

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Spring End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

After a relatively quiet spring first half, it was great to get back to another busy and exciting half term at Eskdale. The highlight of the half term has most certainly been Make Time to Read month, exemplifying our commitment to all things reading in school and proving once again why our recent inspection by Ofsted highlighted this as a strength of the school's work. Your children's experience at Eskdale wouldn't be possible without the huge amount of hard work that all associated with the school commits to on a daily basis. 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.

Football

We began our football season this half term with a number of football matches-both league and friendly fixtures for both boys and girls. In our first fixture of the half term, the boys beat Sunnyside Spencer Academy 4-0 in a friendly match. They continued their success in their second match, beating Roundhill Primary 7-6 in a free-scoring league game! The last two games saw improved performances but against much more challenging opponents, losing to The Lanes 10-1 in a friendly fixture and then losing 8-1 to Trowell Primary in the final league game of the term. The girls kicked off their football season, narrowly beating Trowell Primary 1-0 and then in an away fixture, getting something of a footballing lesson, losing 6-0 to John Clifford Primary. A huge thank you to ex-parent and Chairman of Phoenix F.C Mr Ward for his support for the girl's team and to parent Mr Cherry for home match refereeing duties. A huge well done to all those children who have represented the school this term. Lots more football to come for both teams in the summer term!

Y5 Poetry Slam Assembly

Y5 wowed parents and carers as they performed their play/Poetry Slam as part of Make Time to Read month and World Poetry Day. 5T and 5B 'faced-off' in a battle of the verses, reciting a number of both individual and group poetic performances. 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 all those parents/carers who were able to come and watch!

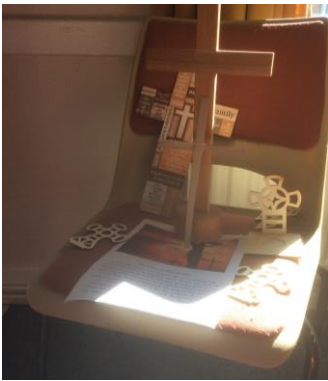
PTFA Easter Egg Colouring Competition

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. The event raised £300.16. All pupils were given a small treat for participation and the following winners were rewarded with a chocolate Easter egg: Y3- Ayaan, Y4- Sophie, Y5- Quorra, Y6- Chloe



Visit to St Barnabas

Pupils across all years ventured up to St. Barnabas at the end of this half term, invited by Reverend Ryan to find out more about Easter from a Christian perspective. I hear the children had a great time! Many thanks to Miss Groves for co-ordinating this enriching experience in the children's R.E curriculum.



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 granddaughter enjoying a meal with the children of Eskdale and then finally have 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 forgetting Mrs Wharmby and Mrs Owen in the school kitchen!

Tesco Valentines Heart Competition

A huge well done to the 5 pupils (4 pupils from Y3!) who were selected as winners in Beeston Tesco's Valentines Heart colouring competition. Many thanks to our fab P.T.F.A who facilitated this enriching experience for the children.



Netball

Our netball team began their season of fixtures this half term. In their first two matches, they lost 6-1 to John Clifford Primary and then 5-1 to Wadsworth Fields Primary. In their final fixture against John Clifford at Eskdale, despite a much-improved performance, we lost once again. Many thanks to both Miss Hackett and Miss Groves for their work with the team and well done to all those children who have represented school and demonstrated a huge amount of resilience to bounce back from some challenging score lines!

PTFA Book to Film Nights

Our fab P.T.F.A organised two great film 'Book to Film' nights for pupils across school in support of Make Time to Read Month. For the first, pupils enjoyed the film adaptation of 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown while for the second night the children watched the big screen version of 'Diary of Wimpy Kid' by Jeff Kinney. 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 school.

Bikeability

It was the turn of Y4 to test their road-skills as they were put through their paces by the Bikeability team earlier this half term. Pupils had the chance to bring their bike to school before completing a number of challenges on the school yard as they prepare for venturing out onto, our busy roads. A great skills and knowledge for life moment.

Extra-curricular Activities

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 Mrs Lee for School Council, TAs for homework club, Mrs Dorn for Library Squad, Miss Tabram for Maths Ambassadors, Mrs Briggs for Digital Leaders, and Miss Groves and Miss Hackett for netball.

Comic Relief 2023

It was a pleasure to see our take care value in action as we took part in fundraising for Comic Relief once again. In a change to our usual support, our School Council decided to take donations on the school gate in the morning in exchange for a Red Nose Day themed word search. Completed word searches were then entered into a draw to win a prize! Well done to Alex in 4BL, Ryan in 5B, Nadiyah in 6H and Audrey in 3H who were drawn as winners and well done to all the fab children who entered the competition. Thank you to everyone for their support, school raised £150.00 for the charity. Many thanks to Mrs Bennett and Mrs Lee for their work with our School Council in organising the event.

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.

Trent College 500 Word Story Competition

Away from reading, we had a number of pupils enter Trent College's 500 Word story competition. Despite not quite getting to the dizzy heights of last year, we had 2 pupils selected as finalists. A massive well done to Elianna and Seren. Both their stories were read out in the top 15 of 300! Elianna came 2nd with a fantastic story! Many thanks to Mrs Dorn for her support for the children.



