

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Dear Parent/Carer,
Welcome back to a new school year at Eskdale!

I hope everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved and relaxing summer break and is feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting months ahead.

A particularly warm welcome to all the new parents, carers and children joining our school community. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to helping you settle into life at Eskdale.

We start the year once again with an increased focus on expectation and standards in school. For the most part, this is about getting the simple things right so your children are as prepared as they can be for school and for the range of opportunities that will be presented to them over the year - making 'A Great Start'.

I am aware that this newsletter has a lot of detail; however, please take some time to read it as your support with ensuring we maintain the highest possible standards for your children is invaluable to us.

Reading

We are dedicated to enabling our pupils to become lifelong readers and we believe reading is key for academic success and progress in all curriculum areas, even Maths! At Eskdale, reading for pleasure is key and we strive to develop in our pupils a real love and thirst for reading a wide range of genres, (including heritage texts) and to provide experiences that will lead to rich language development in order to empower them with the breadth of vocabulary that they can then build upon to achieve in the future.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming an avid reader, who is fluent and confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their learning and wider lives.

Although your child will be taught to read and analyse text at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing to help them practice and develop their reading skills at home.

Encourage your child to read as often as possible

- We'd love children to read five times a week for between 10 – 20 minutes per day (but understand that a minimum of 3 times per week could be more manageable for some).

Ask questions to support your child's understanding

- Children initially develop both fluency in reading and understanding of what they are reading alongside each other. Please take the time to ask questions about the books your child brings home. A full set of questions for both fiction and non-fiction texts can be found in your child's organiser.

Reading to your child

- Your child gains so much from hearing you read a story to them, no matter how old they are. Listening to stories provides children with an understanding of how stories are structured, it develops their vocabulary, and it helps provide a context for meaning.

Every year group has a set of Reading Challenges to be completed throughout the year (found in the Eskdale Organiser). These vary and are designed to be fun and engaging so please take the time to have a look at your child's organiser and encourage full participation. Mr Dransfield will send out further information about our curriculum and reading shortly.



Reading
IS A
PASSPORT
TO
COUNTLESS
ADVENTURES



Uniform

At Eskdale, our minimum expectation is that House t-shirt, school jumper and Eskdale book bag have the school logo. The start of a new school year is a great opportunity to get the simple things such as uniform right and I will be writing to parents separately with further details. The school website details the correct uniform expected and I would encourage parents to check this or ring school if they are in any doubt. Can I remind parents **not to send their children to school in trainers as they are not school uniform** (P.E days are the only exception – see our weekly menu for details as to when P.E days are). **Pupils should not attend school wearing nail varnish, jewellery or earrings that are not studs.** School jumpers or cardigans are an important part of being identifiable as an Eskdale Junior School pupil. It contributes to both their sense of belonging as an 'Eskdaler' and their readiness for school. Please ensure your son or daughter has a jumper/cardigan with the school logo and that this is red and no other colour, eg: black or grey. If parents/carers experience any challenges with uniform, they must not hesitate to contact school. Thank you in advance for your support.



Attendance and Punctuality

We enjoy consistently high levels of attendance at Eskdale, rarely falling below 96%. In addition to this, an increasing number of children were rewarded last year for 100% attendance each term and for 100% across the whole school year! Pupil's attendance must not fall below 95% and if this is the case, will become a cause for concern and contact will be made from school where necessary. Please support us in aiming high to achieve our whole school target of 97%!

A reminder to all parent's/carers that it is a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school every day. It is essential for continuity in learning and so that they do not struggle socially at school. It is important that children attend unless they absolutely cannot. Please be aware that persistent poor attendance can result in parents/carers being referred to the Local Authority for a penalty notice to be issued.

All leave of absence requests (formally holiday requests) are treated on an individual basis and any request greater than 4 or more days could also incur a referral for a fine from the Local Authority. I will write to parents separately with further guidelines on both attendance and punctuality later this term.

