



# Tockwith

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school at the end of another successful term at Tockwith. This newsletter always highlights the fantastic opportunities the children have to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). What it does not do is share the amazement that happens each and every day. I have a real privilege in being able to walk around the school, in and out of classrooms to see the high quality teaching and learning that is happening.

We recently have had a lot of visitors into the school including the Regional Director of the Department of Education who have been really impressed with the warmth of the school and the positive relationships that exist within. I feel our ethos is very strong here and something we are all very proud of and as we grow it is important that this remains at the heart of Tockwith.

You may be aware, our Pupil admission number in Reception has moved from 30 to 40 to accommodate the growth of the village. The governors, Ebor, NYCC and the school have been discussing this regularly for the last few years. We are aware that the growth will mean that we cannot remain a one form entry school nor do we have the budget or numbers to have 2 classes per year. This will mean that we will be moving, as and when need arises, to mixed classes in Key stage 1 initially. Like anything at Tockwith, we look at best practice in and out of Ebor; we delve into research and we will use our expertise. We will keep you informed of developments as we head into the next academic year. Currently, we do not have confirmed numbers for next year so we can only make plans when we have these. Having taught, led and advised in a number of schools of different sizes and mixes of classes. I have had the pleasure of seeing how this can be a really positive development for the school as have the members of our senior leadership team. We are also very lucky to have active governors who support and challenge us through this process.

As I explained last half term, Miss Cunningham will be leaving us in July to embark on new adventures in the world of theatre. This meant that we were able to advertise early and seek a fantastic teacher to join our team. Our interview process was rigorous and robust and involved governors, school council, house leaders, teachers and teaching assistants. The school council had some wonderful questions including, pick an adjective to describe yourself! As always their thoughts aligned with ours.

After a full day, we were able to offer the position to Miss Bernard who shone during the whole process and was someone we all felt would fit into Team Tockwith really well. Miss Bernard has taught for 2 years in Seaham and has many strengths particularly in the arts.

In the ten years I have been at Tockwith, I have seen a lot of change in the school and as the CEO of Ebor remarked - even though there has been change in the school the high standards continue to improve! This all comes back to an incredibly strong ethos at our school and brilliant working relationships with all.

I wish you all a lovely break and I look forward to seeing you all when we return

Justin Reeve  
Headteacher

## Easter Services

This week we have been treated to 2 amazing performances by Key Stage 1 and Reception and Key Stage 2. Key Stage 1 shared the Easter story with songs and shared performance poetry. The children sang beautifully and we had a full house who thoroughly enjoyed the story.

Key Stage 2 told the Easter Story through the eyes of different characters involved. The children told the story really well and ensured that the audience heard every part clearly. I always talk about how amazing the singing is at Tockwith but this year was really goosebump inducing!! I could not help tweeting about this as I recorded the children singing 'Servant King'.

Thank you to all of the staff who work so hard to give the children this time to shine, it is a really important part of life at Tockwith and something we feel very proud about.

It was so lovely to see so many people in the church and I would like to extend a big thank you for supporting all of the children and the school and for having an understanding with ensuring every family has the chance for at least one ticket.

The Easter Service was followed up by a fantastic lunch provided by Mrs Hobson and her team. We managed to get through 2 sittings and it was lovely to see families enjoying their dinners together. Thank you again for supporting us.

Thank you also for supporting the church through the collection. We are really lucky to have such a lovely church who are so supportive of all the things we do in school.





## Swimming

This term in Year 3 and 4, the children had the opportunity to head down to Tadcaster Swimming Pool where they had a swimming session every week for 10 weeks! The children had lots of fun learning such an amazing life skill. The sessions involved jumping in, retrieving objects off the floor and improving their overall water confidence along with many more skills. In the last week, the children were assessed to see how far they could swim. Both Miss Stanton and Mr G were so impressed with how the children showed our school value of perseverance during this session.

## #LetGirlsPlayTogether

As part of international women's day on 8th March we took part in the 'let girls play' football session! It involved girls from across the country taking part in a football session. Here at Tockwith, the girls took over the field! Our amazing play leaders led football based activities for girls in Reception all the way up to Year 6!

So many of our children got stuck in and enjoyed the sessions. There were lots of smiles and laughter whilst the girls had the opportunity to give football a go! Awesome work Tockwith girls!





## RE Day

On Monday, the whole school was involved in an RE Easter day. Each teacher ran a station and the children moved around throughout the day in their house teams. The children took part in all sorts of activities linked to Easter, including: cross making, Easter cards, music, computing and drama. It was lovely to see everyone so engaged and working together across year groups too.

Miss Cunningham





## Alice in Wonderland Performance

We were delighted to have M&M Theatre Productions in school to deliver an amazing 'Alice in Wonderland' performance to the whole school - what a treat! M&M Theatre Productions deliver enchanting classic literature adaptations that are easily digestible to children and are in an interactive format. These productions can be an inspiring way to learn about the past, making history come alive whilst engaging the children in tales involving characters from many different social and cultural backgrounds. Thank you very much to the PTFA who have agreed to fund a performance next year

The children loved the performance, especially the younger years who were completely immersed in the story. The characters came out into the audience to ensure full participation and even ended the show singing Happy Birthday to one of our children!



