



October 2022 Newsletter

We have had a lovely start to the new school year! The children have settled back well and have been busy learning lots of new skills. We have watched caterpillars and other mini beasts, explored conkers and other autumn finds; done lots of gardening, woodwork, waterplay, and small world construction. We have visited the station to see the train, and been for a walk around the village.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to follow children's interests, and will look at what happens in the world around us as Autumn continues. If you collect any interesting finds on walks we would love to display them for children to investigate. We would also like to create a Harvest display, so any fruit and vegetable donations from your gardens would be gratefully received.

Sponsored walk -

Everybody is welcome to join us on Tuesday the 13th October to go for a small train ride from Castleton to Commondale, then walk back along the path. The train leaves Castleton at 9:28am and it usually takes a couple of hours to walk back. This is a lovely walk and is pushchair friendly. We will be using this outing as a fundraising opportunity and making it a sponsored walk. Please collect as many donations as possible!

If your child normally attends on Thursdays and you have told us that you are unable to accompany them, please bring them to Esklets as normal, allowing a little extra time to transfer and fit your car seat into staff cars. We will assume everyone else is meeting us at Castleton station.

Request for help -

We have two big maintenance jobs that need urgently doing – completing the new fencing and some tree work behind the portacabin. Would anyone be able to volunteer their skills, or know anyone that might be willing to do these jobs? If so please speak to one of us for more details. There is money available for the fencing, so if you can recommend a fencer that would be great. We heavily rely on donations to keep going – not just money donations but people helping us to keep the setting maintained. If you ever can give any time to help out, please let us know!

Cold weather –

Esklets is not a warm building...although the classroom warms up well (especially once we get our new heaters), much of the space is outdoors and the 'Big Shed', sandpit etc are unheated. We wrap up and go outside in all weathers, all year round, 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. We have plenty of wellies and waterproof trousers for children to wear.

Thank you –

The Ainthorpe Trust has very kindly donated some money for us to spend on new gardening tools for the children, along with autumn plants and bulbs. We will very much enjoy making use of these.

Car park DUCKLING ALERT! – Could we remind everyone arriving at Esklets in a vehicle to adhere to the 5mph speed limit past Station House and into our car park. We have children arriving and leaving at different times of the day, so their safety is paramount. We also have some tiny new ducklings in the tall grass, so be aware. Station House also has building work going on so please drive with extra care past the house.

Important dates –

We are continuing our trial opening through school holidays, so those who have booked year round child care are not affected by half term. For those attending term time only, October Half Term is the week commencing 24th October, so your child will not be at Esklets that week. However, we are open, so if you need to book them in for any paid sessions that week, do speak to a member of staff.

Committee meeting – Thursday 13th October, 7pm at the Fox and Hounds.

All welcome!