Thank you in advance for your support.

House Colours/ PE Kit

A reminder to ensure that you have purchased a house t-shirt for your child – this should be worn for P.E and any sports clubs in school (except football). Please be reminded that the PE kit is the school uniform for PE days. Children should wear black shorts/leggings or joggers with their house t-shirt and red school jumper or cardigan for cooler days.

Contact Details

Please remember to update the school office with new home/mobile phone numbers and email addresses if they have changed over the summer holiday. These are essential pieces of information for school to have and are important in case of emergency. Please can new parents return contact forms to the school office ASAP if they haven't already done so. Thank you.



Communication

A reminder of the different ways that we communicate with parents to ensure that all parents/carers feel as informed as possible.

ParentMail is our main source of communication. This is often for reminders, important messages and updates. I do appreciate that on occasion there may be times where parents may receive a number of ParentMail messages at one time or within a busy week; however, I urge you to read all of these at all times. We may also use text messages for urgent communications. Each week, we share our weekly menu. This details our assembly theme, reminders, food menu, P.E kit days, clubs and other opportunities that are happening during that week – I urge parents to read this as it often has the most up to date information about school activities and events. School now has a [Facebook account](#). This is used to share notable events in school and a great way of seeing how the children's experience at Eskdale is being enriched. Finally, I write a newsletter to parents at the start and end of each half term detailing events that have been happening in school.

There may be occasions where parents need to communicate information about pupils, changes in circumstances or want to discuss either education or welfare matters with school. For minor day-to-day communication, parents/ carers can either share these with myself at the school gate or speak to the school office so that messages can be passed on to the appropriate adult in school. For more personal day-to-day communications that need the attention of the class teacher, please call the school office or email either mail@eskdale.notts.sch.uk or office@eskdale.notts.sch.uk to arrange a suitable time for a meeting or telephone call. For other conversations that may need my attention, please be aware that I have an open-door policy and for the most part, can see parents at short notice. I always prefer to speak to parents/carers face-to-face or over the telephone.

If I am not available, a time can be arranged to meet Mr Dransfield, our deputy head teacher (please be aware that Mr Dransfield has a teaching commitment in Y3 and therefore may not be available immediately, unless the issue is urgent).

Can I ask that for any day-to-day communications about pupils' education or welfare in class that parents/carers speak to the class teacher first as often any issues can be resolved at that stage.

Clubs

Over the school year, we will endeavour to provide a range of clubs that pupils across school can take part in. For physical activity clubs, pupils will need a change of clothes that is suitable (PE Kit). Places for clubs are normally booked via ParentMail or directly with the provider. Please can parents also ensure that they are aware of the end time of clubs (this is typically 4:15 or 4:25pm) so that arrangements are in place for collecting their child for their safe return home. If arrangements change, please can school be informed. Thank you.

STARS Before & After School Club



Our before and after school club 'S.T.A.R.S.' consists of breakfast club from 7.30am to 8.50am and after school club which is open from 3.25pm to 6pm. STARS create a home from home atmosphere, providing secure, safe and healthy care before and after the school day and which builds on home life by providing a healthy breakfast/tea time snack, instilling good homework habits, improving speaking and listening skills by talking about the school day, and working with parents to understand every child's needs. Each day, the children can participate in a range of activities. This can include reading/homework time, board games, table top toys, outdoor play, craft/art activities, sport and much more. Activities will take place in the school bungalow, in the bungalow garden area or on the school grounds, where all of our play equipment is age appropriate. Our club sessions are available at a competitive price of £7.50 for breakfast club and an after-school session of £12. Please contact the school office for further information or to obtain an application form.

