

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

The first half of the autumn term always seems to fly-by! The start to the school year always begins with a strong focus on establishing the highest of standards for your children and our pupils have responded well to expectations both in and outside of the classroom. Time now for a well-deserved break and to recharge the batteries before the busy run up to Christmas!

European Day of Languages

We celebrated European Day of Languages once again this year at Eskdale with a week of themed assemblies focussing on the importance of learning a language and discovering that we have over 31 different languages spoken at Eskdale with 8 of these European! Mrs Hunter led an assembly to share with pupils the importance of learning a language and, back in class, pupils completed a decorative greeting in a European language to create a huge inter-linked chain! A great way of starting a new year of learning Spanish at Eskdale! Well done to all those pupils who took part and many thanks to Mrs Hunter for her support for the children. A special mention for those pupils across school who helped with a European Day of Languages video for our school 'X' account.



European Day
of Languages

Sad Goodbye

Eskdale says goodbye to Mrs Fu, who leaves the school after 3 years working with our children. Mrs Fu has been a wonderful addition to our midday supervisor team and has not only supported our children during lunchtimes. She has led assemblies alongside Mrs Kwok about Chinese New Year and supported PTFA events. All at Eskdale will miss her and wish her all the best in her new role in the White Hills Park Trust.



Eskdale PTFA Events

Our fantastic PTFA kicked off another academic year of events with the PTFA 50/50 Lottery – well done to the winners – a non-uniform day at the end of term, as well as the popular Halloween disco for all pupils across school – more on that after half term!



Y3 & Y4 Bake & Read

We began the year with another strong focus on the importance of reading in school and in particular reading for pleasure as we invited parents/carers to donate a sweet treat and come into school and read with their son or daughter. It really is such a lovely atmosphere in the hall during these events; seeing both parents/carers and pupils sharing a book is particularly pleasing. Never think your son or daughter is too old to be read with – it remains a valuable experience! Many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to attend and many thanks to Mr Dransfield who organised the event and all those other members of staff who were able to provide support! A special mention for our Library Squad who helped by serving cake and sweet treats!



Poppy Community Art Exhibition

In support of the commemoration of 80 years of VE and VJ day, we were invited to contribute to a community art exhibition at Nottingham Castle by the Mercian Regiment Museum. Pupils found out more about the significance of VE and VJ day before designing a poppy in the most creative way possible. Children across school produced some stunning creations and these will be displayed from the 10th November 2025 at Nottingham Castle to recognise this significant time in our history. Many thanks to all those staff who have taken the time within a busy start to the year (and a busy curriculum!) to support the children in this activity and a huge well done to all those pupils who have taken part!

School Council & House Captains

Well done to all those children who have been voted as either a School Council member or a House Captain this half term. Many thanks to both Miss Knightsbridge and Mrs Bennett for their support for these pupils. I look forward to hearing about their plans after half term!

Coombs Space Themed Lunch

Our meals provider, Coombes, delivered another exciting meal service earlier this half term. In the 'Space Lunch', two golden stars were hidden under bowls for two lucky pupils to discover. Well done to those pupils who were lucky enough to discover the hidden stars and both received a space-themed book! Thank you to Mrs Wharmby, Mrs Owen, Mrs Clowes, Mrs Arnold, midday supervisors and our wonderful team of pupil servers who made this a great event.

Football

We kicked off our football season this half term with both boys and girls returning to squad training. Many thanks to Richard 'Bomber' Ward who, for a third consecutive year, has offered to give his time on a Friday to support our girls squad of players. Away from training, our boys team had their first taste of competitive football, playing Bramcote C of E Primary in a friendly match at Eskdale. In a rather one-sided match, the boys put a huge amount of effort in but unfortunately couldn't find the back of the net whereas Bramcote found the net quite a number of times! Final score, Eskdale 0-8 Bramcote C of E. Well done to all those children who took part and a special mention to parent Mr Cherry who returned to refereeing duties for the match.

World Mental Health Day

We highlighted the importance of looking after our mental health in support of World Mental Health Day earlier this term. In assembly, we discussed what mental health is, how we can remain mentally healthy and emphasised the importance of talking and acting when we all have moments when maintaining our mental health becomes a challenge.



Y3 Library Visit

Y3 had their reading experience at Eskdale enriched with a visit to Beeston Library. Pupils travelled on the tram before being registered as members. They listened to a story and had the opportunity to check a book out to take home and read. Thank you to all those involved in organising the visits (a military operation in itself!) and well done to all those pupils who had a great opportunity to show off as Eskdalers!



Commando Junior-Joes

It has been great to have Commando Joe back in school working with our children both during the day and running clubs for our pupils this half term. In addition to this important part of our personal development offer, earlier this term, Commando Joe invited our Y6 pupils to apply to become 'Junior Joes' (where pupils become a 'Commando Joe'). We had a huge number of applications and 10 children were selected who have been busy running activities for our younger children in school during lunchtime. We are very proud of those children who have taken this leadership responsibility so seriously!

Cycle and Scooter to School Week

Pupils took part in cycle or scooter to school week once again this year. Y5 and 6 pupils led the event, presenting in assembly and then ticking pupils' sheets each day to acknowledge the number of times they had brought a bike or scooter. After half term, they will take on the unenviable task of writing all the raffle tickets for a prize draw, where three randomly selected pupils will receive prizes donated by Cycle Inn in Beeston! Well done to all those pupils who masterminded the event and a huge thank you to Cycle Inn in Beeston who were kind enough once again to donate prizes.



Black History Month

In assemblies this half term, we celebrated Black History Month by looking at those significant individuals who have shaped not just Black History, but British History to date. Pupils found out more about those notable individuals who are more recognisable in Black History such as Rosa Parks, but also found out about individuals in British Black History who have been overlooked or forgotten. A special mention to the huge number of pupils who completed additional research, finding out more about men and women in Black History who we (including myself) had not heard of but had made a significant contribution to British history.



Harvest

We had an amazing response to our Harvest this year. Once again, our whole school community came together, generating a wealth of food items that were then boxed up by our School Council for the Canaan Trust, who will distribute the items to families in greatest need. Thank you so much to all those parents/carers and children who were able to support our Harvest collection this year. An excellent example of our 'take care' value in action!

In addition to this, we had a number of fabulous 'Micro-Harvests' created by pupils across school, selecting a small amount of fruit, vegetables or herbs (some home-grown) and presenting it in a decorative box – see our 'X' account for more photos.



Y6 Safety Zone Visit

Y6 pupils visited Holme Pierrepont, Gamston for Safety Zone workshops at the start of this term. The children took part in 8 mini sessions gaining knowledge from the police, fire service and ambulance, just to name a few! A great skills and knowledge for life moment! Many thanks to Miss Groves, Mr Holmes and the Y6 teaching team for organising this enriching opportunity!



Reminders!

Wednesday 5th November Year 5 Bake & Read.

Thursday 6th November Year 6 Bake & Read.

Monday 10th Remembrance Lunch

Monday 10th – Friday 14th – Anti Bullying Week

Friday 14th November – Non Uniform Day - £1 Donation towards class Christmas Parties

Friday 21st November Children in Need

Have a relaxing two-week half term and we will see everyone back in school on **Monday 3rd November.**

Yours sincerely,
R Scruton
Head Teacher