

# ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



## Spring End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We get to the end of a busy Eskdale term full of memorable experiences for all of our school community and most notably our wonderful pupils. Astonishing to think we are about to enter the final term of the school year! The end of term always seems like the right time to thank all those adults in school that work tirelessly each day for your children and to thank all those parents/carers who continue to be so supportive of everything we do here at Eskdale. Last, but by no means least, thanks to your fantastic children who continue to make our school so special.

### Make Time to Read Month

We celebrated all things Reading throughout March with Mrs Dorn putting together a huge menu of opportunities for pupils (and parents AND grandparents!) Assemblies had a reading theme, looking at pupil's reading journey and sharing some different texts. Pupils clocked up reading hours in their diaries, contributing to a House point score throughout the month with Clumber emerging as the 'Eskdale Reading Champions 2023', who will receive our reading trophy kindly donated last year by the Dare family. Those who read with increased frequency in the 'Reading Raffle' won a prize of an Easter Egg. The winners for each house are as follows:

**Clumber: Edith & Aashi (joint winners)**

**Attenborough: Lauraya,**

**Wollaton: Phoebe**

**Rufford: Darcy O, Amelie K**

**Sherwood: Oliver C**

**Newstead: Emily C (5H), Zichen & Anna**

Our popular 'Book Swap' returned with a huge number of books being donated so pupils could exchange their older books for a new read! The Book Fair was back with many pupils buying a new title, enabling school to raise a record breaking £2091 of which nearly half is commission rewards for us to exchange for books. Teaching staff became a 'Secret Story Teller' at the end of the school day, appearing in a different year group to read to pupils.

We had some amazing online events including Alesha Dixon and Helen Rutter. Our Year 4's began their reading race to Naples and all pupils and staff, (including Co Joe!) took part in 'Drop Everything and Read' over the month where as soon as the school bell tolled, everyone literally dropped everything and read! Year 3 and our Library Squad enjoyed a Booknic in the sunshine where some favourite titles were shared.



### Hope

Our take care value was in action once again this term as we received thanks from the charity Hope Nottingham for our donations to their food banks. Many thanks to all those who were able to support this important initiative. Donations are distributed to those in need via Hope's 14 Foodbanks as part of the Trussell Trust East & West Nottingham Foodbank Franchise. Families at Eskdale have made donations throughout 2022 totaling 127kg of food!

### World Thinking Day

It was great to be able to support the Guides and Scout movement's 'World Thinking Day' by inviting pupils to attend school in their club uniform. I was astonished to see how many children we have in school who are part of the movement-they all looked fantastic! Many thanks to all those pupils who took part.



### Grandparents Lunch

It was lovely to see grandparents from across all year groups join us for an opportunity to read (as part of Make Time to Read month) with their grandson or granddaughter followed by a meal with the children of Eskdale and then finally having their arm twisted to purchase a book at the Book Fair! Many thanks to all those grandparents who were able to join us and to the huge team of staff (and pupils!) who made this event possible: Mrs Dorn, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Clowes, midday supervisors, our pupil servers and not for getting Mrs Wharmby and Miss Boyington in the school kitchen!

### Football

We began our football league campaign this half term with a number of football matches. In our first fixture, we welcomed Sunnyside Spencer Academy back to Eskdale. Unfortunately, we were not to see a repeat of our victory before Christmas, and despite going 1-0, we eventually lost 3-1. In our second match, we visited Albany Junior and once again, despite going 1-0 up, we ended with a 1-1 draw on a very bumpy pitch! In our final fixture of this term we visited Trowell Primary and AGAIN, we went 2-0 up, only to lose the game 4-2. Well done to all those boys who have been brilliant throughout all our games and many thanks to parents/carers for both their help with transport and their support. Let's hope we have better luck next term!

### Mothers Day Lunch

It was lovely to welcome Mums from across all year groups for an opportunity to join their son or daughter to share a book followed by a meal with the children of Eskdale. Many thanks to all those Mums who were able to join us and once again to the huge team of staff (and pupils!) who made this event possible: Mrs Dorn, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Clowes, midday supervisors, our pupil servers and not for getting Mrs Wharmby and Miss Boyington in the school kitchen!

### PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Many thanks to our fabulous P.T.F.A who organised an Easter egg hunt around the school grounds this half term. All the children who took part had a great time searching for the clues to win some chocolatey prizes. Many thanks to Michelle Daniels and all those other P.T.F.A members who organised this lovely event for the children and thank you to all those parents/carers who attended!

Just to remind parents, this was Michelle Daniels final event for our P.T.F.A. Sue Smith, ex-parent, governor and long-standing friend of Eskdale will take over from Michelle. Once again, I urge parents to show as much support as they can in helping our P.T.F.A events. It is not a huge commitment and many hands really do make light work.

## Y5 Assembly-Han-Solo and Gretel

Y5 wowed parents and carers as they performed an amusing take on the story of Hansel and Gretel with a Star Wars twist. The children were excellent, remembering all their lines and delivering a great performance that was enjoyed by all. Well done to all those pupils who took part, thank you to Mr Holmes, Miss Knightsbridge and the Y5 team for all their effort and finally a huge thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to come and watch.

