

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We make it to the end of a challenging half term that has included preparation and administration of Y6 SATs testing. Despite the testing being isolated to Y6 pupils, it has been a real Eskdale team effort in ensuring that the children feel as supported and as well-prepared as they can be. Now this moment has passed, it is nice to be able look ahead to the longest and busiest half terms in the school calendar with lots of opportunities for your children. From all at Eskdale Junior, have a safe and relaxing half term break.

Staffing

Sad news first as Mrs Deehan (Y5 teaching assistant) left Eskdale earlier this half term. Mrs Deehan (and her family!) have had a long-standing relationship with school, beginning as a parent with three children attending Eskdale before starting work 13 years ago as a teaching assistant. Mrs Deehan always strived for the best possible outcomes for all pupils and has never wavered in her support for our children. Over the years, she has been a support of school events, such as our summer fair and most notably, organised our participation in the Nottingham Mini Marathon on a number of occasions. All at Eskdale will miss her and wish her all the best for the future.



Y5 Space Centre Trip

Year 5 had an exciting and memorable experience earlier this half term, visiting the National Space Centre in Leicester. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on activities and interactive exhibits, which brought their learning to life in a fun and engaging way. From exploring the planets in the planetarium show, to learning about astronauts and space travel, the visit helped deepen pupils understanding of this fascinating topic. A fantastic way to complete the unit of work! I'm told the children represented the school brilliantly throughout the day. Many thanks to the Y5 staff for arranging this enriching opportunity.



Papaya Smartphone Talk

Parents may be aware that I have been a supporter of the Smartphone Free childhood movement for some time, so it was great to welcome Dr. Laura Spells to Eskdale earlier this half term to share some of the challenges and impacts of children being provided with a smartphone with parents/carers. As an experienced GP, Dr. Spells was able to share some fascinating (and troubling!) facts about the impact of children using a smartphone at an early age and provided some excellent guidance for parents/carers on how to navigate this complex world. Many thanks to all those parents/carers who attended and special thanks to parents Mr Cherry and Mrs Tye who instigated school being able to provide this opportunity. Last but by no means least, a huge thank you to our wonderful P.T.F.A who funded the event.

Football

We continued our football season this half term with matches for both our girls' and boys' teams.

Our girls team had a strong start to the half term, beating Roundhill Primary 7-2. In a much tougher challenge, they narrowly beat Bramcote C of E 2-1 before losing 4-3 to a strong Chetwynd Spencer Academy side. In the penultimate fixture of the half term, the girls were delivered something of a footballing lesson (compounded by 2 bizarre and 1 own goal!) eventually losing 6-1 to The Lanes. We are so proud of all those children who have represented school. Many thanks to Mr Ward from Phoenix for his continued support for the girls' squad both through training sessions and his support at every match. In our final boy's fixture, the boys team lost to The Lanes 10-1. A huge well done to all those children who have represented school this half term and many thanks to parent Mr Cherry for helping with refereeing matches.



Courtyard Space

Now the weather is cheering up somewhat (!), it seemed like the right time to spruce up our courtyard space in school, creating a reading themed space for all to enjoy across school. Notable additions to this fantastic space are the items donated by both Mrs Dorn and Miss Tabram before leaving school at the end of last year. Miss Tabram's reading signpost (listing a number of fictional places from a variety of popular children's books) has pride of place while Mrs Dorn's reading chair complements this wonderful new addition to school perfectly. Many thanks to Mrs Arnold, Mrs Clowes and Mr Pearce who have worked hard to make this space an inviting place for our children to visit.



Y4 Class Assembly 'Beowulf'

It was thrilling to see our Y4 pupils in performance mode earlier this half term as they wowed parents/carers with a dramatic performance of the Old English poem Beowulf, telling the tale of his heroic exploits. It never ceases to amaze me how in such a short space of time, the children (and adults) can adapt so well to present such a memorable moment. The children looked and sounded fantastic a great Friday treat! Many thanks to the significant number of parent/carers who were able to come and watch (my understanding is that this was the largest audience in recent history!), a huge well done to all those pupils who took part and many thanks to the Y4 teaching for their support for pupils.



Rugby

A team of Year 5 and 6 pupils went to Nottingham Casuals for a rugby tournament as the culmination of some rugby sessions in school. They played several games and represented the school really well, playing some great rugby. Thank you to all the parents who were able to help with transport and support the children.



Year 6 SATS

After weeks of revision and preparation, our Y6 pupils took their SATs (Standard Attainment Tests) earlier this half term. The children were excellent, showing maturity and real resilience in what is a very challenging week for everyone in school. A huge well done to all our children in Y6 and to all those adults who have supported the children at this challenging time.



Reminders!

Please be reminded that **trainers and Joggers are not school uniform** and should only be worn on P.E days. Please also ensure that your son or daughter is not wearing jewellery in school. Only studded earrings are permitted. Please ensure that if your son or daughter brings a bike or scooter to school they must wear a helmet this is one of the expectations in the bike/scooter contract (available at the school office).

The children are back in school on Monday 1st June for the start of the second half of the summer term.

Have a happy, safe and relaxing half term break.

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton