



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic academic year 2024 - 2025 has been. It has been a pleasure to see the children and staff live life in all its fullness throughout the year. I really enjoy writing these newsletters, as it gives me an excellent opportunity to look back over the half term and see all of the rich experiences the children have in our setting.

I know it is only one part of primary school life but it was a pleasure to write to you last week to celebrate our children's academic achievements across the school. Our vision talks about inspiring everyone to reach their individual potential and these results definitely prove this.

End of years seems are often times of goodbyes and thank yous.

Our amazing Year 6 leave us having shone brightly all the way through school. They are a really special group of children who have truly lived out our school values. I have just had the pleasure of spending a very long day with them in London, and they made me feel so proud of the young people they have become. They are great company and made me laugh a lot during the day! They will be really missed but our loss is their future schools gain and we all wish them well.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Parker this year. Mrs Parker has been the swiss army knife of the teaching world, adapting and excelling wherever she has worked. Teachers like Mrs Parker are a godsend to headteachers and we have really benefited from her commitment to the school, whether that has been leading PSHE, teaching whole classes or boosting those children that need that extra lift. Mrs Heatley will be leaving us this term after supporting our year 3/4 learners this year and even doing a bit of German teaching in our Year 5/6 classes. Mrs Heatley has gone above and beyond while she has been in the school in. I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in the future.

We will also be welcoming back Mrs Medley and saying good bye to Miss Cunningham. I know how much the parents of the children in her class have appreciated Miss Cunningham's commitment and dedication. It has been great having Miss Cunningham back with us for a bit but it is back to theatre life for her and she will be working with the 13 going on 30 musical team—John 10:10!!

Last week, we had the exciting news that Mrs Jenkins gave birth to Mya Reine. Everything went exceptionally well, and Mya has settled into the Jenkins family life exceptionally well.

Just a reminder that next year Mrs Jenkins HLT A post will be covered by Mrs Perry who will be covering Music and French across the school. Mrs Perry will also be covering leadership time in the school. Mrs Perry is keen to point out to us that she is not leaving ... yet.

However, it is important to reflect on what an amazing class teacher and Assistant Headteacher Mrs Perry has been. Her calm and balanced nature and attention to detail has benefitted me and the school greatly over the years and she will be sorely missed in that role. There are a lot of children who have been taught by Mrs Perry that will reflect very fondly on their time in year 6 and how they have reached their individual potential



I would also like to thank our governors of the school. They are a really committed group of people who add so much behind the scenes. They are incredibly supportive but also help to hold the school to account. This year, we say goodbye to Val Hackforth and Sarah McBride who have supported the school so much over many years.

Thank you for all your support, we are really grateful for the support you give the school and the children truly benefit from this partnership. It is great for the children to know that we all want the best for them to reach their individual potential and, through our Christian values, prepare them for the future.

Mr Reeve

Year 6 do London

What an amazing day!! We are so pleased that we are able to give the children this experience. The children and staff were up bright and early and we set off from school at 6.45am. After trains and tubes, we arrived at the Houses of Parliament, where we were given a tour of the Houses of Parliament, in particular the Houses of Lords. What an incredible building. After all that history, we visited the Horse Guards parade and glimpsed 10 Downing Street. We went through Trafalgar Square to the highlight of the visit... all you can eat pizza hut in Leicester Square!!

After eating their own body weight, we made our way to Buckingham Palace via Piccadilly Circus and Chinatown.

We had to have an obligatory game of football in Green Park, although it was too hot for some to participate and then we made our way to Oxford Circus via the glitz and glam of Mayfair and New Bond Street ... only the best for our children!!

After a fleeting visit to St Pauls, we made it back to King's Cross just in time to get our train back up north!

So much in one day: smiles, laughter, culture, history and 22,000 steps.



Askham Bryan

Year One and Two enjoyed a great day out at Askham Bryan Wildlife Park. It was a warm one, but the children were fantastic—setting a brilliant example for the school. The children took part in a workshop on habitats led by Connor, who even got the teachers involved (with a bit of dressing up, much to the children's delight!). We explored the park, met lots of friendly animals, and did our best to stay cool in the shade—just like them. We made it back to school hot but happy, just in time to cool off and enjoy the school fair! Mrs Williamson



Summer Fair Success

What a scorcher! The sun shone brightly for our summer fair, and spirits were just as high. Mr Reeve was a great sport, taking a soaking from the sponge throw - much to everyone's delight and his relief in the heat! Traditional games brought plenty of fun, while the Prosecco and beer tent proved a popular place to cool down.

