

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2nd Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the start of the new half term! After a busy end to last half term (especially after a visit from Ofsted!) I hope both you and your children have had a restful break and are ready for the busy run up to Christmas! A refreshed diary accompanies this newsletter-please look out for any changes or additions.

PTFA Halloween Disco's

Many thanks to our wonderful PTFA for organising the two excellent Halloween discos for pupils at the end of last half term. The children looked fantastic in all manner of terrifying outfits and had the opportunity to play games, eat hotdogs and other treats and dance the night away to some spooky sounds! A great night had by all! Many thanks to all those PTFA members, parents/carers and those members of staff who were able to help on the night.

Our PTFA are busy organising a number of Christmas themed events for both pupils and parents to enjoy later this half term. Further information about these events will be shared with parents/carers in due course.



Ofsted

It was wonderful to be able to share the report from our recent Ofsted inspection with parents/carers earlier this week. We are delighted with the outcomes and much as it is fabulous to have all the work of the school to be judged to be outstanding once again, we were especially pleased that the inspectors took the time to really appreciate and recognise the incredible amount of hard work that both the adults and the children put into our school. Thank you to those parents/carers who took the opportunity to wish the school good luck at the start of the inspection (a great confidence boost!) and those who have taken the time post-inspection to ask how the inspection went (much appreciated).

Smartphone Free Childhood

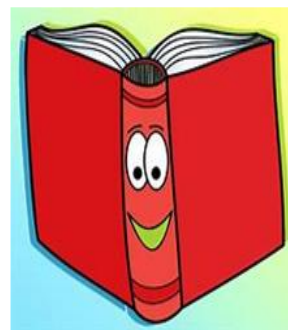
In my last newsletter, I drew parent's/carer's attention to the increasing evidence highlighting the detrimental impact on pupils owning a smartphone during their childhood. [Smartphone Free Childhood](https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/) have set out a campaign to raise further awareness of the harms of smartphones and empower parents/carers and schools to take collective action and begin change. I was lucky enough to be part of a recent webinar lead by some secondary schools who are conducting quite revolutionary work in their settings to try and address this issue. A number of schools across Nottinghamshire (including a number locally) have already begun to show their support. Initially, this involves parents/carers 'signing' the parent pact on the website <https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> by clicking on 'Sign the Parent Pact' and then select 'Nottinghamshire' before finding Eskdale. Please show your support.

If any parents/carers have thoughts on how we can continue to spread the word about this important initiative, then please contact me at school.



Y5 & Y6 Bake & Read

Once again pupils and parents/carers came together this week to be able to share a book and sweet treat in the school hall as Y5 and Y6 took part in our popular Bake and Read event. Once again this was a fantastic opportunity to emphasise the importance of reading, especially for our oldest children. The event reaffirmed that despite them being the oldest children in school, our pupils still relish the opportunity to sit with an adult and read. Many thanks to all those who made the Bake and Read such a success: Mrs Dorn, Mrs Clowes, Mrs Arnold, Library Squad and all those other adults who were able to help out. Finally, a big thank you to all those parents/carers who have been able to support the Bake and Read events this term.



Uniform

A reminder that pupils must be in the correct uniform at all times-details can be found on the school website. Pre-loved good quality logo uniform can be purchased on ParentMail, we do have some PE tops available please contact the school office regarding colours and sizes. Thank you in advance for your support.

Attendance

Our attendance was incredible last half term (over 97%!) and we want to be able to maintain this standard both this half term and for the remainder of the year. Your support in achieving this is invaluable to us. Thank you in advance for your support. Some national expectations for attendance have changed recently and I intend to share our response to these and adjustment to expectation early this term.

Attendance Matters



Bikes & Scooters

Thank you all once again for all your support in making Cycle to School week such a success before half term. Please remember, if your son or daughter is new to bringing a bike or scooter they will need to complete a bike/scooter contract which needs to be signed by an adult (forms available from the school office). Please note, pupils who bring a bike or scooter to school **must wear a helmet**. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.



Reminders!

Please see the dates below for whole school events for this half term and the school diary that accompanies this newsletter with details of any year group-specific activities.

November

Monday 11th-Friday 15th: Anti-bullying week 'Choose Respect'

Friday 15th: Children in Need-a £1 donation to the charity, please send children in spotty or yellow clothing on this day

Wednesday 20th: PTFA Christmas jumper and pre-loved toys donations in school

Friday 22th: Wear your own clothes day-£1 donation to support Christmas parties in school

Wednesday 27th: Last day for Christmas jumper donations

Thursday 28th: PTFA Christmas jumper and pre-loved toy sale 3:30pm

Friday 29th: PTFA non-uniform day-Christmas raffle donations for PTFA Christmas Quiz

December

Monday 2nd: PTFA Christmas film night

Tuesday 3rd: PTFA Christmas film night

Friday 13th: PTFA Christmas Quiz night

Tuesday 17th: Christmas jumper day-£1 donation to Save the Children charity

Tuesday 17th: Christmas dinner – **Please be sure to pre-order your child's meal on ParentMail. We will be unable to provide a dinner for anyone who has not ordered this in advance.**

Thursday 19th: Christmas Parties

Friday 20th: Non-uniform day £1 donation

Friday 20th: Christmas Carol Service

Friday 20th: Last day of the term-**BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS.**

The children are back in school on **Monday 6th January 2025**

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton
Head Teacher

