

Inspiring  
young  
minds



# Tockwith Church of England Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term with so many things happening in and around school. It was brilliant to see so many parents attend our meet the teacher sessions at the start of term. Ever since then the school has been very busy and it has been a pleasure to see the children's learning attitudes in classes. Our 3 main drivers this year are: enhancing thinking and enquiry schools, embracing a love of language in English and adopting a mastery approach to our Mathematics. Whilst the first two areas are fairly simple to explain, the Maths target might need further clarification. This is why we are hosting a Mathematics session in school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Between 9.00-9.30 Mr Skidmore, our Maths lead in the school, will be talking through the mastery approach and the way we teach concrete, pictorial and abstract maths. At 9.30, the doors will be opened for you to visit the classrooms to see the approach in action. We are trying to offer more of these types of sessions so you can truly see what is going on in school and how amazing our children and staff are.

I have to say my highlight of the half term was the harvest festival. It was one of those moments, as a Headteacher, where you feel so very happy and proud seeing the children performing so well and embracing the values of the school under the inspiring stewardship of our staff. To top this off, so many parents and friends of the school came to support us and many followed us back to experience the most awesome Yorkshire puddings I have seen come out of a school kitchen ever.

With regards to our proposed conversion to be part of the Ebor Academy Trust, it is currently still going through the processes and we are looking at a conversion date of 1<sup>st</sup> November. This is not definite but I will keep you informed. As I have said before, this will have very little impact for you although we are already seeing great impact from our work with the Ebor Specialist Teachers which directly impacts on the experience the children have in the classroom. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to come and see me.

It has been great to see the parachute being resurrected in a different position. If you haven't noticed, it has moved to a more sheltered position in the trees beside the wild life area. This has increased our playing field area and is being used by the children during lesson time and playtime. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the year 5 and 6 preparing their war time broth in the outdoor stove under the parachute. Thanks again go to the PTFA who funded this. Speaking of the PTFA, you will hearing a lot from them in the next half term as we have Christmas Cards coming out, school disco and our Christmas Fayre

I wish you all a very happy holiday and I hope the children have a chance to recharge their batteries. Next half term is a long one!

Justin Reeve

## Message from the Chair of Governors

Doesn't time fly. I can't believe it is half term already, it doesn't seem two minutes since I stood with Mr Reeve doing 'meet and greet' on the first day of term. On that morning we met a number of the new reception children, many of whom were over awed by being on the playground in their new uniforms. But did you see those same children at the Harvest Festival? So confident and grown up. I was blown away by them and by all the children at the service. Their singing, their delivery, their use of the microphone, their organisation, their teamwork, their joy for life and for all it contained....I am still smiling. I marvel daily as I walk around school at the amazing partnership we have....our resilient, confident, inspiring children, the creative, enthusiastic, committed staff, you ...the supportive, involved and informed parents and the dedicated, passionate, hands on Governing Body.

I feel so privileged to be part of this marvellous machine called Tockwith Primary School, as we continue along our journey to Academy. The Governing Body this term have been involved in preparations for this next exciting phase in the life of the school and have met together a few times to discuss progress. We have talked about becoming a Local Governing Body and discovered that nothing really will change and that we will still meet to discuss finance, health and safety, premises, curriculum, results, assessment, staffing, performance management and very reassuringly, children.

The Governing Body feel we are now ready to take the next step. Following months of due diligence, questions, investigation, reading and meetings we feel that we are 'good to go'

We no longer see this next step as a giant stride more a filtration into a family, one that we have been involved with for some time, who very much appreciates what we will be bringing to the party and who will allow us to continue to grow and develop. Our official conversion date is supposed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> November, however we assure you that apart from a slight change in signage there will be no change to our or your day to day experience of school.

Looking forward to next half term and all the exciting opportunities it will bring as we move towards Christmas.



## Harvest Service

In time honoured tradition, October saw Tockwith School celebrating Harvest Festival with parents and friends at Tockwith church.