We're thrilled to share that over £1,000 was raised for the PTFA, helping to enhance resources and experiences for all our children. The raffle alone brought in more than £650, and all lucky winners have now been notified.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along or supported us by buying raffle tickets - your generosity and enthusiasm made the day a fantastic success!



Year 5/6 Production—Star Worts

This year we were treated to an amazing performance of *The Umpire Strikes Back*. The children entertained us all the way through the hour and 20 minute performance. Their comic timing was impeccable and their acting was on point. It is lovely to hear every line that is said during these performances and to see all the children involved is fantastic.

The children also sang beautifully and the soloists were inspirational.

Thank you so much to Mrs Perry, Mr Goodacre and all other support staff who gave the children this opportunity to reach their individual potential. Wow!

Being a soloist is a bit nerve-wracking because you have to stand in front of a massive crowd and sing and also you feel very embarrassed when your family is sat right at the front of the crowd.

Patrick



Year 6 Ebor Football Cup

In the last couple of weeks, we took a team of 7 year 6 boys to compete in the inaugural Ebor cup! The children competed against Hob Moor Academy and Haxby Road. All of the games were played in an excellent spirit and the children represented our school fantastically well. Thank you to Mr Goodacre for coaching the children and channelling his inner Pep. Thank you also to Mr Jolly, the Hob Moor headteacher, who organised the tournament and even picked us up. Same again next year!
Mr Reeve

A group of boys and girls went to the Hob Moor football tournament to play against other teams to win the trophy. We won the first game and the second game we drew. In the end we got to the semi finals and won so we went to the finals and drew but they got one more goal in their other game, so they won on goal difference giving them the trophy.

Theo, Y6



Year 5/6 Football Match

The Year 5/6 football match occurred on Tuesday the 15th of July. It was an 8-a-side game, Team Goodacre had 8 players and Team Perry had 12 players. It was a 2-0 victory for Team Perry. Anyone could play and it was a really fun friendly match. Everyone who wanted to play got to play. If you weren't playing you were on the side with pom poms cheering your class on. It was a great way to bring the year 5/6 class together with a competitive twist.

School Council

We have had another brilliant year with the children in the school council, making decisions about how the school is run and supporting the local community. They have had a hand in picking the new members of staff that will be joining our school in September, raised money for many good causes, along with making changes to the school lunch menu. We would like to thank the children for being their amazing selves and representing the school in so many amazing ways.

After a great day of fundraising back in May for Martin House, our total now stands at an amazing £1173.13. The children had so much fun raising money for the wonderful charity. Beth from Martin House will be in September to present a certificate to thank the children.

Mrs Dutton and myself will be stepping down after 4 years of running the school council at the end of the school year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families for supporting the children in the school council with their fundraising throughout our time. It's been amazing to see the change and impact these young people have made, not only at school but to their community as well.

Mrs Poole and Mrs Dutton.



Book in a Jar Competition

Our Book in a Jar competition was a new challenge which was launched in May. The responses were incredible and I was so impressed with the creativity shown in the entries. It was also great fun trying to guess the book which was in the jar. Thank you to everyone who took part and for all the time and effort which was spent creating such impressive entries.

Mrs Perry



We will be launching the OPAL scheme officially in September, but in true Tockwith style, we have seized the chance to create exciting new play opportunities for our children over these glorious summer weeks. The impact on our children's play has been immediate and incredibly positive. We have already started our muddy cafe area, music area, and den building/construction. We have even made a start on digging the foundations for our supersized sandpit, which the children have joined in with enthusiasm! We will be adding to the play environment throughout the next academic year and have an action plan ready to focus our energy on transforming and enriching play for our children, allowing them to 'live life in all its fullness'

We really appreciate your support in bringing these amazing plans to life. Whether through donating resources, volunteering time, or simply helping provide us with links in the community, your contributions will be invaluable in making our play areas a reality.

Please keep checking your parenthub for updates and details of ways you can help. Let us know if you have anything you are clearing out over the summer. You can contact us at opal.toc@ebor.academy.

"I can't wait for the sandpit" Zachary Y1

"I like playing on the stage, but can we have music outside?" Sienna YR

"I would like to dress up" Olivia YR

"The mud kitchen has been really good, I go there, and the music wall" Max Y3

"It would be really good to do more den building" Toby Y3

"Can we have a space to do art?" Reeve and Isabella Y3



STEM week

This year, our school's STEM Week centered around the fascinating world of wildlife, with each class dedicating their efforts to a specific animal. Inspired by the recent renovations to our pond area, our goal was to foster a thriving ecosystem right here on school grounds. Students enthusiastically engaged in various projects: crafting bird feeders, constructing a specialized hibernation spot for frogs, building cozy winter homes for hedgehogs, and erecting new birdhouses. Looking ahead, we're excited to establish a vibrant wildflower area, anticipating it will attract a diverse range of beneficial insects, further enriching our school's biodiversity.

Mr Goodacre



Journalism day

On our journalism focus day, the year 5 and 6 children had the opportunity to find out about the world of sports journalism with Andy Naylor. Andy has been in the business for over 30 years and has worked as a sports reporter for the Argus in Brighton. Andy is now working for the Athletic writing on all things Brighton and Hove Albion. Combining a love of sport and writing, Andy shared his experiences covering Brighton and Premier League football. Afterwards Andy emailed me and I said, 'I was impressed by the enthusiasm and engagement, which is testimony to the school'. Needless to say, Mr Reeve thoroughly enjoyed the Brighton 'chat'.

As well as learning from Andy, we also had the opportunity to learn from Sally, a journalist who reports on local news.

The children learnt how to ask the right questions to get the content for their article and how to report exactly on the facts they were given. The children had great fun collating, writing and editing



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Perry

A day in the life at Wetherby High

This half term, our Y5 class travelled to Wetherby High to take part in 'A Day in the Life of a Secondary School pupil'. The children took part in 5 different lessons (timetable below) and had a delicious lunch there too! They learnt about witches in History, created picture poetry in English, mixed chemicals in Science, made moveable animations in Computer Science and finally made pizza in Food Technology - what a day!! The children had an amazing time to the extent that Mr Goodacre sent a message to Wetherby High School to say thank you!

Dear Wetherby High School Team,

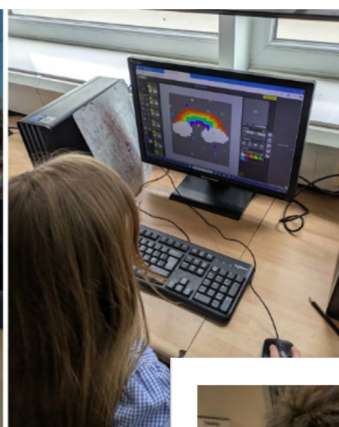
I just wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you on behalf of all of us at Tockwith Primary for the fantastic "Day in the Life of a High School Student" experience you provided for our Year 5 pupils. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day - it was both exciting and inspiring for them to get a taste of what high school life is like. They came away full of enthusiasm and stories to share, and it's clear that the experience made a big impact.

Please pass on our thanks to all the staff, students, and bus drivers involved. Everyone was so kind and welcoming, creating a really positive atmosphere that helped the children feel at ease and included from the moment they arrived.

We're very grateful for your time and effort - it truly was a memorable day for our pupils.

Warm regards,

Mr Goodacre (Year 5 Teacher)



Time	Activity	Staff and Venue
9:00	Pick up from Tockwith Primary in Wetherby high mini bus	Mr Goodacre
9:15 - 9:35	Welcome and introduction	Mrs Meaking
9:35 - 10:10	History	Miss Potts
10:10 - 10:45	English	Mr Jarman
10:45 - 11:00	Break - cookies and a drink will be provided (dairy free is also available)	
11:00 - 11:15	Science	Miss Wellwell
11:15 - 11:30	Computing	Mr Bradford
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch - chicken and chips followed by flapjack (all dairy free) or packed lunch if preferred.	
1:00 - 2:00	Food Tech	Mr Rothwell-Wood
2:00 - 2:15	Coaching	VME

Money Ready

Year 4 took part in three engaging workshops delivered by the charity *Money Ready*, focused on making smart financial choices.

Pupils explored key concepts such as the difference between wants and needs, the basics of budgeting, and various types of payments and bank accounts. They also discovered the importance of saving and how people manage their money. The sessions were both informative and interactive, and the children thoroughly enjoyed learning valuable life skills. Mrs Heatley

 Money Ready

Year 4 Residential

Our Year 4 adventurers had an absolutely fantastic time on their residential camping earlier this term! With the sun shining brightly, the children were eager to experience all that residential has to offer.

From scaling new heights with rock climbing and abseiling, to navigating the waters on a giant stand-up paddleboard, our pupils embraced every challenge with enthusiasm. They also bravely tackled gorge walking, with many of the children bravely jumping off the top of a waterfall!

It was wonderful to see our Year 4s developing new skills, building confidence, and making unforgettable memories together.

A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic spirit and participation!



Bikeability

Our Y5 children have been taking part in Bikeability this term, learning about how to take care of their bicycle, how to control it and how to start and stop with confidence. They also learnt how to pass stationery vehicles, cycle on roads and have studied signals, signs and road markings. The children had a brilliant time and the instructors commented on what an excellent bunch of children they were - always listening to instructions and cycling sensibly. It's always lovely to hear feedback like that!



Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew was an educational experience, with unique workshops. Some activities ranged from railway safety all the way to learning how to be safe during a fire. Our understanding of how to protect ourselves in certain situations has massively improved. The vital information that we learnt has helped us understand the risks of the world and the importance of being cautious. In conclusion this was a great school trip.

Cricket

Over the last few weeks children in Y3, 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in two cricket events at Rufforth Cricket Ground. The children had a great time playing cricket with their friends at a ground they have not visited before.

Mr Goodacre



Sports Day

Our annual School Sports Day was a fantastic event filled with enthusiasm and outstanding sportsmanship!

The morning saw children rotating through various stations in their house groups, demonstrating incredible teamwork and collaboration. From obstacle courses to skipping, every child showed great effort and determination, earning points for their houses.

A delicious BBQ lunch was served before the afternoon's main event: the running races. Spectators cheered enthusiastically as our young athletes showcased their speed and perseverance. It was Cromwell who ended up on top after all the points were counted!

A huge thank you to all staff, parent volunteers and governors for their hard work in making the day run smoothly. And a massive well done to all the children for their fantastic participation! We're already looking forward to next year! Miss Stanton



Art Club

What a brilliant past 7 weeks we have had at Art Club! The Year 2 cohort have really worked their socks off and produced three brilliant pieces of art which they can all be proud of - Quirky Birds, I Am Me... and Cats in Patterned Jumpers. All of these pieces have enabled the children to learn new art skills. If your child would like to come to my art club, please look out for a message on Parent Hub, as the next club will be running in September. Have a great summer, Mrs Starr



KS1 theatre

In July Key Stage One excitedly headed to York Theatre Royal to see a performance of The Koala that Could. We enjoyed being taken away to Australia and meeting a rather nervous Kevin the koala and his friends who work together to support each other. The performance encompassed our school values of friendship, perseverance and compassion, and reinforced what we talk to the children about having courage and embracing change. Remember to be like Kevin children and never be frightened to challenge yourself- you can do it!

Mrs Williamson



Brownlee Triathlon

On Friday 13th June, children in Y4 travelled to Harrogate Leisure Centre to take part in the Brownlee Foundation Triathlon. The event involved children swimming approximately 50m in total (around three sides of a swimming pool), cycling 800m on grass and running 300m at the sports centre. The event was amazing and the children had a great time. The sun shone throughout and a groups of happy, tired children returned with their triathlon medals!

Miss Stanton



KAPLA Building Brilliance

Last week, we had an exciting visit from Jennifer at KAPLA, who brought thousands of wooden blocks and a huge dose of creativity to our school! Each class took part in a hands-on workshop where Jennifer guided the children in learning how to carefully balance and construct using the KAPLA planks — similar to Jenga blocks but designed for imaginative building.

Every child was fully engaged as they contributed to an incredible whole-school design, working together with focus and enthusiasm. The end result was an impressive display of teamwork, problem-solving, and architectural flair — all made from simple wooden blocks! A huge thank you to Jennifer for inspiring such creativity and collaboration, and a huge thank you to the PTFA for funding the whole event.

