

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

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Christmas at Eskdale is always a special time of year. From the moment the festive hoops are hung in the hall, the lights are up and the tree is decorated, there is such a lovely feel of Christmas spirit! It has been a busy half term, full of lots of opportunities for both pupils and parents and I think everyone is now ready for a well-deserved break. A perfect time to thank all the hard-working staff of Eskdale Junior for all they do for our pupils and to all those parents and carers who continue to be supportive of everything that we do. From everyone at Eskdale, have a very Merry Christmas!

Clubs

We have begun our expansion of extra-curricular clubs this half term. It has been great to have Spaghetti Maths, Clay Creators and Commando Joe running opportunities for our children. In particular, I want to thank all those members of staff who have given their time to supporting extra-curricular or pupil-led opportunities. Miss Knightsbridge for Embroidery Club and leading our House captains, Mrs Dorn for supporting our year 6 Library Squad, Mr Duckham for running computing club and Ms Howes for our Eskdale Rock Choir! Look out for more opportunities in the new year!

Goodbye

Mr Duckham, TA in Y5 leaves Eskdale at the end of this term. Mr Duckham has been with us at Eskdale for over 2 terms and in that time has provided support for individual pupils as well as support for classes, across both years five and six. All at Eskdale will miss him and wish him all the best for a successful future.

Y5 and Y6 Bake & Read

Thank you once again to all those who were able to support the Bake and Read earlier this term. It is always a pleasure seeing the children in upper key stage two reading with a parent/carers, it just goes to show you are never too old at Eskdale to share a book with an adult! Our Bake and Read events raised an impressive £385. All funds will go towards supporting Reading in school.

Tough Rower

Pupils had a truly unique experience earlier this term when they competed in the Tough Rower challenge in school. Pupils demonstrated incredible strength and resilience as they exerted themselves on a static rowing machine in the school hall. Working in House teams they battled to see who could get the winning positions and times on a virtual representation of their race on the large screen in the school hall. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching experience for our pupils.



Y3 Library Visit

Our commitment to Reading continued this half term by enrolling all our new-starters in Y3 at Beeston Library. Pupils had the opportunity to find out more about how the library works, listen to a story and to take books away to read. Many thanks to Mrs Dorn, Mrs Arnold and Mrs Clowes for organising this 'Skills and Knowledge for Life' opportunity and to all the Y3 team and volunteers for their invaluable support. Don't forget, the library is only a few stops on the tram from Eskdale Drive and then a short walk once in Beeston!

Remembrance

We recognised Remembrance this year through assemblies and a themed lunch from our meals provider Coombes, remembering our armed forces community, both past and present. A two-minute silence was held to remember those who lost their lives in conflict.

Local Authority Quality Assurance Visit

It has been a long time since Eskdale was inspected by Ofsted (10 years next June!) and we remain on high alert at that possibility as Ofsted say they will inspect all outstanding schools by 2025! The Local Authority conducted a quality assurance visit to Eskdale earlier this half term. The visit was not to inspect the school but to establish our strengths and areas for development as we anticipate the call from Ofsted. We were very pleased with the report which was very complementary about the school's work. Below are a selection of highlights from the report:

- Knowledge progression documents have been developed for all subjects and are effectively supporting learning.
- Reading is strong in the school.
- Standards in writing and mathematics are strong.
- Outcomes in books demonstrate effective progress across the school.
- Lesson visits undertaken demonstrate effective practise and well embedded behaviours for learning; without exception, pupils were engaged and focused on learning.
- Senior and middle leaders subject leaders work as an effective and dynamic team.

As ever there are aspects of school that need our attention but it was fantastic to have such a complementary report about the school's work.

Mayor of Broxtowe Christmas Hamper Appeal

It was great to be able to support the Mayor of Broxtowe's Christmas Hamper Appeal once again this year. We boxed up a range of donated items that then could be distributed to those less fortunate in the local area. I'm certain that together we have contributed to a better Christmas for families in Broxtowe. Thank you for your support-a true take care moment!