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. The winning entries were as follows:

Y3-Winner: Holly Tilson
Runner up: Nancy Hadley

Y4-Winner: Aubrey Hayes
Runner up: Ariadne Van Krimpen

Y5-Winner: Oneth Jayasekara
Runner up: Alex Quill-Kmet

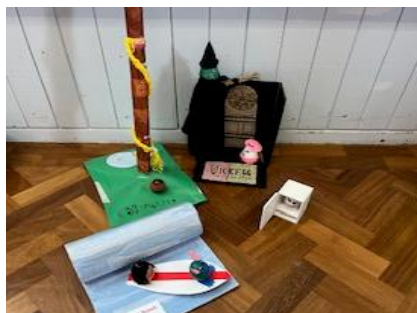
Y6-Winner: Arielle Russel
Runner up: Eliza Smith

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

Entries:



Winners:



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's and pupils recited poetry as part of World Poetry Day. Pupils who read throughout the month with increased frequency were able to enter into our 'Reading Raffle', gaining 1 raffle ticket for reading for 5 consecutive days, adding a House competition into proceedings with House Wollaton coming out as the winner for the highest number of reads over the month-well done to all the children in.....House. A huge well done to Fola 4BL, Zoe 5T, Chloe 4K, Lauraya 5B, Charlotte 3H and Yasmeen 4K who were selected in the Reading Raffle as winners and all received a book. Back in the classroom, staff and pupils read (and wrote) Fairy Tales as part of National Tell a Fairy Tale Day. We brought our own twist to World Book Day, ditching the costumes in favour of pupils bringing in (or creating!) a clue that linked to a book. We had a huge number of wonderfully creative entries (some of which are displayed in reception) which we celebrated in assembly before selecting the winners, who were then able to select a book from the Book Fair. Teaching staff became a 'Secret Story Teller' once again, appearing in random classes at the end of the school day 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 began to read! 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 ever-present throughout Make Time to Read Month with many pupils buying a new title, enabling school to raise £846 that will be spent on reading in school. Thank you to all those parents/carers (and grandparents!) who were able to support the Book Fair this year.

Bake and Read made a welcome return with pupils across all year groups tucking into a sweet treat while reading with a parent/carer. Many thanks to our Library Squad for their support with selling cakes as well as once loved books at every Bake and Read over the two-week period. A special mention for Y5 as we had a record number of parents/carers join us-over 50! The Bake and Read made an impressive £318, with £54 raised from the book sale that will be spent on supporting pupils with Reading in school.

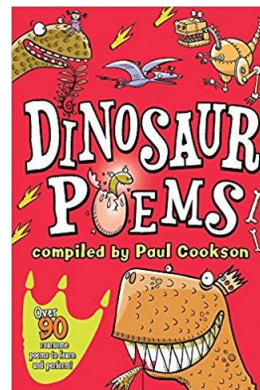


Help Children Succeed
By Taking Time To Read

Make Time to Read Month

We had two author visits, firstly Dan Walker, author of the children's fantasy novels, *Sky Thieves*, *Desert Thieves*, *The Light Hunters* and *The Last Monster*, who shared his reading journey as well as the pathway that led him to become an author. He also provided an opportunity for Y5 and 6 pupils to purchase signed copies of his book *The Light Hunters*. Many thanks to Dan for joining us at school, he was excellent with the children. For World Poetry Day pupils had selected a range of poems and were given the opportunity to read them out loud or recite them from memory in assembly. Well done to all those pupils who took the brave step of reading in front of 250 pupils!

For our second author visit, Paul Cookson, author of a wide range of poetry books visited to meet and work with our Y3 and 4 pupils.



A special mention to our Library Squad who, under the guidance of Mrs Dorn have had a significant part to play in Make Time to Read Month's success. They have read a story in each classroom, created their own recommend read word search for each year group. Make Time to Read Month has been a huge success as ever this term and bigger and better than ever, testament to our commitment to both your children and reading at Eskdale. A massive thank you to Mrs Dorn for masterminding the month, to both Mrs Arnold and Mrs Clowes for their support with logistics, our wonderful Library Squad and not forgetting staff, pupils and parents/carers for their unwavering support in making this such a highlight of the school year!

Uniform

Uniform is an important part of belonging at Eskdale Junior and very much part of being an Eskdaler. We have noticed an increase in both earrings that are not studs and jewellery recently. The school's policy with regard to this is that earrings must be studs and that no jewellery (apart from that with religious significance) is permitted in school and no makeup should be worn. Please support school by checking that your son or daughter is compliant with this expectation. Thank you in advance for your support.

Safety Assemblies

We welcomed a number of outside providers to Eskdale this half term, reinforcing important safety messages for pupils. Firstly, Network Rail visited assembly sharing with pupils the importance of being safe near railway tracks, sharing some important facts about our rail service with the support of the rail transport police. Next, (and arguably the most important) NETTram visited Eskdale, to remind pupils of the rules and regulations about safety around Nottinghamshire's tram network-an essential skills and knowledge for life moment for all our children! Finally, Via East Midlands ran road safety workshops for all pupils with important messages about road safety, again a great skills and knowledge for life moment as our children navigate our busy roads.

M&M Production - The Secret Garden

As part of Make Time to Read month but also as a huge well done to all our children for their invaluable contribution to the school's Ofsted inspection, we welcomed M&M Productions to Eskdale to deliver an unforgettable performance of the popular book 'The Secret Garden'. The children had a fantastic experience and were mesmerised by this adaptation of a classic text! Away from the main performance our Y5 pupils got the opportunity to have a sneak-peek behind the scenes and found out more about how the performance was designed and delivered.

Reminders!

Children return to school on **Tuesday 22nd April** for the start of the summer term.

Tuesday 22nd April PTFA Movie Night Sonic 3

Week Commencing 22nd April Year 6 Mock SATS Week

Friday 2nd May Year 5 visit The Space Centre

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

