

ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Summer End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We come to the end of another busy Eskdale term! Our end of key stage two SATs results exceeded expectation, with record outcomes for both Reading and Maths, bettering both last year's results and national values. An incredible achievement by our Y6 pupils and testament to the incredible amount of work that all staff have put into supporting the children.

Away from academic achievement, school has provided a wide range of opportunities across the year and this term to enrich your children's experience at Eskdale. This is only possible as a result of the incredible amount of hard work and commitment that staff provide for our children, both in the classroom but also when running clubs and pupil led activities! I'm sure you will join me in thanking such a dedicated group of people. Everyone is now ready for a well-deserved break to recharge the batteries ready for another exciting year in 2023/24.

Finally, I want to thank all those parents/carers who continually support school-never underestimate how important it is to both ourselves and your children. Last but by no means least, thank you to our children who make Eskdale the vibrant and happy place to learn that it is today.

Have a safe and happy summer break, we will see you all back in school in September.

Staffing

Mrs Hunter will begin her maternity leave at the end of the first half of the autumn term next school year, as she looks forward to welcoming a baby boy into the world. Eskdale welcomes a new member of teaching staff, Miss Hickling, who joins us to be Mrs Hunter's maternity cover for the year 2023/24. Miss Hickling has been teaching in Nottingham City and as a former pupil, knows all about Eskdale and is keen to join our teaching team and getting to know our new starters in Y3. Miss Cameron will return from her maternity leave in December.

Class Organisation School Year 2023/24

Class	Teacher
3H	Miss Hackett
3T	Miss Hickling
4BG	Mrs Bennett/Miss Graves
4K	Miss Knightsbridge
5B	Mrs Briggs
5T	Miss Tabram
6H	Mr Holmes
6G	Miss Groves
Mrs Dorn Ms Howes-Music teacher-all years Mrs Rees – PPA cover all years Mrs Hunter (until Nov 23-maternity leave) Miss Cameron-(return to school Dec 23)	

Bike Racks

As the popularity of bringing a bike or scooter to school has increased, the space to squeeze all of these in has become increasingly challenging. Fortunate then that we have the support of parent Ms Miller who, alongside fellow bike enthusiasts, were able to install additional bike racks at the end of this term to allow for more pupils to bring a bike or scooter to school from September. Many thanks to Ms Miller and her 'team' for their support in ensuring that this initiative can continue to be offered to as many pupils as possible!

Y4 & Y5 Bikeability

Y4 and Y5 pupils took part in Bikeability earlier this term. Both year groups learnt more about how to ride safely in the comfort of the school yard and then Y5 pupils extended their skills by travelling out of school, navigating our busy local roads with the Bikeability instructors. A great 'Skills and Knowledge for Life' moment. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity for the children.

SATS

Y6 pupils participated in statutory national testing in May this term. You may have read in the press about the challenging nature of this year's Reading test with reports of children not finishing the test, upset pupils (and staff!) as the general feeling nationally was that the test was too hard. In a true 'Respond to Challenge' style, our Y6 pupils responded by recording our best results in 7 years in both Reading AND Maths, significantly exceeding national values! An astonishing result and testament to the fantastic teaching at school and a huge effort by all the wonderful staff in Y6 in supporting the children. So proud of all our Y6 pupils and staff!

Y4 Timestable Tests

In other national testing, our Y4 pupils were put through their paces with the national times table test for pupils of this age group. Much as there is no national data to truly evaluate success, the children demonstrated a tremendous amount of focus, supported by a fabulous teaching and teaching assistant team in Y4. Once again so proud of all our children who took part!



Y6 Junior Joes

Our Y6 Junior Joes have been excellent this year, designing and delivering a number of exciting activities for pupils in school with the support of Commando Joe. They really showed off their 'Take Care' side earlier this term when they accompanied Commando Joe to organise some fab activities for the children at Alderman Pounder, as part of their Camo Day. So proud of all those Y6 children who have really taken to leadership responsibility this year.

