



Dear Parents/carers,

We come to the end of another eventful long term! That said, it has been a very successful term. It was great to receive a positive validation from OFSTED who recognised what a special place this is. So much so, that they want to revisit us again in 1-2 years for a full inspection and we can't wait! As I have said to you before, this is a very special place filled with very special little and big people and supported by an amazing community.

[Tockwith OFSTED Report](#)

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Skidmore this term. It has been a pleasure to see Mr Skidmore develop so much since he has been here. He came as a class teacher and he leaves as an Assistant Headteacher, also somebody who has helped transform our IT provision whilst also having led IT for the trust. Not to forget what a brilliant teacher he is. I often speak to children who have left and they all have fond memories of being in Mr Skidmore's class, as do the parents. I know you will all join me in wishing Mr Skidmore all the best for his future - our loss is the University of York St John's gain.

After Easter Mr Goodacre will be taking over responsibility for IT and Mrs Williamson will be taking on Maths. Miss Stanton will be shadowing Mr Goodacre in PE and Miss Cunningham will be working with the Humanities team looking specifically at RE.

After looking back through the old records of the school I found out that this school building opened on 3rd July 1972, meaning that the school will be 50 years old this summer!

We cannot let this go without a party, so please save the date - Friday 8th July — for our Summer Fair.

The school has changed so much in those times and is due to change again. Work will be starting on the new extension (The Waller Suite) imminently. In advance, I apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused during this time. Fingers crossed, the additional classroom will be ready for September.

The PTFA have also kindly donated a substantial amount of money for Key Stage 2 playground equipment. A new triple somersault bar and a very exciting sky carousel will be introduced! They are from the same company as the items installed at present and I am sure they will have plenty of use! So, please make sure you come to our summer fair to help us build up our funds again!! They were also kind enough to donate a bench in honour of Poppy, a past pupil here.
(please see below for photos of proposed extension and new playground equipment)

We have lots of exciting events to plan for this summer. OFSTED were very complimentary about our efforts to reconnect after the last 2 years and how we have ensured that all children 'live life in all its fullness'. Next term, Years 3 and 4 will be going on a 3 day residential in the Northern Pennines and Years 2 and 5 will be having a sleepover in tents on the school site after an adventure day! We also have tickets for the first game of the Women's European Championship at Old Trafford - more details to follow.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you when you return.

Justin Reeve

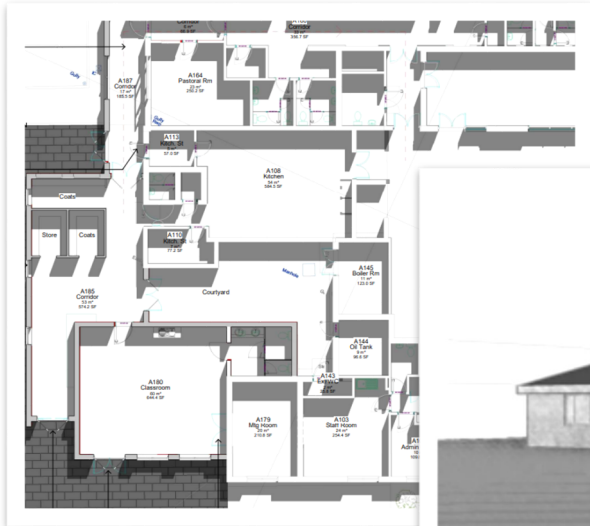
A note from Mr Skidmore

Working at Tockwith over the last 8 years has been a huge privilege and something I have thoroughly enjoyed. Tockwith Primary school is a special place for both children and staff and it has been a really hard decision to move on. I have so many fond memories of the children I have taught here and the families and people within the community I have got to meet. Thank you so much for all the cards, gift and well wishes that I have received in recent weeks. They have meant a lot. I know the school will continue to go from strength to strength in the future and I will enjoy following it's exploits from afar.

Thanks and best wishes, Richard Skidmore

Welcome Mrs Williamson

We are really looking forward to welcoming Mrs Williamson to school after the holidays. She has managed to meet the class and has spent a lot of time speaking to Mr Skidmore to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. Mrs Williamson is currently teaching Year 2 so will have a clear understanding of the Year 2 curriculum and the special quizzes they take. She has also worked with all the staff in her role as Director of Ebor School Direct and has been visiting for the last 7 years. I am sure you will all give her a warm Tockwith welcome when you see her in the playground.



