

# ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



## Spring Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

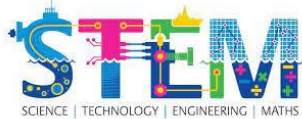
This half term seems to have flown by! Despite this being a 'quieter' half term (certainly by Eskdale standards!) it has been eventful in its own way presenting both opportunity and challenge for both school and for our children. From everyone at Eskdale Junior, have a restful half term break and we will see everyone back on school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February!

### Drumba Leads

Drumba continues to go from strength to strength in school and remains a great way of keeping both pupils (and staff!) fit and healthy. It has been great to have Rockley Music support a group of pupils in school who have been trained up to be able to lead Drumba sessions. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this opportunity for the children.

### Y5 STEM

Y5 took part in the Road to Riat STEM day earlier this half term. Pupils designed and 'fair-tested' their own rockets, added different payloads and experimented with an angle of launch! A great day had by all. Many thanks to Mr Holmes and Miss Knightsbridge for leading this enriching opportunity.



### More Y3 'Eskdalers'

It was great to see more of our Y3 pupils becoming 'Eskdalers' at the end of this half term. Pupils have shown a real 'respond to challenge' attitude and it was such a pleasure to be able to reward them with a special badge to recognise their effort.

### Y6 National Holocaust Centre Visit

Y6 pupils visited the National Holocaust Centre at the start of this half term as part of their religious education work looking at Jewish beliefs and the reasons for remembering the holocaust. Pupils had an incredibly thought-provoking day, deepening their understanding of this significant event in History. Many thanks to our Y6 team for organising this memorable opportunity.



### Victoria and Albert Lion King Virtual Musical

In a rather lively session in the school hall, the whole school took part in a virtual Lion King-themed singing and dancing session, led by performers from the V&A in London. Pupils took on the role of a number of characters from the film and musical, learning dance moves and 'motifs'. Certainly, a memorable experience!



### Safer Internet Week

Earlier than the billed date of Tuesday 7th February, we spent a whole week speaking to the children about the importance of internet safety. Mrs Briggs led assemblies exploring how we use the internet, some of the risks involved and how our SMART rules can be used to ensure that we stay safe in all our online activity. Pupils also had the chance to watch 'Be A Cyber Smarty-Y Film'. Back in the classrooms, staff emphasised all those key safety messages and on the evening of Tuesday 7th, parents/carers had the opportunity to join a free online session hosted by the East Midlands Special Operations Unit for Cybercrime who shared information about how to keep children safe online while at home. Many thanks to Mrs Briggs for her support in making the week such as success. Being safe online is now a huge part of your child's personal development. If you are concerned about your son or daughter's online activity, the please contact school. Look out for our online safety monthly newsletter which tackles all things online safety.

### Junior Joe's

Well done to all those Y6 pupils who have been Junior Joes' both this half term and throughout the second half of the autumn term. After a rigorous interview process conducted by Commando Joe, we now have a new group of Y6 children who are going to pick up where the previous Junior Joes left off both next half term and throughout the first half of the summer term. A huge well done to all those pupils who have been selected.

### Chinese New Year

It was great to celebrate Chinese New Year at Eskdale this half term. We learnt a greeting in Mandarin and dedicated assemblies to looking at traditions and ways that this important festival is celebrated. Our meals provider Coombs delivered an excellent Chinese New Year meal with a choice of Chicken Curry or Vegetable Chow Mein, complete with prawn crackers and fortune cookies! We decorated the school hall and pupils took part in Chinese New Year themed activities back in the classroom. A fab week had by all!



### Childrens Mental Health Week

Once again, we teamed up with children's mental health charity Place2Be to support children's mental health week at the end of this half term. The theme was 'Let's Connect' and in assembly we explored how to make meaningful connections with those around us-something that is vital for our well-being. We encouraged pupils to connect with others in healthy rewarding and meaningful ways. Back in classrooms, pupils created their own personalised paper 'link' that we attached to create a vast school paper chain symbolising the importance of connecting with each other. Our meals provider Coombs delivered a fabulous 'Let's Connect' lunch to complement the week.

Pupils ended the week with a 'Dress to Express' non-uniform day, donating £1 to the charity Place2Be and taking advantage of an opportunity to dress in way that they think expresses who they are.



### NEU Strike Day

It was disappointing to be in a position where we were unable to keep school open earlier this half term as a result of the NEU strike action-a decision that I assure you is never taken lightly. It's my sincerest hope that future negotiations between Unions and the government are productive however, with the next planned strike day for March 1st (the second week into the second half of the spring term) I urge parents/carers to have childcare arrangements in place for this day as it is possible that we may find ourselves in the same position as we were for the first strike day this half term. I will keep parents/carers informed of any changes and hopefully confirm arrangements at the start of the first week back after the spring half term break.

### Y5 Musical Performance

Y5 ended the half term with a showcase of their learning and knowledge music with Ms Howes. Pupils wowed parents/carers demonstrating a secure understanding of the musical elements and music history (with a focus on Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5), played 'I'll be there' on the glockenspiel and sang the song beautifully in an excellent finale! Many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to come and watch the performance and a huge thanks to Ms Howes who continues to provide a high-quality musical experience for our children.



### Reminders!

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> & Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** – PTFA Movie Nights  
Minions – The Rise of Gru

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** –Class photographs taken in school.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Inset Day school closed to pupils.

**March** – Make time to read month – look out for our special newsletter

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>-Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Grandparents Lunch (details to follow)

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Bookfair in school details to follow.

From everyone at Eskdale Junior, have a relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming the children **back in school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton  
Head Teacher