

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As another busy year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved and to thank everyone who has played a part in making this year such a special one. While academic progress remains at the heart of what we do, the past year has also been filled with a wealth of opportunities that have enriched our children's experiences and created lasting memories. From educational visits and sporting events, to performances, clubs and enrichment activities, our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. None of this would be possible without the dedication, passion and hard work of the adults that work with your children at Eskdale. Their commitment to providing the very best experiences for our children, day in and day out, is truly remarkable. I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. Last, but by no means least, our wonderful pupils. They continue to impress us with their resilience, kindness, enthusiasm and achievements, and they are what make our school such a vibrant and special place to be. We wish all our families a safe, happy and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year.

Staffing

Our first goodbye at the end of this year is Mr Lloyd who joined Eskdale back in January, to cover maternity for both Mrs Lee and Mrs Hunter. This has truly been a unique circumstance and testament to Mr Lloyd's flexibility and resilience to maintain the highest standard of teaching across two-year groups! Mr Lloyd has been a fantastic addition to Eskdale and all at Eskdale wish him all the best for a successful future as he takes up a new teaching post in September. At the end of this term, we also said a fond farewell to Mrs Nicholson, who is retiring after 8 years!

Over the years, she has worked closely with many of our Year 3 pupils, supporting them in both their learning and their transition into life at Eskdale. In addition, she has provided highly effective phonics and early maths interventions, helping countless children develop key skills and confidence. Mrs Nicholson has also regularly stepped into classroom teaching roles when needed, always doing so with professionalism, warmth and expertise. Mrs Nicholson has made a significant contribution to our school community and will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and families alike. We would like to thank her for everything she has done for Eskdale and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement. We will also say goodbye to teaching assistant, Mrs Ebril, who leaves Eskdale at the end of this term. During her three and half years with us, Mrs Ebril has worked both one-to-one with pupils and within our Year 3 and Year 6 classes, providing care, encouragement and excellent support to the children she has worked with. Mrs Ebril has been a valued member of our team, and we are grateful for her commitment and dedication to our pupils. On behalf of all at Eskdale, we thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Finally, we say goodbye to sports coach, Miss Evans. Miss Evans has had a long-standing relationship with Eskdale, specifically working for Sport4Kids, overseeing provision and sport providers. During this last half term, she has been working independently, delivering both our P.E sessions and extra-curricular clubs. All at Eskdale wish her all the best for a successful future.

In other staffing news, Mrs Lee returns to Eskdale after her second maternity leave, teaching for two days in Y4 for year 26/27. Eskdale welcomes a new member of staff from September. Mrs Johnson, who is currently teaching at Brackensdale Primary, will join the Eskdale teaching team. Mrs Johnson will also have responsibility for Mathematics. I know she is very excited about working with your children and our school community.

Football

Our boys football team participated in the South Broxtowe Tournament at Roundhill Primary earlier this term. They played 4 games in the group stage where matches are fast and furious at only 6 minutes long. Despite a gallant effort, they missed out on a semi-final place by just one point! A huge well done to the boys whose determination was unmatched throughout the tournament.

Well done to all those children who have been part of both boys and girls football squads this year. They have shown a huge amount of commitment and resilience in a season of highs and lows.

A special mention for parent Mr Cherry who has supported school football this year, refereeing home matches played at Eskdale. An enormous thank you also to Mr Ward from Phoenix FC, who once again has given up his time on a Friday for training and has been present at every girl's match. His support has been invaluable and once again, provided our girls with a truly memorable experience this year!



Maths Ambassadors

A huge thank you to all our Maths Ambassadors for their outstanding help and support throughout the year. They have played an important role in our school community, supporting Year 3 pupils with their arithmetic skills, running lunchtime Maths Clinics, and helping with our Maths Week activities. Throughout the year, they have shown kindness, patience and encouragement, always willing to help others build confidence in mathematics. Their positive attitude and dedication have made a real difference to many children.

A special thank you goes to our Year 6 Maths Ambassadors, who have proudly carried out this role since the end of Year 3. They have been excellent role models, and we wish them every success as they move on to secondary school.

Class Organisation 2026/27

Class	Teacher
3J	Mrs Johnson
3GH	Mr Dransfield /Miss Graves
4B	Mrs Bennett/Mrs Lee
4K	Miss Knightsbridge
5B	Mrs Briggs
5H	Mr Holmes
6H	Miss Hackett
6G	Miss Groves
Riley Sports -P.E for all years	

Drumming Performance

It was wonderful to be able to watch pupils from across school who have drumming tuition with Rockley Music showing off their skills and talents in a performance for parents/carers earlier this term. The children were fantastic, showing both rhythm, coordination and focus as they drummed along to a range of musical genres. So proud of all these children. Thank you to all those parent/carers who were able to attend and a huge thank you to Kervens from Rockley Music for organising the mini concert.