Pictures of the Extension and Climbing Apparatus



Message from the Chair Of Governors

I always love the Spring term. It starts quite quiet with children settled into classes and routines but then builds as the weather gets warmer and everything starts to grow. We, as Governors, see it as an opportunity to get into school and see what is happening. We look at books, talk to children, investigate resources, go on learning walks and see how the curriculum is being implemented. It's very exciting and this Spring term was made doubly exciting by the arrival of OFSTED.

I was in school when the call came through about the inspection which was to happen over the next two days. When it came there was no drama, no rushing around, no panic...instead almost a celebration that finally we would be able to show our amazing school to an inspector. And show off we did!

What an amazing two days they were, with everyone and everything falling into place to demonstrate to the Inspector what it meant to be Team Tockwith. From the minute he stepped over the threshold he was enveloped in our ethos, vision and values which underpin all we do here at Tockwith. He was met at every turn with people living life in all its fullness and with everyone seamlessly played their part.

The Inspector was extremely thorough, knew what he wanted and Mr Reeve gave him free rein to choose children, look at subjects, dig deeper, ask questions, talk to parents, investigate resources. Our staff, led by the Senior Leadership team, were of course, amazing, accommodating every request, answering all questions, showcasing their talent, producing documentation. The children were awesome, totally unfazed by our visitor and doing just what they do best, charming the socks off him.

You, our amazing parents, responded honestly and openly and we were blown away by your warmth and feeling for our school.

I cannot tell you how proud we were, as Governors, to sit in on the feedback, when the Inspector talked about the school with such passion and warmth and identified how we had ticked every box and exceeded many. I, particularly, will never forget Mr Reeve's face when he heard some of the quotes from you, the parents, for the first time. He was touched beyond words, as we all were.

Of course, we already know how outstanding our school is but isn't it lovely to get it rubber stamped.

We absolutely can't wait for the next inspection. Bring it on!

The Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter break and are looking forward to all the Summer term will bring.

Friday Collective Worship

It has been delightful to see some of our parents return for our Star of the Week assembly. If your child has been chosen as the Star of the Week you will receive a message on the Thursday inviting you to join us for our Collective worship on the Friday at 2.30.

Also, if your child has something to celebrate please send them in with their certificate or whatever they have to share. Please feel free to join us for this special assembly if this is the case.

Easter Service

This week, it was a pleasure to welcome so many parents and carers to the church to watch 3 fantastic Easter performances from Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The performances were brilliant and I was so impressed with the children's confidence and pride in their own performance. Reception shared the story of Chicken Lickin and a song about a spring chicken, which is still going round my head! Key Stage 1 delivered an amazing plateau of songs, interspersed with high quality narration.

Key Stage 2 took us on a journey through Easter through the eyes of women in the story. It was very well performed by all of the classes and the singing was absolutely spot on.

Thank you to all the children for their performances, to our audiences for their participation when asked, Mrs McBride for opening up and the Teaching teams who put in so much hard work behind the scenes.

Also, well done to Joe and Erin who performed stunning solos - wow!!

We also made sure that all of the children had a chance to see each other's performances on the last day of term. The Year 6's were delighted to perform the Spring Chicken song.



School meals

From 25 April 2022 the cost of pupil dinners is increasing to £2.55 per day. The increase in price is due to our catering provider encountering unprecedented cost increases with food costs rising at a rate of between 6 and 10%. We have also seen a rise in utility costs of over 50% and the national minimum wage increases are also adding to their cost base.

We believe that £2.55 per day for a hot, freshly prepared, nutritionally balanced meal is still extremely good value. Our menus are refreshed through the year although we do try and maintain some of the favourites.

We are determined to continue to provide a quality school meal. We value your support in this and encourage, if your child(ren) do not currently take school meals, to "give it a try".

Attendance

As part of our half termly procedures the attendance of each child in school has been reviewed and letters will have been issued to any child whose level of attendance raises a concern to the school. This is part of the safeguarding procedures that were put in place by Ebor Academy Trust in May 2021. As such any child whose attendance falls below 96% or has more than 5 lates (arriving at school after the bell) recorded in a half term will be sent a letter.

