as stated on the uniform expectations on the school website) should be:

- ✓ House coloured t-shirt which must have the school logo
- ✓ Black shorts or tracksuit (shorts typically for summer months, tracksuit bottoms for winter months)
- ✓ Trainers
- ✓ Red school jumper or cardigan in colder weather

In addition to this, please can parents support their children in preparing any change of clothes for either a club or school team event the night before. We are experiencing an increase in the number of children requesting to call home during the school day because they have forgotten one part, or all of their change of clothes. This is very disruptive for the school office/staff and of course for parents/carers too.

Have a happy and safe Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton
Head teacher

