



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a delight this term has been! This term confirmed how amazing our children at Tockwith really are, whether that is in lessons, performances, representing the school or speaking to adults. Seeing all the children perform so well in all the Christmas productions was fantastic and I am sure the adults watching it have had some great memories created for them.

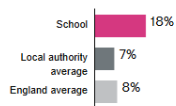
Our school vision is: to inspire all children to reach their individual potential and, through our Christian values, prepare them for the future.

This newsletter really helps to highlight how the children live this out in our very special setting ensuring they truly live life in all its fullness. This term the government has published our end of year data for Key Stage 2 and it really does show how children are reaching their individual potential.

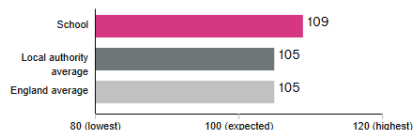
Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?



Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?



Average score in reading ?



Average score in maths ?



This term we benefited from a visit from 4 Ebor Church school Headteachers, 1 Ebor Academy trustee and our linked York Diocese advisor. They all immersed themselves in the school; speaking to leaders, governors and more importantly the children. The idea was to observe how the school articulates the theological rooting of its Christian vision and connects this to its context. Complicated words but basically how does the school enable the children live in all its fullness (John10:10) and how is this lived out through our core values: Perseverance, friendship and creativity.

They found that:

The children spoke about the vision and values confidently. One child who has recently joined the school knew the three core values and felt they made a difference 'it feels nicer'. Another child talked about how everyone is encouraging and how 'you can be all the things you want to be.'

The leaders also observed Key Stage 1 collective worship and class collective worship in Key Stage 2 and noted the central place it has within the life of the school.

All of the adults were super impressed with how articulate our children were and I was delighted to read in the report that:

The culture of the school where children are encouraged to have their own opinions, to respect the views of others and to disagree well was clearly in evidence. This made me feel very proud.

Next term, Mrs Louise Heatley joins our Year 3 and 4 team. This will allow for significantly reduced class size teaching in Maths for both classes and focused intervention in English, ensuring that no children are left behind. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her into our school. This additional member of teaching staff will also mean we will have further support for the children in Year 5 and 6.

We also say goodbye to Pauline Kitchen who works in the kitchen. Mrs Kitchen has been with us for 23 years and is an important part of our lunchtime dining experience. We all wish her well in her retirement.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Justin Reeve
Headteacher

Governor Corner

I love this time of year in school. So much to do, watch, celebrate and be part of. In the last couple of weeks we've had a School Improvement Meeting and a full Governor's meeting, a Learning Walk, there's been the Nativity and Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance and this week there's been interviews, parties, pantomime and House Singing and that's only a small part of what our amazing staff is juggling. What a busy time of the year it is for them, but every time I visit they are all smiling and raring to go. What an truly awesome lot they are.

Recently I enjoyed a Learning Walk round school with Mr Reeve and some Governors, the focus of our walk being 'A Broad and Balanced Curriculum'. We were all, as always, so impressed with every class we visited, seeing children engaged in many activities, in interactions with Teaching Assistants, working on tasks in classrooms, rehearsing in the hall, squirreled away in pods. There were children in every space, covering a wide variety of subjects and everywhere a focus, a purpose, an engagement in everything they were doing and a willingness to share with us their excitement and passion for learning. You should all be so proud of them.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Governors to wish you all a happy family filled Christmas and a peaceful and hopeful New Year.

Sue Corbett
Chair of Governors

Our foundation governor

It was a pleasure to be with Years 5 and 6 to visit the Minster and walk some of the walls of York. They were enthusiastic and responded well to our knowledgeable Minster tour guides. During the workshop they listened to each other's points of view and were imaginative in their role plays. I believe we all learnt something new that day. Don't forget to look for the monkey window on your next visit to the Min-

ster! 🐒 Mrs Marriner

Attendance

The whole school attendance for the period 4 September to 13 December 2024 is **96.82%** which is just below the Ebor target of 97%. However, amazingly, if we removed the days of unauthorised holiday absences the attendance would be whopping **98.44%**.

We are very proud of the fact that our staff absence rates are the lowest in our Academy Trust group of 24 schools.

The attendance ladder shows the importance of having a good level of attendance in school.

COMPETITION TIME

We talk about preparing our children for the future and a vital skill in later life is being on time. We have noticed an increase in the number of lates coming into school. Due to our locality our secondary school aged children in the village and surrounding villages have to get a bus to school. If they are late for this, it is a massive inconvenience for a parent getting them to school.

