



# Tockwith

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

You might want to put the kettle on for this newsletter. It gives 'Team Tockwith' the opportunity to share all of the amazing things that have happened this half term.

Thank you so much for helping us to get to the end of the term without having to close any bubbles, which given the circumstances has been remarkable. We appreciate how much you have helped us to keep the school fully open. I feel very proud of the way we have pulled together so well.

A special congratulation goes to our Reception children who have completed their first full term at our wonderful school. They have been awesome and I can't wait to see them fully integrated into school life. It does make me feel sad that the children and parents have not had the opportunity to feel what we are truly about and the efforts we make to enable our school community to 'live life in all it's fullness'.

We have had moments, where things have felt a bit more normal, our Christmas lunch being one of those. It was lovely to receive a really positive email from a parent reflecting on their child's experience. At times like these, kind of positive messages are really appreciated.

Our staff have been amazing throughout this whole term. We are so lucky to have such an inspiring group of dedicated people working with our children. They have worked so well as a team to ensure the children have the safest and best experience at school possible. It is also important to reflect on the extra duties and additional cleaning they are taking on and how they do this without complaining.

This half term, I have had the opportunity to have pupil progress meetings with each teaching team. It is amazing how well they know their children and how best to meet their needs and extend them further. The intervention that takes place in this school is fantastic, we are very fortunate to have such skilled Teaching Assistants who help to ensure no child is left behind. We have shared a couple of the strategies we are using in school with you in this newsletter.

And finally, I have to say how amazing the children have been since September. I always knew the children at our school were fantastic young people but this term they have been absolutely outstanding. Their learning behaviours have been incredible and their respect and attitude towards others has been brilliant. They really have made the most of being back in school and have fully understood why things have had to be a bit different and have adapted accordingly. Your children really do make us smile.

I have always been proud to say I am the Headteacher of Tockwith but after this calendar year, I can say that with cream, hundreds and thousands and a glacé cherry on top.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Justin Reeve

## Reception and Year 1 Nativity

Reception and Year 1 have performed the most amazing nativity. It has been done slightly differently this year, but you can still enjoy our brilliant acting and singing from the comfort of your own homes. Reception dazzled with their fabulous acting and their smiling faces, and Year 1 rose magnificently to the challenge of narrating the whole production. We are so proud of all of them. The best part - you get to enjoy it again and again!! You can find our nativity on the school's youtube channel. We hope it brings a little magic and joy to your christmas time!

Here is the link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5mchnefeA>



## Year 2's Covid Inspired Christmas Story

Although we couldn't join forces with our friends in Reception and Year 1, Year 2 were still able to put on a festive retelling of the Christmas Story.

The children learnt their lines in record time and delivered them with confidence. After ensuring all windows and doors were opened, we even managed a song to celebrate the birth of Jesus. You can watch the Year 2 Christmas story here

<https://share.vidyard.com/watch/NL1ABxFbCrhBdiCZuNWSuR?>



### Message from our Chair of Governors

And so we approach the end of what has been a very interesting term and although the day to day working has changed dramatically I am amazed at how much has remained the same due to the organisation, attention to detail and sheer hard work of all our school staff. I am in awe of them and all they have done since our first lockdown in March.

The Governing Body are trialling a new Monitoring schedule this year and for us it has been business as usual, apart from our contact with the children which has understandably been limited. I am sure I not alone in saying I have missed that contact. Not being able to see their enthusiasm, energy and joy for life as they move through the usual Autumn stepping stones has been a major downside and I look forward with anticipation to the hope we are pinning on the vaccination.

I did have the pleasure recently of sitting through a virtual Star of the week assembly, as I said to Mr Reeve, a cross between the Oscars and the Eurovision song contest. What a joy it was to see the children's faces as they celebrated each other's successes. I know other Governors have had similar experiences, snatching moments of being able to share time with the children in collective worship, on brief learning walks and on zoom - the life line for Governing Body meetings when we need to get thirteen people round the table.

