



# Tockwith

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Returning from the summer holidays now seems like a distant memory. This half term, the children have spent their time fully immersed in their creative curriculum whether that was flying to space with Captain Darling, exploding volcanoes or exploring the big questions about World War 2. So many exciting things going on in school and making sure that we are committed to our children 'living life to the fullest'. It has been lovely to see the quality of work that is shining through the school. Our children are showing more care and pride in their presentation in all subjects .

It is always a pleasure to listen to our children talk about their learning and how they apply it at our school. I can't wait to see the topics our children are going to be studying next half term in the lead up to the word we are not allowed to mention yet!

I would ask you to read the section of this newsletter on attendance as this is an area that has been flagged up by OFSTED as an area for us to think about. Our levels of absence are higher than similar schools and a sizeable percentage of these are unauthorised or taken as a holiday. As an example, this week we have had an attendance of 94.7% which is well below the National Average, we have had 38 lates and 5% of the school have taken a holiday on the last day.

It has been great to welcome so many parents and grandparents in to whole school events like the ICT Open Morning, the Seesaw event and our Harvest Festival. If you have any ideas or areas of school life you would like to see in action please contact the school.

Straight after half term, we will be sending out voting forms for the post of our new parent governor. I am delighted to say that we have received 4 applications which is so positive that parents are really keen to be involved in supporting and challenging school. Can I please urge you to read applicants statements and submit your vote? I would like to say thank you to Lucy Ferrari—Coates who has finished her term. Her support particularly with English and the School Council has been really appreciated.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term break and the children get the rest and recuperation they need ready for a busy half term.  
Justin Reeve  
Headteacher

### Message from our Chair of Governors

This term has been a busy one as always for the Governing body. There is always a lot to do to keep our school improving and to adapt to children's needs and an ever changing national agenda and local environment. Wednesday was a great example of this when the Strategic Planning group met to discuss the new OFSTED framework and the housing developments and then we moved on to church to celebrate Harvest Festival and what a celebration it was. I had the pleasure of sitting near the Reception Class which was so rewarding. Watching them singing, dancing and speaking with such confidence, enthusiasm and animation was a delight. You must all be so proud of them and the way they have settled into school life. They certainly are living life to the full.  
Sue Corbett

## Attendance

At the start of the year, we receive a Primary Inspection Data Summary Report from OFSTED. This highlights key areas that inspectors will be focussing on when they visit the school. We will fall into the OFSTED window in May 2020 and will be inspected in the following 6 months. We only have 2 areas that have been noted which are 'meaningful or where statistical testing shows there is something to note'. Firstly, Key stage 2 writing was significantly above national and in the highest 20% of all schools in 2019. Secondly, and more of a concern was the rate of overall absence (3.60%) was slightly above the national average for schools with a similar level of deprivation (3.47%). This will be an area that inspectors of the school will be focussing on and the steps we are taking to cut the rate of absence.

On a positive note, we always celebrate our classes with the best attendance in our awards assembly with Albert the Always here alligator. We also award certificates for 99% and 100% attendance at the end of the year.

We do understand that at times children are ill and they should not be at school, and this is normal life however we need to decrease the number of unauthorised absences that are taken. Amazingly, 41% of our absences last year were either unauthorised or taken as holidays.

The school year has 190 days for pupils to attend a year.  
There are 175 days per year when your child does not have to attend school.  
These days could be used to;

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits
- Visit friends and family
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Go on days out
- Attend routine appointments

Also, the school day has two attendance sessions.  
If your child seems unwell in the morning and has not vomited but seems better by lunchtime, please bring them into school for the afternoon session, this will help to keep your child's attendance as high as possible. If your child ever has to have an emergency medical appointment, please ensure that you try to make it at the beginning or end of a school day, this way your child would only miss a maximum of half a day for the appointment.

Leave of Absence in Term Time (including holidays, weddings, visits to family)

If you wish to take your child out of school for ANY reason during term time, you must formally request this in writing, addressed to the Headteacher. This applies whether it is for 1 day or a longer period. Periods of absence during term time can only be authorised by the Head and then only in exceptional circumstances. Please remember in order for your request to be considered by the Head, you must make the request prior to the absence otherwise it is always unauthorised. If you have a period of unauthorised absence during term time, you may be subject to sanctions including a penalty notice.

Lateness

We have recently noticed that some children are arriving at school after the 8.50 start time.  
**Punctuality Matters.**  
Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning.  
Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.  
Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year.  
Arriving 30 minutes late every day adds up to 19 days absence a year.

