



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

We get to the end of another busy but productive half term. I love this time of the year when we can start hearing the birds again and seeing the plants and trees come to life. This is very much true of our new forest school area which looks absolutely fantastic. The team have done a brilliant job of reclaiming a lost area of school for an effective new educational provision.

I would like to say thank you to all the parents and friends of the school who have helped out with materials and with transportation of these. A massive thank you also to Mrs Williamson and Miss Bernard who have given up a lot of additional time to make sure the Tockwith Trekkers have an amazing experience in the Forest school. (Read more further on)

This half term we have welcomed some new faces into the school as the village grows. It has been lovely to see the new children and families embrace our school, vision and values and fit in really well. The additional children has led to larger class sizes in some year groups which is unavoidable. We have fantastic teachers who know the children well and are well resourced, supported and trained to meet the needs of the children in their classes. Every term, SLT and the class team conduct Pupil progress meetings after the children have completed assessments, to ensure that no child is left behind. We address the additional needs within classes and when and how to best support them to give the children what they need to reach their individual potential.

It is important to note that we are also working with significant cost pressures in the Education system. I shared the financial challenges with you in our last newsletter. Unfortunately, at Tockwith, we receive no additional funding from the area of deprivation funding factor or the sparsity factor. Currently, just under 75% of our budget is spent on staffing which is within the recommended levels. All other expenditure continues to rise at the same level of inflation we are all experiencing which impacts on every area of school life. In the recent budget announcement, very little detail was given on public spending increases to help, however we have been told about a 'public sector productivity plan', which has suggested the need for efficiencies!!

All this said, we are very fortunate to have such an active PTFA who have had a massive impact on the children's experiences this term and the resources they have received. I have included an update in the newsletter which shows the impact they have to allow children to Live life in all its fullness. If you would to get more involved please get in touch with Nicola Arthur - her details are in the update.

Justin Reeve
Headteacher



Easter Holidays

There are very few things that are better than watching 3 different Easter services. I was so impressed with the children of Tockwith Primary, they were amazing. They are such confident performers and the way the teacher's organise it, everyone gets a chance to be involved. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy our children performing, and I apologise for making you do the chicken dance. Although, you were very good at it and it does make the children smile seeing you perform with them.

Thank you also for the donations towards the church. This does make a significant difference for them and is really appreciated. Thank you also to Reverend Martin and Karen for giving us our final prayers and blessing. I am really proud of our strong connection with our church and the comfort our children feel within the building.



Easter Lunch

Thank you very much to all those parents and family of the school who joined us for our Easter Lunch. Mrs Hobson and her team excelled themselves, as always, by preparing 102 additional adult dinners and judging by the empty plates the food was enjoyed by all.

Mrs Cook has now got the organisation of these events down to a fine art and we are grateful for this. Long gone are the queues down the corridor! Thank you also to the staff who are always keen to come and help out with the service.