Medicines in School

Eskdale Junior School is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with medical conditions. The school aims to provide all pupils with medical conditions the same opportunities as others. Legally, schools are not compelled to administer medication to children or to supervise a child taking it because of the risks involved. At Eskdale, staff will administer medication on a short term or occasional basis. Parents/carers are required to complete a consent form which is available from the school office. Verbal instructions will not be accepted. Where possible, parents should try to administer medications outside of school hours (for example, 3 times a day antibiotic taken before school, after school and before bedtime). For pupils who regularly need analgesia (e.g. painkillers like Calpol for migraines or ongoing issues), an individual supply of theirs can be kept at the school office. Over the counter medications will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances, and be treated in the same way as prescribed medication. Please do not send children with cough sweets or lozenges. **All medication** requires a consent form to be completed and all medication will be stored securely in the school office with the exception of emergency type medications such as epi pens or inhalers.

Bikes & Scooters

New parents/carers who wish their child to store a bike or scooter in school and have not already returned a signed bike/scooter contract will need to obtain one from the school office. Please also be reminded that children must wear a helmet. I will write to parents/carers in a separate communication with further details.



Times Tables Rockstars

Pupils knowing and understanding their times tables is the bedrock of all mathematical understanding and can be a huge contributor to pupils making outstanding progress in the subject. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun way of improving children's understanding and recall of times table questions. It is important that pupils consistently use TT Rock Stars to improve and strengthen their knowledge of multiplication as this is the basis for a lot of the children's mathematical learning. Thank you in advance for supporting your children.



Events in School

As ever, our school calendar this term looks busy and full of opportunity. Please see details on the termly diary that accompanies this newsletter. Please note that there may be occasions where events or opportunities are moved or additions are made due to unforeseen circumstances. We endeavour to ensure this isn't the case; however, if this does occur, please look out for ParentMail messages or communications from school.



Booking Activities in School

Can I remind parents to book onto any opportunities such as Curriculum Fairs and Bake and Reads as soon as possible via the ParentMail app to avoid any disappointment. Last year, we had a small number of parents/carers asking to be booked after the closing date, despite numerous reminders to book as soon as possible.



Behaviour

We pride ourselves on high standards of behaviour (indeed, 94% of parents/carers surveyed last year agreed or strongly agreed!) and our core values and Take Care Rules set an expectation for all pupils. Pupils will be reminded of these in class and by myself in assembly this half term. Maintaining high standards of behaviour is a significant contributor to pupils remaining happy and engaged in their learning at school. I will send a reminder of our Take Care Rules and associated information about behaviour to parents/carers this half term.



Benedicts Law

As part of our commitment to keeping all children safe, and in line with the principles of Benedict's Law, we ask that no nut-based products are brought into school. Children with severe nut allergies can experience serious reactions from even small amounts of nuts or foods containing traces of nuts. Please do not send items such as Nutella, peanut butter, or snacks that contain nuts or may contain traces of nuts. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all pupils.

School Tuck

School will be continuing school tuck at morning break this term where children can purchase a healthy snack for 20p. Please can I remind parents to not send your child to school with crisps or chocolate bars as a snack for break-time and to send healthy snacks instead. There are some great ideas on the healthier families website <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-food-swaps/#snacks> . Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Reminders!

Diary dates for this term are attached to this newsletter. Please look out for opportunities that we will be offering both pupils and parents this term.

Look out for our 'Themed Lunches' this term. Why not get your child to try our fabulous school dinners on one of these special menu days?

Please can I remind parents not to park or wait in the restricted zones around school (zigzag markings) and to be considerate of our neighbours during pick up and drop off times. We are currently working with NCC CCTV enforcement vehicles to make school a safer environment for pedestrians and motorists. **Please also note that the school carpark is for staff only. Parents should not use the carpark to drop off or collect children from school, clubs or Stars before and after school club or use the drive as a turning place. This is for the safety of all children.**

Thursday 15th October is the last day of the half term for pupils as Friday 16th October is an Inset day for both Eskdale and Alderman Pounder.

Pupils will return for the start of the second half of the autumn term on Monday 2nd November 2026.

We are all looking forward to another fantastic Eskdale year!

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton Head Teacher