## Harvest Service

Thank you very much to everyone who came to our Harvest Service. It was fantastic to hear that 30 more adults watched our service than last year. We were really fortunate to listen to the children discussing Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs with Parents and Carers of our school. Each phase explored shelter, water and food.

Like Reverend Martin said, our children can sing and they did so with gusto. I think my personal favourite was the bean song and especially our audience who joined in at the end of the service. Thank you for all your donations both in produce and in the collection.

We have raised £266.47 for the charities discussed by the children which were:

Trussel Trust, Shelter and Water Aid. The money will be split into 3 and donated to each of the

Thank you also to everyone who returned to school and sampled the delicious roast dinner with their children at school.

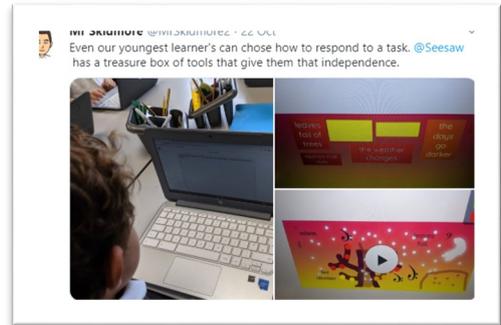


## Mental Health Awareness Day

On Thursday 10th October 2019, we organised a dress down/wear green day. This was to raise awareness for World Mental Health Day. We held an assembly where we told the rest of the school about how important it is to look after our own and other people's mental health. In the morning we had a jazzy wake up shake up to get us moving, which made us happier and helped us to be more active. Being active is one of the Five Ways to Wellbeing. School Council

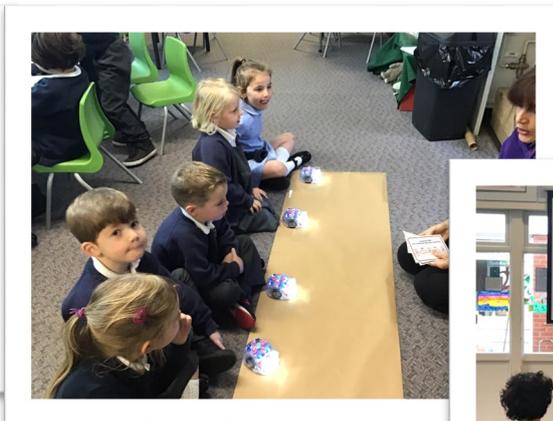


## IT Open Mornings



It has been fantastic to see so many parents attend our information meetings on the use of technology within school. The first meeting revolved around Seesaw and how we are using it across school to enhance the communication with home and also give the children independence within their learning. I hope you're seeing the benefits of the school using a platform such as seesaw for communication.

Our second IT morning was an open morning where we were able to share our 21st Century approach to teaching and learning. The feedback to this event has been very positive and it was great to allow teachers and pupils to share some of the ways they use technology to enhance their learning experience. If there are other sessions related to technology that you would be interested in us putting on then please let us know. Mr Skidmore



## Digital Leaders

6 new digital leaders have been chosen for the next academic year. The children, taken from Year 5 and 6, will be a pupil voice in the teaching of computing within school. They will help lead assemblies, talk with teachers and governors and trial new software. They have already spoken to teachers from visiting schools about how they use Seesaw in their learning. Mr Skidmore



On our twitter feed @tockwithcofe , we have recently shared some excellent guides for internet safety.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/> has a number of posters with really useful information for parents of children of a variety of ages.

## What parents need to know about MINECRAFT

Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game', which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately **74m** users each month

**AGE RESTRICTION 10+**

### GROOMING

As the majority of users who play Minecraft are children, this makes it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

### CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. This chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

### COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

Minecraft incorporates thousands of servers to choose from which are a single world or place created by the public and allow users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

### VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information about you or your child.

### AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the 'Entertaining Software Rating Board' (ESRB), Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence', the ESRB states that this rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as setting animals on fire and harming them with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

### CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.

## National Online Safety Top Tips for Parents

### DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may restrict their game play.

### SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give extra options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. However, although 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec stated that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on and make sure it's regularly kept up-to-date.

### SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child plays games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand which 'mode' they are playing the game. This may help you decide on the amount of time you would like them to play. For example, a mini game will have an 'end', but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode', the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

### MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to 'YouTube' for video tips on improving their game play and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to safely find the content they want.

### PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest restricting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

### CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

To protect your child from engaging in conversation with strangers, advise them to only enter servers with people they know and trust. Your child can also create their own multiplayer server and share this with their friends, which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

**Sources:**  
<https://minecraft.net/en-us/article/minecraft-multiplayer-server-safety>  
<http://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-minecraft>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-38284216>  
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<https://www.hackerr.com/a-parents-guide-to-playing-minecraft-with-your-kids-1788022798>  
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/tech/new-minecraft-game-needs-caution-11251242>  
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<https://minecrafttoys.com/is-minecraft-dangerous-for-kids-a-parents-guide>  
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THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE AND IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. THIS GUIDE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY NOR IS IT ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

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[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

## Superheroes to the rescue!

Reception took part in a sponsored walk dressed as their favourite superhero for the TCP Superhero Walk on the school field. The Tockwith Children's Partnership (TCP) consists of Tockwith Under 5's, Tick Tocks and Reception class. Each term the TCP holds various events for the children to take part in. Lots of fun was had on the Superhero Walk and it was fantastic to see the children enjoying themselves. The children raised an amazing grand total of £703.99 for the TCP which goes towards running the events and purchasing snacks and crafts. A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored the children, these events could not run without the fantastic support we are so lucky to have.  
Miss Hargreaves



## Year 1/2 Space Adventure

Year 1 and 2 had some very special visitors- Captain Darling and Captain Daisy this half term. We met Max the alien, put on our space helmets and bordered the incredible space shuttle. First we zoomed to the moon before having a near crash onto the surface of Saturn. We then became space engineers and designed our own rockets. We had a fantastic morning and learnt even more fascinating facts about space.





## Year 3/4 Brimham Rocks

Year 3 and 4 kicked off their Angry Earth topic with a trip to Brimham Rocks. During the trip the children were able to share their knowledge about sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks. As well as exploring how different types of rocks were formed and how they became such fascinating shapes with our brilliant guides from the National Trust. Mr Goodacre and Miss Harrison.

## Year 5/6 - Eden Camp

Year 5 and 6 began the year with a visit to Eden Camp near Malton. This gave the children a rich stimulus for learning all about WW2. During the visit, the children were able to gain a greater understanding of the effect of the war on people, including the sights, sounds and smells of the blitz; the impact of rationing and the different roles of men and women during the war. We were also treated to a visit to an old time music hall to hear the songs of Vera Lynn and Gracie Fields. Mr White and Mrs Perry



## Daffodil Bulbs

This autumn, we have been lucky enough to have had a bulb extravaganza. This has started with a donation of 300 daffodil bulbs, soil and pots from Johnson's of Whixley. We are currently trying to pot these. At the moment, we have completed reception and half of Year 1, so hopefully, before spring, your child will be returning home with a Daffodil bulb which has been lovingly planted by one of our Tockwith children.

## GS Crew

This year, we have 8 very proactive children who form our GS Crew. They help to support the school in all Church of England Aspects. They have already successfully delivered a collective worship and will be doing this on a monthly basis. They will also be monitoring and evaluating collective worship in the school.

This week, they worked with members of our church community to plant bulbs in the grounds of the church. Thank you very much to Mrs McBride for helping to facilitate this.

This half term, our Value we have been focussing on has been Generosity which has linked in exceptionally well with Harvest.



## Cake sale - Macmillan

Why did we do the Bake Sale for Macmillan?

Freya, Sophie, Maddie and Mia did this bake sale to support Macmillan Cancer Charity for people who suffered with Cancer, Breast Cancer and so on. We thought it was important to think about other people in the world with this condition who should be helped and supported.

What type of cakes did we sell?

There was all sorts of different variety of cakes, cupcakes, cookies and even gingerbread man. There were designs of emojis, Macmillan logos and even more.

What got use to do this event?

Mia: My father was meant to do a golf event with other friends and I decided to ask my Headteacher( Mr Reeve) of Tockwith School to do this on the 1st of July for this half term. Once I heard from Mr Reeve there is an event called Macmillan Coffee Morning, I agreed to do it.

Overall Money: £142.39

Mia Year 6



## Rugby World Cup

This half term we have been eagerly following the Rugby World Cup and we have been able to watch some of the games in school. Each class have been designated a team and if they win they will be receiving a world cup rugby ball. We are all looking forward to the England vs New Zealand tomorrow and wish them all the best.