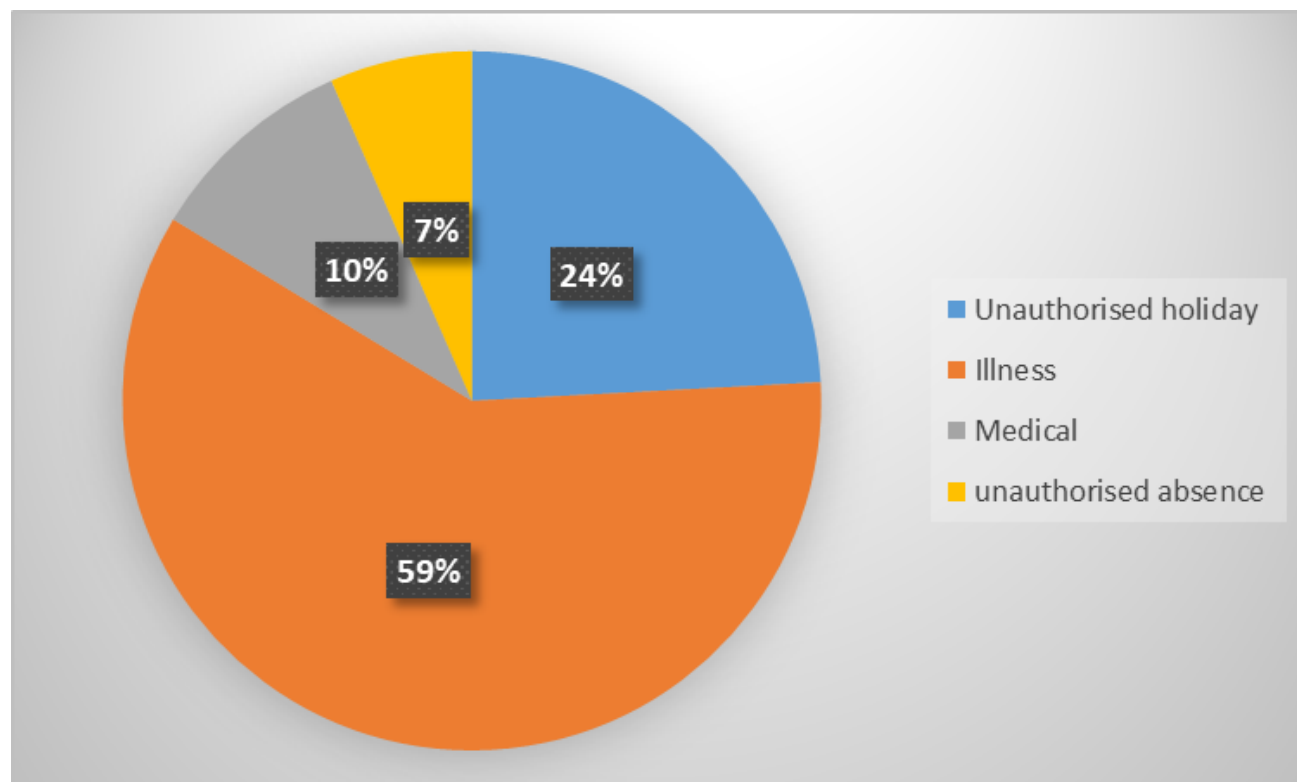
Message from the Chair of Governors

As part of our ongoing Monitoring Schedule the Governors all came into school one Friday afternoon this half term. It was a really great session when we talked to staff and then spent the afternoon walking round school visiting every class, talking to children, looking at resources, books and displays for the evidence of the implementation of the curriculum. The highlight for us all was, I'm sure, the Star of the Week Assembly where Mr Reeve led proceedings like the best Circus Master you've ever seen. The feeling of inclusivity, belonging, shining, excelling, supporting and just sheer joy from all staff and every child in the room was overwhelming and a privilege to be part of.

Attendance

As of today (19 March) the school's annual attendance is **97.00%**, which is fantastic, but this could be even better! This half term's attendance review has highlighted that parents taking unauthorised holidays are the biggest threat to our attendance, with 19 out of the 31 letters sent out this week were due to pupils being taken out of school for an unauthorised holiday in term time. 385 sessions (192.5 days) have been lost to unauthorised holidays since September compared to 949 sessions (474.5 days) lost to illness. We would like to thank all of our pupils, parents and carers for their prompt arrival at school this half term, with only 4 pupils arriving late on 5 or more days compared to 22 pupils last half term - what an amazing improvement, thank you!

The graph below shows a breakdown of recorded absences since September.



0 days absent	100%	Full attendance
1 day absent	99%	5 lessons missed
3 days absent	98%	15 lessons missed
1 week absent	97%	25 lessons missed
1.5 weeks absent	96%	37.5 lessons missed
2 weeks absent	94%	50 lessons missed
2.5 weeks absent	93%	62.5 lessons missed
3 weeks absent	92%	75 lessons missed
3.5 weeks absent	90%	82.5 lessons missed

Ash Dickinson's Poetry Day

To mark World Book Day, the whole school was treated to a day with a published poet: Ash Dickinson. Ash worked with every class, looking at different ways to create poetry from monster poems and haikus to '6 wheelers' and free verse. Ash also wowed the school with his impressive wordplay when he performed a variety of poems from his collection.

A big thank you to the PFTA who kindly funded this opportunity as well as purchasing poetry books from Ash for each class.

Ash thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Tockwith where he was bowled over by the positivity and enthusiasm from all the children and staff.

Mrs Perry



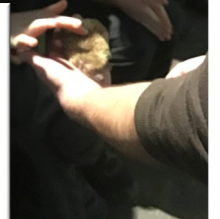
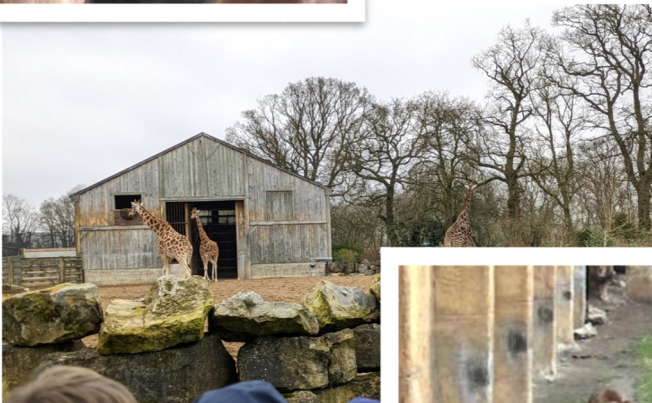
Water Safety Session

Year 3 and 4 were lucky to receive a visit from two lifeguards this half term. The children listened to a presentation where they learnt a range of life saving skills such as trying to float on their backs if they got into difficulty. This was then followed by a practical session where the children learnt how to rope throw and use a torpedo buoy. It was lovely to see the children so involved and engaged in learning which could one day save a life. Miss Stanton



Flamingo Land

Years 5 and 6 recently embarked on a wild adventure to Flamingo Land as part of their rainforest topic! Their day began with a fascinating tour of the zoo, where they came face-to-face with a variety of incredible rainforest animals. They weren't just observers though - they also participated in a hands-on workshop that delved into rainforest conservation efforts, its unique layered structure, and the diverse habitats it provides. The bravest among them even got to conquer their creepy crawly fears by holding a giant cockroach and stroking a tenrec! This exciting trip truly brought the rainforest to life for our students.



The Secret Garden

This half term we had the amazing M&M Theatrical Production company come in to school and perform 'The Secret Garden' to the whole of Tockwith Primary! We are so fortunate to have an amazing PTFA who paid for this experience for the children.

M&M Productions are the UK's largest and most respected provider of theatre-in-education, specialising in Classic Literature Adaptation, Cinematic Theatre in Education and Pantomime Productions for Primary and SEN Schools and family audiences (<https://www.magicoftheatre.com/>).

The performance was exceptional, with amazing scenery, fantastic scenery changes and incredible acting by the performers. The children were mesmerised throughout the whole of the performance!



Tockwith Trekkers

Forest Schools has really transformed this half term and the reception and Year 1 children are loving using it. It's a great space for the children to be able to explore the natural world whatever the weather. This half term, Year 1 has been extremely busy searching for signs of Spring, identifying types of trees, bird spotting and even making our own bird nests! We are continuing to develop it and will soon be making way for a den area and a mud kitchen. Many thanks to all the offers of kind donations to help kit it out.

This term some of the things they have explored micro-habitats and used bug viewers to have a closer look at insects and their features. We have also learnt about what a plant needs to grow and the different parts of a plant. The children have been so enthusiastic and have learnt being in our forest school area. We even have learnt a new song to sing going and coming back from forest school which the school and staff love hearing each week!



Ancient Greek Day

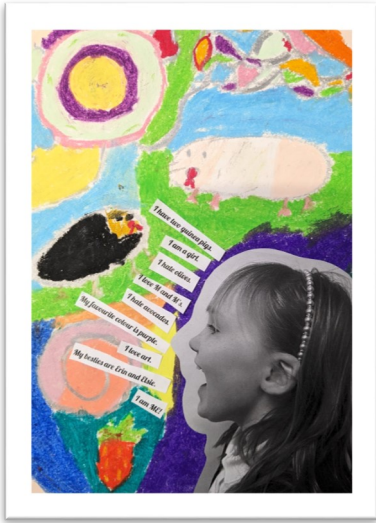
We have dressed up as Spartans and Athenians to celebrate the end of our Ancient Greece history topic. Years 3 and 4 attended Spartan warrior school and learnt how to shoot bows and arrows with the skill and accuracy of Apollo. The invading Persian army would have been quaking in their sandals! We have sampled some traditional Greek food. Mrs Parker and Miss Stanton prepared some Feta cheese, olives, hummus, tzatziki and pita bread for us. The bread was soft and squishy and the olives were really strong and salty. We liked the dips, especially the texture of the hummus. At the end of the day, we voted for our favourite Ancient Greek god and goddess.



