

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year! I hope everyone has had the opportunity to have a well-deserved break over the summer and are ready to start a new and exciting term at Eskdale! A particular warm welcome to all our new parents and children who are starting with us this term. It has been fantastic to see the children return with such happy faces and enthusiasm for learning!

We are beginning this year 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. Some of these elements are detailed in this newsletter and I will send some more detailed reminders of the school's expectation over the next week or so. Your support with ensuring we maintain the highest standards for your children is invaluable to us.

Behaviour

We pride ourselves on high standards of behaviour (indeed 97% of parents/carers surveyed last year agreed or strongly agreed!) and our 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 for parents/carers later this half term.



TT 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.



Marvellous Me

A reminder to all parents, especially new parents to download the free MarvellousMe app from either the iPhone app store or from Google play for Android phone users to a smart phone or tablet. School will then be able to provide a unique code so that parents can begin to receive school updates, news and pupil successes throughout the year. MarvellousMe is currently used to reward pupils who meet the school's behavior expectations each week and a great way of communicating success.



Uniform

Parents/Carers may be aware that the government have highlighted the need for the cost of uniform not to be excessive. At Eskdale, our minimum expectation is that both House t-shirt, school jumper and 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, rings or earrings that are not studs.

School jumpers or cardigans are an important part of being identifiable as an Eskdale Junior School pupil, 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. Last year our overall attendance peaked at 97% and rarely fell below 96%. In addition to this, an increasing number of children were rewarded for 100% attendance each term. Pupil attendance must not fall below 95% and if this is the case, will become a cause for concern. 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 poor attendance can result in parents being referred to the Local Authority to be fined. All leave of absence requests (formally holiday requests) are treated on an individual basis and any request greater than 3 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. 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 son or daughter-this should be worn for P.E. 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

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 we keep you 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 but I urge you at all times to read these. On rare occasions we may also use text messages for urgent communications. Each week we share a weekly menu by ParentMail. This details our assembly theme, reminders, food menu, PE days, clubs and other opportunities that are happening during that week.

MarvellousMe is used as part of our behaviour system and parents will receive a weekly communication if your son or daughter has met school expectations for the week. This is also used to communicate pupils' success.

School has an 'X' account (formally known as Twitter-@eskdalejunior) This is used to tweet notable events in school and a great way of seeing how your child's experience at Eskdale is being enriched. Finally, I write a newsletter to parents at the start and end of each half term.



School Newsletter

Communication with Class Teacher or Other Staff

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 queries parents/carers can speak to the school office who may be able to resolve your query, or pass messages on to class teachers. Alternatively, you can write a note in pupil home/school diaries to the teachers or teaching assistants.

For queries that may need my attention (such as safeguarding concerns or school policy), please be aware that I operate an open-door policy and for the most part can see parents at short notice (please be aware there may be occasions when I already have commitments and therefore may have to arrange a more suitable time)

Much as I appreciate the convenience of emails, I always prefer to speak to parents/carers face-to-face or over the telephone. In my absence, Mrs Dorn (deputy head teacher) can be available. Can I ask that for any day to day communications about pupils in class that parents/carers speak to the the school office or class teacher **first** as often any queries can be satisfied at this stage. If ever in doubt about who to speak to, please call the school office or speak to myself and we will be happy to advise. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

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 endeavours to provide an atmosphere and activities similar to those at home by providing secure, safe and healthy care, before and after the school day, 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, working with parents to understand every child's needs. Each day, the children have the opportunity to join 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 £6.50 for breakfast club and an after-school session of £11. We currently do have spaces remaining for both before and after school sessions. Please contact the school office for further information or to obtain an

Events & Activities in School

Our school calendar this term already 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 unforeseen circumstances. We endeavor at all times to ensure this isn't the case however if this does occur, please look out for ParentMail messages or updates on communications from school.



Eskdale PTFA

After the success of our Summer Fair last term our new PTFA will be looking to run a number of events once again this year. Our PTFA still really need the support of current (or new!) parents. If you are able to help please contact the school office or come and join the PTFA at one of their coffee mornings. In most cases, our PTFA often just need an extra pair of hands to ensure they can continue to plan for events that benefit both the children and school community.



No Nuts in School!

A reminder to parents that there are pupils in school with severe nut allergies. This means that they cannot be in contact with nuts both physical, airborne or any food that contains nuts or traces of nuts, this includes Nutella & chocolate bars that may contain or have traces of nuts. Please can parents ensure they do not send their children with nut-based foods to minimise the risk to those pupils who have nut allergies. Thank you.

School Tuck

School will be continuing school tuck at morning breaks this term where children can purchase a healthy snack for 20p. Please can I remind parents to not send your son or daughter to school with crisps or chocolate bars as a snack for break-time and to send healthy snacks 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 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 of times. We are currently working with NCC CCTV enforcement vehicle to make school a safer environment for pedestrians and motorists.

Thursday 19th October is the last day of the half term as Friday 20th is an Inset day.

Pupils will return for the start of the second half of the autumn term on Monday 6th November

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton

Head Teacher