Anti Bullying Week

We supported anti-bullying week once again through the Anti-bullying Alliance's theme 'Reach Out' (encouraging everyone to reach out and speak out if they encounter bullying) We explored what bullying is, when it can occur, its impact and what we can do to tackle it. To support anti-bullying week further, pupils wore odd-socks in recognition that we are all the same, but different and have the right to be free from bullying. Thank you to all those children who took part.



England Rocks TT Competition

With the World Cup up and running, what better time to take part in our own competition. All pupils across school took part in the TTRock Stars 'England Rocks' competition coming a respectable 346 out of 4302 schools!

Well done to all those children who took part and many thanks to Miss Tabram for organising this enriching experience.



Y6 DAaRT

Formally known as D.A.R.E, pupils in Y6 took part in their DAaRT (Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Training) graduation at the end of this term. Pupils had spent this term learning both skills and knowledge to equip them to face challenging situations in the future. Well done to all those pupils who graduated and many thanks to Y6 staff for supporting pupils through this very mature contribution to their personal development.



Children in Need

It was a privilege to support Children in Need once again this year. Pupils dressed in something SPOTacular for a donation of £1. Many thanks to everyone who was able to donate. School raised an impressive £273!



Drumba Leads

Children from across school have been selected to receive additional coaching from Rockley Music to be able to lead a Drumba class with their classmates. Children will receive further 'Drumba Lead' training next year to deliver and run sessions for their classmates and teachers. Some children have already begun to deliver sessions during PE. We have been very impressed with their maturity and enthusiasm.



Parking

It has been brought to my attention that once again we have a small number of parents who are parking and driving in an inconsiderate manner that has the potential to put both pupils and adults at risk. Please can parents/carers ensure that they are more considerate in both the drop off at the start of the day and collection at the end. Please note that Nottinghamshire's traffic monitoring car periodically drives down Eskdale Drive and has the power to issue on-the-spot fines. In addition to this, I have requested that the police make periodic patrols at these times of day to ensure all our school community can feel safe. Please also be reminded that the school carpark is for staff use only. Parents should not be using the carpark to drop off or pickup children from school or STARS. In the last month we have had 2 near misses and also damage to property in the school carpark we want to stress that the carpark is for staff use only. Thank you for your understanding.

Maths at Eskdale Parents Sessions

Part of our school improvement work this year is to refresh the way we teach mathematics at Eskdale. Miss Tabram has been busy leading staff training, trialling new approaches in her own classroom and this half term led two excellent maths sessions for parents/carers. Running sessions both after school and in the morning, Miss Tabram talked to parents/carers about our approach to maths and allowed parents to 'have a go' at answering questions using the methods suggested. Many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to attend and to Miss Tabram for leading these events.



World Cup

Children had the opportunity to watch the first England game of the World Cup in the school hall. Children created their own banners, making a fabulous atmosphere. Sadly, this World Cup hasn't come home but it was lovey to give our children a great time.



Christmas Jumper Day

Many thanks to those parents who supported the 'Save the Children' campaign by sending their child in a festive jumper and providing a donation of £1. All the children looked fantastic, especially on Christmas dinner day in school, which made it feel even more special! All donations go to the Save the Children appeal. The day raised a fabulous £152 for this important charity.



BigFoot Production of Cinderella

It was lovely to be able to show the children a pantomime at Eskdale this Christmas. BigFoot Education put their own spin on the classic tale of Cinderella and all pupils had a fab time laughing at the jokes and getting in the festive spirit! Thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to make a donation of just £1 to allow the children to have this seasonal treat!

CO-OP Community Fund

We are thrilled to be chosen once again for the Co-op's Community Fund! Our aim is to develop the well-being of pupils in school but especially those who have challenges with mental health. Our planned 'Take Care Project' will be realised through the creation of a sensory garden. This will incorporate structures, planting and equipment that will facilitate talk and mindfulness, supporting pupils understanding of their own mental health whilst promoting emotional resilience. To find out more about our project and to choose us as your cause, visit <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/69410> #ItsWhatWeDo



PTFA Choir & Cookies

It was great to run the PTFA festive chocolate and choir night held earlier this week. Adults and children were able to purchase a delicious cookie and a warming hot chocolate before listening to our fabulous choir sing some of the songs they have been working on and some festive favourites, ending with a very Christmassy sing-a-long! Well done to all those pupils who took part and really got us in the Christmas spirit!