We fully understand that there may occasionally be circumstances, such as illness, when your child cannot be in school. Through our absence tracking and consultation process we will always make time to understand where absence is genuine and unavoidable.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that there is NO entitlement to additional holidays outside of normal school holiday times. We have seen an increase in holiday requests in term time and which will no doubt increase the number of letters that are required to be issued. Please note that End of Key Stage assessments (SATS) take place in May for children in Year 2 and 6 and Phonics Screening takes place in June for Year 1 children. It is particularly important that these children are in school during these times.

Collection of children from School

Reminder that only children in Y5 & 6 are able to walk home alone. If you would like your child to walk home alone and you haven't already provided consent - please get in touch with the school office to give consent.

Children in lower years must be collected by a parent, carer or designated adult and cannot be collected from school by an older sibling who also attends Primary School.

Clubs in School

We have been running several sports clubs after school over the last few years, which have been really successful. We currently have a club for Year 1&2, Y3-6 and Reception which is run by a company called Primary Influence. The clubs are then able to be tailored specifically for each age group. After Easter we are continuing these sports clubs and they are already fully booked! We also have a French club which runs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays lunchtimes. This club is run by Les Petit Papillons and teaches children French through fun and games!

After Easter we are trialing a couple of new clubs, to see how they run and how popular they are with the children. The first is a Science club for KS2 which is run by a company called 'Kids Club'. This club is Crazy Science after school on Thursdays at Tockwith Primary. Unfortunately if we don't have enough children sign up to this, it will not be able to go ahead. Sign up now via <https://www.kidsclub.org.uk/book/tockwith>

The second new club we are trialing is Circus Skills for KS2 on Wednesdays. This is run by Martin's Circus Skills Workshop and is available to all children in KS2 (Y3-6). Again, this will not be able to go ahead if we do not have enough children signed up so please get in touch with the school office to book your child's place.

If you are aware of a company that may be able to provide an after school club, please get in touch with the school office on 01423 358375 or admin@tp.ebor.academy

Rock your socks

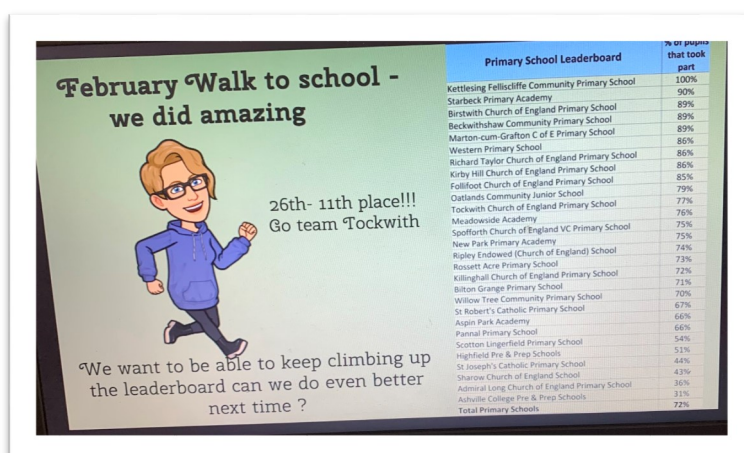


For Down syndrome awareness day, it was great to see so many funky pairs of mismatched socks for Rock your socks celebrating inclusion for all. The children are fantastic at including everyone and it was lovely to come together to see this celebrated. The children also learnt to sign along to a song 50 Mums | 50 Kids | 1 Extra Chromosome, a song made by a group of mums who have children with Down Syndrome. Mrs Poole.

Walk to school

We had another fantastic result with Walk to school in March with 76% of children walking to school that day. Not only is it great for the local environment but also a lovely way to see our beautiful village in spring time. Well done everybody, let's see if we can keep it going.

Thank you so much to our school council who are working really hard at the moment! They were also part of our interviewing panel for the Assistant Headteacher post at our school. Their questioning was brilliant and the way they fed back to us was very impressive indeed.



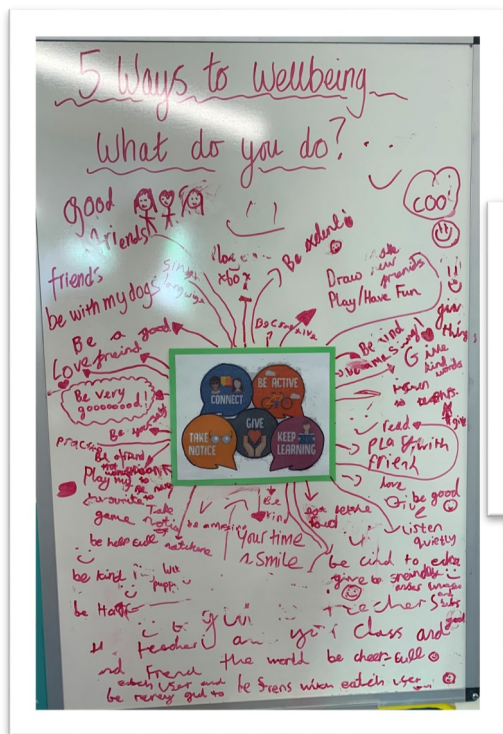
Pastoral and well being

We have 2 wellbeing whiteboards in the school that the children are encouraged to use . The boards are updated regularly and give us all a moment to reflect on how we can look after our mental health.

During the Winter term we have been recording 5 Ways To Wellbeing, this is to remind ourselves what we must do to feel well and give others ideas of what they could try.

The boards are now displaying characters from the film Inside Out - Joy, Sadness, Disgust and Anger. The children are writing up how these characters are feeling, alongside the message

"All Feelings Are OK, It is What You do With Them That Matters"



At Tockwith Primary we will continue to promote Wellbeing on a daily basis, it is clear that when we feel our best, we can learn and perform to our best ability.

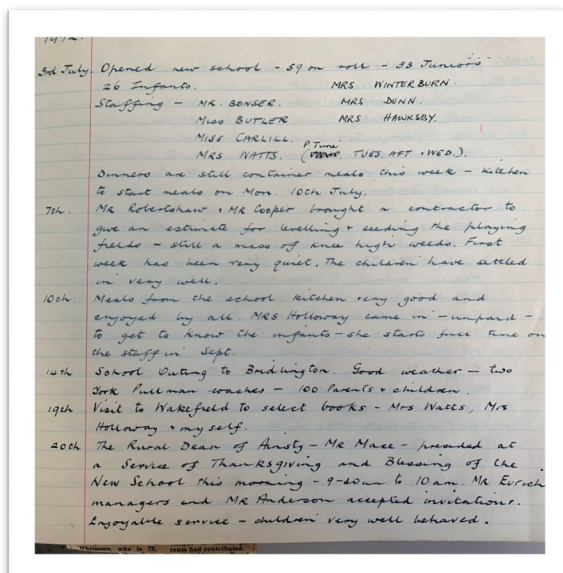
If you have any questions or you want to get in contact please email me (Sarah Slack): pastoral@tockwithprimary.co.uk - this is checked daily.

Upcycling

Linking with our schools 50 year birthday anniversary, we have a really exciting opportunity for all children across both key stages. Each key stage will be given a fashion period to research and discover (60's, 70's, 80's 90's etc)

The children will look at the history of that time period, key events, fashion designers and architects. We will be upcycling an old piece of clothing and giving it a new lease of life using our creativity skills!

All children will be completing this and at the end of the week there will be a fashion show to showcase our work to parents/caregivers. More information will be sent out about this nearer the time but I am so excited to plan and work on this with the children!



Year 5/6 trip to Flamingo Land

Year 5 and 6 had a great time enhancing their learning about the rainforest during our visit to Flamingo Land Zoo. Although a chilly day in North Yorkshire was not quite on a par with the sweltering tropics, we were still able to learn about a variety of creatures from snakes to stick insects; from hissing cockroaches to hedgehog-like tenrecs; and from hungry hippos to leaping lemurs. It was a pleasure to listen to the children share their knowledge and make connections with their prior learning and I was particularly proud to hear the Zookeeper comment on the children's impressive knowledge and excellent behaviour. Well done Year 5 and 6!

