

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Autumn Half Term Newsletter

Year 3

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a busy half term full of lots of exciting and interesting opportunities for our children. Thank you to all those parents/carers who continue to be supportive of all that we do at school-it is invaluable to us. Astonishingly we find ourselves at half term already! Time for your children to recharge their batteries and get ready for the return to school after the two-week break!

Staffing

Sad news first as one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Farmer leaves us at the end of this half term. Mrs Farmer has been a part of Eskdale since starting with us as a parent, then our PTFA, midday supervisor and most recently teaching assistant! She has very much been an 'Eskdaler' through and through during this time providing support for pupils across school. All at Eskdale wish her the best for the future and thank her for all the hard work and effort she has put into our children. All at Eskdale will miss her!



Well done to all our Y3 pupils as they continued their induction to Eskdale this half term. It is always challenging getting used to a new teacher, routines and a new school building however the children are doing incredibly well to adapt and are now on their journey to become Eskdalers!

New Caterers Coombes

We have been thrilled with our new caterers Coombes who have injected a new lease of life into our meal service at school. Even so early in the school year it has been great that they have been able to support whole school events such as Roald Dahl Day with a themed meal (complete with bird pie!) In addition to this, their 'Gold Star' lunch was a huge success with 190 pupils having a school meal on this day-the largest number of pupils having a meal in such a long time. Hopefully, Coombes will continue to go from strength to strength and if parents/carers were considering sending their son or daughter for a school meal, from personal experience, I can highly recommend them! Many thanks to Mrs Dorn, Mrs Arnold and Mrs Clowes for all their hard work in making sure our first half term with Coombes has gone smoothly and not forgetting our kitchen team who have worked hard to adapt to a new expectation.

COOMBS

Coombs Catering Partnership is delighted to be your new school meal provider. Our home cooked meals are freshly prepared and cooked daily in the school kitchen using the finest quality ingredients.

So why should you opt for a school lunch?

School lunches are a fantastic way to encourage your child to try new things, learn the correct way to behave properly during their meal and teach them how to correctly and safely use cutlery.

Making food fun!

Throughout the school year we will be organising themed days that could be linked in with school curriculum, promotions, competitions, invite a parent to lunch days and taster sessions.

Lunch Time

Each child is offered an option of either a traditional homemade meat or vegetarian meal accompanied with seasonal vegetables, daily salad/fruit pots, freshly baked bread, dessert or yoghurt.

National Poetry Day

We recognised National Poetry Day in school this half term beginning with an excellent Virtual Authors Aloud event with best-selling poet Brian Moses. We were also lucky to have a number of signed copies of Brian's new book to be able to offer to pupils. We complemented this by listening to black poets in assembly such as Benjamin Zephaniah and listened to some of our pupils reading out poems by these influential men and women. Well done to all those brave children: Noah, Luna, Harmony, Harry and Niall (who read out his own self-penned response to our work on Black History month) who stood up in assembly and read poems out in front of the whole school! Many thanks to Mrs Dorn and Mrs Arnold for her support with events for National Poetry Day.



Year 4 Wood Carving

Y4 witnessed both an unusual and historic event this half term, just across the road from school! As part of the redevelopment of the small wooded area (our pocket-park) parallel to Eskdale Drive pupils were able to see some of the wonderful wood carving that now stands proud in the middle of this beautiful part of our community. Thank you to all the Y4 team who were able to support the children.



Football

We kicked off our football season at the end of this half term with a friendly match against Sunnyside Spencer Academy. This was the first time the football squad have played together after only a small number of training sessions. In an incredible match, the boys managed to score 4 goals before Sunnyside fought back, giving us a fright scoring 2 late goals and setting up a nervous finish to the match. Final score: Eskdale 4, Sunnyside Spencer Academy 2. Well done to all those children who took part and to all those parents/carers who were able to provide support.

Black History Month

In assemblies this half term we celebrated Black History Month by looking at those significant individuals who have shaped not just Black History, but our History to date. Pupils found out more about those notable people in Black History such as Rosa Parks and Alice Coachman but also recognised those currently shaping future history such as Marcus Rashford and Stormzy.



World Mental Health Day

We highlighted the importance of looking after our mental health in support of World Mental Health Day earlier this week. Pupils wore an item of green clothing for a donation of just £1. In assembly, we discussed what mental health is, how we maintain our mental health and emphasised the importance of talking about our feelings. Thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to support this important cause. All donations will contribute towards a talk bench in school.



Extra-curricular clubs

We have been delayed somewhat but we are steadily getting back to many of the extra-curricular and pupil led activities that we were able to offer pre-Covid. This half term, pupils have participated in homework club, choir, clay creators, football and Commando Joe. In addition to this, we have now established our House captains, librarians and Junior Joes! Many thanks to all those staff who have led on these opportunities. Look out for more opportunities for your children in the coming months.



Year 5 Geography Field Trip

Y5 embarked on the first visit out of school this year with a trip to McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, supporting their geography unit of work on retail in the East Midlands. Pupils looked at the type of shops available, evaluated the amenities and even surveyed members of the public to see why they had chosen to visit the outlet. Many thanks to Mr Holmes, Miss Knightsbridge and the Y5 team for organising this enriching experience and a huge well done to all our Y5 pupils who enjoyed the chance to compare the shops with our local area.



Commando Joe

Commando Joe has been extraordinarily busy with our children this half term. Not only has he supported all our service children each week through the RESPECT Curriculum but also worked with our Y6 pupils AND delivered a before school club for Y6 and an after-school club for our Y4 pupils too!

In addition to this, he has also 'appointed' a group of Y6 pupils to become Junior Joes. This involved pupils in Y6 writing a letter application and being interviewed by Commando Joe (a real skills and knowledge for life moment!) eight Y6 children have been selected to be Junior Joes and will support children at breaks and lunchtimes with Commando Joe style activities throughout the second half of the autumn term and first half of the spring term (when a new group of Junior Joes will be selected)

Commando Joe will be working with our service pupils, Y5 and delivering clubs for both Y3 and Y5 in the second half of the autumn term.

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you to all those who were able to support Jeans for Genes day earlier this term. Pupils wore a pair of jeans alongside the rest of their school uniform. School raised a fabulous £200 which will go towards funding projects that provide nursing care, equipment, activity weekends, online support and counselling.



Harvest

We have had another incredible response to our Harvest this year! Our whole school community came together in true 'take care' style, generating a wealth of items that were then boxed up and shared with the Canaan Trust who will distribute these. It was great to see the children drawing smiley faces and in some cases messages of kindness on items brought in. Thank you so much to all parents/carers and children who supported our harvest collection this year through donations of food. An excellent example of our 'take care' value in action!

In addition to this, we had a fabulous number of 'Micro-Harvests' created by pupils across school, selecting a small number of home-grown food and presenting it in a decorative box. See our Twitter page for more details!



Year 3 & 4 Bake & Read

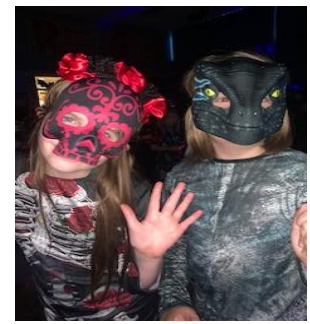
We continued our strong focus on reading in school this half term and particularly reading for pleasure as we invited parents/carers to bring a sweet treat and come and read with their son or daughter in school. It really is a lovely atmosphere in the hall during these events and seeing both parents/carers and pupils sharing a book is particularly pleasing. Never think your son or daughter is too old to be read with or to, it is such a valuable experience. Many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to attend and many thanks to Mrs Dorn who organised the event and all those other members of staff who were able to provide support serving cake!

Attendance

Parents may recall me writing to them earlier in the term regarding attendance. I am thrilled to announce that together we have hit our target this half term of 97% attendance! At the end of this full term (Christmas) I will be giving awards to all children with 100% attendance.

PTFA Halloween Disco

After two years of no Halloween disco, the Eskdale PTFA's favourite was back this half term. Pupils looked suitably terrifying as they dressed up in all manner of ghoulish costumes, danced to the sounds of our DJ and ate hot-dogs and sweet treats! A fab evening had by all. Many thanks to our fantastic PTFA who brought this popular activity back to Eskdale with a bang and to all those school staff that were able to help on the night!



Cycle and Scooter to School Week

We had a huge response to our cycle or scooter to school week. In fact, we had so many bikes and scooters, we didn't have enough room in our racks! Y4 pupils Aoife, Chloe and Jessica led the event, designing the stamp sheet, presenting in assembly and then stamping pupils sheets each day, to acknowledge the number of times they had brought a bike or scooter. They also took on the unenviable task of writing on all the raffle tickets for our prize draw, where selected pupils were awarded a number of bike and travel related prizes! Well done to all those Y4 pupils who masterminded the event (and the support of their adults at home of course!) and many thanks to Ms Miller, parent of Aoife who has been instrumental in getting our bike and scooter provision up and running. There are more racks due to be installed this year!



Uniform

Can I remind parents not to send their son or daughter in trainers (unless it is a P.E day) as this is not school uniform. Can I also remind parents that we do sell pre-loved school logo uniform items at very reasonable prices on ParentMail. Please take a look at the account section to check for availability, we are also accepting donations of good condition pre-loved logo uniform. Thank you in advance for your support.

European Day of Languages

We discovered once again how diverse we are in school as we celebrated European Day of Languages. It never ceases to amaze both myself and the children how many different languages and cultures we have across school and we had loads of fun learning a bit of Polish, German, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Italian (just to name a few!) in assembly.



End of the school Day

I have had a small number of parents contacting school about how the children leave at the end of the school day. Firstly, may I reassure all parents that safety remains our priority and at the time of writing I have no cause to cast any doubt over the safety of our pupils. I do however recognise that the arrangements are not perfect due to the geography of the area surrounding school. Can I ask that to alleviate some of the challenges that parents/carers stand back from the school gate and avoid temptation to move towards the gate when it opens. Thank you in advance for your support.

Reminders!

Remember

Monday 31st October is an Inset Day. The children are not in school.

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd November

Parents Evenings are taking place in school. Please book your appointments via ParentMail.

Have a relaxing two-week half term and we will see everyone back in school on **Tuesday 1st November 2022**

Yours sincerely,

R Scruton
Head Teacher