

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

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Christmas seems to come around so quickly in the second half of the autumn term! Over the 14 years I have been head teacher, the festive season has always been a special time of year at Eskdale Junior. It is such a busy (but rewarding) time in the school calendar and I know that both staff and pupils are now ready for a well-deserved break. A huge thank you to all the hard-working staff of Eskdale Junior for all they do for our children and to all those parents and carers who continue to be supportive of school. From everyone at Eskdale, have a very Merry Christmas!

Clubs

It has been great to have Clay Creators, Commando Joe and Sport4Kids running opportunities for our children this term. I also want to thank all those members of staff who have given their time to supporting extra-curricular or pupil-led opportunities: Mrs Huntley and Mr Holmes for cricket, Mr Dransfield for Library Squad, Miss Hackett for Maths Ambassadors, Mrs Briggs for Digital Leaders and Mrs Bennett for our School Council. Look out for more opportunities in the new year!



Farewell & Welcome

Sad news first as Mrs Williams leaves Eskdale at Christmas. Mrs Williams has had a long-standing relationship with Eskdale, dating back to 2020, supporting the school at times when staffing becomes a challenge and this autumn term has been no different. She has provided much-needed stability in 4B and all at Eskdale wish her all the best as she moves on to the next challenge. I'm sure parents and pupils will join me in thanking her for all her hard work. Eskdale welcomes a new face from January. Mr Lloyd will take over for two days in 4B and will spend (certainly for the first half of the spring term) the rest of his time teaching across school. Mr Lloyd has recently relocated from London back to Nottingham and I know he is looking forward to supporting our children. Miss Linley (our music teacher) leaves Eskdale at Christmas to return to her former role. Employed by PPA Ltd, Miss Linley has delivered music for all year groups over the last year, maintaining our provision as well as running our Christmas Choir. I know that she is sad to be leaving Eskdale and I'm sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future. Eskdale welcomes Ms Cheung who I know is looking forward to maintaining our music provision. Finally, we also say goodbye to midday supervisor Ms Moore at Christmas. Ms Moore has been a wonderful addition to our midday supervisor team, maintaining the highest standards and providing excellent support for the children over the last year. All at Eskdale wish her all the best for a happy future. We welcome Mrs Chow to our excellent team of Midday Supervisors.

**Welcome to
Mr Lloyd!**



UK Parliament Week

An important part of our personal development offer is supporting pupils in understanding British Values. An integral part of this is understanding our country's democratic system. UK Parliament week is a great way of improving children's understanding of this important subject. Pupils learnt more about Parliament in assembly and then had a visit by local MP, Juliet Campbell, who shared with pupils what it is like to be an MP and answered a number of questions posed by the children. We held our own Eskdale Election, giving our 'Eskdale MPs' an opportunity to share with school their thoughts on: improving school, improving Chilwell and improving the world! All pupils had the chance to become an Eskdale MP and then one candidate was chosen by the children to represent the year group. Our year group Eskdale MPs then spent the week campaigning on the playground with their campaign managers speaking to pupils to try and gain votes. At the end of the week, all pupils voted and the results were counted. A huge well-done to all those pupils who wanted to be Eskdale MPs, our year group Eskdale MPs, campaign managers, vote checkers and counters - all of whom made this an important skills and knowledge for life moment for all the children.



**UK
PARLIAMENT
WEEK**
24-30 NOV 2025

Visit to St Barnabas Church

Y3, 4 and 6 had their R.E curriculum enriched with a visit to St Barnabas Church earlier this term. Pupils found out more about the Christmas story, supported by Reverend Ryan Mellor and had the chance to see some of the festive trees as part of the annual Christmas Tree Festival. Pupils had a great time. Many thanks to Miss Groves for organising this enriching experience for the children.

Christmas Tree Festival

Our S.T.A.R.S shone once again this term as our popular before and after school club responded to the challenge of creating a Christmas tree for the annual Christmas tree festival held at St Barnabas Church. Our tree had an 'around the world' theme this year. Well done to all those S.T.A.R.S pupils who took part and many thanks to Mrs Tunney and Mrs Thorpe for supporting this community event.