From Mrs Perry



Food technology in Year 5 and 6

As part of our rainforest curriculum, we learnt about deforestation and the impact of cattle ranching in the rainforests. From this, we designed our own beef-free Bolognese, armed ourselves with vegetable peelers and wooden spoons and set about making our Bolognese sauces to sample and compare. There were plenty of empty bowls and positive comments at the end of the day.



To conclude our rainforest topic, Years 5 and 6 made spaghetti bolognese. To raise awareness of the impact of cattle ranching and the destruction that deforestation has caused on the rainforest, the decision was made to use meat free recipes. The children enjoyed cutting and prepping the food with our new knives and chopping board. Despite not using meat, the children were made aware of the importance of using different chopping boards for different ingredients to avoid cross contamination. Year 6's quorn bolognese was favoured over Year 5's lentil based recipe.

Rocks and Pops in Tockwith

This week we were treated to a performance from the Year 6 band. They rocked the hall with a selection of songs and I have to say that they were very impressive. Mr Crilley offers lessons across the school for drums, singing, keyboards, bass and guitar. If you would like to find out more please enquire at the office. I have asked Joe and Elsie to write a brief paragraph about their experience with the band.

Everyone in the band loves it. We make the most out of the hour we have and Mr Crilley helps us grow as musicians. In lockdown we wrote our own song. It is all about growing up to be a good person. Mr Crilley helped make our song and now we perform it at every band assembly we do. Joe and Elsie Year 6.



Tree of Wishes

Before the pandemic hit us, we had a brilliant plan for some joint work with our partner school in Sierra Leone. This would have involved reciprocal visits and a project between the 2 schools around recycling.

Sadly, a lot of project was not completed however we are left with a tree of wishes that is placed outside the front of school. We will be working with our partner schools within Ebor to look for another connecting classrooms project through the British Council and fingers crossed this may have more impact this time.

Open the book

It has been delightful to welcome back the Open the Book team into school. Mrs Marriner and Mrs McBride, our foundation governors, worked closely with the Year 6 children to tell us the story of Palm Sunday. They even gave every child a palm cross at the end of the collective worship to take home. Hopefully, our Open the Book Team will be back each month to share a story from our special book.



Art across school

This half-term has been an extremely busy one in our art studios, across school. In Years 1 / 2, children continued with the Deep Sea topic, producing so many quality drawings, pastel pieces and watercolour paintings. In Years 3 and 4, we studied Greek art and experienced using chalk pastels for the first time, air drying clay to model a small Greek pot and also made our very own 'scraper boards'. In Years 5 / 6, children produced beautiful watercolour animals (from the rainforest) and rainforest prints, where we used a plastic bag. Children are excited for next term, where they will get the opportunity to use new mediums and perhaps come to Art Club, which starts on the first Tuesday back.

Mrs Starr



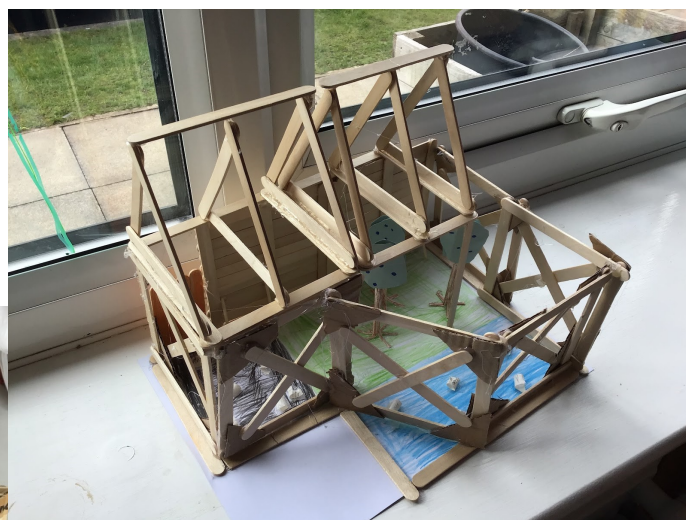
Milanowek

Earlier this month, I attended a meeting in the Church where Jim and Emma Tinsley presented their Ukrainian Refugee Appeal which links the Tockwith Community with Milanowek in Poland. I was able to see the inspiring work that is going on helping the Ukrainian refugees in the area. This particularly appealed to me because you can see directly where the money is going in Milanowek. At our Easter Service, we collected an amazing £391 without gift aid which we will be adding on. I have emailed the local school in the area as well to see if we can make connections with them. If you would like to find out more about the fund or would like to make a donation the go fund page is: [Go Fund Me - Milanowek](#)



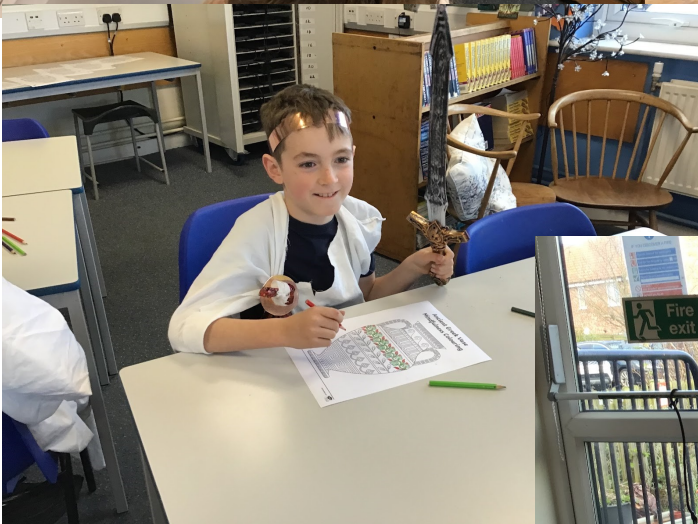
DT- Year 3 and 4

This term, we have been looking at structures. The children were challenged to create an animal enclosure, similar to ones they might find at the zoo. After carrying out research, planning and building, the children were able to create their structures out of lollipop sticks, paper straws and match sticks. Some children chose to clad their structures with paper whilst others decided to stick with the wooden materials. Both looked equally effective and fit the design brief perfectly!



Ancient Greek Day

As our end of topic celebration, the children in Year 4 came to school dressed in togas! There was even a prize for the best dressed! A spread of Ancient Greece food was enjoyed by the children before the Ancient Greek Olympics which was held in the afternoon against the Year 3s. The children had lots of fun trying different events whilst competing against one another.



Scarecrow Trail

We were excited to join in the PFTA Scarecrow Trail around the village to raise funds for the school. Reception Class matched their scarecrow to their Jack and the Beanstalk literacy focus and created a scarecrow giant. Getting it onto the school roof was a magical experience! Lots of our children had great fun hunting around the village to discover the scarecrows and ticking them off their maps. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported this.



GS CREW



Today in assembly Reverend Martin talked about Jesus is part of your life and talked about Mothering Sunday that will take place on Sunday this week and talked about the definition of mothering and who can mother. He talked about how Father's Day started and talked about the church of the epiphany and different churches that are in other villages.

This term, we have re-established our GS Crew with a streamlined group of 4 children. They may be streamlined but they are very busy. Joe and Arthur are responsible for photographing the collective worship, writing a summary and then emailing it to Mrs Cook for the website. I know - complicated stuff! Meanwhile Erin and Ellie are watching the school to pick people who make the most contributions to have the much heralded blue velour palm tree cushions for the next collective worship. Their next role will be to monitor and evaluate the collective worships during next term.

Keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility

If you are worried about a child you can speak in confidence to your local children's safeguarding team on 01609 780780.

Please be aware your school's safeguarding lead is Mr Reeve and is available in school hours to discuss your concerns. The deputy is DSL is Mr White

Don't think 'What if I am wrong? Think 'What if I am right?'