Fathers Day Lunch

It was lovely to have our Father's Day lunch back up and running earlier this term. Fathers came into school early for some quality time reading with their children before enjoying a fabulous Coombs meal with their son or daughter and the company of the pupils of Eskdale. A great event enjoyed by all! Many thanks to Mrs Dorn, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Clowes, our midday team, Mrs Wharmby and her kitchen team and our great pupil servers for making the event such a success!



Library Squad

Many thanks to our fabulous Library Squad this year who have been instrumental in ensuring our library remains tidy, well stocked with books and an accessible place for our children. They have also been great at organising activities for pupils across the year. Well done to all those children and many thanks to Mrs Dorn for providing this leadership opportunity for pupils.

Y5 applicants will be selected in September to take on this very responsible role.



Welcome Year 3

As we see one group of pupils leave, it is equally exciting to welcome a new group of pupils into Eskdale and set them off on their journey to become 'Eskdalers'. From all the transition activities, it certainly seems that the children are looking forward to starting Eskdale with a mix of both nerves and excitement!

Sports Week

Pupils took part in Sports Week earlier this half term, taking part in a number of different sports and physical opportunities to enrich our P.E curriculum. Pupils took part in Flamenco dancing, Drumba sessions (led by our pupil Drumba leaders), cricket, golf, football-just to name a few. In assembly, we focused on healthy bodies and healthy minds before looking at all those other skills such as confidence, resilience and determination that can be gained from getting involved in sport.

The climax to the week (and arguably the highlight for both pupils AND staff) was the Tough Runner. Pupils had to charge at a slippery slide (made even more slippery by being hosed down), emerge at the end and then make their way through a number of obstacles before finishing. A huge amount of fun for all involved made even better by some fabulous weather! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity.



Y4 Visit the Rothesay Open

Y4 had their P.E curriculum enriched with a visit to the Rothesay Open Tournament at the Nottingham Tennis Centre. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in some coaching, see a bit of the centre in full tournament mode and then watch some of the tennis matches before returning back to school. It was particularly special this year as pupils were able to see Great Britain tennis star, Andy Murray in action-a truly memorable moment! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching experience for the children and to our Y4 team for their support and accompanying the children.



Trent College Reading Celebration Day

It was lovely of Trent College to invite us to their Reading Celebration Day earlier this term (and provide transport!) Our Y5 pupils had a great time meeting authors and coming away with books and a fabulous goodie bag! Many thanks to Mrs Dorn for organising this opportunity and to Miss Knightsbridge for accompanying the children.



Sports Day

Our annual sports day was a tremendous success. Focusing on keeping active throughout the day, pupils across school challenged themselves in a number of sporting disciplines, competing against each other and accumulating points to be crowned the top House for 2023! It was amazing to see the children demonstrating such determination and resilience! Thank you to all those parents/carers who came to support the children and a special mention for all those who took part in the parent/carers race AND the adults in school race-some very athletic performances (I don't include myself in that category!). Many thanks also to Mr Holmes for organising this memorable moment. Congratulations to Wollaton House who were the overall winners this year.



Y4 Library Author & Artist Workshop

Y4 had a great day out Beeston library and then back at Eskdale as the children were invited to work alongside artist Amy Lee Young and author Donna M David as they produced some incredible work that will be exhibited in Beeston library. The work is wonderful-check out our Twitter page for photos.



Y6 First Aid

Y6 had a skills and knowledge for life moment earlier this term when the British Heart Foundation visited school to teach the children what to do in the event that they are presented with an accident. Pupils were expected to remember the process for dealing with an emergency situation and test out their new skills on a dummy.



Inspire Summer Reading Challenges

It was great to welcome Beeston library to assembly this term who shared details of the free opportunity for pupils to be rewarded for reading over the summer holidays. I would urge all families to take advantage of this excellent initiative, not forgetting that the library is just a tram ride away from school!

Maths Text Books to Kenya

After a bit of spring (summer!) clean in school, we realised that we had a number of surplus text books that wouldn't be used in school due to changes to the national curriculum. These were boxed up and with the support of organisation African Adventure, these were sent to a school in Kenya. Many thanks to Miss Groves for her support with this take care moment.