Anti Bullying Week

We supported anti-bullying week once again this year through the Anti-bullying Alliance's theme 'Power for Good'. We explored what bullying is, when it can occur, its impact and what we can do to tackle it. Pupils explored the theme of the year, understanding that they have the power to speak out against bullying and challenge people if they see it occurring. In addition to this, pupils wore odd-socks in recognition that we are all the same, but different, and have the right to be free from bullying. Thank you to all those children who took part. An important skills and knowledge for life moment!



PTFA Movie Nights

Our PTFA got us into the Christmas spirit with two film nights for pupils across school. Pupils had the choice of two nights of festive film fun. On Tuesday, 'The Claus Family' was shown and on Wednesday, children watched 'Bad Guys: A Very Bad Christmas' and 'Angela's' Christmas. Pupils had a great time whilst eating popcorn and having a drink. Many thanks once again to Mrs Heath, Mrs Owen and Mrs Hiorns who ran the film nights. Both film nights made a superb £429.71

Y3 'Eskdalers'

Well done to the huge number of pupils who completed their autumn Y3 transition and were recognised as Eskdalers this week in school. With fantastic support from the Y3 staff, the children have worked incredibly hard to 'show-off' all those Eskdale essential skills and were rewarded with an exclusive Eskdaler pin-badge. A special moment for both the children, the staff in Y3 and myself.

Children in Need

It was a privilege to support Children in Need once again this year. Pupils dressed in something yellow or spotty for a donation of £1. Many thanks to everyone who was able to donate. School raised a fantastic £271 for the charity!



Christmas Jumper Day

Many thanks to those parents who supported the Save the Children campaign by sending their child in a festive jumper and providing a donation of £1. All the children looked fantastic, especially on Christmas dinner day in school which made it feel even more special! All donations went to the Save the Children appeal. Donations raised a fabulous £152 for this important charity.



Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools

Our wonderful PTFA have been busy with a range of events and activities this term. Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools is a charity who collect used clothes from schools to raise funds for educational programs and recycled textiles. Many thanks to our fantastic PTFA for helping us support this valuable charity and to all those parents/carers who were able to contribute. A great example of our take care value in action!

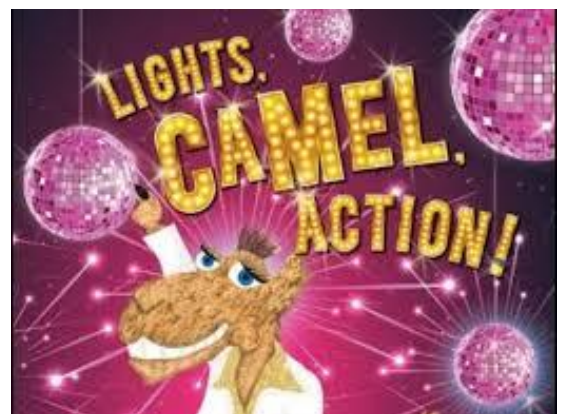


Y3 Production of 'Lights, Camel, Action!'

Y3 children had their first experience of a performance at Eskdale with the nativity themed play 'Lights, Camel Action'. The children looked fantastic and really grew into their roles throughout a number of rehearsals and two fabulous performances for parents/carers, friends and families.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to show their support over the two performances and a huge well done to all the children who delivered a memorable experience for all involved.

Many thanks also for the tireless work by the huge number of adults involved in making it so special: Miss Hackett, Mrs Hunter, Miss Graves, Mrs Crawford, Mrs Huntley, Mrs Nicolson and Mrs Armstrong-Lomas who have all contributed to a fabulous team effort: costumes, music, songs and of course the energy and commitment that comes with rehearsals and two performances!



Y5 Greek Day

Greek Day was a huge success and the children had a fantastic time exploring Ancient Greece in lots of fun, hands-on ways. They dressed up as Greek gods and goddesses, acted out Greek myths through mime, learned how to battle, and finished the day with an exciting Olympic-style event in the school hall. The children were fully engaged throughout and really enjoyed bringing their learning to life.



Football

Our girls squad started their football season earlier this half term. In an end-to-end encounter with Bramcote Hills Primary and time ticking away, it seemed that the game would end in a draw until five minutes before the final whistle when we scored the all-important winner! Final score: Eskdale 1 - 0 Bramcote Hills. A huge well done to all those girls who took part (many who were playing a competitive football match for the first time!) and many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to provide support. More games to look forward to in the new year.

School Games Awards

It was great to be recognised for our sport provision for year 24/25 this term with the School Games Gold Award earlier this half term. Look out for more sporting opportunities next term and extra-curricular clubs that your children can benefit from.