We have recently appointed a new governor onto the Local Governing Body - Helen Loney and we are looking forward to welcoming her to her first meeting in January. Thanks to everyone who considered the role or put themselves forward and to everyone who voted.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Governors to wish you all a happy family filled Christmas and a peaceful and hopeful New Year.

**Sue Corbett—Chair of Governors**

## Christmas Lunch

Wow! It took 2 hours but all the children had the opportunity to come into the hall, sit down at a table and enjoy our Christmas festivities. We kept everything safe by wiping down tables and chairs between each sitting. A big thank you to Miss Reynolds for drawing up the timetables for staffing and helping with all the wiping down.

However, a super special thank you goes to Mrs Hobson and Mrs Kitchen who prepared the most amazing Christmas Dinner! We had turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roasties, peas, carrots and sprouts as well as a lovely cake. We were well and truly treated. I was even persuaded to play 'last christmas' so the children could sing their most amusing version of it. Oh how I always laugh at the line - 'sold it on ebay'.



## Reception First Christmas Dinner

Yum yum! Our very first school Christmas dinner at school. We really enjoyed celebrating in our bubble with Christmas music and delicious food.



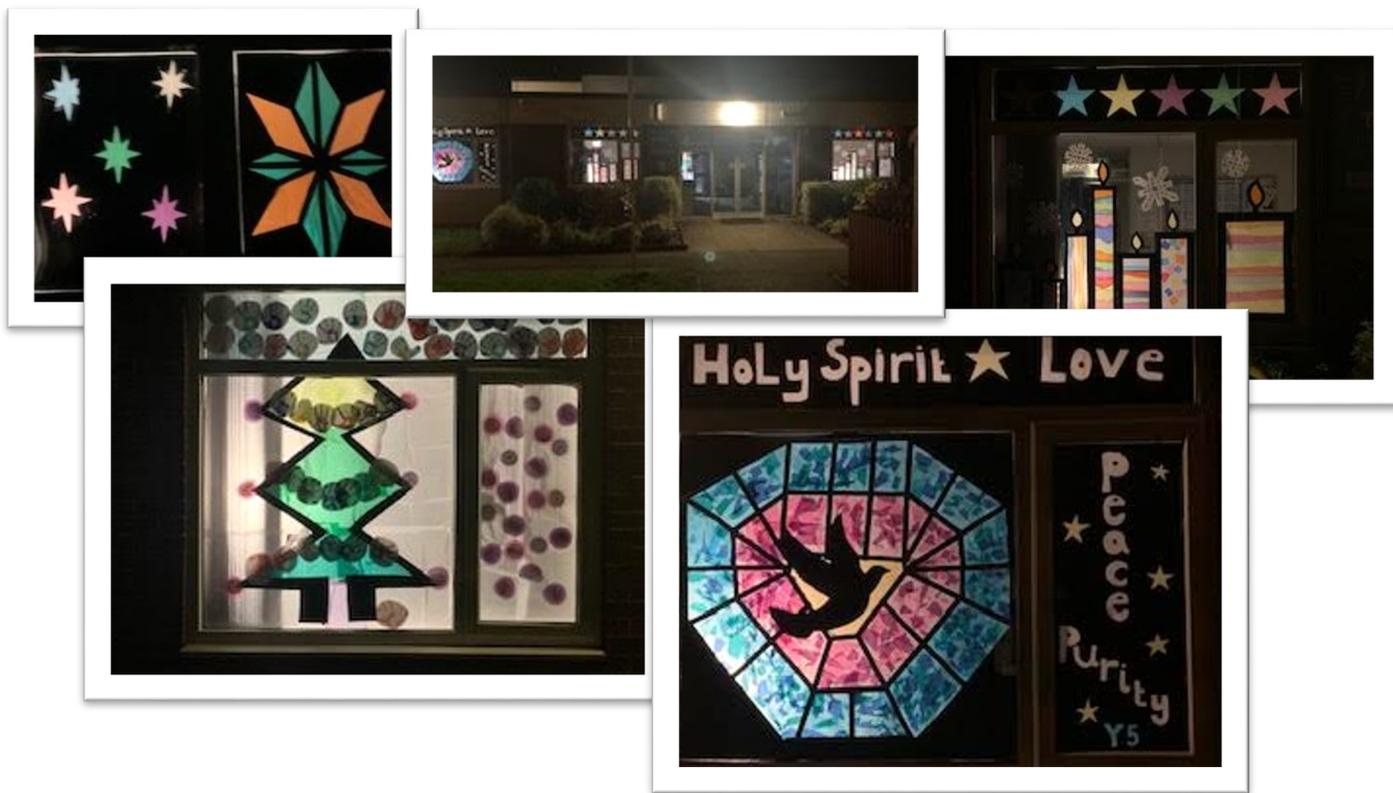
## Helicopter Stories in Reception

We have introduced helicopter story sessions in Reception. This is where the children dictate their stories to an adult scribe. Later that same day, the whole class gather around a taped out stage and the stories are acted out. The children have furthered these sessions by writing down their very own helicopter stories. We can already see the positive impact on their literacy and communication skills. Here are some fantastic examples...



## Living advent

I was on a zoom call the other day with our CEO and she complimented me on my window, which allowed me to tell her how fabulous our other windows were, which then led me to tell her all about our amazing village and how we celebrate advent. Thank you so much to Sarah McBride for encouraging us to be part of the Tockwith Living advent and facilitating this wonderful event and to our children and staff for stepping up to the challenge.



