



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic but long half term with so many things going on, from Maths mornings to the amazing Tockwith Christmas festivities. I have been so impressed with the children's attitude to their learning this term and how they have had enough energy to perform with such exuberance in the end of term productions. It was fantastic to see so many parents, grandparents and friends of the school join us for our Christmas events.

This term has seen the school convert to become an academy as part of the Ebor Multi Academy Trust. In school, we have noted very little difference. One change has been the increased high quality continuous professional development for the staff. We also have 2 champions in the school now. Mr Skidmore is now an IT Champion and Mrs George is a Science Champion for the Academy Trust. This ensures they are on the cutting edge of developments in their subject and have additional training which will have a noticeable impact in school. This term, Mr Skidmore spent a day at Google Headquarters and Mrs George spend 2 days at the National Science Centre mastering their specialism. As well as this Mr Skidmore and Mr Wharfedale are part of a teacher research group looking into mastery in Maths.

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back next year on January 8th.

Justin Reeve

Headteacher



At the end of last term, I reported the schools attainment measures which were really positive. This term our progress measures have been released.

In order to calculate the school level progress measures, pupils' results (at KS2) are compared to the achievements of other pupils across the country who had a similar starting point (prior attainment). Prior attainment is based on teacher assessment judgements at key stage 1 (KS1). Schools have progress measures published for 3 subjects: reading, writing and maths. There are 2 main advantages to the new progress measures:

- they are fairer to schools because we can compare pupils with similar starting points to each other
- they recognise the progress schools make with all their pupils, highlighting the best schools whose pupils go furthest, whatever their starting point.

Most schools will have progress scores between -5 and +5. If a school has a progress score of 0 this means that on average their pupils achieved similar results at the end of KS2 (end of year 6) to pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1 (end of year 2). If a school has a positive progress score this means that on average their pupils made more progress than pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1.

Our progress for the past 2 years have been:

Progress	Reading	Writing	Maths
2016	+0.81	-0.09	+0.29
2017	+1.7	+1.92	-0.21

Compare statistically similar schools: [Primary](#)

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Primary [Absence and pupil population](#) [Workforce and finance](#)

[About these results](#)

Progress score in reading, writing and maths

Reading

Writing

Maths

Average +1.7

Average +1.9

Average -0.2

[More score details](#)

[More score details](#)

[More score details](#)

If school data is particularly interesting to you then you can visit

<https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>

It enables you to look at any school in the country and compare against statistically similar scores.

Another positive picture is that we are placed 30th out of 125 against like schools. This is the 4th year in a row our position has improved.

We are very pleased with our progress scores especially in Reading and Writing. We have been working really hard on our Maths this year, which will be evident to everyone who came to our open morning in early November. As I have said many times before, this a very narrow view of the school and only takes account of the children's performance in Reading, Writing and Maths. We like to think we celebrate so many other areas of primary school life that do not appear in performance tables.

Nativity

The Nativity at Tockwith is always a special event and leaves you with a festive glow afterwards. The children retold the traditional Christmas Story in their own very special way with bucket loads of confidence. They always excel themselves. Special thanks go to the teaching team in KS1 and Reception for all the preparation, costumes and everything else that made it such a lovely experience. Yet again we performed to two packed churches, we really appreciate the support so thank you and thank you for the donations for St Dorcas. I know it is greatly appreciated



Note from Angela Jenkins—Church Warden and School Governor

We have this term been delighted to support the St Dorcas Orphanage in Kenya. This is a project which runs from Tockwith Church so it makes sense for us to link to it and show our children first hand what happens there. Karen Stobert, children's leader at church, and I visit the orphanage twice a year so they update the children about their experience after each visit. There are plans to do some further fundraising for the project during next term. Working with such a small, hands-on project means we can see first hand exactly what the money is spent on.

We are pleased to say that since September this year we have been able to donate £755 to this fantastic project.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert

We were royally entertained by Key Stage 2 as they took us on a learning journey around the globe at Christmas. The singing at Tockwith is something else and our children belted out some classics for us. Well done to Pippa, Chloe and Esme for treating us to solos and Isaac for his drumming. Apologies for the impromptu sing song but with it being this close to Christmas I couldn't resist! Thankyou again to everyone who came to celebrate with us.



Tockwith CE Primary Academy has been awarded an Artsmark Silver Award!

What is Artsmark?

As well as recognising schools that are making the arts come alive, the Artsmark award is a practical and valuable tool for enriching a school's arts provision whatever the starting point. It provides schools with access to and the use of the arts to engage and develop happy, self-expressed and confident young people and inspire teachers.

A big thank you goes to the children for sharing their creativity and love for the Arts.

Miss Hargreaves



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Next half term will also see some of our children singing with 12,000 other children at the Young Voices Concert in Sheffield. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children and Miss Hargreaves and Mr Wharfedale give up their time to prepare the children for the concert. Thank you.

If you are interested in your children receiving additional music tuition then please see Miss Hargreaves or the Office. We have a plethora of options from rock bands to group violin sessions.