Cross Country Star

A belated special mention for Caleb Wilkins in Y6 who represented Eskdale in a school's cross-country competition earlier this term. In an incredible performance, Caleb ran 1500 meters and came in 2nd place! A huge well done from us all!

PTFA Christmas Disco

There was plenty of 'rockin' around the Christmas tree' as pupils enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit with two discos earlier this week (Y3/4 and then Y5/6) provided by our excellent PTFA. Pupils had a fantastic time, dancing and singing to their favourite tunes as well as those that are oh so popular at this time of year. Many thanks to our PTFA for once again, taking the time to enrich the children's experience at Eskdale – a great night had by all!



Eskdale Christmas Choir Mini Concert

Our music teacher Miss Linley has been running a mini Christmas choir for the last few weeks for 20 pupils in Y5 and 6. Earlier this week, pupils had the chance to perform some of those festive favourites for parents/carers while they enjoyed a mince pie and warm drink provided by our PTFA. In a performance full of Christmas spirit, it was great to see the children perform with such confidence and to be supported by some lively singing accompaniment from the audience members. Well done to all those children who took part, many thanks to all those parents who were able to come and watch, Mrs Clowes for her support with refreshments and last, but no means least, to Miss Linley for her support for the children over the last few weeks.

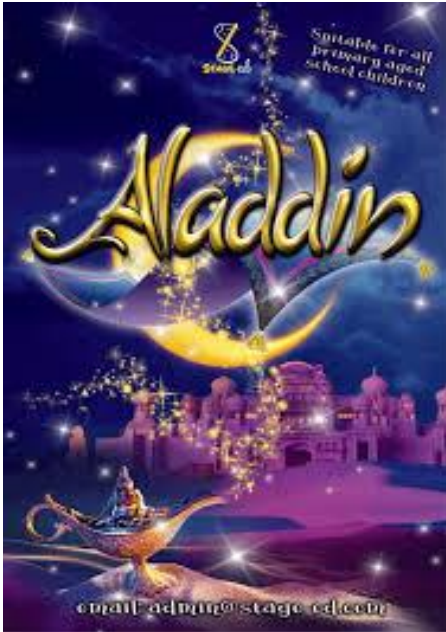


PTFA Christmas Rainbow Raffle

In a unique change to the typical raffle prizes, our PTFA set about creating 'rainbow' hampers as an exciting alternative this Christmas! The hampers were organised in the following colours: green, red, blue/purple, orange/gold. Thank you to all parents/carers for the kind donations and congratulations to all the winners of these wonderful prizes!

Panto - Aladdin

We welcomed Stage-Ed back to school at the very end of this half term (last seen in Eskdale in 2023). The travelling theatre company delivered two lively performances of the pantomime Aladdin for Y3 and 4 and then Y5 and 6. Pupils had a fantastic time (oh yes they did!) joining in with the performance – a great way to end the term! Many thanks to our PTFA for fully funding the event.



PTFA

Once again, our PTFA have had a notable presence in the newsletter this term. As well as delivering a number of events this term, including funding the Stage-Ed panto, they have also supported school by purchasing resources to be used in school. You may also have noticed that they provided every pupil with a small Christmas treat on the way out of school on the last day! Many thanks (again!) to both Mrs Heath and Mrs Owen who have given a huge amount of their own time to making the PTFA a success once again!



Mini Christmas Concert

Pupils were treated on the final day of term to a repertoire of songs (including some familiar festive favourites), performed by singer Chloe Scruton (sound familiar?) and our Christmas Choir before finishing all together with a rousing rendition of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. A great (and festive) way to end the term! Well done to the pupils in our Christmas Choir who were excellent once again and thanks to Chloe for sharing her musical talent!

An Eskdale Secret Santa

Each year, staff at Eskdale take part in a take care Secret Santa (for those not familiar – a Christmas gift is bought for someone without them knowing the sender). This year, staff bought gifts for those in challenging circumstances who are supported by the

Caanan Trust (a charity supporting the homeless). A wonderful example of our take care value in action!



Reminders!

The children return to school on **Monday 5th January 2025**

Places are still available for our After-School Clubs in January of Gymnastics, Arts & Crafts Club and Y3 & Y4 Football, please check ParentMail for details and to book.

Have a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton
Headteacher