

Does anyone have a vehicle or trailer that they could use to take our old sofa to the tip? It's under a tarpaulin in the carpark!



April 2024 Newsletter

We hope you had a lovely time over Easter and managed to enjoy the bits of nice weather we had (and not get too wet in between!). We had some Easter fun in the last week of term, hunting for eggs and exploring our Easter resources. The older children had an amazing time on their train trips, looking for Oliver the engine on Grosmont Station by following the clues. It was really exciting to catch the train from Danby Station and see familiar places on the route. The children's behaviour was outstanding and we all had such a lovely time!

We have been asked by Esk Valley Railway to be 'Station Adopters' – this means we will visit the station regularly to restock timetables, pick up litter and make sure everything is tidy – a lovely opportunity for the children to do something good for their community.

Over the coming term we will continue to learn about the season of spring; planting seeds, talking about the baby animals we see, reading books, and observing changes around us. Later in the term we will have caterpillars at Esklets – I wonder what will happen to them?! We will also hopefully introduce some new resources outside – the Dalesmen Singers donation will be used for musical equipment in the garden, and we have been fundraising for a new climbing frame and are almost there – thank you to the Ainthorpe Trust. We have also reorganised the 'Big Shed', hopefully making it a more purposeful learning space.

Message from Vicky – Just to let you know that due to a health issue I will be having an operation in a couple of weeks and so will not be at Esklets from 23rd April until at least after half term. Kate has very kindly said she will step in to cover as much as possible. While I am away Rachel will be acting manager. We will always be in ratio, but with lots of little ones at the moment staff will be stretched – please be kind to them and if any parents, carers or grandparents would like to volunteer to come in from time to time and be an extra pair of hands, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you x

Children in their Pre-school Year

On 16th April you will receive your offer of a school place. We don't get any notification of this, so do let us know where your child is going to school. Visits will continue to schools this term, and we will liaise with local schools to arrange for teachers to come and visit the children at Esklets so they can observe them learning in their nursery setting.

Government Funding Explainer

Please remember that due to a county funding anomaly we have an unfunded week this term. Parents in receipt of funding have been asked to let us know if they wish to take a week's holiday or pay for a week. If you have not already told us of a holiday week we will assume you are going to pay for a week and will adjust your bill accordingly. This charge will be added to your May invoice.

15 hours funded childcare for 3- & 4-year-olds – this is a 'universal' funding. All children are eligible and you don't need to do anything!

30 hours funded childcare for 3- & 4-year-olds – If your child turns 3 between 1st April and 31st August and you are eligible, you will need to apply for your 30 hour funding ready for September. If the code isn't in place before the 31st August, the funding will not be valid.

New Funding for working families – from September children over 9 months may be eligible for 15 funded hours. If you are eligible, you will need to apply this term, ready for September. If the code isn't in place before the 31st August, the funding will not be valid.

Funding for 2 year olds in 'disadvantaged' families – this is an existing funding available for families on certain benefits. If you are eligible you will receive a code from North Yorkshire Council, entitling your 2 year old to 15 funded hours.

More information and links to the relevant application process can be found on

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Fees

As you already know, we have made the difficult decision to increase our fees for this financial year. Below are the new rates.

Hourly rate for all unfunded children / hours in excess of funded entitlement – £6.25 (rising to £6.50 in September).

Contribution towards consumables for funded children – 50p per half-day session (no increase)

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.

Committee

As you know, Esklets is a charity run preschool. This means that we must have an active parent committee in order to operate. This is just an early warning that at the AGM – held in June – we will need to recruit some new committee members. It isn't an onerous task – we have one committee meeting / term, usually at the pub – and the committee usually aim to do one fundraiser each term. Do speak to staff if you would like more information.

Sunny weather

Hopefully the weather is starting to improve, but do ensure that your child has a warm layer and a waterproof coat every day. When they are needed, we have plenty of sunhats available at Esklets, so don't worry if you forget to bring one. Please apply suncream before you come to Esklets – we will assume children have suncream on when they arrive and will not apply it as a matter of course in the mornings. If your child attends for full days we will apply suncream after lunch, unless you tell us that they are wearing a long lasting cream. We have children's suncream available, but do bring your own in if you prefer children to use a specific brand. Please complete and return the permission slip at the bottom of this page.

Diary Dates:

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday – Esklets closed

27th – 31st May

Half term week – Esklets closed

Tuesday 9th July

Esklets leavers event (details to follow)

Friday 19th July

Last day of term

22nd July – 2nd September

Summer Holiday – Esklets closed

Thank you for your continued support

Suncream

**please fill in the correct statement*

*I give permission for staff to administer hypoallergenic suncream (supplied by Esklets) to

_____ (name of child) when necessary.

*I give permission for staff to administer my child's own suncream (supplied from home) to

_____ (name of child) when necessary.

Signed _____ (print name) _____ Date _____