Y6 Residential Visit

Our Y6 pupils headed off on their residential visit to Kingswood's Peak Adventure in Sheffield for three days and two nights earlier this term. Pupils took part in a wide range of heart-racing activities that focused on both team work and individual challenge. These included zip-wires, fencing and 3G swing. A great time had by all! Many thanks to Miss Groves for organising the visit and all those adults who were able to accompany the children on this important part of their personal development!



Y3 Viking Day

Y3 had an incredible day as a Viking visited school to enrich and extend the children's knowledge of this fascinating period in History. Our Norse visitor shared artefacts of the time, dressed pupils up in 'battle clothing', shared more about what happened when the Vikings came to England and then re-enacted a battle. A great day had by all! Many thanks to our Y3 team for organising this opportunity for the children.



PTFA Summer Fair

Despite having to rearrange the original date of the PTFA Summer Fair due to the great British weather, it was great to finally get it up and running in the final full week of this term. Our PTFA have worked tirelessly to ensure that this was a wonderful experience for all of our school community. With the sun shining, the night was a success! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend on the night and the huge number of people who were involved in making it so special: staff, governors, parents/carers, the PTFA and last, but by no means least, the wonderful Sue Smith, Desney Owens and Alison Heath who have worked almost day in and day out in the last 4 weeks to make sure the event went as ahead as planned! The summer fair raised an amazing £1300!

Basketball at The Pearson Centre

We continued our journey back to an increase in competitive sport at Eskdale with a basketball festival at the Pearson Centre in Beeston. Y5 pupils honed their skills before competing against both Roundhill and John Clifford Primary. The children were excellent and had a great time. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for accompanying the children.

Book Swap

Our popular Book Swap returned this half term. Usually an activity during our 'Time to Read' month and World Book Day, its popularity meant that once again pupils were able to get a free book! The children brought 'once loved' books into school and exchanged them for tokens that allowed them to choose a new book from the wide range of texts donated.

Another great reading activity in school. Many thanks to Mrs Dorn for organising this excellent opportunity and thank you to all those parents/carers who were able to show their support with a donation of a book!



Sums & Stories Café

Mrs Dorn and Miss Tabram teamed up to create the Sums and Stories Café-an opportunity to promote the love of Reading, give our newly appointed Maths Ambassadors the chance to test their Maths teaching skills and indulge in a sweet treat! Parents/carers across all years visited the Café, where they purchased cake, read with their children, had the opportunity to purchase a preloved book and for those who were feeling confident, allowed our Maths Ambassadors to teach them an aspect of Maths from addition and subtraction to long multiplication and division. Four fabulous afternoons! Many thanks to all those parents/carers who were able to donate some cake and attend one (or more!) of the events. A huge well done to all those Y6 pupils who helped run the event, our Maths Ambassadors and to both Mrs Dorn and Miss Tabram for organising the event which raised an amazing £480.50!

Y6 Cinema Trip

Y6 were treated by the PTFA to a cinema visit to say well done for all the hard work they had put into both the preparation leading up to their SATs tests and the challenges of the test week itself. Pupils watched Disney's 'Elemental' whilst eating a bag of popcorn-what could be better!? Many thanks to the Y6 team of staff for supporting the children and to our wonderful PTFA for organising this lovely opportunity for the children.



Maths Ambassadors

Miss Tabram began a new initiative this term for those pupils who love Maths. Pupils had to apply by letter of application to be a Maths Ambassador and Miss Tabram was blown away with the huge number of applicants! I know it was really tough for Miss Tabram to select the ambassadors from across school but she finally chose 16 pupils whose job will be champions for the subject and promote all things maths in school! Well done to everyone who applied and congratulations to those children who were chosen. Many thanks to Miss Tabram for leading and organising this enriching opportunity.

Y5 Trent Bridge Cricket

Y5 visited Trent Bridge, home of Nottinghamshire cricket earlier this half term. Both classes had an excellent day, with a tour of the ground and then an opportunity to play some cricket-based games at the end of the day. A great day had by all. Many thanks to the Y5 staff team for supporting the children and to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity for the children.



Y6 Performance 'I'm an 11-year-old GET ME OUT OF HERE!'

Y6 pupils delivered two wonderful performances of 'I'm an 11-year-old...Get ME OUT OF HERE!'. A hilarious take on the popular TV series-set in a school with some squeamish challenges equal to those that celebrities face in the show. It really is such a joy to see our oldest children act, dance and sing demonstrating a huge amount of confidence and talent! Many thanks to all those involved in making it such a fabulous and memorable experience for the children: Ms Howes, Miss Tabram, Miss Groves, Mrs Deehan and Mrs Lee. Thank you also to all those parents/carers who were able to come and support their children by watching the two performances.



The Sergeant Craig Brelsford Shield Award

Sergeant Craig Brelsford was an ex-Eskdaler who exemplified all of our core values (long before they were ever established at Eskdale). As an adult he had a successful career in the army where he continued to demonstrate all those traits that made him such a fabulous Eskdaler as a child. Sadly, he died very young serving his country but is remembered at Eskdale each year by staff selecting two pupils who, just like Craig, continue to shine. Well done to Harley in Y3 and Vienne in Y6 who were this year's recipients of the award.



Transition

Pupils had the opportunity earlier this half term finding out what to expect as they enter the next stage in their Eskdale journey. All children had a morning of transition activity, getting to meet their new teacher and learning more about the expectations of their new class and new year group.

TRANSITIONS

Armed Forces Day

We showed our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community this term. Pupils were invited to attend school in 'camo' colours for a small donation and were treated to an assembly by parent Sergeant Sharp as he recounted his career in the army for pupils in assembly, highlighting the huge number of activities and jobs that make up our armed forces and gave some of our pupils the chance to try on his Bergen and body armour. A wonderful insight for our pupils. A huge thanks to Sergeant Sharp for his support (it was at short notice!) and many thanks also to all those parents for their support by sending their children with a donation. Our Camo Day raised £158 which will be donated to Armed Forces charities.



Annual Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all those who contributed to the annual parent/carer survey that was shared via Google Forms this term. Despite not quite getting to the number of responses that we had in 2022 (we had 147 responses this year), I want to thank all those parents and carers for taking the time to share their thoughts and opinions. We are thrilled with the outcomes! I recognise there is still plenty to be done and we will begin work on those areas of improvement in September so we can serve our school community ever better. A copy of the outcomes of the questionnaire accompanies this newsletter. Thank you once again for all your support!



Y6 Leavers Assembly

It is with a tremendous amount of sadness that we say goodbye to our Y6 pupils. I still remember their start to Eskdale and they have become a memorable part of Eskdale history. Not only have they delivered for school record SAT results in both Reading and Maths, they have exemplified everything it is to be true 'Eskdalers' through their take care attitude and resilience!

It was great to give them an Eskdale send-off: leavers assembly, the Ultimate Eskdaler dinner provided by Coombs and then a whole school 'guard of honour' as they walked out of the school gates for the final time!

It has been a pleasure to see them grow both academically and personally but satisfying knowing that they are now ready for the next stage in their education journey. Secondary school will bring new and exciting challenges. We wish all of our children all the best and look forward to hearing stories of their success!



Drumming Assembly

I was so proud of all our drumming tuition pupils as they demonstrated a range of skills in front of an audience of parents/carers and the rest of pupils in school last week. The children were excellent showing a steely determination and an un-flappable focus as they wowed the school with a range of solo performances, supported by their tutor Nish from Rockley Music. So nice to see the children perform so confidently! A special mention for Caitlin in Y6 who despite an elbow injury to one hand, managed an impressive one-handed performance!



Term Time Dates

A reminder to parents to check ALL term time dates for the year 2023/24 (a copy accompanies this newsletter) to avoid any misunderstandings or leave of absence requests.

Reminders!

Monday 4th September is a School Administration Day (the children are not in school)

Tuesday 5th September is an Inset day (the children are not in school)

All children are back in school on **Wednesday 6th September**

Thank you once again for all your support and I wish all our school community a safe and happy summer break

Yours sincerely,
R Scruton
Head Teacher