Art Club

There has been lots of super artwork produced over the past five weeks with the Year 5 art clubbers. Beautiful and individual brightly coloured 'I Am Me' pieces, plus the cute llama's with woolly woven blankets. I'm very proud of everyone's work as usual and I look forward to working with the Year 3's again after the Easter break. Happy Easter to you all,

Mrs Starr



Swimming

I have enjoyed going swimming because the lessons are really fun. We have learnt what to do if we are in a situation where we are in danger in water or near water. Because we have a river flowing near our village, it is important that we learn to swim so that we have the skills to survive if we have an accident (Willis, Y3).

PTFA

The PTFA have had a very busy half term. They had an AGM in February, where Bev decided to step down as chair after a very successful 5 years in the role. Nicola kindly agreed to take on the role for the foreseeable. We would like to thank Bev for her hard work over the years; not just for organising some lucrative and fun events but also for navigating through Covid and for inducting new committee members.

There has been lots of planning for future events in the run up to the summer term, including the summer fair, another disco, refreshments at sports day and trying to secure some fabulous raffle prizes. Watch this space!

The PTFA sold some second hand books on World Book Day - thank you to those of you who bought some.

There has also been a great Easter fair which the PTFA organised, including the rainbow raffle, which proved to be very popular. Much enjoyment was had amongst all, including those of you who tried over and over again to win on the chocolate tombola! The Easter egg hunt also proved to be a success with over 100 children taking part. The money raised hasn't yet been counted but we will let you know in due course how much was raised. Thank you to those who attended and contributed.

If anyone wants to find out more about the PTFA, or would like to be involved in the planning of any future events, please message Nicola on 07955665562 to find out more.



Due to the generosity of parents and carers at such events, the PTFA are able to fund several projects and experiences for all the children at Tockwith. This half term the PTFA paid for the production of *The Secret Garden*, they paid for the author who did a poetry workshop with each class and they also donated £50 to each class to spend on books.

Wetherby High Football Tournament

On Thursday, 14 March 13 of the Year 6 boys headed to Wetherby High to take part in a 5-a-side football tournament. There were 8 teams in total from the surrounding area and the final was between Tockwith Team 1 and Tockwith Team 2. Both teams played so well and showed great team spirit. The final was won by Tockwith Team 2 with a hat trick scored by myself. All the players would like to thank our parent coaches, Chris and Simon and all of our parents who came along to support us. It was a great evening.

Finn S



Pastoral @ Tockwith

This half term the children have been giving their advice on managing emotions. We have two pastoral interactive displays around school which the children enjoy using. The displays help the children keep the skills in mind, that they need everyday , to increase their feeling of wellbeing.



Pastoral training for staff continues , Ebor Academy has links with The Retreat Clinic in York (which supports mental health). The staff at Tockwith have been able to benefit from this training and work alongside highly trained specialists.

The retreat works with the P.A.C.E. Model (developed by psychologist Dan Hughes) this stands for playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy.

"By balancing the two hands of parenting, that is, balancing the need for "connection" (warmth and nurture) with the "correction" (boundaries and structure) you can create a stronger relationship between you and your child."
PACE Parenting

Please make contact with school if you have any questions , concerns or worries regarding the wellbeing of your child.

pastoral@tp.ebor.academy

Have a lovely Easter break
Sarah Slack
Pastoral Lead

School Council

It's been another fantastic term for the school council. They ran another amazing Disco and raised a massive £172 for Comic Relief. Next term we have a visit to the Dogs trust who the School Council have picked as their charity, Challenge the teacher and Mrs P's big trek plans to make.



Mr Crilley's band

Our brilliant bands took to the school hall this morning to play in front of the rest of the school, and their parents. The year 5 and year 6 bands performed some awesome songs and we all rocked out with them!! Many thanks to the talented and confident young people who played and sang so well, and to Mr Crilley for his work teaching them to play the instruments and sing. Job well done all!