ABC Art Trail

Attenborough, Beeston and Chilwell Art Trail (ABC) consists of a group of local artists. Each year, they hold a primary art competition. The theme this year was 'Looking After My Planet'. I was incredibly impressed with our children's entries, especially as this supports our school value of take care. Who knows, we could have a winner this year! Well done to all those children who took part.



Pathways Assemblies

Each year we explore the theme of Pathways in assembly, giving children the opportunity to realise that as they move through life, there may be challenges, success and obstacles that they may experience. It was great to welcome a number of parents/carers into assembly to share their 'pathway'. Many thanks to Dr Gritt, Dr Whitt, Ms Bond, Ms Congreave and Mrs Van Krimpen who were all excellent at sharing their varied experience of pathways in life. From disappointment to elation, they all emphasised the importance of determination and perseverance as key skills when beginning (and ending) their pathway!



Y5 Chilwell Taster Day

While Y6 were spending time in the school that they would be starting in September, Y5 had the opportunity to begin to think about their school of choice for September 2027. Pupils took part in a range of activities, across a number of different subjects (some they would always experience at Eskdale) at Chilwell School. Many thanks to our Y5 team for supporting the children.

Transition

Pupils found out earlier this half term what to expect as they enter the next stage in their Eskdale journey. All children had half a day of transition activity, getting to meet their new teacher and learning more about the expectations of their new class and year group.

Bikeability

Y5 pupils took part in Bikeability earlier this term. Pupils learnt more about how to ride safely in the comfort of the school yard and then extended their skills by travelling out of school, navigating our busy local roads with the Bikeability instructors. A great skills and knowledge for life moment. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity for the children in Y5.

SATS

Y6 pupils participated in statutory national testing in May. In a true *aim high* style our Y6 pupils recorded some great outcomes, exceeding national values in both Grammar and Maths. These outcomes are only possible as a result of fantastic teaching and a huge effort by all the wonderful staff in Y6 in supporting the children. So proud of all our Y6 pupils and staff!

Y4 National Times Table Tests

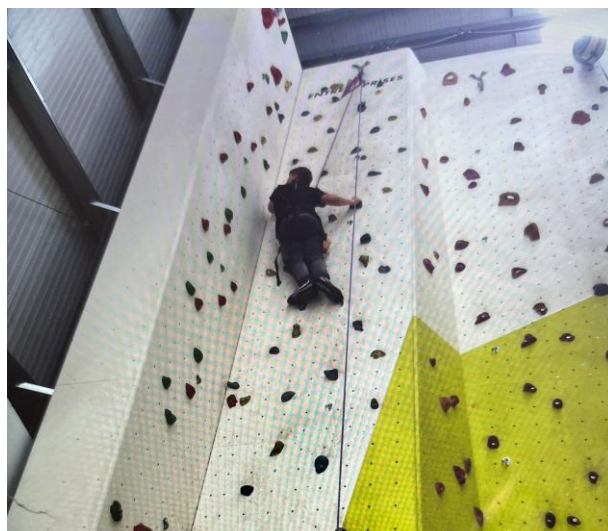
In other national testing, our Y4 pupils were put through their paces with the national times table test. The children demonstrated a tremendous amount of focus, supported by a fabulous team of adults in Y4. 84% of pupils scored 20 or more out of 25. So proud of all our children who took part! Many thanks to the Y4 team who have supported the children so well!

School Council

The School Council have had a busy year this year. Back in Autumn they helped to collect and package up our harvest donations, and they coordinated handing out everyone's Christmas cards. They have discussed how they think the school behaviour policy should work from a pupil perspective and fed this back to Mr Scruton. They have helped to coordinate collecting money for charities such as Comic Relief and they also helped dinner staff by reminding pupils of the rules and expectations during playtimes. Many thanks to Mrs Bennett for supporting the children with this leadership opportunity.

Y6 Walesby Residential

Y6 pupils headed off to leafy Walesby earlier this term for their three-day residential visit. Pupils took part in a number of exciting outdoor activities including indoor climbing, archery, zip wire, 3G swing and the highlight of the visit, activities in the lake! In the evening, it was games in the summer sunshine, camp-fire singing and a quiz! All the children had a fantastic time, creating some fond memories. Many thanks to Miss Groves for organising the visit and all those additional adults who were able to provide support over the three days.