## Collective Worship

It has been fantastic to see our collective worships evolve over this term. It has been a pleasure to recently bring each bubble back into the hall for a collective worship once a week. I must say that I have loved seeing the children again in the hall which is our 'special place' and sharing a lovely story with them. We have been going on a journey through the bible which I will carry on throughout the year. Reverend Martin has been holding fortnightly remote collective worships with everyone except for Reception. These sessions certainly keep the teachers on their toes knowing when to mute and when to speak! I have been really impressed with how interactive the children have been during these Collective worships. We have also been using picture news which highlights current issues happening in the world and it is delivered in a fun and interesting way. Ann Watson from the Parish has been kind enough to share some virtual stories with us relating to the creation story and advent.

My favourite collective worship, as always, is our Friday Awards assembly. We do this virtually and teachers are able to share good news stories about their children. I really miss our school coming together with parents and teachers to share how amazing our children are. I feel even more sorry that some parents have not experienced this yet. If anything shows what we are all about it is this assembly. Fingers crossed we will be able to do it soon.



## Laps To Lapland

Today was our final day for our Laps to Lapland appeal and WE MADE IT! Father Christmas will have lots of drinks ready for our tired children. Not only have we made it to Lapland but we have also beaten our target of £1000! Your generosity has been overwhelming. Thank you so much so every donation. It is going to a fabulous charity which is very important to so many people. The children all deserve a well earned break. Have a lovely Christmas. Mr G

