



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start of the year we have had. As always the children have settled back into school life so quickly and as you can see from this newsletter, there have been a lot of events going on and children being able to live life in all it's fullness.

This year, we welcomed 35 exceptionally confident children and their families into our school. I was so impressed with how well they came into class but also how well they have settled. I was so impressed with them when they visited the church for their buddy service; their behaviour was absolutely impeccable. Thank you so much to Reverend Martin and Mrs Flood for organising this lovely event.

This term we welcomed Miss Bernard and Mrs Hodson and it has been fantastic to see them settle in so well to school life. We have also appointed Hannah Butterill who will be working with our Year 5 and 6 children.

We started this year with 8 classes and we now have 226 children in school. I was remarking in the Harvest Festival how this has increased by over 50 since I have been here. The increased population of Tockwith and the surrounding areas has meant that we have had to be and will have to be flexible with our class structure in school. I have been delighted how well our Key Stage 1 team and children have adapted to this to make sure that the children in the phase have the opportunity to reach their individual potential. There are many advantages to mixed classes and the senior leadership team, governors and Ebor will continue to monitor and evaluate the educational provision the children are offered in our amazing setting.

Our school development plan this year focuses on this as one of it's key areas.

Strategic Priority 1: For all children to reach their individual potential and to prepare them for the future.

To build on high outcomes for the children across the school enabled from staff
Monitoring and Evaluation of new INSPIRE unit

Strategic Priority Two: Ensure pupils develop a depth of understanding in all subjects

A knowledge rich curriculum that is rooted in the bible and ensures that the children can live life in all it's fullness.

We do more, know more and remember more, ensuring our children develop a depth of understanding across the curriculum and we are able to measure impact.

Strategic Priority Three: For all to live life in all it's fullness - John 10:10

Ensure that all children have enrichment opportunities offered to them. Everyone in the school has an improved understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion especially considering monocultural area we live in.

This term, our data from the last year was officially released.

The most important aspect of this latest release is the progress measure which calculates the progress made between the end of Key stage 1 and 2.

This is measured between -5 and 5.

A score of 0 means pupils in this school on average do about as well at KS2 as those with similar prior attainment nationally.

• A positive score means pupils in this school on average do better at KS2 as those with similar prior attainment nationally.

Our score was :

Reading 0.8 Writing 1.74 Maths 1.72.

This means we have secured positive progress, yet again, for our children whilst maintaining our high levels of attainment which is significantly above national average.

Justin Reeve
Headteacher

Message from our Chair of Governors

At the end of all our Governor Meetings there is always a time to reflect on things to celebrate in and around school and this Agenda item is always such a delight, with Governors talking about the amazing things they have attended, organised, witnessed, discussed and been involved in.

Our first Governor meeting of the year was no different with Governors talking about Reception Stay and Play, an amazing Year 6 / Reception Buddy service in church, a School Improvement meeting and an Aspire meeting, interviews both for school council and for our new Teaching Assistant, trips to Eden Camp, Cross Country and Humphrey Head, Harvest Festival, meet ups with staff about curriculum and compliance and great Learning Walks, talks about Performance Management and fabulous Reading mornings. It's all been amazing and in all of this what has shone out is how absolutely awesome our children and staff are. The Reception children already settled and so keen and excited by their classroom environment. The bonds already formed between year 6 and their buddies in church where you could have heard a pin drop as they accepted their candle. The way the children spoke up in interview for School Council when confronted with four adults firing questions at them. The exemplary behaviour of our children at Eden camp and their thirst for knowledge and the perseverance of the group we took to Cross Country. We were blown away by it all. The passion of the staff, their enthusiasm and endless energy, the confidence and focus of the children and the support from you and we felt so privileged to be part of it all. What an outstanding school we are.

At our meeting we also discussed how we can make ourselves more visible and accessible, as we are around a lot, but you might not always notice us. You should shortly start to see little changes around school when Governors will be introduced at school events, information about who we are, what we do and how to contact us in communications, reports from us in newsletters and photos in the foyer.

We very much look forward to seeing you in and around school next half term at many of the events and activities leading up to Christmas.

Sue Corbett

Our new foundation governor

Hello, I have been a Foundation Governor since November 2022. I have lived in Tockwith for 39 years and both our children attended Tockwith Primary. They are both now grown up but the early experiences of a happy school life has stood them in very good stead. I have worked in education for many years and for the last 20 years in a primary school in West Yorkshire. Tockwith Primary is a very welcoming school and I am pleased to be part of the governing body of such a caring and nurturing school.

Dawn Kennet

Mental Health Day 10th October 2023

It is a day to talk about mental health and to show everyone that mental health matters. It is also a day to let people know that it's okay to ask for help, no matter what you're going through. Mrs Williamson held an assembly on the day to talk about mental health and ways to help/support you when feeling low.



Reading in school

It's always a pleasure to welcome our parents into school, especially when we have the chance to share our love of reading; even Storm Babet's relentless wind and rain did not deter a record number of parents from bracing the elements to join us. All staff and children demonstrated what a typical guided reading or phonics lesson looked like and parents were treated to a range of sessions ranging from: learning phonics sounds, being immersed in a story about yetis in the mountainous peaks and engaging with fiction set during World War 2. Our newly appointed school council also did an excellent job of sharing their love of reading with parents as well as providing examples of well loved texts to share and enjoy. As always, if you have any questions about reading or you have any reading wows to share, please let us know. Mrs Perry



Humphrey Head

A couple of weeks ago, we visited Humphrey Head in The Lake District. At Humphrey Head we enjoyed taking part in lots of fun activities such as: abseiling down and climbing up a natural rock face as well as raft building at Lake Windermere and racing them at the end. We also had the opportunity to scramble across the cliff on the headland. On one of the hikes when we got to the top of a steep hill, we were able to see Morecambe bay and even the Old Man of Conistone.

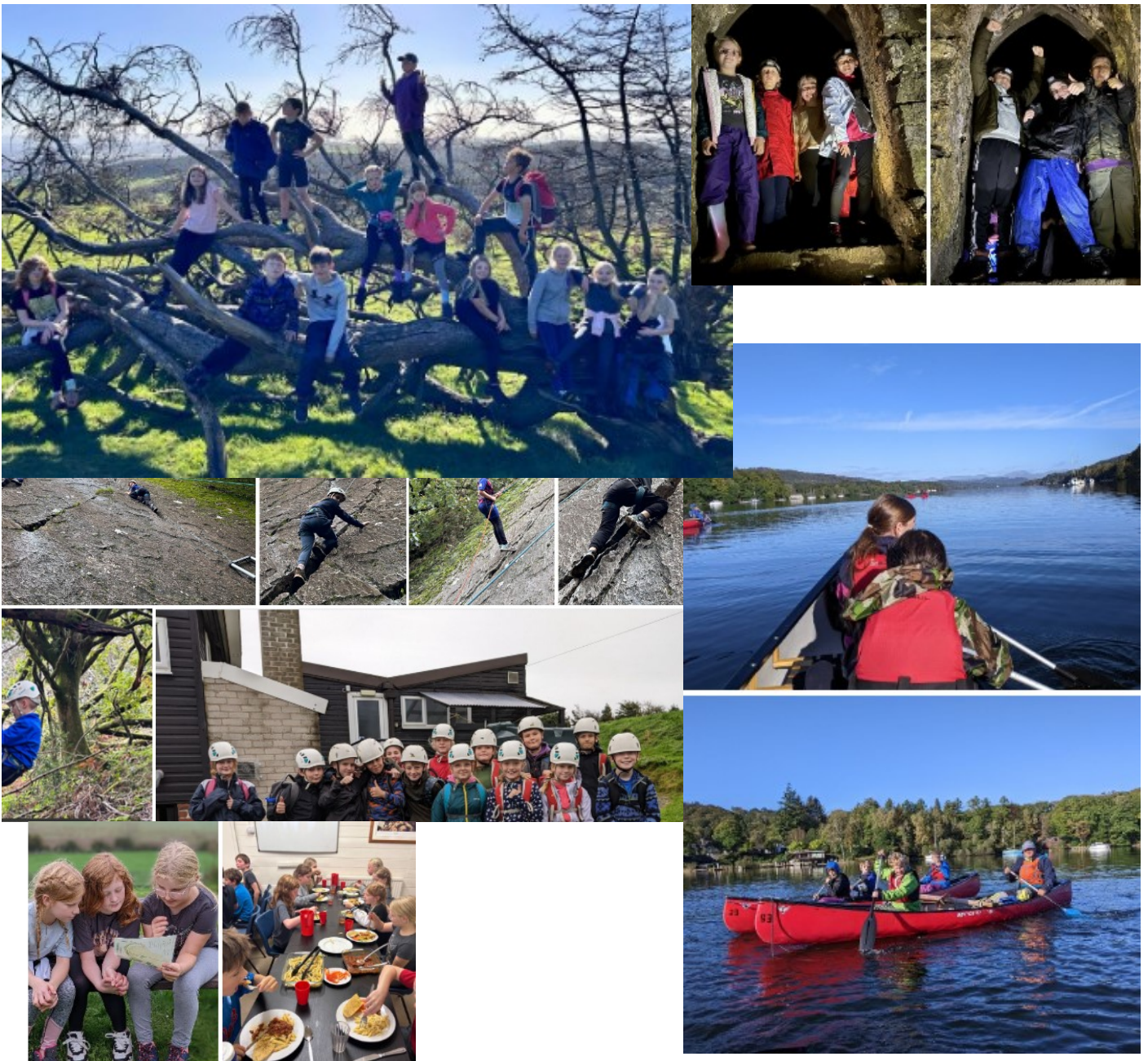
We stayed for four nights with our friends. Every day was a busy day, sometimes having two activities in one day. We all loved walking to the top of Gammers How, one of the Wainwright hills that Alfred Wainwright wrote about and we all agreed the highland cattle and view from the top were stunning.