Library Squad

Many thanks to our fabulous Library Squad this year who have been instrumental in ensuring our library remains tidy, well stocked with books and an accessible place for our children. They have also been great at organising activities for pupils across the year. Well done to all those children and many thanks to Mr Dransfield for providing this leadership opportunity for pupils.



Junior Joes

A huge well done to our Junior Joes who have supported pupils during lunchtimes organising games and activities for them to take part in becoming their own Commando Joe, exemplifying the expectation within the CoJo RESPECT curriculum. Many thanks to Commando Joe for organising this leadership opportunity for pupils.

Y3 Art and Author Visit

Our Year 3 pupils took part in Inspire's Offbeat: Artist and Author in Residence project earlier this half term, working with artist Sian Watson and author Ashley Thorpe. Inspired by music, the children created their own poems and stories, showcasing fantastic creativity, imagination and artistic talent throughout.

We are delighted that their work is now featured in the Offbeat Exhibition at Beeston Library, on display until 6th September – please visit and celebrate the wonderful achievements of our young artists and authors! Free family workshops led by Sian Watson and Ashley Thorpe will also be available at Inspire libraries throughout the summer holidays. More information can be found on the Inspire website under Offbeat Family Workshops. We are incredibly proud of the creativity, confidence and enthusiasm shown by all our Year 3 pupils who took part in this exciting project. Many thanks to Miss Graves for organising this enriching opportunity.



Sports Week

Pupils took part in sports week earlier this half term, taking part in several different sports and physical opportunities to enrich our P.E curriculum. In assemblies, we focused on healthy bodies and healthy minds before looking at all those other skills such as confidence, resilience and determination that can be gained from getting involved in sport. A highlight of the week for many pupils (and adults!) was the popular 'Tough Runner' where pupils charged at a huge slip and slide before navigating a few challenging obstacles across the school field – loads of (wet) fun! A great week for all involved made even better by some fabulous weather! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity.

Sports Day

Our annual sports day was a tremendous success. Focusing on keeping active throughout the morning or afternoon, pupils across school challenged themselves in a number of sporting disciplines, competing against each other and accumulating points to be crowned the top House for 2026! It was amazing to see the children demonstrating such determination and resilience! This was particularly notable in the 'distance race' where pupils demonstrated our take care value, supporting those pupils who were falling behind, to finish the race with pride – such a special moment! Thank you to all those parents/carers who came to support their children and a special mention for all those who took part in the parent/carer race. Many thanks also to Mr Holmes for organising this memorable moment in the school's calendar. Congratulations to Clumber House who narrowly nudged ahead of the other Houses to become overall winners this year. Many thanks to all those pupils and staff who were able to support the logistics on the day, making another successful event for children.



Armed Forces Day

We showed our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community this term. Pupils were invited to attend school in 'camo' colours for a small donation – many thanks to all those parents for their support by sending their children with a donation. In assembly, we found out more about our Armed Forces and the importance of this day in our national calendar. Our Camo Day raised £114.00 which will be donated to Armed Forces charities.



ARMED FORCES DAY
28 JUNE 2025

Y4 Visit Nottingham Lexus Open

Y4 had their P.E curriculum enriched with a visit to the Lexus Open Tournament at the Nottingham Tennis Centre. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in coaching, see a bit of the centre in full tournament mode, and then watch some of the tennis matches before returning back to school. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching experience and to our Y4 team for their support and accompanying the children.



Y4 & Y5 Football Match

It was great to give the children who could be part of our future football squad a run out earlier this term. In a change to the original fixture, (a visit to Albany Junior) Trowell Primary brought a group of Y5 pupils to play against our boys. In an entertaining fixture, the boys struggled to find the back of the net (hitting posts, bars and a goalkeeper in inspirational form!) and despite losing 5-0, it was clear that our children have the drive and motivation to be an exciting team – watch this space! Well done to all those pupils who took part and many thanks to Mr Holmes for stepping in for refereeing duties.

Broxtowe Schools Cricket Festival

Our Year 5 and 6 cricket team performed superbly at the Bramcote Cricket Competition recently. They recorded the 2 highest totals of the competition and won the plate competition. The children also showed great leadership, teamwork and resilience. We are all very proud of them! A huge well done to all those pupils who took part – amazing! Many thanks also to both Mr Holmes and Mrs Huntley who accompanied the children.

Inspire Summer Reading Challenges

It was great to welcome Beeston library to assembly earlier this term who shared details of the free opportunities for pupils to be rewarded for reading over the summer holidays. I would urge all families and their children to take advantage of this excellent initiative, not forgetting that two libraries are just a short walk or tram ride from school!

SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE

Esk Fest

In a slight move away from our annual summer fair, our fabulous PTFA organised a new event this summer term for our school community. Esk Fest invited families to bring a picnic (and tipples of their choice) and soak up the atmosphere created by a number of opportunities to get involved in on a warm summer's night. Those who attended enjoyed the bouncy assault course, ice-cream, candy floss (created with perfection by Commando Joe), raffle and small number of stalls selling various items. All of this was sound tracked by a wonderful steel band and some girl called Chloe Scruton who sang a number of Disney favourites for the crowd to enjoy. Another wonderful experience for all our school community! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend on the night and the huge number of people who were involved in making it so special: staff, parents/carers, Commando Joe, the PTFA and last, but by no means least, the wonderful Mrs Owen, Mrs Heath and Mrs Wharmby who have put a huge amount of effort into ensuring the night was such a success! Esk Fest raised a fabulous £1163!



Y3 Eskdalers

The journey to become an Eskdaler can be short or long, with twists and turns, especially for our Y3 pupils as they adapt to life at Eskdale. It was wonderful to see our Y3 pupils come to the end of this phase of their Eskdaler journey, receiving the coveted badge and getting that fabulous feeling that only comes because of being recognised in this way in school! Well done to all those children and a huge thanks to the Y3 staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the children make the best possible start at school!

Sargent Brelsford Sheild Award

Craig Brelsford was an ex-Eskdaler who sadly lost his life serving his country when he returned to save a colleague, while serving in Afghanistan. Each year we present the award in his memory to pupils who have demonstrated courage and resilience while facing adversity. Well done to Efe Alkan and Beth Ginger who the recipients of the award this year.

Social Media

Parents may remember us parting company with Twitter/X earlier this year. From the short survey that parents completed, the preferred social media platform was Facebook. For that reason, I have been working with Mrs Owen (School Governor and Treasurer of our P.T.F.A) to create an Eskdale Facebook page. This will merge with the current P.T.F.A Facebook and from September 2026, will feature news, achievements and celebration of all things Eskdale which will then feature in our end of half term newsletters. Terms of use will be posted in the 'About' page of the platform before the end of the school year with more details about how the page will function.

Y6 Leavers

It is with a tremendous amount of sadness that we say goodbye to our Y6 pupils. I still remember their start to Eskdale and they have become a memorable part of our school history. It was great to give them an Eskdale send-off: leavers assembly, the Ultimate Eskdaler dinner and then a whole school 'guard of honour' as they walked out of the school gates for the final time! It has been a pleasure to see them grow both academically and personally, knowing that they are ready as they can be for the next stage in their education journey. Secondary school will bring new and exciting challenges. We wish all our children all the best and look forward to hearing stories of their success!

Y6 Treat Afternoon

We twinned the celebration of SATS ending and the end of the year with an afternoon of activity. Pupils took part in a 'silent disco' before racing around the school field avoiding a multitude of coloured powder as part of a 'Colour Throw' the children had a fantastic time and were very colourful by the end! A great way of ending the school year. A huge thank you to Mrs Heath and Mrs Owen of our PTFA for organising this memorable moment for our pupils.



Y6 Performance 'Gigglebox'

Y6 pupils delivered two wonderful performances of 'Gigglebox' earlier this term (with only an hour and a half between showings!) In a hilarious parody of the popular TV show Gogglebox, our family in the play watched several school-themed programmes with rather varied and unusual outcomes, all wrapped up with some catchy singing and a poignant end! Well done to all those children who took part. Many thanks to all those involved in making it such a memorable experience for the children: Mr Holmes, Miss Groves, Mrs Williams, Miss Kerr and Mrs Lee. Thank you also to all those parents/carers who were able to come and support their children by watching the two performances.



Welcome New Y3

As we see one group of pupils leave, it is equally exciting to welcome a new group of pupils to Eskdale and set them off on their journey to become 'Eskdalers'. From all the transition activities, it certainly seems that the children are looking forward to starting Eskdale with a mix of both nerves and excitement!

Annual Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed this term's annual parent/carer survey. We greatly value your feedback, which helps us to celebrate what is working well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. While there is still work to be done, we are committed to addressing these priorities and will begin implementing improvements from September onwards as we strive to serve our school community even more effectively. A summary of the survey results is included with this newsletter. Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Reminders!

A reminder to parents/carers to check ALL term time dates for the year 2026/27 (a copy accompanies this newsletter and can be found on the school website) to avoid any misunderstandings or leave of absence requests.

Tuesday 1st September is a School Administration Day (the children are not in school)

Wednesday 2nd September is an Inset day (the children are not in school)

All the children are back in school on **Thursday 3rd September 2026**

Once again, have a great summer break!

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton