

Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, what a long term that has been!! I have looked back over the half term and I'm amazed by how much we have managed to cram into 7 weeks especially the last 2 weeks! The children have been amazing during this period. When routines are changed it can become very difficult for all of us and the children and staff have been so amazing leading up to the end of the term .

I had the pleasure of conducting a learning walk with Mrs Corbett and Mrs Kennett, our school governors, this term with a focus on behaviours and attitudes in the class. We were all very impressed with the children's learning behaviours and how well they collaborate with each other. It truly is outstanding. We were particularly impressed with how well the staff teams work together to ensure they meet the needs of all of the children in their setting.

My highlight of this half term is always the nativity. It is such a special occasion and hosting it in our church makes it even more special. The children were amazing and performed so confidently and with such fun and energy. Over the 3 performances, we had close to 300 people attend our nativity which is incredible and shows the support you give our children.

Thank you so much to all of our parents who attended parents evening. We continue to offer the hybrid approach of online and in school meetings. We noticed, this year, an increase in the number of in school appointments. If you did have an appointment online and would like to come into school to have a look at your children's books please can you get in touch with them through seesaw and they will be able to facilitate this.

At the start of next term Sue Corbett, our Chair of Governors, will feedback to you about the strategic discussions we are having in school about how we will be moving forward with increased numbers of children coming into the school. There are lots of factors to discuss but the most important part for you, as parents and carers, to understand is that we deeply care for your children and we want to ensure that they live life in all it's fullness during their time at the school. Our aim is that the children are inspired to reach their individual potential and, through our Christian values, prepare them for the future.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.
Mr Reeve

Justin Reeve
Headteacher



Nativity

A Boogie Woogie Christmas nativity entertained the school and all our audiences this year. During our research we loved the music and really felt our children would engage fully in it and ensure it really was a boogie woogie show! Reception and Year 1 children looked amazing in their nativity costumes, with Year 1 and 2 telling the story. Bringing their own little touches to the story, they entertained us... who can forget the kings bringing Frankenstein rather than frankincense! Special thanks go to Mr Langley who helped to transport the stage to and from school- thank you!

Thank you also for your generous donations



Christmas dinner

The children were treated to a wonderful Christmas dinner this year. Mrs Hobson and the team prepared a fantastic meal which we had a massive uptake for. Many thanks to the kitchen team for going above and beyond as always.



Christmas Parties

Christmas is not Christmas without our Christmas parties. The children had a fantastic time, dancing and playing lots of games. It was a pleasure to see them so happy and embracing the spirit of Christmas.



Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance

This year, KS2 came together in their fancy, festive finery to tell the story of a little Christmas tree. The children spoke clearly and confidently and their acting abilities shone as we heard how the little Christmas tree, who thought it would never find a home, had been appreciated all along by the animals of the forest. The story, the acting and the singing left us with the message to appreciate the little things in life and enjoy the gifts of nature and the gift of giving.

This Christmas we hope you can find love, peace and happiness from all the little things around you. Just like the little Christmas tree.

Merry Christmas, from Key Stage 2.



PTFA Autumn Disco

What an amazing event - our first ever disco without a proper paid DJ. I have to say I think it was the best one! The children were given the chance to pick the songs they wanted and the school council and Mrs Poole worked their magic to create a playlist. Mrs Poole also worked closely with the school council to pick and buy our new 'disco lights'. These can also be used for Christmas parties in the future.

The children danced all night and the disco raised a whopping £714.25. Thank you so much to the PTFA and Mrs Cook for organising the tickets and the food for the children. Roll on the next one!



BBC 500 Words Success

Back in September, Year 3 took part in a live lesson with some Blue Peter presenters and well-known children's authors to kick off this popular, national competition. We were all really inspired and very excited by the prizes which can include your height in books, having your story professionally illustrated and a visit to Buckingham Palace! Over the next few weeks, 3W all carefully constructed their own fantastic, original stories and we sent them off for judging with our fingers tightly crossed. We recently received the amazing news that 4 of our stories have progressed to the next round of judging. These are: Superhero Me! by Margot, Harry Kane's Last World Cup by Zach, Henry and the mystery of the stolen cucumber by Amy WC and The Adventures of the Toilet Family by Alfie K.



Look North

A 'job swap' opportunity was shared on Look North and who could miss an opportunity to apply, not really thinking we would be picked. What an experience it proved to be, welcoming Amy Garcia from Look North for the morning and then having a go at presenting in the studio. 'Hats off' to Amy for accepting the challenge of teaching the amazing Year 2s after she took questions from the school as part of a Q&A session. The Year 2s engaged fully, gave plenty of guidance and top tips for becoming a teacher. Amy then took on the role of serving lunch, needless to say we had a lot of full tummies with huge portions, Mrs Williamson was a little concerned we would run out of food! Mr Reeve, Neville and Mrs Williamson then had a visit to the studio to have a go at presenting. What an experience and safe to say I think we will keep to teaching, although Neville is considering a role on the big screen!



Wetherby and District Foodbank is here for anyone who is in need or hardship. They do not mean test or judge. All information shared is private and strictly confidential. If you need support over Christmas or into the New Year they ask you not to hesitate to get in touch. The foodbank will not only provide food and a listening ear but can also arrange free face to face local appointments with Moneybuddies who can help with debt advice and budgeting support. Their number is 07840 455725 (01937 830524 for Tadcaster). Messages are checked everyday.



Christmas Bauble Competition.

Another fantastic competition with 105 entries, from children in both key stages. All very colourful and unique. Here are the winners. Everly 1st prize, Erin 2nd and Ethan 3rd with five runners-up all receiving chocolates, sweets and a Christmas sewing kit. Well done to everyone who entered. Look out for the next competition soon, Mrs Starr



A big thank you to Mrs Starr for organising these competitions. I have now tasked her to see if we can find a company that can turn Everly's picture into reality.

National Younger Leadership Group

This year we have been invited to be part of the National Younger Leadership Programme for the Church of England. Each of the 42 Diocese have nominated 3 primary schools to represent their diocese and we are one of these. Our 3 children have already represented us in their first meeting which discussed the question - How can you use your voice to flourish and others to flourish. During these meetings the children have been kindly supported by Rev Martin and Karen Flood. They were both impressed with how articulate the children were.

The talk is based on letting children speak out and how children should have a voice. When we were on the zoom call we got to listen and then on interactive slides we answered questions then we saw our answers on the call. After we had been asked a question we would be put in a breakout room. In our breakout rooms we were with two schools in London and Coventry. We would discuss the questions and talk about our answers with them.

Louie and Eddie





Y6

National Younger Leadership Groups
Session1 - Takeaway Task 1

I want to use my voice to...

I will do this by...

I will need...



GS Crew

On our first GS crew meeting we found out who we would be working with and what our agenda was for the term. We found out that we would be doing some assemblies. Our first meeting was getting people organised and ready for the year ahead we talked about making an assembly about an event in January.

Our first collective worship is going to be about the road to Damascus, a story about how at first we didn't like people who believed in god so he often got angry at people who believed in God and then he turned blind and then something changed about his personality and made him believe in god.



Experience Church

This half term the children walked down to Tockwith Church to take part in an 'Experience Church' session. The children were split into groups and took part in various activities through the session. The activities included:

Peace - The Prophets - Price of Peace
Hope - Patriarchs and Matriarchs - God of the Unexpected
Joy - Mary - God for ordinary people
Waiting - A time of Waiting - The Advent Wreath
Love - John the Baptist - Light of the World

The activities included discussing what names and nicknames mean to us, how to look for special things in the everyday, the virtue of patience and waiting for things, unexpected ending and what we can give to other such as hugs and our time. The children had a wonderful time in the sessions and many thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time to work with us and educated the children on the meaning of advent. It was lovely to see our governor Mrs Marriner in the church helping the children.

A few days after the school went to experience church we went round to classes year 1-6 asking some questions about what they learnt and the different stations. At experience church you went around different stations and learnt about different topics. Some topics were more interesting to people than others and some people recommended some things but overall they said it was really fun.



Art Club

It has been a busy 6 weeks, where we have produced some wonderful pieces of art. Beautiful birds, cartoon racoons and colourful abstract faces on ceramic tiles, where the children learnt new skills and used new mediums. Brilliant work from everyone in Year 2. Happy Christmas to you all, Mrs Starr



Dodgeball

Year 2 are always up for a challenge and with a team of ten children we set off to the competition at Reed School. Once we had bit of a look around the sports facilities we prepared ourself. The team truly showed off high levels of determination and team spirit to win every match.

