

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year! I hope everyone has had the opportunity to have a well-deserved break over the summer and are ready to start a new and exciting term at Eskdale!

A particular warm welcome to all our new parents and children who are starting with us this term. It has been fantastic to see the children return with such happy faces and enthusiasm for learning!

We start the year once again with an increased focus on expectation and standards in school. For the most part this is about getting the simple things right so your children are as prepared as they can be for school and for the range of opportunities that will be presented to them over the year-making a strong start to the new year.

Reading

We are dedicated to enabling our pupils to become lifelong readers and we believe reading is key for academic success and progress in all curriculum areas, even Maths! At Eskdale, reading for pleasure is key and we strive to develop in our pupils a real love and thirst for reading a wide range of genres, (including heritage texts) and to provide experiences that will lead to rich language development in order to empower them with the breadth of vocabulary that they can then build upon to achieve in the future.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming an avid reader, who is fluent and confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their learning and wider lives. Although your child will be taught to read and analyse text at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing to help them practice and develop their reading skills at home.

Encourage your child to read as often as possible

- We'd love children to read five times a week for between 10 – 20 minutes per day (but understand that a minimum of 3 times per week could be more manageable for some).

Ask questions to support your child's understanding

- Children initially develop both fluency in reading and understanding of what they are reading alongside each other. Please take the time to ask questions about the books your child brings home. A full set of questions for both fiction and non-fiction texts can be found in your child's organiser.

Reading to your child

- Your child gains so much from hearing you read a story to them, no matter how old they are. Listening to stories provides children with an understanding of how stories are structured, it develops their vocabulary, and it helps provide a context for meaning.

Every year group has a set of Reading Challenges to be completed throughout the year (found in the Eskdale Organiser). These vary and are designed to be fun and engaging so please take the time to have a look at your child's organiser and encourage full participation. Mrs Dorn will send out further information about our curriculum and reading shortly.



Reading
IS A
PASSPORT
TO
COUNTLESS
ADVENTURES



Uniform

At Eskdale, our minimum expectation is that House t-shirt, school jumper and Eskdale book bag have the school logo. The start of a new school year is a great opportunity to get the simple things such as uniform right and I will be writing to parents separately with further details. The school website details the correct uniform expected and I would encourage parents to check this or ring school if they are in any doubt. Can I remind parents not to send their children to school in trainers as they are not school uniform (P.E days are the only exception-see our weekly menu for details as to when P.E days are). Pupils should not attend school wearing nail varnish, jewelry or earrings that are not studs. School jumpers or cardigans are an important part of being identifiable as an Eskdale Junior School pupil. It contributes to both their sense of belonging as an 'Eskdaler' and their readiness for school. Please ensure your son or daughter has a jumper/cardigan with the school logo and that this is red and no other colour, eg: black or grey. If parents/carers experience any challenges with uniform, they must not hesitate to contact school. Thank you in advance for your support.



Attendance and Punctuality

We enjoy consistently high levels of attendance at Eskdale. Last year our overall attendance peaked at 97% and rarely fell below 96%. In addition to this, an increasing number of children were rewarded for 100% attendance each term. Pupil attendance must not fall below 95% and if this is the case, will become a cause for concern. Please support us in aiming high to achieve our whole school target of 97%! A reminder to all parent's/carers that it is a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school every day. It is essential for continuity in learning and so that they do not struggle socially at school. It is important that children attend unless they absolutely cannot. Please be aware that poor attendance can result in parents being referred to the Local Authority be fined. All leave of absence requests (formally holiday requests) are treated on an individual basis and any request greater than 3 or more days could also incur a referral for a fine from the Local Authority. I will write to parents separately with further guidelines on both attendance and punctuality. Thank you in advance for your support.



House Colours/ PE Kit

A reminder to ensure that you have purchased a house t-shirt for your son or daughter-this should be worn for P.E. Please be reminded that the PE kit is the school uniform for PE days. Children should wear black shorts/leggings or joggers with their house t-shirt and red school jumper or cardigan for cooler days.

Contact Details

Please remember to update the school office with new home/mobile phone numbers and email addresses if they have changed over the summer holiday. These are essential pieces of information for school to have and are important in case of emergency. Please can new parents return contact forms to the school office asap if they haven't already done so. Thank you.



Communication

A reminder of the different ways that we communicate with parents to ensure that all parents/carers feel as informed as possible.

ParentMail is our main source of communication. This is often for reminders, important messages and updates. I do appreciate that on occasion there may be times where parents may receive a number of ParentMail messages but I urge you to read these at all times. We may also use text messages for urgent communications. Each week we share a weekly menu. This details our assembly theme, reminders, food menu, clubs and other opportunities that are happening during that week. MarvellousMe is used as part of our behaviour system and parents will receive a weekly communication if your son or daughter has met school expectations for the week. This is also used to communicate pupil success. School has an 'X' account (@eskdalejunior) This is used to share notable events in school and a great way of seeing how the children's experience at Eskdale is being enriched.