During our stay we learnt loads of new things such as fire lighting, how the Earth and Moon control the tides and we also learnt some key skills like not to leave fire unattended or to make sure it is put out properly.

When you're outdoors everyday you need good food. Dave the chef cooked amazing food from meat and potato pie to penne bolognese. We wouldn't go to bed feeling hungry. Delicious desserts followed from a yummy sticky toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce to a fruity crumble with custard. We had the freedom to make our own packed lunch in the morning with lots of choice. We loved our stay at Humphrey Head and would all definitely visit again!

By Martha and Owen, Year 6.

It's always a pleasure to see the children embrace the experiences at Humphrey Head and watch them step out of their comfort zones, knowing that there is nurturing guidance and support always on offer. I was so proud of the way the children worked as a team, showed our core values of perseverance and friendship and certainly grasped every opportunity to live their lives in all its fullness. Mrs Perry



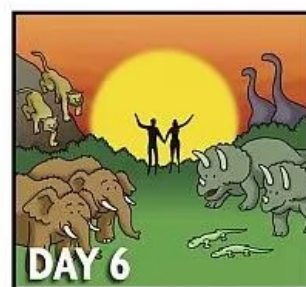
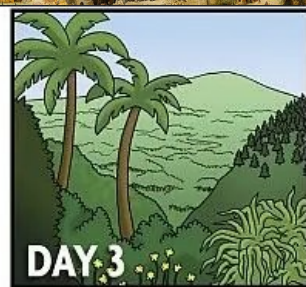
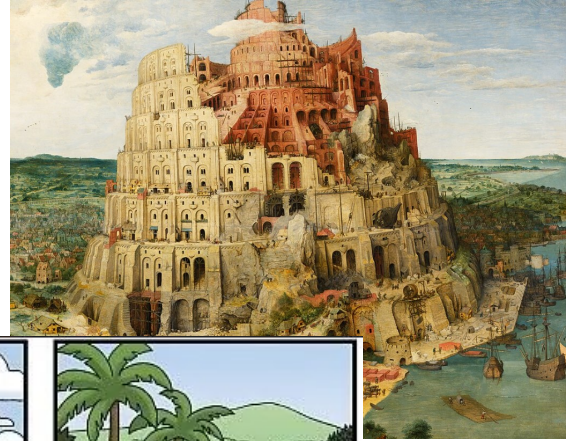
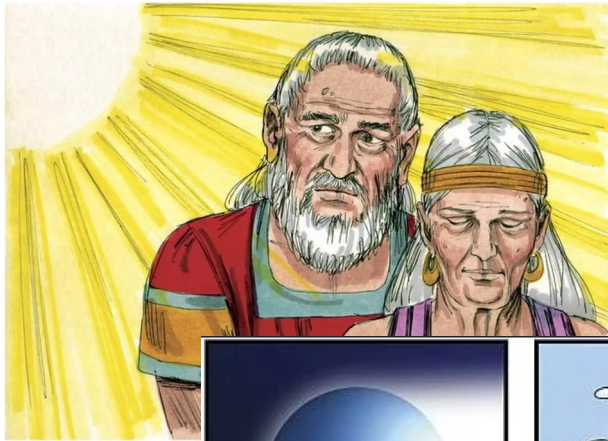
Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who came to school to the church to share our Harvest Festival Celebrations. The Reception children, the key stage 1 children and the key stage 2 children were amazing. They spoke with confidence, they acted with creativity and they sang beautifully. I have to say that some of the audience participation was pretty impressive as well. Thank you so much to our foundation governor Mrs McBride who made sure the church was warm and well prepared for us. If you have any questions about the role of our foundation governors please feel free to speak to either Sarah McBride, Dawn Kennet or Janet Marriner. Thank you also for all the donations to the Foodbank, both in produce and money (when the contactless payment system worked!). We managed to raise an amazing £426. Parents, carers and family were then invited back to Tockwith Primary for a Harvest lunch. Many thanks to Mrs Hobson and her team for a delicious gammon roast dinner - we served over 100 adults as well as the usual 150 children!! Huge thanks to all of the parents, carers, grandparents, friends and everyone else who supported the children through coming to church to watch the performances, and by coming to Tockwith primary for a delicious lunch.



Collectives Worship

In this half term's collective worship, we have been going on a journey through the bible. The children of Year 6 act out the bible story and then we talk about the message about the story, our 'wonderings' and then how we can take the learning forward. Within each collective worship we have linked a song to the story, I was particularly impressed with some of the staff who managed to get my link between the Cadbury Gorilla and the Creation story. The children are not so up on their knowledge of Genesis but liked the gorilla playing the drums!!



Bikeability

During the Autumn term Year 5&6 undertook the Bikeability course. This teaches them how to ride a bike safely on our roads. Both classes were excellent and completed their level 2 qualification. This involved demonstrating a safe riding technique on the roads, including signalling, stopping and setting off. They also did a written test on the basics of the highway code.

Ebor Pupil Parliament

This year, the focus for our Ebor Pupil Parliament dynamic duo will be Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Pippa and Allannah will be working closely with me to create an action plan for the year. They will be responsible for leading this and feeding back to their colleagues in school and also their peers in the other 24 Ebor schools. They are currently undertaking an audit in school which is looking at diversity in our displays and our books around school. They will also be spending a whole day with Lindsey Parr on 10th November when she comes to school to deliver a diversity role models workshops across school. These will have a focus on LGBTQ+

Podcast

After half term, we are hoping to start a weekly podcast hosted by Mr G called the John 10:10 podcast. On this, Mr G will be joined by a different guest each week to talk about something in school. This could be a teacher, parent, pupil or even parent. More information will be released soon.

