

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have come to the end of the first half of the autumn term already! 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 rest before the busy run-up to Christmas after the half term break.

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 30 different languages spoken at Eskdale, with 10 of these European! In assembly, pupils found out more about the importance of learning a language, learnt a greeting in different languages (tutored by our bilingual pupils) and then used one of those different greetings each day as they entered school in the morning. Our caterers, Coombs, supported the week with a delicious European Themed meal. A special mention for those pupils who helped with a European Day of Languages video for our Facebook page!



European Day
of Languages

Riley Sports

Eskdale welcomed Riley Sports to the Eskdale team at the start of this school year. Mr Botfield, our new coach, has been busy delivering clubs such as cricket and football, as well as running sport-based interventions such as boxing. He has also found time to deliver assemblies and run lunch-time clubs for groups of children 4 days a week. Away from term-time support, Riley Sports will be running our first holiday club at school this half term for a 4-day period in the second half of the half term break.

Mr Botfield will be running football, gymnastics, (in response to our survey – thank you to all those who responded) soft axe throwing and laser tag next half term! Places should be booked using our ParentMail app.

Eskdale PTFA Events

Our fabulous PTFA have had a busy start to the school year with their popular lottery, before kicking off their seasonal activities with the annual Halloween colouring competition and our Halloween disco at the end of this half term (more on that after the half term break!) As they plan for Christmas, they will be running a Christmas choir for pupils each week leading up to their festive event toward the end of next half term. Keep an eye out in the school diary for more PTFA events.



Bake & Read Events

We began the half term 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 child. It really is such a lovely atmosphere in the hall during these events and 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! The Bake and Read events raised £289 which will be used to support reading in school.



Book Fair

Earlier than usual in our school calendar, we welcomed the Book Fair to school to complement our Bake and Read events. Once again, a wide range of books were on offer. Many thanks to all those parents who were able to support both the Fair and school by buying a book. We made an amazing £822 in sales which will go towards purchasing reading resources for school.



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 Themed Lunch Days

Our meals provider, Coombs, delivered exciting meal services earlier this half term with the 'Around the World' and 'The Greatest Showman' themed lunches. Thank you to Mrs Wharmby, Mrs Owen, Mrs Clowes, Mrs Arnold, midday supervisors and our wonderful team of pupil servers who made these great events. Look out for our special Diwali themed lunch, Remembrance and of course the traditional Christmas dinner coming next half term.

Commando Joe - 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 pupils before and after school. In addition to this important part of our personal development offer, Commando Joe invited our Y6 pupils to apply to become 'Junior Joes' (where pupils become a 'Commando Joe'). Selected pupils have been busy running activities for our younger children on the 'top yard' during lunchtime. We are so proud of those children who have taken this leadership responsibility so seriously!

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 have moments when maintaining our mental health becomes a challenge. We were treated to presentations by Mrs Armstrong-Lomas who talked about Take Care Club as well as Mrs Kiraly, who shared with the children more about our ELSA support.



Y3 Library Visit

Y3 had their reading experience at Eskdale enriched with a visit to Beeston library. Pupils travelled on the tram before registering as members as well as having the opportunity to take a book out to read. Thank you to all those involved in organising the visits and well done to all those pupils who had a great opportunity to show off as Eskdalers!



Clubs

At Eskdale, we are constantly striving to provide a range of additional opportunities for your children to participate in. With before school, lunchtime and after-school clubs running each week, we have never been so busy. Riley Sports being part of the Eskdale team has been a notable addition, not to mention Commando Joe and the other clubs run by staff across school. Our aim is to get as many children attending a club as possible over the school year by trying to keep cost low and maintaining a broad range of opportunities for all interests as well something new.



Cycle and Scooter to School Week

Pupils took part in cycle or scooter to school week once again this year. Y6 pupils led the event, presenting in assembly and then ticking off pupils sheets each day to acknowledge the number of times children had brought a bike or scooter. They then took on the unenviable task of writing all the raffle tickets for a prize draw. Three randomly selected pupils will receive prizes donated by Cycle Inn in Beeston and from TGR Embroidery after the half term break! Well done to all those Y6 pupils who masterminded the event, which had a huge response from our children (check out the short video on our Facebook page!)



Black History Month

In assembly 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 recognisable in Black History such as Rosa Parks but also found out about those individuals in British Black History who have been overlooked or forgotten. We supported the theme of 'Honouring Our Communities' by discovering those 'hidden heroes' from Nottingham before finding out more about Chilwell hero, Eric Irons, Britain's first black magistrate and a campaigner for equal rights! A special mention for those pupils who completed additional research, finding out more about men and women in Black History who we (including myself) had not heard of.



Harvest

We had our best response in the school's history to our Harvest this year. Our whole school community came together, generating a huge wealth of items. Our School Council then added smiley faces to tins (an acknowledgement that these will be donated to real people) and then then boxed up all the items before being collected by 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 record 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 Facebook account.



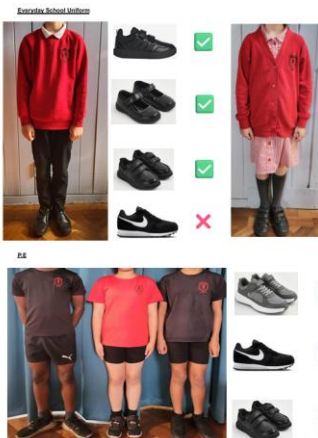
Y6 Safety Zone Visit

Once again, Y6 pupils visited Holme Pierrepont, Gamston, for Safety Zone workshops. 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, Miss Hackett and the Y6 teaching team for organising this enriching opportunity!



School Uniform

We would like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for your continued support with our school uniform expectations. We have seen a noticeable improvement overall, and our children look smart, take pride in their appearance, and represent our school wonderfully. As a reminder, children should wear school shoes as part of their daily uniform. Sports-style shoes (e.g. Nike, Adidas) may be worn if they are entirely black, including any logos or branding. Shoes with white or coloured branding are regarded as trainers and are not part of the school uniform. On PE days, children should come to school wearing their house-coloured PE top, plain black bottoms, and their school cardigan or jumper with any sports trainer. We would also like to remind families that, for health and safety reasons, children should not wear earrings to school other than simple stud earrings. Hoop earrings and other jewellery are not permitted. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high standards and ensuring consistency across the school.



Severn Trent Water Visit

Earlier this week, we welcomed Severn Trent Water to school. In a lively assembly, two teams battled it out in their H2O Showdown gameshow! A great way of finding out more about where our water comes from, the journey it takes before running from out of our taps and how we can conserve water.

SEVERN
TRENT

Attendance

Many thanks to all those parents/carers who have continued to support their children's academic and personal development by ensuring that they attend regularly. As detailed in my communications earlier this term, Eskdale's attendance target is 97% and attendance should not fall below 95%. We will always keep parents aware of any emerging challenges with attendance and where parents feel there are emerging challenges with their son or daughter's attendance or punctuality, I ask that you contact school. Attendance at Eskdale for this half term was 98%! It would be fantastic if we could keep this up!



Reminders!

Thursday 5th November Diwali Themed Lunch.

Wednesday 11th November Remembrance Themed Lunch

Monday 16th – Friday 20th – Anti Bullying Week

Friday 20th November Children in Need

Monday 23rd – Friday 29th – Parliament Week

Friday 27th November – Non Uniform Day - £1 Donation towards class Christmas Parties

Have a relaxing two-week half-term break and we will see everyone back in school on **Monday 2nd November 2026**

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton
Head Teacher