Kapla was a fun experience that we had never done before. We learnt about new techniques on how to work as a team. The instructor was really helpful and taught us lots of new skills. Our class built different and difficult towers but two of the groups made an even harder pattern and a taller tower. Our tower was taller than the instructor! At the end, the whole school came to the hall and looked at all of the creations across the years. Then a couple of children from different year groups came at the very end and got to demolish it all!

By Molly and Flora, Year 6



Eureka—Reception

This half term, our Reception children had an exciting trip to Eureka! They had the best time exploring all the different zones and especially enjoyed learning about minibeasts.

The visit was perfectly timed with STEM Week, giving the children a fantastic opportunity to put their learning into action through hands-on play and discovery. It was a fun-filled day full of curiosity, adventure, and learning!

Well done, Reception - what brilliant explorers you are!

Mrs Grainger



Pastoral Sarah

Our Children have continued throughout this school year to increase their skills in managing their mental health. We help our children to recognise that looking after their mental health is a good daily habit to develop, for their well being. This good practice can help them and those around them feel their best

I asked the children - Is having good mental health important?

Year 3 -

"It keeps you feeling well" "helps you feel calm and safe" "Share your worries with your trusted people so they can support you"

Year 4 -

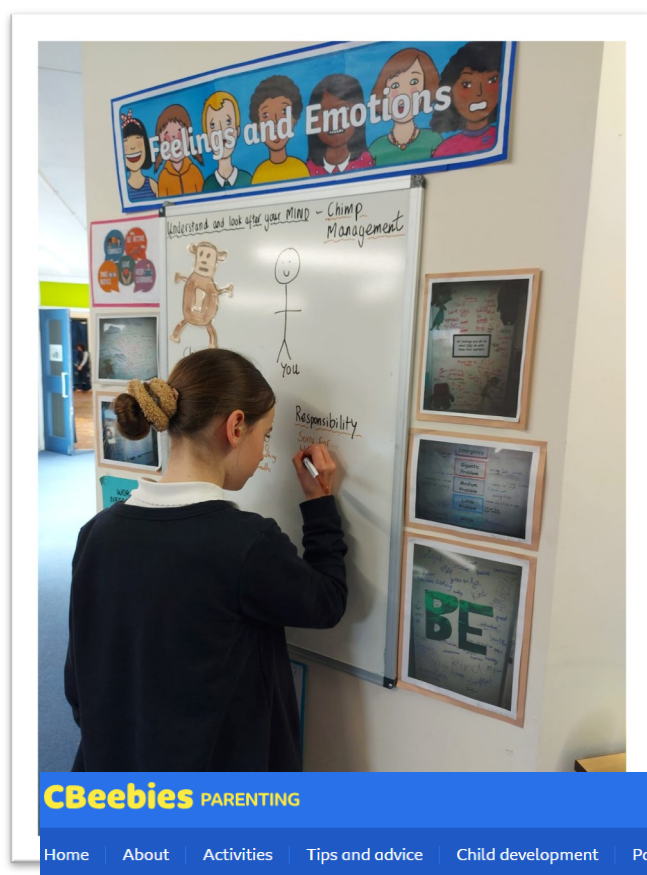
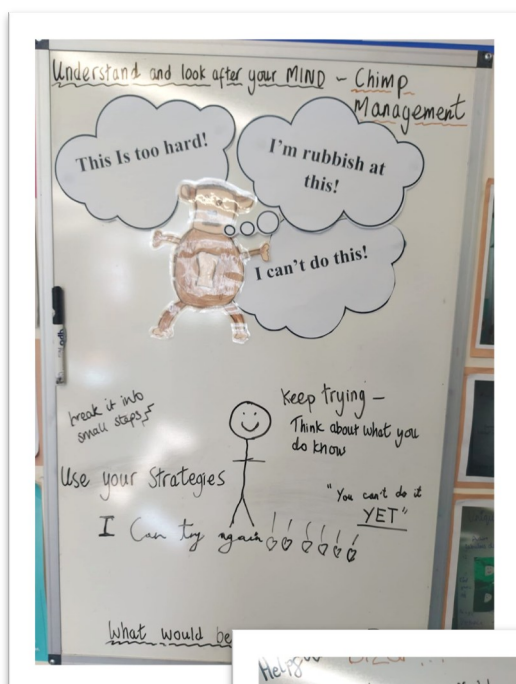
"It is important because during the day you and others can feel your best. We need to look after each other." Amy

Year 5 -

"You will be happier and healthier" Gigi

"You can concentrate and work harder" Harmony

"You will build better friendships" Millie



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25 summer activities to do in 2025

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The summer holidays can be a time of excitement but also a time of panic for parents and carers across the country.

Worries spring to mind; 'What activities can we do to stop the kids from being bored?' to 'How can we keep the family entertained all summer without breaking the bank?'

With the cost of living rising, you might be concerned about how to keep spending down this summer while doing your best to keep your kids loving life and learning along the way. But fear not!

Here are 23 fun and free family-friendly summer activities that are guaranteed to bring laughter and improve your child's communication skills along the way.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zyrsvwx>

Y3/4 music - singing performance

This term, Year 3 and 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their music lessons with Miss Bels from York Minster. It was wonderful to watch them perform the songs they have been learning, including Skye Boat Song, Time on Our Hands, Go the Distance, and even Summer is icumen in—a piece sung in the Wessex dialect of Middle English. It was great to see all the children performing with such confidence and lovely to see each of them shine. A special thank you as well to Mrs Schippers for joining in and playing the flute to accompany the singing, making the performance extra special. Team 3/4



What can we celebrate - Governors

Well what a whirlwind year it's been. So full of activity, experiences and WOW moments. As always I am in awe of all of our staff and how they cram so much into every day and then come back smiling the next. I can't believe how much has happened this last term alone and all alongside providing our children with a full broad and balanced curriculum and have you see the test and assessment data! What an amazing set of results!

On Monday, I had the joyous task of helping to judge Tockwith's Got Talent, alongside Mr Reeve and Val Hackforth, and what a lot of talent we saw. What we also saw was every child in the school supporting, focussed, engaged and rooting for each other. You must be so proud of your amazing children.....it was truly inspiring.

Yesterday I also attended the Church Leavers Service to say goodbye to our Year 6 children who are moving one more step along the road. They have been a great cohort and I, and the Governors, wish them every success for the future. As they move on to their next big adventure we very much hope that they, alongside other children and members of staff who are also leaving, will keep us travelling along with them.

Sue Corbett
Chair of Governors

As this school year draws to a close I wanted to say thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff. What a privilege to go into our welcoming village school and each time be stunned by the happy learning environment that it is. The children are always keen to discuss what they are learning about. They are polite, friendly and courteous to visitors and each other, and a real credit to parents and the school. From Dawn Kennett, Foundation Governor

One of my highlights this year was visiting Eureka with the Reception class. We had a wonderful day and it was brilliant to see how interested, enthusiastic and well-behaved the children were. It's incredible to see how much their confidence has grown throughout their first year at Tockwith. From Lis Wainwright, Trust Governor

I would like to celebrate the wonderful behaviour of our Tockwith children, whether in the classroom or in public on visits.

Whenever I see children in class they listen well to the teaching staff and are ready to learn and help each other.

When I have been with the children on visits their behaviour has been exemplary and this has been commented on by other people we meet. I always feel very proud to be with our lovely pupils.

From Janet Marriner, Foundation Governor

PTFA

As we close this term, we want to take a moment to reflect on what we've achieved together this year and express our gratitude for your continued support.

The summer disco, kindly hosted by our amazing staff was yet again another fantastic fundraiser for us. The summer fair was a success on an extremely hot day! Plenty of money was raised across these events to fund more exciting extra opportunities for our children next year.

Earlier this year, after our Spring events we chose to fund Kapla coming into school. For 1.5 days the Kapla team took over the school hall, allowing each year group to build a structure, joining them together for a whole school experience like no other. It was a pleasure to watch the children concentrate, learn & persevere with their structures, then see their faces of wonder at what they had created.

Huge thanks to all parents, volunteers and staff who gave their time, donations, and energy this year. Your support has made a real difference for our children.

What's Coming Up Next Term:

- Christmas Fair 5th December
- Christmas Disco 11th December

Get Involved:

We always need volunteers - even 30 minutes makes a big difference!
Email us at tockwithptfa@gmail.com or speak to a PTFA member at school.
Enjoy your summer!
See you next term,
Nicola & Claire
Chair & Treasurer