Well done children, Miss Stanton and I loved taking you there and cheering you on from the sideline.



Harrogate Choir

Congratulations to all you fabulous singers who performed in this amazing concert in front of over 1700 people and a beautiful symphony orchestra. The singing was wonderful, especially our own school songs. 'Reindeer on the Roof' was superb (especially with the adults joining in . . . and weren't they funny!)

Many thanks for taking part and helping so many people to get into the Christmas spirit. I can't wait to take you all to young voices in January, well done everybody!

And a big thank you to Helen Curry for supporting me with our choir.

Have a lovely Christmas, Miss Kilvington



Snow White Pantomime

This week the whole school travelled to the Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds to watch the Snow White pantomime. The children travelled in 4 coaches down to Leeds and walked through the amazing Leeds Christmas Market into the theatre. After finding our seats, we patiently waited for the show to begin. Snow White, the charming Prince, the dame and Muddles all worked together to defeat the Wicked queen! It was fabulous to see all of the children enjoy the show so much, from Reception to Y6, the children were engaged throughout and interacted with the cast with vigour – shouting, dancing and singing along to the songs and characters. Alice in Reception and Thomas in Y1 were invited onto the stage and led the whole audience through a rendition of 'The Hokey Cokey'! What an incredible experience for our children – they made us so proud with their behaviour and attitude. Many thanks to the staff and Governors for attending the pantomime with us.



NSPCC—Speak Out Stay Safe

In January, classes from Year 1 to Year 6 will be taking part in the NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe programme. It aims to help children to understand abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse; that abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe; where to get help and the sources of help available to them as well as and including the NSPCC's Childline service. Our Anti-Bullying week in November highlighted our children's role as upstanders by 'making a noise about bullying'. The NSPCC's programme will further enhance this. Nineteen schools with the Trust have already or are due to deliver this programme this year.

Our Governors

At the end of every governors meeting we spend time discussing what we can celebrate. This time Mrs Spurr, our Clerk to the Governors requested that Governors share their 'what can we celebrate?' for the end of term newsletter. Here is what a few of them said:

Janet Marriner - It was wonderful at Experience Church to see all the pupils come into church, class by class, and for the children to be so engaged with all the discussions and activities. So many said how helpful they found having short times of silence and reflection.

Val Hackforth - We should embrace the enthusiasm of the children for instigating the various causes for which they want to raise money, whole-heartedly thank all members of staff for their dedication and encouragement and finally, thank the parents/carers for their generosity in supporting the school.

Dawn Kennett - In November I went on a learning walk around school with the Head and Chair of governors looking at behaviour and attitudes to learning. I was impressed with how engaged all the children were and focused on their learning. Year 3 particularly stood out, working together, looking enthusiastically at a story text that they had been studying. Also in class 4 the children were studying numeracy, working in pairs quietly helping each other. In every class the behaviour was wonderful.

Laura Stubbs - I've really enjoyed spending time in Year 3 and Year 4 on Friday mornings during Autumn Term. It's been a pleasure to see how well settled, focused and happy the children are and their absolute enthusiasm for the topics they are learning. The discussions and conversations I heard around remembrance day showed such maturity and compassion - it was lovely to hear.

Lis Wainwright - My highlight of the term was meeting many of our new starters when I visited the Inspire unit. It was brilliant to see how they have all settled so well into school life and how much they are enjoying all of their learning.

Helen Loney - I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the children's Reading Session on Friday 20th October. It was clear to see children enjoyed reading throughout the school and it is actively encouraged at home as well as in the classroom. The children were able to recall information from a story and add their own thoughts about what may happen next. I also sat with some of the children in different years and their passion for books and stories was brilliant. They all were very enthusiastic to talk to be about certain books they were reading or had read which is lovely to see.

Attendance

This term we have seen an increase in the number of holiday requests being made in term time, since returning in September we have seen **29** children taking time off in term time resulting in **112** days of school. We have also seen an increase in the number of pupils arriving late at school, the total number of late arrivals since our return in September is **192**.

In January we will be launching a competition for arriving at school on time, the winning class will receive £50 to spend on books for their classroom. Each child in the winning class will also be entered into our raffle draw, with the chance to win a £25 Aldi voucher.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

**GOING IN, NOT
MISSING OUT** ★