## Year 5 Football

Year 5 took part in a football tournament at Riverside Community school in Tadcaster. The class provided three teams and competed with resilience, great sportsmanship and represented the school fantastically well. It was the first time that some of the children had represented the school in a sport and they did so with great spirit!  
Mr White



I am writing to inform you of a new recycling centre in Tockwith for crisp packets and oral products. This centre will be located in Tockwith Primary Academy office area. It will be right by the door of the office. These recycling bins are open to the community now.

You CAN recycle

- Any brand of toothbrush outer packaging
- Any brand of toothpaste cartons
- Any brand of electric and battery toothbrush heads
- Any brand of toothbrushes
- Any brand of toothpaste tubes and caps
- Any brand of pretzel packets
- Any brand of popcorn packets
- Any brand of nut packets
- Any brand of crisp packets

You will NOT be able to recycle the following:

- Dental floss and floss containers
- Interdental brushes
- Toothache kits
- Breathe sprays
- Denture adhesives packaging
- Denture tablets packaging
- Denture cream tubes
- Battery toothbrushes
- Mouthwash plastic bottles
- Tubes that did not contain toothpaste
- Outer packaging that did not contain toothbrushes
- Cartons that did not contain toothpaste
- Toothpaste pumps
- Seed packets
- Nutrient powder and topper packets
- Dried fruit packets
- Meat snacking packets
- Crisp tubes



I strongly suggest that you bring all your waste on the accepted list to our new bins when they are open and you will gain us all money for your children or relatives in Tockwith Primary or a chosen charity. Money could be spent on the community of Tockwith too.

Thank you for spending your precious and valuable time reading this hopefully persuading and useful email. Thank you once again.

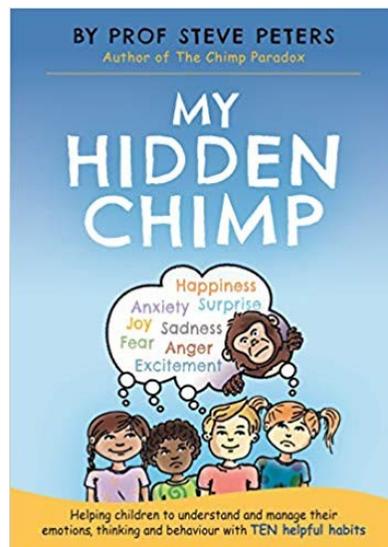
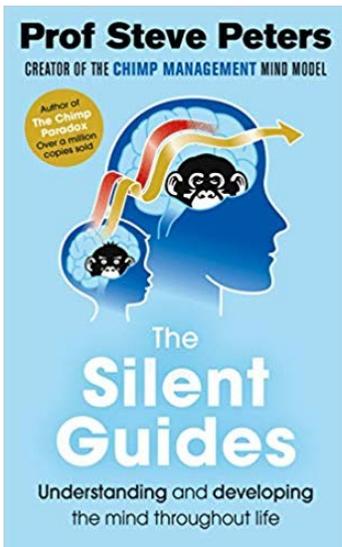
By Isaac L Year 6

## Chimp Model

We have been so fortunate to have 6 members of staff who have been working with Chimp Management who are delivering a skills for life programme for teachers and teaching assistants to learn new skills to help improve the quality of life for themselves and their students.

The programme uses The Chimp Model, a mind management programme developed by Professor Steve Peters, to help you understand and manage your mind. We have 4 sessions learning about the model and then 4 sessions applying the skills. The following part is very exciting as we will be given teaching resources and training to deliver the Skills for Life Programme to our children. This compliments our vision to 'prepare children for the future'. I look forward to sharing more in our next newsletter.

I highly recommend Professor Steve Peters new books - The Silent Guides and the child friendly book that compliments this book—my Hidden Chimp



## Parent Hub

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the Parent Hub application. By doing this you have helped to save the school an incredible £800 a year. Can you please make sure that when you have downloaded it you make sure you switch on the notifications as this will allow you to receive information when it is released.

## Twitter

We are now up to 199 followers on our @tockwithcofe page. It is an excellent way of keeping up on latest news or wider issues in Education. Some of teachers are on twitter as well so please feel free to give them a follow.

## OFSTED

This term has seen a change to the OFSTED inspection regime. Below is a guide that has been produced for parents. We have been really pleased to read about an increased focus on the curriculum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byaUliCMi9E>

This year we have only received one response to OFSTED's parent view questionnaire. The website is <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and your views would be gratefully received.