All agreed that this year had a very special feel to it. It might have been the excellent singing (Tockwith school can really sing!), it might have been the well constructed and thorough explanations that each class gave about the food in the countries they have been exploring. Was it the cuteness of Reception Class as they presented our Harvest gifts for Mr Reeve to place on the altar? In truth, it could have been any of these things, whatever it was, I have been to a few of these now, and this year was quite magical.

Thanks go to all those that gave offerings. Thanks also to the kitchen staff. The roast beef and Yorkshire pudding dinner that followed was perfection!

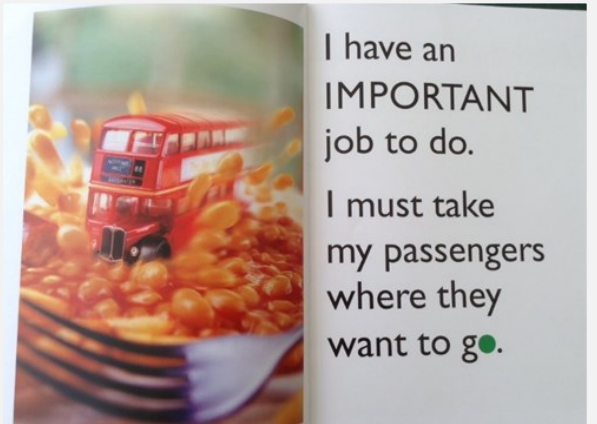
Mr Wharfedale





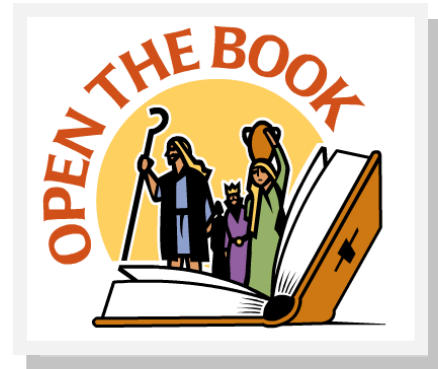
## The Naughty Bus

This half term Reception have been learning about Transport. They have been reading the book 'Naughty Bus' and finding out about the exciting adventures the bus goes on. Reception had a Naughty Bus of their own! So far it has gone missing, hidden in a bucket of baked beans and caused havoc in our outside garden! We also had a visit from a real double-decker bus! Thank you so much to James at A&A Travel for allowing us to sit in the driver's seat and beep the horn! The children have made 'missing' posters to display around school, found hidden numbers in the baked beans and made a road for the bus in the garden. I can't wait to see what other adventures the Naughty Bus will take us on next half term! Miss Hargreaves



## Music in School

We have ramped up our music provision in and out of school recently. In school, this year, we will be offering a term of whole class strings for years 4,5 and 6 with Mrs Mould, who has also been offering group tuition of guitar and violin. Mr Waugh will be delivering piano tuition. Rocks and Pops have now extended their day to include all of their new clientele. Mr Criley now has 2 bands, drummers, keyboards and singers. I almost forgot our Young Voices contingent who are training ready for their performance with lots of other children at Sheffield Arena.



## Open the book

It has been great to welcome the Messy Church team into school to deliver the open the book collective worships in. We really appreciate how they bring bible stories alive and it was super to learn more about the St Dorcas orphanage that our church work so closely with. Thank you so much for the collection money given at the harvest - we have donated over £130 to the Orphanage.

## Esafety

On Monday 9th October we held our first esafety forum at school. This forum gave parents the opportunity to come and discuss any esafety queries they may have with staff from school. It proved to be a very useful evening and the feedback received has been used to improve the esafety provision within school. You may have noticed that we have been tweeting and texting esafety updates about specific websites and apps. If you have concerns about anything your child is using then please contact school. Thanks to all the parents that came to this forum and gave us such valuable information.