## Evans Homes

It was fantastic to receive our safety poster with all the children's designs from Evans homes.





## Year 6 trip to London and the Houses Of Parliament

Firstly, we arrived at school slightly earlier; from there, we got on a coach to York train station. Once we arrived, we took a picture in front of the York sign and we hopped onto the train (LNER Azuma) to London Kings Cross. During the journey, the train broke down. It was very unfortunate but that didn't stop us from having fun. The train driver managed to drag the train to Grantham station where we waited for our next train to arrive - which took about an hour. We learnt three incredibly interesting facts about Grantham which were: Issac Newton was the first person to discover gravity and he was taught in Grantham. Edith Brown was the first female police officer whose first job was at Grantham. Margaret Thatcher was also born in Grantham.

When we arrived in London King Cross, we speedwalked straight to Pizza Hut in Leicester Square (where we had some delicious food). We then walked straight to Trafalgar Square, where we saw Nelson's column and then on to Buckingham Palace. After stopping there briefly, we were shown that the flag was raised so that meant that the king was at home. From there, we were just in time for our guided tour at the houses of parliament.

We were shown around by our tour guides and were lucky enough to watch debates in the House of Commons chamber and the House of Lords. In the House of Commons there was a soundproof screen to stop us disrupting their debate. Although, in the house of lords there was no soundproof glass so we had to make sure we were silent! One group met Lord Peach (one of the lords who debated) and found out he was the head of the army years ago!

After we had a tour around the Houses of Parliament we went to a workshop with Gloria. We set our own laws for school. People chose laws like no more homework, no more SATs, home clothes and to choose our own subjects. We all had a quiz on the Houses of Parliament at the end of the experience. In here we also met MP Mike Amesbury (Mrs Perry's friend) who helped answer some of our questions about Parliament. It was a great experience for all of year 6.

Later on, we squeezed onto the tube and got on another train; fortunately this one didn't break down! We arrived at York Station at approximately 8:30. Overall it was a busy, jam-packed day and we thoroughly enjoyed it!

By Felix, Alex, Alfie, Harry, Isla and Seth (Year 6)





## Tockwith Trebles

This year the school wanted to challenge the teachers and see how clever they really are. Outfits were given out to each teacher to wear for the day, and each class had to complete a sport challenge and a quiz. In the afternoon the school council planned a number of challenges to test their skills. These included quizzes, hula hoops and recorder playing, with a final round of, I literally just told you, with questions about the challenge.

It was a fantastic day with the teachers really go for it with their challenges.

Mrs Poole

A massive thank you to Mrs Poole and the School council for organising all of these fantastic activities.





## Tockwith Trebles



We have had an amazing term, we have been so proud of the Tockwith Trebles and their ability to work together to create a beautiful sounding choir! They have performed at school on numerous occasions and we had our first performance at Tockwith church on Mothering Sunday. They represented the school brilliantly and remained professional throughout the whole service. They sang three songs and feedback from the congregation and family members showed how much of a positive impact they had on the service. We look forward to more partnership with the church in the future. We will still be performing in the summer fair and other arranged performances over the next term but no more rehearsing on Tuesdays. We are sad to have finished the Tockwith Trebles for now however myself and Mrs Curry look forward to seeing their faces in the Pop Choir starting in the last half term before summer. Thanks again for your support and well done to the amazing 12 children involved, you are superstars! Enjoy your Easter break,  
Miss Kilvington and Mrs Curry



## **Extreme read**

We had a fantastic response to our 'Extreme Reading' challenge. The creativity and imagination used to find the most innovative places to read were 'extremely' impressive, with every photo sent in showing how unique and inventive our children are. The photos that were sent in were turned into a slide show which has kept us entertained at lunchtimes and have certainly sparked some interesting lunchtime conversations.





## Experience Church

Over the last two days, the whole of the school have taken turns to visit church to focus on Lent. There were five 'stations' in church and the children spent time at each learning about a different aspect of Lent. The stations were as follows:

Shrove Tuesday - this is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday - discussing various occasions where formal clothes are worn, putting them in a sack and putting ash on faces and in hair

Lentening - relates to the days getting longer as well as personal growth

The Journey - Jesus' journey across the desert and God speaking to him

The Cross & Sharing - discussed that hot cross buns were given to the local poor on Good Friday to mark the end of Lent

The children had a great session at church and loved learning more about Lent, such as that Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday, or that the liturgical colour is purple! Thank you so much to Rev Martin and the church volunteers for organising this experience for the children.





## Pastoral and PSHE at Tockwith

This half term in Key Stage 2 we have been thinking about Our Hidden Chimp!