Early Help in North Yorkshire

Should you wish to speak with your local NYCC Children & Families Service: Early Help in relation to a child, young person or family who may require Early Help, contact:

Early Help West—01609 534842

Early Help is not a designated team; it is the way that everyone works together to support the needs of families. The aim of Early Help is to build on people's capacity and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and prevent further problems in the future. Early Help is the response offered by all services in North Yorkshire who are in contact with children, young people and families when an unmet need is identified as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

If you want any further help here is a helpful video for you:

<https://youtu.be/DaDz5eocKPs>

Reading at Home

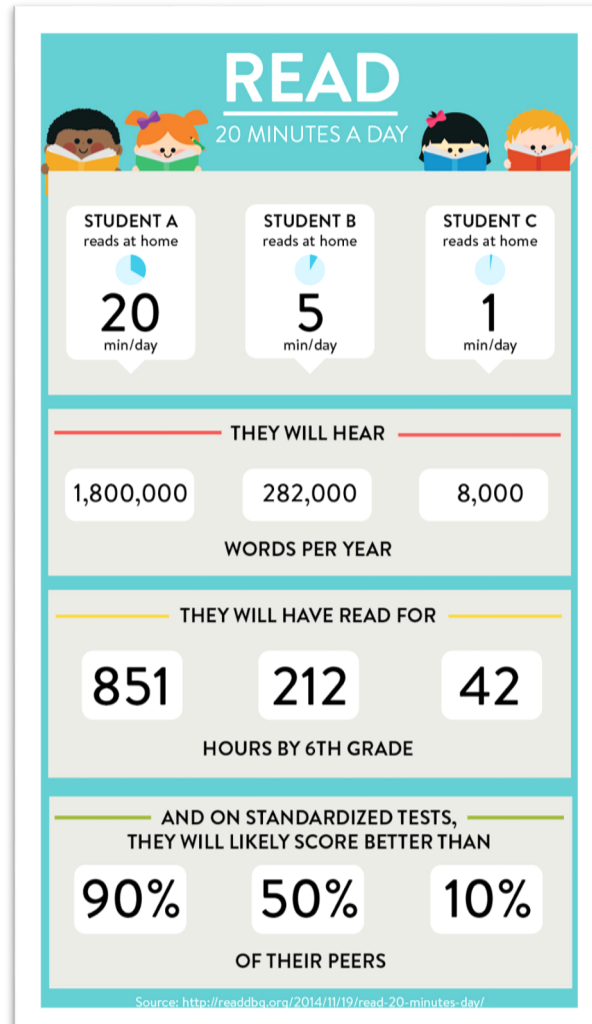
'Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.'
Pearson Education

For those children who are reluctant to read, here are some ideas to try at home:

- Read out loud. Both children and adults enjoy stories being read to them. By listening to stories, children are able to enjoy plot and description, listen to intonation to hear where punctuation can be used and are exposed to new language.
- Play games which involve reading from a card. Orchard Toys have a great variety for younger children: <https://www.orchardtoys.com/> For older children, Articulate, Taboo or Quiz games all encourage reading.
- Write notes or create treasure hunt clues in the house for children to read and find a reward at the end.
- Audiobooks are great. While these are not a substitute for reading text, they are a good way to encourage concentration and help children immerse themselves in stories. They're also great if you're going on a journey these holidays.
- Nonfiction. Many children prefer reading nonfiction books. There is a great variety of books and magazines to suit your child's interest. 'Animal Kingdom' magazine and 'The World Almanac 5001' are good places to start.
- Model being a reader. Parents and others at home who read for pleasure set positive images and are fantastic role models for reading.
- Books as gifts. Visit a bookshop and see which books your child is interested in or search for great books online: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

Happy Easter and happy reading from Mrs Perry.

PS Don't forget to swap good books with others and share your recommendations.



Maths at Home

You can have a huge impact on your child's maths confidence and ability by supporting them at home in a few easy ways.

- Play board games with your children. (Number recognition, counting, adding and subtracting) More advanced games such as Junior Monopoly or Monopoly itself develop many mathematical skills.
- Counting and estimating - When you go up stairs what number will you count up in? As you come down stairs count down again. Give younger children lots of opportunities to count. How many sweets in the packet? Can we put them in to three equal groups?
- Cook and Bake - so many maths skills are involved in these activities.
- Maths on days out - How many boats can you see? How far have you thrown that stick? How many more stones do I need to make 20? Which is the tallest animal? Can you split this chocolate bar in half?

Back to basics

Remember the school has paid for your child to have a subscription to the apps for Numbots and TT Rockstars (Y2+). These are brilliant but only have impact if they are being used. See your teacher for login details if you are unsure.

The websites www.topmarks.co.uk and www.ictgames.com both have fantastic maths sections that are full of interactive games.