Mr Skidmore

## Transition

We are ever so lucky in Tockwith to be in the catchment area of two really good secondary schools and it was a joy to see both Mr Sugden and Mr Sibley from King James and Tadcaster visit our school to talk to children/parents. They also hosted open evenings which is well worth a visit, even in Year 5, as the deadline soon creeps up on you. Just a reminder that the closing date for applications for secondary schools is October 31<sup>st</sup> and primary schools it is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL  
KNARESBOROUGH



## Shoeboxes

This year we had 40 shoeboxes purchased from the Rotary Club. These will be making their way to Eastern Europe with goodies filled by the children of Tockwith C of E Primary. I would like to say thank you to Sasha Howard and Allan Clarke for facilitating this. It really does marry up with our Christian Value of Generosity this half term.





## Space Day

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, Year 1 and Year 2 were greeted by the incredible Captain Darling as we blasted off into our new topic of 'Space.' The Captain had lots of incredible facts to tell us as well as taking us on a journey. We put on our caps and got ready to be launched into outer space where we travelled to Mercury and nearly hit the sun! All pupils survived the voyage of discovery and then it was time to be creative engineers and make our own robotic arms so we could collect things outside of our spaceships. We were all filled with lots of information by the end of the day and came away asking lots of questions which we have since investigated in the classrooms. Miss Bamford



## Phonics Workshop

On Thursday 21st September, Miss Bamford and Miss Hargreaves held an early reading/phonics information evening in the hall to give parents information and a chance to understand how Tockwith teaches phonics through the Jolly Phonics programme. Parents were also invited into the classrooms to see Phonics in Reception and Year 1 and Guided Reading in Years 2-6. Thank you to all who attended both the phonics presentation and came into school.

Miss Hargreaves



## Bake Off

On the 19th of October 2017, we had a fantastic bake off competition and we were so impressed with the turnout. The choices of the best was really had to make.

Everybody did so well and thank you for your contribution and helping us to reach our target of £50 to go towards sick and ill people who have cancer.

We are so amazed by the winning cakes so we would like to give them a special mention.

Best cake: 1st- Mia Hagen

2nd-Mila Naylor

3rd-Lily Sherwood

Best biscuits/cookies: 1st-Spencer Gallagher

2nd-Freddie Copley

3rd-Harrison Caine

Best buns/muffins:1st-Sophie and Joseph Curry

2nd-Sophie and Emily Robinson

3rd-Leyla Gudeon

Other:1st-Sam Candy

2nd-Edward Wilson

3rd-Sammy Edwards

Thankyou again

Erin Burton, Anna Southwood, Cali Evans.





## World War II

To celebrate our topic, Year 5 and 6 had a special World War 2 day. For the Year 5s this involved making food from rations including: bread, vegetable soup and butter from shaking whipping cream. This was all cooked in our new outdoor classroom, using the stove. The pupils all dressed up in outfits from the time period and really enjoyed their day. Mr Goodacre.



## World War II

As part of our WW2 topic, Y6 designed and made our own Anderson shelters. We had great fun adding our own individual styles.



### Our Anderson Shelter

We made an Anderson shelter for our DT project.

We did one which had two vegetable patches to keep the people who would be staying there with something to eat.

We placed the Anderson shelter in the corner of the base and it is right next to the garden but it is not yet stuck on the base.

We had a concrete path leading out the Anderson shelter and next to the path is a bigger vegetable patch to keep even more vegetables.

Overall we were all quite happy with how it came out and we had so much fun making it.

By Ethan, Levi, Robert and Jamie

### Our Anderson Shelter

Our Anderson shelter is based on the real model. We painted ours grey with extra detail of green and white. We have put a vegetable patch with real cress and will grow in the space of 5 days. Our team has put a river at the bottom and a flower bed next to it. We enjoyed making it and we hope you like it.

Louis, Pierce and Sammy.



## Cross Country

43 long distance runners from Y3, 4, 5 and 6 represented Tockwith School at the Tadcaster Sports Partnership Cluster of Primary schools Cross Country competition resulting in eleven successful pupils qualifying for the final on Monday December 4th at Tadcaster Grammar. Well done to all our runners and good luck in your next stage. Mrs George





## Bikeability

Year 6 learnt how to stay safe on the roads by using their hand signals, wearing bright clothing and wearing a cycle helmet. The Bikeability leaders were impressed with their attitude to learning and effort. Mrs Perry

