





Dear Parents/Carers,

It is incredible to think that we are half way through this academic year already, and this half term has whizzed by. It has been a joy seeing the children really enjoying their learning this half term, whether through fire engines visiting in Reception, or travelling around the world in years 1 and 2. There has been mad science in 3/4 and a visit to Flamingo Land in 5/6. I remember when I joined the school in 2013 the children had made a New Years Resolution to go on more trips. I am happy to say we are keeping to this promise and the educational visits on offer at Tockwith truly enrich our curriculum. Next half term, every class will have the opportunity to explore further learning outside of the classroom. I would like to thank you for all your parental contributions, obviously without these we would struggle to finance the trips.

It has been a pleasure to welcome 13 new children and their families into our school over this half term. Our Core Christian value of Friendship has been lived out by the fantastic children, and it has been a pleasure to see our new starters settle in so well. We are currently 198 on roll. The Governors, North Yorkshire County Council, Ebor Academy Trust and I have been strategically discussing the potential impact of the new developments in the village on our setting. We are aware that growth in the village will happen and we are looking at how this will affect our school, also we are conscious of the additional funding to improve the educational provision of the school that comes with the development.

I wish you all a lovely half term and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 19th February.

Justin Reeve Headteacher





Do you feel your child would benefit from additional traditional English and Maths homework?

40.6%

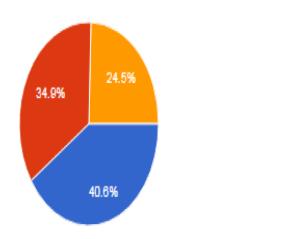
34.9%

24.5%

37

26

Maybe



with answers included. This of course will be optional.

Thank you so much for all of your feedback to our homework survey. I have attached a summary of the responses for your perusal. As a staff, we have discussed the feedback and feel that there are clear areas to research further. We felt it was important for staff to share our homework grids with each other to look for progression and repetition so we can look at giving the children different learning opportunities over their time at Tockwith. The most undecided question came around looking at more traditional English and Maths homework. From the other answers to the other questions, I am reticent to make changes to the grid system however that does not mean that we cannot supplement the grid. As you are probably aware, there are lots of opportunities for additional Spelling and Grammer work and reading on Active Learn and TT Rockstars is being exceptionally well received. However, we are looking at how we can best facilitate the opportunities for those children/parents who would like to have opportunities for more formal English and Maths Work. I am reluctant to increase further workload on our teachers however I am looking at how we can incorporate additional Maths and English work which parents when they want from the school website. These will be in a worksheet format and based at age related expectations

As a staff, our expectations are that the children complete at least one activity a week. This will, however, not be enforced at school. We really want children to take ownership on their own learning. We will happily talk to the children about how important it is to take

Young Voices

Young voices was a fun experience for all 6000 children. When I was there I had a lot of fun. You get there feeling all nervous and exited and then you get in the arena with all 6000 children waiting to sing. The rehearsal was all on time and the conductor David makes you do lots of fun but relaxing exercises. Then we rehearsed all 15 songs from start to finish. Being there makes you feel excited and thrilled. But then when the rehearsal is finished you wait two hours for the concert to begin then the lights turn off... And the music cranks up and your adrenalin takes over and all you can hear is singing from the front of the arena to the back.

Samuel Candy

Many thanks to Mr Wharfedale and Miss Hargreaves for giving the children this fantastic opportunity and to Mrs Cook, Mrs Corbett and Mrs Hackforth for helping out on the day.

It tic

was a very long day but fantaslifelong memory for our chil-



Sports Corner

Our Year 5 and 6 children have taken part in some fantastic sporting events. We had a Tag Rugby Tournament at Tadcaster Grammar School where the children did brilliantly and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We also made it through to the Selby District final of the Indoor Athletics competition, at Read School in Drax, as we won the Tadcaster cluster of schools qualification round. We came third in the final which is an amazing achievement for our children





Eight of our children from year 5 and 6 took place in the Sports Partnership Annual Gala at Tadcaster Swimming Pool. They completed individual races as well as a relay race in butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.

Healthy snacks

We have recently noticed that we have had a number of children who have been bringing in unhealthy snacks at playtime (or helping themselves to their pack ups!). Can we suggest that your children have healthy snacks please. We feel that pure chocolate, sweets and snacks are not healthy options and contradict our healthy school status. Obviously, some snacks have part chocolate (eg pain au chocolat) and we will leave that to your discretion. If you

Volunteers

I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who come into school. We now have a considerable 'volunteer army'!

If you have spare time and you would like to help in school we would love to hear from you.

Parking

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have been on patrol this term again.

Can I please remind people not to park in Tick Tock area unless they are dropping off and avoid turning in the school car park entrance.

Thank you so much so avoiding the coned section of Southfield Lane and your understanding with the conditions outside of

Contact Details

Please can you make sure that the office hold current numbers for you. Also, in light of recent cases in the news, please could you ensure that your child has at least 2 points of contact in emergency.



Kidzone and Breakfast Club

After the half term both Kidzone and Breakfast club will be based in the Hub, next door to the Year 6 classroom. This can be accessed from the outside door by the playground. This will allow an easier and less frantic drop off and pick off and greater space.