



## December 2022 Newsletter

The children loved our bonfire night campfire at the beginning of the month. November has seen lots of construction, imaginative play, woodwork and mark making. Alongside child-led play we have now introduced a daily 'circle time', where we come together for some short, fun, adult-led activities. We say good morning, talk about the date and weather, count the children and play some fun early phonics games that explore sound, rhythm and rhyme. The children are enjoying this time and are engaging well with the activities.

We are very excited to get out the Christmas resources and glitter! In December we will have an Elves Workshop (to make toys and wrap presents), Christmas arts and crafts, a post office, baking, and Christmas books and toys. See below for details of our party. Our ethos is to be child-led... As a part of this we will NOT be queuing the children up to make a production line handprint card! Although these can be lovely for parents, there is very little learning for children in the activity. We WILL have resources and examples and will encourage all the children to make cards, but they will be individual and made by the children so please appreciate their work!

**Christmas Afternoon** – On the last day of term (Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December), we are having a Christmas party afternoon that all children are welcome to attend. We will have Christmas fun, games, snacks and a visit from Santa! If your child doesn't normally attend on a Friday afternoon, please bring them at 1.30. We ask that – due to space – parents don't stay for the party. However, you are very welcome to come back at 2.30 for our visit from Santa, and (if all goes well!) a little song performance by the children.

**Weather Conditions and Possible Closures** – In the event that Esklets has to close due to the weather conditions, a member of staff will contact you as soon as possible. Please make sure we have the right contact details for whoever will be bringing your child that morning or who will be collecting them. We will always endeavour to open and remain open, however the safety of our staff, the children and their families remains a priority.

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*There is a rocking horse toy by the gate that we no longer need.*

*If you can use it, please take it.*

**Clothing** – Now the cold weather has well and truly set in, please make sure your child has appropriate clothing to play both inside and outside. We wrap up and go outside in all weathers, encouraging children to explore their world. Please enable them to enjoy these experiences by helping them to keep warm. Dress children in layers – eg vest, top and jumper – with plenty of extras for going outside. Thick welly socks can really help, as can gloves, hats and warm waterproof coats. If your child comes to Esklets in their own wellies, could you please pack a pair of shoes or slippers for them to change into.

As children get older we work with them to help them to become independent in their self-care (coats, shoes, toilet and dressing themselves). You can help them by making sure they come to Esklets in clothes and shoes that are easy to manage themselves (eg. leggings / tracksuit bottoms / velcro shoes).

**Tax-Free Childcare** – Do you know about the Government's Tax-Free Childcare Scheme? It is a scheme to help families with childcare costs. If you go onto the childcare choices website, you can find out if you are eligible. A lot of families don't realise they are eligible – for every £8 you pay towards your childcare costs, the government will top it up to £10. You can claim this from when your child is born up to when they are 11.

**Christmas Shopping** – If you do any shopping online, remember that you can raise funds for us through Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising. To sign up for easyfundraising, go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> to register and choose your charity (hopefully Esklets!). You can then buy from lots of big name websites going via the easyfundraising webpage or app. Each time you shop it generates donations for us. Similarly, if you change your settings on the Amazon shopping app (go to the 3 lines at bottom right, scroll down to settings, then AmazonSmile – it then remembers it on the app) , or shop online via <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> your Amazon purchases do the same thing.

**OUR SPONSORED WALK RAISED MORE THAN £500!!! THANK YOU!**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day.

Although every day can be a Christmas jumper day at Esklets, we are joining in the National event and will pass on donations to Save the Children.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Staff, parents and friends meal at the Fox & Hounds. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party Afternoon 1.30 – 3 and Last Day of Term

We return to Esklets on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**