Finally, I write a newsletter to parents at the start and end of each half term detailing events that have been happening in school.



School Newsletter

Communication with Class Teacher or Other Staff

There may be occasions where parents need to communicate information about pupils, changes in circumstances or want to discuss either education or welfare matters with school. For minor day to day communications parents/carers can either share these with myself at the school gate or speak to the school office, where messages or information can be passed on to adults in school. For more personal day to day communications that need to attention of the class teacher, please call the

school office or email mail@eskdale.notts.sch.uk or office@eskdale.notts.sch.uk to arrange a suitable time to organise a meeting or telephone call. Please can I ask that parents/carers avoid the start of the school day for these types of conversations as it can be disruptive to the children's routines. For other conversations that may need my attention, please be aware that I have an open-door policy and for the most part can see parents at short notice (please be aware there may occasions when I already have commitments such as meetings and therefore may have to arrange a more suitable time) Much as I appreciate the convenience of emails, I always prefer to speak to parents/carers face-to-face or over the telephone. In my absence, Mrs Dorn (deputy head teacher) can be available. Can I ask that for any day to day communications about pupils in class parents/carers speak to the class teacher first as often any concern can be resolved at that stage. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

STARS Before & After School Club



Our before and after school club 'S.T.A.R.S.' consists of breakfast club from 7.30am to 8.50am and after school club which is open from 3.25pm to 6pm. STARS create a home from home atmosphere providing secure, safe and healthy care, before and after the school day, which builds on home life by providing a healthy breakfast/tea time snack, instilling good homework habits, improving speaking and listening skills by talking about the school day, working with parents to understand every child's needs. Each day, the children have the opportunity to join in a range of activities. This can include reading/homework time, board games, table top toys, outdoor play, craft/art activities, sport and much more. Activities will take place in the school bungalow, in the bungalow garden area or on the school grounds, where all of our play equipment is age appropriate. Our club sessions are available at a competitive price of £7 for breakfast club and an after-school session of £11.50. Please contact the school office for further information or to obtain an application form.

Clubs

Over the school year we will endeavour to provide a range of clubs that pupils across school can take part in. For physical activity clubs, pupils will need a change of clothes that is suitable. Please can parents also ensure that they are aware of the end time of clubs (this is typically 4:15 or 4:30pm) so that arrangements are in place for collecting their son or daughter or their safe return home. If arrangements change, please can school be informed. Thank you.

Events and Activities

Our school calendar this term looks busy and full of opportunity. Please note that there may be occasions where events or opportunities are moved or additions are made due to unforeseen circumstances. We endeavour at all times to ensure this isn't the case however if this does occur, please look out for ParentMail messages or updates on communications from school.

Medicines in School

Eskdale Junior School is a is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with medical conditions. This school aims to provide all pupils with medical conditions the same opportunities as others at school. We will help to ensure they can. Legally, schools are not compelled to administer medication to children or to supervise a child taking it because of the risks involved. At Eskdale staff will administer medication on short term or occasional basis. Parents/carer are required to complete a consent form which is available from the school office, verbal instructions will not be accepted. Where possible parents should try to administer medications outside of school hours (for example 3 times a day antibiotic taken before school, after school and before bedtime). For pupils who regularly need analgesia (e.g. painkillers like calpol for migraines or ongoing issues), a individual supply of theirs can be kept at the school office. Over the counter medications will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances, and be treated in the same way as prescribed medication. **All medication** requires a Consent Form to be completed and all medication will be stored securely in the school office with the exception of emergency type medications such as epi pens or inhalers.

TT Rockstars

Pupils knowing and understanding their times tables is the bedrock of all mathematical understanding and can be a huge contributor to pupils making outstanding progress in the subject. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun way of improving children's understanding and recall of times table questions. It is important that pupils consistently use TT Rock Stars to improve and strengthen their knowledge of multiplication as this is the basis for a lot of the children's mathematical learning. Thank you in advance for supporting your children.



Marvellous Me

A reminder to all parents, especially new parents to download the free MarvellousMe app from either the iPhone app store or from Google play for Android phone users to a smart phone or tablet. School will then be able to provide a unique code so that parents can begin to receive school updates, news and pupil successes throughout the year. MarvellousMe is currently used to reward pupils who meet the school's behaviour expectations each week and a great way of communicating success. Please contact the school office if you have any difficulties with this.



Bikes & Scooters

New parents/carers who wish their son or daughter to store a bike or scooter in school and have not already returned a signed bike/scooter contract will need to obtain one from the school office. Please also be reminded that children must wear a helmet. I will write to parents/carers in a separate communication with further details.