## Y5 Residential

Y5 left Eskdale behind for two nights and three days as they headed off to their residential visit to the Dearne Valley Kingswood centre in South Yorkshire. On the way to the centre pupils stopped off to explore Conisbrough Castle. Once at Kingswood, pupils took part in a range of exciting and heart-racing activities including zip-wires, archery and climbing (just to name a few!) I'm told the children (and the adults!) had a great time. Many thanks to Miss Knightsbridge for organising the visit and a huge thank you to all those staff who accompanied the children. I'm sure everyone was ready for a good night's sleep on their return on Friday night!



## Comic Relief 2023

It was a pleasure to see our take care value in action as we took part in fundraising for Comic Relief. Pupils were asked to 'dress for joy' for a small donation to this worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone for making this such a memorable day. School raised £204.00 for the charity.



## Y6 Theatre Trip

Y6 pupils had their curriculum enriched earlier this term with a visit to the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to watch 'Unexpected Twist'-a stage adaptation of the author Michael Rosen's modern take on the Charles Dickens classic novel. I'm told the children had a fantastic time. Many thanks to the all those staff who accompanied the children and to all those that were involved in the huge task of organising the visit. A memorable experience for all involved!



### Easter Egg Competition

It was great to welcome back our annual Easter Egg competition. Always a highlight of the spring term, pupils demonstrated high levels of creativity to produce something truly original. The winning entries were as follows:

Y6: Winner- Caitlin Davidson  
Runner up- Alice Harbottle

Y5: Winner- Jessica McConnell  
Runner up- Findley Gordon

Y4: Winner- Samuel Domotor  
Runner up- Phoebe

Y3: Winner- Jayme-Rae Shepherd  
Runner up- Daisy Wilkinson-Fox

All winners and runners up received a chocolate Easter egg and all those who took part were rewarded with a little Easter treat.



### Fair Trade Fortnight

We raised awareness of the importance of Fairtrade with pupils this term. Y6 pupils already had a head-start as they learn about this important Global issue in their curriculum however the rest of school were brought up to speed with a number of dedicated assemblies and a special assembly at the end of the week led by the Fairtrade Foundation who shared with children some real-life examples of Fairtrade across the World. To enrich the children's knowledge, our local Co-op on Bramcote Lane set a competition for pupils to design a poster promoting Fairtrade. The response from our pupils was incredible with well over 50 entries! These were all displayed in the Co-op and three overall winners were chosen by Damion Clay, manager at the Bramcote Lane Co-op who popped into school to congratulate the children on their fine work in assembly. Well done to Zane, Chloe and Vienne, who were selected as the top three winners who all received Fairtrade chocolate donated by the Co-op and a huge well done to all those other pupils who took part. Please take some time to nip into the Co-op to see the children's work.



### Church Walks

Y3, Y5 and Y6 pupils have had their R.E learning enriched with a visit to Christ Church or St Barnabas this half term. While there, they had the chance to explore the church, find out more about the Easter story and what it symbolises, made crosses and had a talk from friend of Eskdale Reverend Ryan. A great experience for all the children. Many thanks to all staff for their support and to Miss Groves for organising the visits for pupils.

### A Polite Reminder

I love school to be a busy place for your children with lots of different ways we can enhance and enrich their experience. With that busyness comes a significant amount of organisation that often staff are conducting in their own time. Please can I remind parents to read all communications that come from school, especially those that relate to visits or trips. I do recognise that on occasion there may be a number of communications in one week or even one day, but be assured, this is important in ensuring your children have every opportunity to have the experience at Eskdale that we want them to have. Thank you in advance for your support.

### Y4 Musical Performance

It was a pleasure to see our Y4 pupils demonstrating such a wealth of musical knowledge as they performed for parents and carers using a range of percussion instruments earlier this week. Pupils described the musical elements, the differing ways that percussion instruments can be played and delivered a grand finale with a boomwhacker rendition of the Star Wars theme! Many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to attend and huge well done to both our Y4 pupils and Ms Howes for an excellent show!

### Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Thank you to all those members of staff who have taken the time to enrich the children's experience at Eskdale this term. From Commando Joe for his morning and after school club, TAs for homework club, Mrs Dorn for library squad, Miss Knightsbridge for embroidery, Miss Howes for ukulele and Miss Groves and Miss Hackett for netball. We are constantly looking for more opportunities to provide for the children outside of the school day and will hopefully be able to offer more sport in the coming months as well as a free trial of learning Mandarin! We are pleased to confirm that Clay Creators will be returning to Eskdale after Easter. The club is for all year groups and the first session is Thursday 20th April. Please use the direct web link to the booking page for the club.

<https://booking.claycreators.com/bookings/course-info/1084>

### Reminders!

Children return to school on **Monday 17th April** for the start of the summer term. We have several trips during the first week, if you have not already done so please **can you ensure you have given permission** for your child to attend.

**Tuesday 18th April** Year 3 Visit the Theatre expected return to school is between 3.30pm-3.45pm

**Wednesday 19th April** Year 5 visit the Sculpture Park

**Friday 21st April** Year 4 visit Beaumanor

**Week Commencing 24th April** Year 6 Mock SATS Week

#### Dinner Money

Please be reminded that dinner money should be topped up in advance on ParentMail the cost for dinners is changing from 1<sup>st</sup> April to £2.55 per day, £12.75 for the week. For those who top up the half term the cost is £68.85 for the next half term.

**Packed Lunches** – Please be reminded that packed lunches and break time snacks should be healthy and nutritious. Children should not have fizzy drinks, chocolate bars, sweets or **nuts** (to protect children with allergies).

Have a happy and safe Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton  
Head teacher