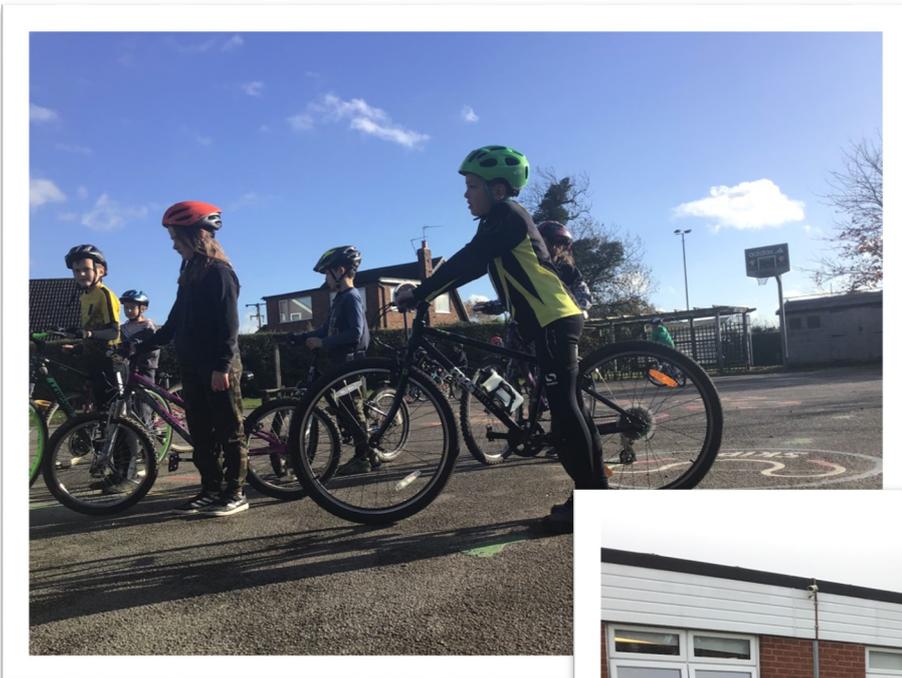


## Communication

It goes without saying that we are really missing face to face communication. That said, I have had some really positive feedback around parents evening and the ease of drop offs which will really help have a more blended approach to communications. The one thing I do ask is to really think about the timings of your communication through seesaw. The teachers have been working incredibly hard during this term, often working evenings and weekends. For ease, they have seesaw on their devices which means they receive notifications when they get a message. I have now asked them to take off their notifications during the weekend and evenings past 7 o'clock so they will not be responding during these times. I really appreciate your support with this. If you need to get hold of the teachers out of this time please email the school office - [admin@tp.ebor.academy](mailto:admin@tp.ebor.academy)

## Bike ability

At the beginning of the term, Year 5 took part in a Bikeability course to learn how to ride safely on the road. 100% of pupils in Year 5 took part in the course. During the sessions, the children developed basic handling skills and then cycled around Prince Rupert Drive putting into practice what they had learned in the playground. Each child was given a high visibility vest. It has been great to see so many children wearing these as they cycle to school each day. I look forward to seeing more as the weather improves. Please don't forget to wear your helmets.



## Christmas Cards for the Elderly

Tockwith Primary was approached by the Director of York Specsavers Home Visits and asked if we could provide some Christmas cards that they could give out to their patients. A lot of their patients are elderly people who live alone. We were delighted to help and the children created some amazing cards and decorations to give to Specsavers. We have heard back that the clients were really touched to receive the Christmas cards, with one lady stating that this would be the only card she would receive that year! Another gentleman insisted on writing a card back to all of the children which was so lovely to receive.

This is valuable to pass back to the children, allowing them to understand what a big impact their work has had on people.

Mr Reeve has stated:

The children were delighted to have the opportunity of expressing one of our core values of creativity in producing their own Christmas cards to distribute to elderly and vulnerable clients of Specsavers.

We feel that our school aim of 'Live Life in all its fullness' has been truly demonstrated in being able to create connections, bring joy to others in this festive period and in return, experience the heart-warming emotions that come with the understanding of what a small act of kindness can bring to people.





ReadingWise is a new decoding and comprehension intervention we are experimenting with in school. I am currently using the comprehension program with Year 6 and we have begun the decoding program with all classes from year 1 to year 6.  
Mrs Kirkham.

Matthew M, year 6, said, "It's a good website and the story is interesting and easy to follow."

Rory P, year 6, said, "It's really good for getting your reading up and it's really interactive, I think it helps me a lot."

We are really excited to be able to use this Package with children across school to support them with both decoding and comprehension, using a programme which measures progress and provides activities matched to need and ability.