We are launching a competition to spring into action in 2025 focussed on rewarding the whole class with the least lates and those with 100% punctuality over a 3 week period entering a prize draw and four individual prizes from each phase being given.

Governance Professional - clerking role

Ebor Academy Trust is looking for clerks for its schools' governing bodies. The role offers occasional/part-time work to clerk governor meetings. If interested, please contact Wendy Harrington on: w.harrington@ebor.academy

Attendance Ladder



Christmas Nativity

Christmas time at the church is always very special. I challenge anyone to not feel festive after watching the Key Stage 1 and Early Years nativity. Our confident children shone over 4 performances to packed houses (including one to the school). It was lovely to hear the positive remarks as parents, grandparents and friends of the school left the church. They were right! The singing was amazing and the way the children performed was incredible. The wriggly nativity has to be one of my favourite plays as it shares the Christmas story in such a lovely way. Well done team.



Key Stage 2 Production

I, like many adults who watched the performance, was very impressed with the key stage 2 children. Every child in Key stage 2 contributed to telling the Christmas story and accompanied it with beautiful singing. I was particularly impressed by the children who performed solos. Thank you to everyone who came and shared this wonderful experience with the children and thank you to Mrs Perry and the team for 2 very professional performances.



Panto

The whole school travelled to The Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds to watch Beauty & the Beast! We had our Reception and Y1 children couple up with their buddies in Y5 & 6 for the afternoon which they all loved! We took over pretty much the whole theatre for the afternoon performance and had a brilliant time singing along, shouting answers at the characters and booing the baddies! Three of our children were invited onto stage and did some crazy fantastic dance moves that the rest of the audience followed - we nearly took the whole place down with the jumping!! Our favourite characters were Phillippe Philoppe, Dame Cheri Trifle and Belle.

Many thanks to parents and carers for allowing your children to come with us for this amazing event, and for looking after the tired children we brought back from Leeds! Thanks also to the volunteers and governors who came with us for the afternoon and to all of the staff for giving up their time to travel back with the children to Tockwith Primary.

Mrs Cook



PTFA - Christmas Fair

On Friday 13th December, the PTFA hosted the annual Christmas fair after school. It was a really well attended event with children, siblings, parents, grandparents and some ex pupils joining in with the festive fun. Along with the usual Christmas games like chocolate tombola, find the snowman's nose, face painting and card games, there was a Ridding Park voucher that was won, a teddy tombola which had a constant queue and hot chocolate with marshmallows, squirty cream and sprinkles. There were some external stall holders for the first time this year, which proved to be popular, and we were lucky enough that Santa was able to fit us into his busy schedule. The fair made almost £1000 profit, money which will be spent on the pupils at the school. If you would like to help run such events, or have additional ideas for future events, please speak to the school office.



House Singing

Today we had our Christmas House Song competition. All children are split into houses - Cromwell, Fairfax, Rupert and Lucas. Each House chose a Christmas song and the children have been practicing all week for this event! The following songs were chosen:

Lucas - Santa's Coming For Us

Rupert - Step Into Christmas

Cromwell - Rocking Around the Christmas Tree

Fairfax - Sleigh Ride

We welcomed Mrs Corbett into school and also Mr White made a return to Tockwith Primary to judge this amazing competition! All of the children sang fantastically and it was a real struggle for the judges to pick a winner but they managed to and crowned Rupert the winning house! Well done to everyone for taking part and to all of the staff for practicing the songs with the children.



Dodgeball

Several children across year 3 and 4 travelled to Rufforth primary school to take part in a dodgeball competition. The children travelled to Rufforth with school staff at the end of the school day and had a great time playing dodgeball with other schools. Many thanks to Mrs Curry for chauffeuring the children around and managing the event!



Mr Crilley's band

The year 5 and year 6 band performed to the whole school and family members and what an event it was! The two bands performed some brilliant songs with some beautiful singing! Well done to all involved as we know how difficult performing in front of a crowded audience can be. Many thanks to Mr Crilley for these performances!



Pippa, Erin, Alex and Ed are all in a band and we love being in a small group together. When you get to Year 6 you go to a beer festival where you perform to more than the school. Although it's nerve racking, you have a blast. Before Year 5 and 6, you do lessons. Where you get to learn your instrument. You get to practice the simple monkey bar swing on keyboard and in singing you learn vocal cords. We spent 11 weeks practising songs before we performed in front of the whole school. Pippa

Experience Church

This half term the children in school visited Tockwith Church where Reverend Otter and some volunteers from the parish have been helping the children experience church. The theme was Harvest and there were four 'stations' that the children took turns visiting. The stations were:

- Humility
- Generosity
- Faithfulness
- Peace

In each section, the children learnt different stories from the bible. For Humility the children looked at sheep and the production of wool. The section 'Generosity' looked at the bread and where it comes from and the feeding of the 5000. Children tasted bread and learnt about how to make bread. The story of Peter and the Fishermen was covered in 'Peace' - children created origami boats and discussed the difficult decision Peter faced. Finally, Faithfulness looked at Sukkot and the hanging of fruit on the shelter.

The children in Y6 have detailed the event as follows:

Generosity

The generosity place was learning about what it really meant. We discussed giving to one another even if it's small it can go a long way. They passed white and brown bread around to each person and they ate their bread and it was giving the meaning of what generosity meant.

Faithfulness

For this one the pupils were in a shelter learning about faithfulness and standing up for people. We hung the tokens we got from each place on the shelter to represent fruit and we started discussing. We look at the place where they baptise people to be blessed by God and a Christian just like in the bible story and we all learnt about having faith! Sukkot shelter

Humility

Here reverend Martin was talking about being humble and he was also showing everyone about it using wool. He showed us two jumpers, a plain white one and a colourful one and asked if we wanted to have only white clothes or did we want loads of different colours. He was showing we want to be individuals and wear colour and tricked us at the end choosing the person who didn't put their hand up to take the token since they were being humble.

Peace

Here we were looking at fishermen and how they do so much and risk their lives to get us food. We looked at this prayer that Christian fishermen sing to ask God to keep them safe at sea. Then we made origami to make a little boat to represent the prayer they learned. You could leave at church or take it home to remember Gods here for you.



Remembrance Day

Our GS crew did a wonderful job representing Tockwith School at Long Marston church's Remembrance Service. They joined children from Long Marston and Askham Bryan schools in reading out the names of those from the parish who gave their lives. We reflected on the meaning of sacrifice - doing something you don't want to do for someone you will never know. Well done GS crew in helping us to think about this message. We also held a Remembrance service in school and observed the 2 minute silence. We sold poppies before school and donated £253.55 for the British Legion. Thank you very much to everyone who donated.



Y5 Have a go Hockey

Children in year 5 were invited to Wetherby High School to take part in a Have a go Hockey event! The children travelled across to Wetherby by coach and when they got there were able to try various hockey related activities - shooting, dribbling and stopping the (tennis) ball! I believe they were also asked to do some push ups and sit ups! A great time was had by all and many thanks to Wetherby High School for inviting us!



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November we supported Children in Need through a dress down day, with a donation of £1 per child, and a bake sale. We supported 'Make Life Lighter for Children' through speaking to the children about their worries and writing these down. We then placed all of these worries into a rucksack with Pudsey and gave it to staff for them to carry it around all day. This helped to show the children that when we share our worries, the load is lifted and we can start to feel better.

We raised an incredible £328.38 from the dress down donations and the bake sale. Wow! Thank you so much to everyone for supporting us through donating cakes for us to sell, allowing your children to dress down and bring in a donation and generally being there for us and your children. Many thanks to Mrs Poole and Mrs Dutton and the school council for organising this event.



Disco

This terms PTFA disco was the best one ever!!
Over 90% of the school came to dance their socks off raising an amazing £900 for the PTFA - Wow!

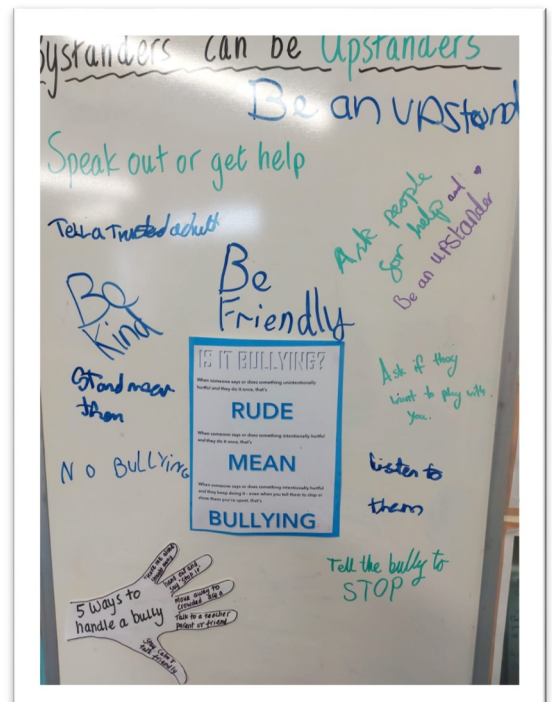
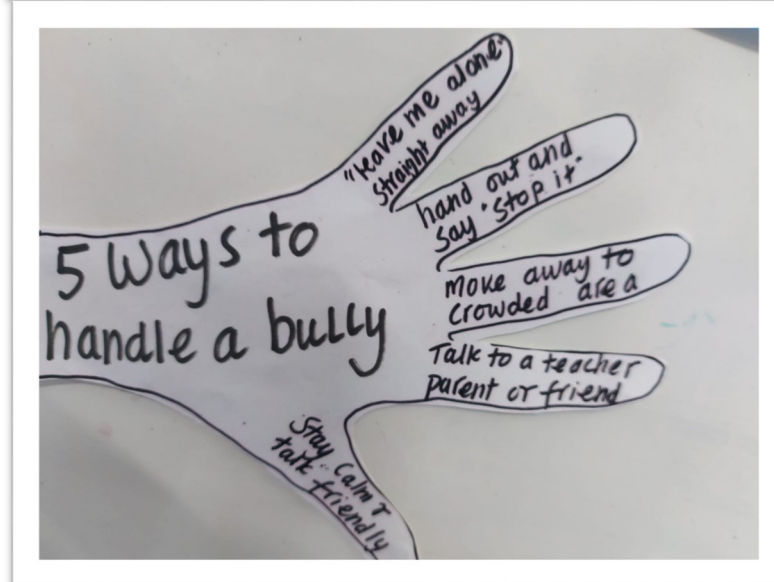
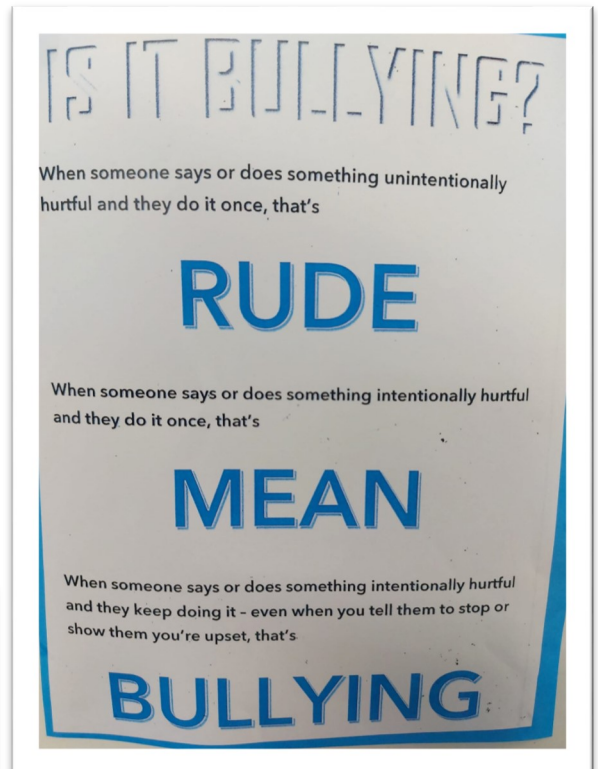
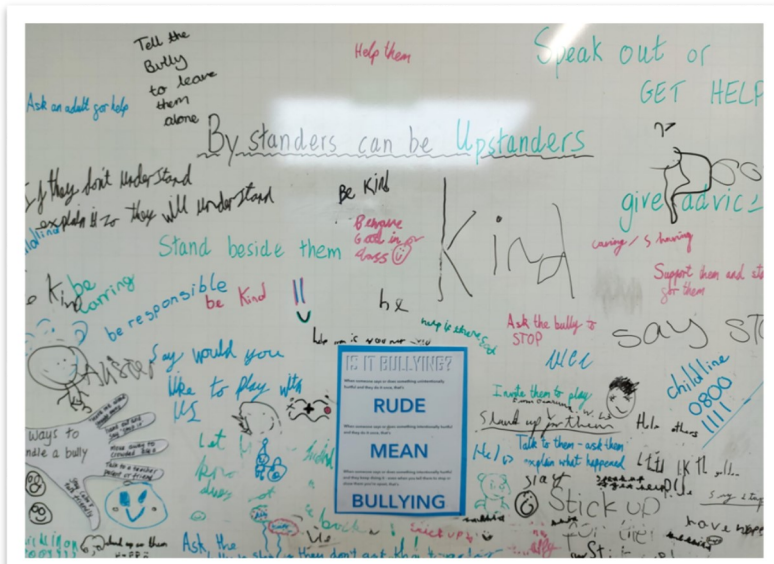
Harriet S from Year 5

Everybody seemed like they were having loads of fun and enjoying themselves. It was nice that when we came ks1 were having their snack so we came and joined them. People were having so much fun dancing on the floor and the benches that the benches nearly broke. Overall it was a very fun disco with music loud and clear. The idea of having something on the projector was cool, especially with lights on the ceiling. You could probably hear the cheering from a mile away it was so loud. Everybody was tired at the end from dancing so hard. It was a success and everybody was happy.