Many thanks also to Ms Howes for her work with choir, the support of the staff at school and last but certainly no means least, a huge thank you to Michelle Daniels and the PTFA for organising this super event!



Christmas Tree Festival

Our S.T.A.R.S shone once again this term as our popular before and after school club responded to the challenge by creating a themed Christmas tree for the annual Christmas tree festival held at St Barnabas Church. Well done to all those S.T.A.R.S pupils who took part and many thanks to Mrs Tunney and Mrs Thorpe for supporting this community event.



Year 4 Church Visit

Y4 had their R.E learning enriched with a visit to St Barnabas earlier this term. While they were there they made lanterns, found out more about the nativity, what Christmas meant to them and had a talk from friend of Eskdale, Reverend Ryan. A great morning had by all. Many thanks to the Y4 staff for organising this visit.



Darren Henry Christmas Card Competition

Every year, many pupils at Eskdale take part in MP Darren Henry's Christmas card competition. Never have we had a pupil win the competition...until this year! A huge well-done to Haidee in Y3 who's winning design will be on the front of all Christmas cards sent out by Darren this Christmas time.



Y3 'Eskdalers'

Well done to the huge number of pupils who completed their autumn Y3 transition and became 'Eskdalers' this week in school. With fantastic support from the Y3 staff, the children have worked incredibly hard to 'show-off' all those Eskdale essential skills and were rewarded with an exclusive 'Eskdaler' pin-badge. A special moment for both the children, the staff in Y3 and myself.

Attendance

Many thanks to all those parents and carers who have supported school in maintaining high standards of attendance. At the last check, whole school attendance was 96.5%. Much as this is slightly below values at the end of the first half term this is still very pleasing. We are moving into a time of year where coughs, colds etc...will be on the increase. Please continue to send your son or daughter to school unless they are absolutely too unwell to attend. Thank you in advance for your support.

Year 3 Christmas Concert 'A Midwife Crisis'

Y3 children had their first experience of performance at Eskdale with the nativity themed play 'A Midwife Crisis'. The children looked fantastic and really grew into their roles throughout a number of rehearsals and two fabulous performances.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to show their support over the two performances and a huge well done to all those children who took part- a truly memorable experience for all involved!

Not forgetting the tireless work by all those involved in making it so special: Mrs Dorn, Miss Hackett, Mrs Briggs, Mrs Fowler, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Huntley, Mrs Lomas, Mrs Gordon and Ms Howes who have all contributed to a great team effort: costumes, music, songs and of course the energy and commitment that comes with rehearsals.



UK Parliament Week

An important part of our personal development offer for all pupils is support in understanding British Values. An integral part of this is understanding our country's democratic system. UK Parliament week is a great way of improving children's understanding of this important subject. Pupils had a virtual assembly led by Parliament UK and then a visit by local MP Darren Henry who shared with pupils what it was like to be an MP and answered a number of challenging questions posed by the children.

After Darren's visit we held our own Eskdale Election, giving our 'Eskdale MPs' an opportunity to share with school their thoughts on: improving school, improving Chilwell and improving the World! Our Eskdale MPs spent the week touring the playground with their campaign managers speaking to pupils to try and gain votes. At the end of the week all pupils voted and the results were counted: Sharon B representing the Pink Party 108 votes
Dexter F representing the Blue Party 88 votes
Angelina P representing the Orange Party 31 votes
Oliver W representing the Green Party 17 votes. A huge well-done to all our Eskdale MPs but especially Sharon and her campaign manager Grace who were the overall winners! I believe Sharon would like to have a career in politics in the future!



Reminders!

The children return to school on Wednesday
4th January 2023

Have a very Merry Christmas!!

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton

Headteacher