"Helping children to understand and manage their emotions, thinking and behaviour"  
Professor Steve Peters

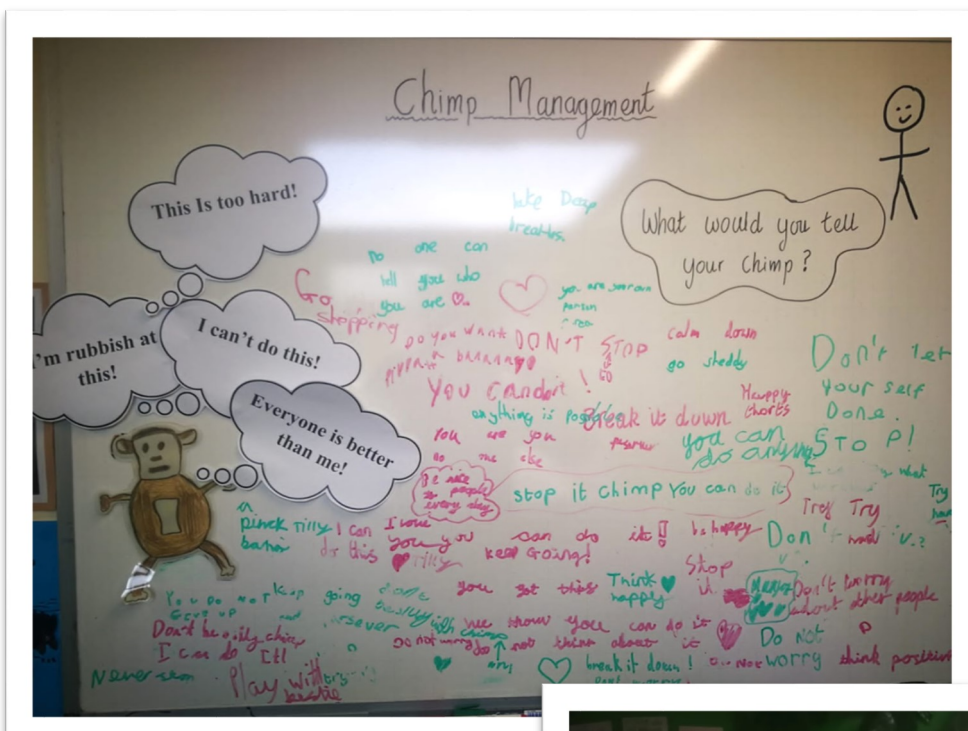
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUI8-NErBbg>

The children have refreshed their understanding of Chimp Management and created displays across the school. Three areas of behaviour have been identified on the displays

- Nurture the Chimp (What we like to do)
- Manage our Chimp ( at times of conflict eg Walk away, count to 10, deep breaths)
- Responsibility (if something has gone wrong eg Say sorry for...,show kindness)

Have a lovely Easter break

Sarah Slack  
pastoral@tp.ebor.academy





## Design an Easter Egg Competition

There was such a fantastic response to my design competition! A whopping 127 colourful designs, all brilliant and unique. It was such a tricky job to decide on the winners, but Elsie Y4 won 1st prize, Imogen Y1 won 2nd prize and Amy Y2 won 3rd prize. A small Easter egg was given to 12 runners up too. Thank you to all of the amazing artists at Tockwith Primary Academy





## **Bus transport to cut down traffic outside**

North Yorkshire County Council provide a bus service for children that live in Bilton-in-Ainsty, Bickerton or Cowthorpe. To help reduce the number of vehicles outside school at drop off and pick up time, we would like to encourage children living in those areas to contact NYCC in order to get a bus pass for this service.

To add to this, we obviously strongly advocate walking to school as well. It is good for you, helps the environment and means that you do not have to deal with the parking situation outside of the school.

## **Walking To school**

This week we took part in walk to school week and recorded a total of 76%. We were particularly impressed with Year 5 who had a highest number of walkers.

Walking to school cuts down on the congestion outside of school which helps to keep the children. More importantly, if you can walk, bike or scoot to school it is great for you and for the environment.

## **Communication**

Communication is so important in our school and we make sure that this is enhanced by parents having a direct contact with teachers through Seesaw.

Can we please make sure that we only contact teachers between 8am and 6pm please? I have asked them to take the notifications off after 6pm to ensure they maintain a healthy work life blend

## **Twitter**

If you want to keep up with live updates from the school and use twitter, please give the school account a follow @tockwithcofe. We also retweet all the teachers' updates, but please give them a follow as well please

## **OFSTED**

We are in the OFSTED window. Your feedback is always incredibly useful for us and for them. Could you please fill in the questionnaire, it is very simple to do.

## **Volunteers**

Many thanks to all the volunteers we have had this term, we have a lot more and it is really appreciated by the teaches and the children.

## **Healthy Snacks**

Please can I remind you to send in healthy, nut free snacks with your children please? We are having a couple of bags of crisps and chocolate bars slipping through the net. I will also speak to the children about prematurely dipping into their packed lunches rather than taking their snacks.

The NHS have some great ideas on their website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/#:~:text=1,spread%20or%20a%20fruited%20teacake>.

## **Play equipment outside**

Please can you keep your children off the play equipment, especially the ones in the bigger play-ground as we have had a couple of incidents this term with children playing on them out of the sight of their guardians.