Pastoral Support

This half term the pastoral boards have reflected the themes of Children In Need and Anti Bullying Week, although we reflect on these themes throughout the year it is always good to have a focus on them.

The Children have written on the boards who they would share their worries with. We have continued in school to talk about how important it is to share any worries, so that you can have support and be able to feel your best again. The boards at the moment have the word Kindness on them , such an important word and our children at Tockwith enjoy sharing their acts of kindness that can be used everyday to increase their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around them .



Have a lovely Christmas break

Sarah Slack

Pastoral.toc@ebor.academy

Mrs Starr's Art Club

We've had another seven weeks of wonderful artwork being produced by the Year 3's art clubbers - Egg Box Animals, Mini Bobble Hats, Cork Polar Bears and One Point Perspectives. All of the children worked so hard to produce these and the results are awesome.

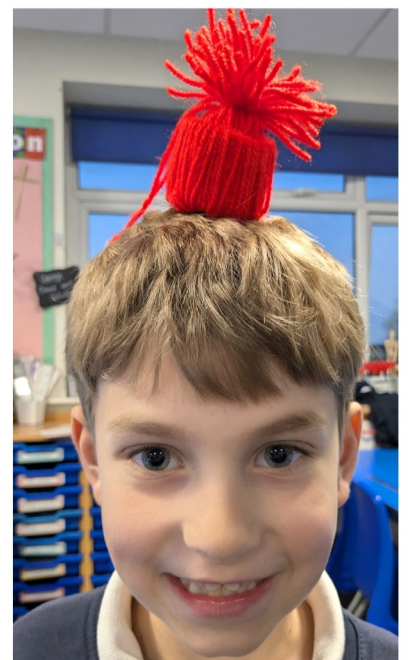
Thomas says, "I have really enjoyed art club and my favourite is the one point perspective picture where it looks like it's coming out of the paper. I have enjoyed the chance to do extra art because it's fun and helps you get better at art."

Toby says, "I definitely like art club because art takes your mind away from other things. It is peaceful and relaxing. The variety of what you can do is good. My favourite piece I've made is the bobble hat because I like the vibrant colours. It was a new challenge."

Reeva says, "I have really enjoyed art club because we do lots of things that are very creative. I really liked the animals on cardboard and I really, really like the illusions."

Evelyn says, "I really like art club because it is fun. I like that we get to create lots of different things. My favourite piece has been the bobble hat."

Art Club begins again for the Y5's, on our return to school after the Christmas holidays. Merry Christmas everyone and enjoy the time with your families, Mrs Starr



York Minster trip Year 5/6

Year 5 and 6 got to go to York Minster and onto the bar walls of York.

York Minster

The pupils explored the minster and learned about the people who brought the Minster to us such as King Edwin and Queen Ethelburga.

Here are some of the activities we did: we explored the Minister and learnt about the history of it and went on a tour of York. In York we saw the museum gardens and where the monks used to live. We also saw Constantine's statue outside of the Minister; Constantine was one of the main people and he also brought Christianity to Britain.

The bar walls

One class at a time went around the bar walls learning about the history that came with it. We also went through a place where the Romans used to shoot arrows out of little holes to defend themselves from the enemies.

Conclusion

In total, we recommend this trip for a school: it was fun, entertaining and very factual.

Sienna, Abbey and Holly



MUGA

Our Year 6 children got their first chance to access the new MUGA on the Sports field. This will be such a valuable resource for both the school and the community. The children commented on how they are using it for training with Tockwith Juniors.

One of the children wrote to Mrs Corbett.

Thank you for building the MUGA and letting us use it Mrs

Corbett. It was really fun and we all enjoyed it. We felt like we could run around a lot which is good for fitness levels. I think it's good because we can all play as a class instead of some people on the field



Rag Bag Donations

Thanks to all the donations you have made using the Rag Bag bin, the school has received £245 over the last year to use on additional resources for the benefit of all the children in school.

JRSO

This term I have appointed 2 children to be our Junior road safety officers. Next term, they will be on patrol outside the school grounds in their hi-vis patrolling the zig zags. They will be armed with a clipboard as well!! I will also be asking them to promote safety on and around roads by having competitions to raise awareness.

**Please do not
park on the
ZIG-ZAGS**