Cross Country

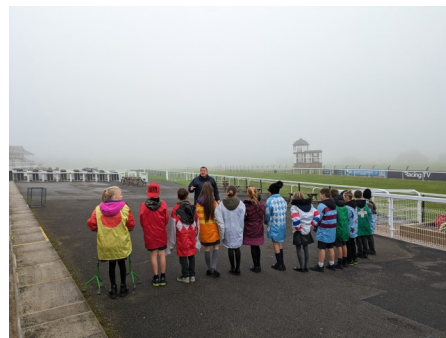
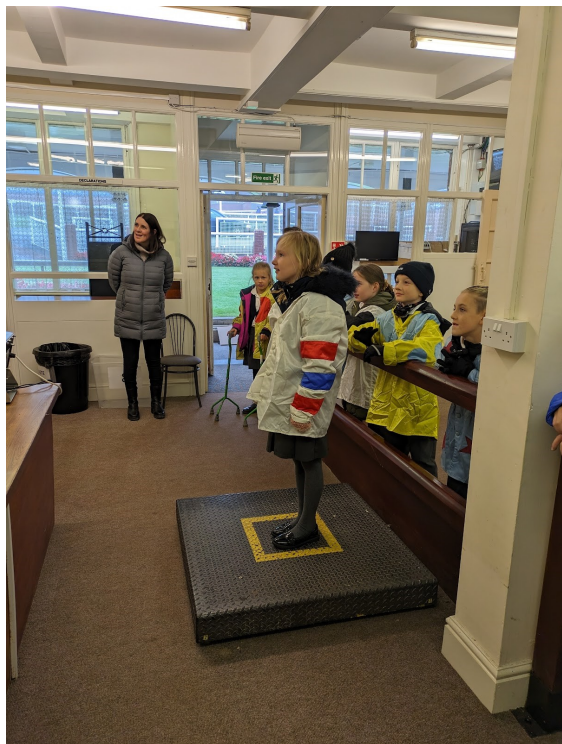
32 children across KS2 headed to Sherburn High School to take part in a cross country competition. Miss Stanton was joined by Mrs Stubbs and Mrs Corbett who are both Governors of the school along with Mrs Cook. Year 3 + 4 completed 2 laps whilst Year 5 completed 2 1/2 laps. The children all waited patiently for their turn, cheering their friends on and congratulating them when they had finished. Children who finished in the top 10 received medals. Tockwith won a grand total of 16 medals! Well done to everyone who competed, you all oozed perseverance!

Miss Stanton



Y5 go racing

Year 5 had the opportunity to go to Pontefract Races to work with a fabulous charity called Racing to School. Whilst there, they looked at how Maths, Science and Literacy is used within the world of Horse Racing. They learnt about weights, measurement of distances, how a racecard is written and the equipment a jockey uses. Unfortunately due to a flooded track, we weren't able to watch a race but it was a fantastic trip. Thanks to our amazing governors Mrs Corbett and Mrs Hackforth who joined us on the trip.



Captain Darling

During the Autumn term, Year 1 and 2 have been exploring the question 'Why was the mission to the moon important?'. They have been learning about Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins' mission to the moon on Apollo 11. To help us learn about the mission to the moon, we had a special visitor teach us about space; Captain Darling. He taught us how to become an astronaut, we even did some training! We then took part in some creative tasks where we made our own rockets and mechanical arms, and got to test them out. It was great fun and really took us all to outer space!



Eden Camp

Arrival

As we were coming in we saw all the planes and other vehicles that were used in world war 2. When we got off the coach we got sorted into 3 different groups.

The huts

After we'd arrived we explored the huts in our separate groups. At Eden camp there are 45 realistic huts, each one shows a different topic to do with world war 2. The class favourite was the blitz and the U boat. The Blitz was most common in the big cities like London and Coventry.

Overall we really enjoyed going to Eden Camp because we learnt a lot more about our topic, World War 2.

By Emily and Maxwell, Year 6.



Mrs Starr's Art Club

This half term I have been lucky to work with the amazing Year 4's. They have all produced some wonderful artwork, each creating an impressive 'I am ME' piece where we used oil pastels and our IT skills. The second piece was a one point perspective with a black and white zentangle. Lots of new skills were gained during the six sessions. I look forward to working with the Year 2's on our return, after the holidays. Mrs Starr