Mrs Perry

### Numberstacks

The intervention focuses on 5 different units

- Number and Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions
- Decimals and Percentages

Before each unit is started, there is an assessment to complete which gauges what level the child needs to start at. In each unit there are videos and worksheets provided for us to work through with small groups.

This intervention is available to selected children in Year 1 through to Year 6.

"I have been doing the Number Stacks intervention with some children before school. I feel it has worked really well for these children and they are really enjoying the sessions. It has been great to watch their confidence grow and it has shown in class and in their end of unit assessments."

Miss Reynolds



## Tockwith Maths Fluency Challenge

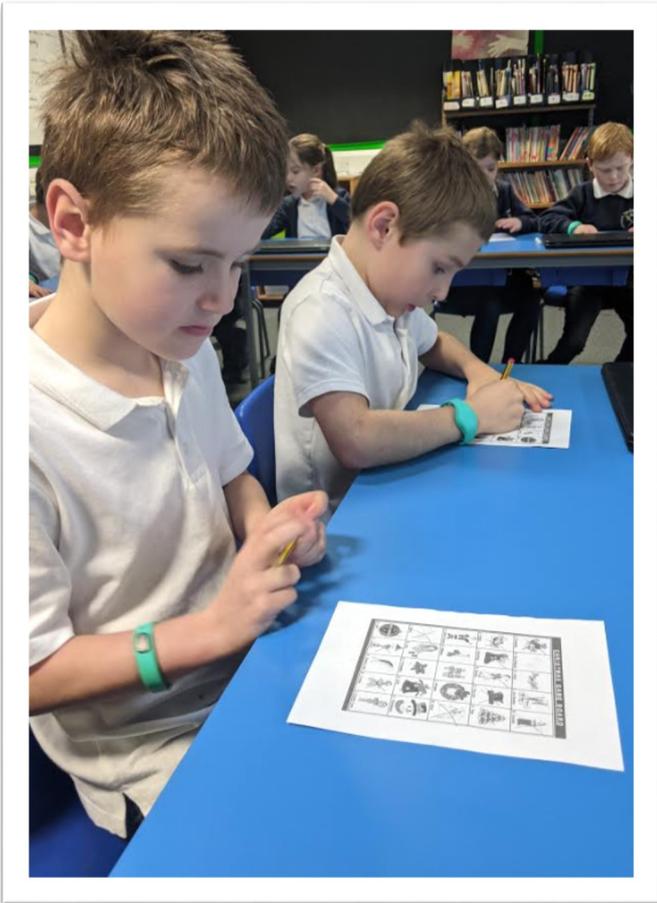
Congratulations to Year 3 who were the winners of the inaugural Tockwith Fluency Challenge. The children across school have been working really hard on learning their basic number facts. Knowing these facts really helps the children to problem solve and work through more complex maths puzzles. The progress made across school had been superb and Year 3 were crowned the winners as they posted the highest % gain in their scores. Well done to all.



Mr Skidmore was unaware that I was taking this photograph of him announcing the result. I apologise Mr Skidmore.

## PTFA Bingo

In the last week, we have been lucky enough to host a Christmas Bingo in each class. The PTFA kindly donated a selection box to the 2 winners in each class and a chocolate lolly for everyone who took part. We are so lucky to have such a supportive PTFA who have really kindly allowed us to buy really good filming equipment and each class received over £100 to send on new books. Thank you.



The PTFA also launched a 'What Christmas Means to me'

We saw some wonderful entries—thank you to everyone who participated.

The winners were:

Reception - Amy WC  
Year 1 - Nicky  
Year 2 - Holly H  
Year 3 - John  
Year 4 - Sophie  
Year 5 - Sophie WC  
Year 6 - Isobel

## Our Christingle

Usually, at this time of the year, our church team usually come into school to make Christingle's with the children. Sadly, the team have not been able to be with us but they kindly donated all the equipment for the children to make their own. The children really enjoyed doing this.

Connor said, "these were really fun to make."

Eddie added, "it reminded me that Jesus is the light of the world".