Children in Need 2017

Children in Need came once again to Tockwith on Friday 17th November. There were spots galore as we gathered in the hall to start our day of fundraising. Year 6 did a fantastic job with a variety of stalls from penalty shootout, to draw the Pudsey and to the infamous bun stall! We all had lots of fun raising money for a fantastic charity and the total at the end was £347.14. Thank you to all those who donated buns and again to Year 6 who provided the winning prizes.

Miss Bamford



Christmas Lunch

Thank you so much to Mrs Hobson and her merry team, for treating our children to such a tasty Christmas dinner. There was a massive uptake and the children were served roast turkey with all the trimmings and Christmas Pudding or a Christmas Tree ice cream. It really was very tasty and I believe we are very lucky to have such a fantastic and talented Kitchen team.



Chrome books

...and then there were 120. We have just purchased another 30 new chromebooks for year 5. This means there will be a set for 2,5 and 6 and another 30 shared between 3 and 4. They are fantastic machines that really enhance the children's learning experiences in school. Fingers crossed we will be looking for another 30 in the new financial year. Year 5 are very excited because I got a special deal on some festive red ones that are slightly larger!





On Friday 3rd November we held a Maths morning at School. It gave me an opportunity to talk to you about how Maths has changed over the last couple of years. It was great to see so many parents attend and to be able to talk through how Maths is developing in this country. After the presentation, parents had the opportunity to go and watch a full maths lesson and see first hand how we teach the subject at a Tockwith. It was a little daunting as a teacher to have 14 parents and a couple of toddlers in the room but it has proven to be a super experience for all involved. Thank you for all those that came.

TT Rockstars has exploded in to life at Tockwith! This free app is having a huge impact on our children and their recall of times tables facts. Answer your x table questions quickly and you may be crowned as a rock legend in our Friday assembly and don the rock wig/inflatable guitar! It is amazing to see how much our children have improved in such a short space of time. Can anyone catch Robert Pegrum? Rock on Tockwith!

Mr Skidmore

Cowthorpe Carol Service

I was delighted to receive a lovely email from one of our parents regarding something I didn't know about and has made me feel very proud.

A little something you may not be aware of that I think is worthy of acknowledgment - we live in Cowthorpe where we have a redundant church in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. There are only 2 or 3 church services each year, a very important one being our candlelit Five Lessons and Carols taking place this Friday, 22 December. The church is always packed for this service (think school nativity . . .). Children from Tockwith School, who live in Cowthorpe, will be reading four of the lessons:

1. Sophie Ward-Campbell in Year 2
2. Callum Wright in Year 4 and Lucy Scott in Year 3 are sharing the 2nd lesson
3. Chloe Wright in Year 5 is reading the 3rd (very long) lesson
4. Bella Jackson in Year 4 is reading the 4th (even longer) lesson

Bella has lovely expression in her reading.

Chloe has such a commanding, clear voice.

Callum originally refused to do a reading, and now he wants to! He has worked hard on the difficult, unfamiliar words.

Lucy has worked hard on speaking loudly.

Sophie knows her reading off by heart - a whole page of A4!

They are also all getting up with one or two other village children to sing *Away in a Manger*. Chloe and Bella are the strong voices on this, but Sophie knows all the words to all three verses!



Sporting Corner

An amazing sporting performance was shown on Monday 2nd November when the Y5 and Y6 Indoor Athletics Team won the Sports Partnership competition with four other schools. What fantastic running, jumping and throwing with Tockwith winning almost every track and field event.

20th November when our Y6 basketball players fought hard to become runners up in the Sports Partnership competition at Tadcaster Grammar School, losing only to Riverside. Everyone showed great skill and the speed was breath-taking.

Two weeks later, on Monday 4th December, it was the Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Level 2 Cross Country runners that represented Tockwith at the Tadcaster Finals. With freezing conditions and a biting wind the eleven runners showed great perseverance and drive. Congratulations to Sophia, Tara, Harrison and Archie for successfully finishing in the first eight to represent Selby and District in the great North Yorkshire Final at Dalby Forest in March 2018.

We are so very proud of the hard work, skill, stamina and sportsmanship of our pupils and once again thank all the parents who support us and volunteer to help with transport.

Mrs George



As part of the Y5&6 topic, Are we all the same? We looked at inequalities around the world and considered the difference between what we need and what we want. We looked into what we take for granted in the Western world and what those in the developing world consider a luxury. As a result, we held our Spend a Penny week in order to raise funds to 'twin' our toilet with one in Africa. Our week ended with lots of toilet themed activities including: pin the poo under the elephant, penalty poop out, guess the weight of the reindeer droppings and a bake sale with a selection of brownies and chocolate logs!

Great fun was had by all and thanks to the help and support of the whole school, we managed to raise an amazing £180- enough money to provide 3 toilets for communities in Africa who run the risk of being attacked in the bushes or contracting life threatening illnesses when they have to use unsanitary toilet facilities. Our toilet is now twinned with toilets in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi.

A huge thank you and Happy Christmas from Year 6

