



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer seems like a long time ago now that the leaves are falling and the darker nights are closing in.

This year, we have welcomed 33 new starters and it has been delightful to see them settle into Tockwith life so well. I have been amazed by how well they have coped with their Welcome to Reception service at the church with their year 6 buddies and their learning routines in school. A visiting headteacher visited the class and commented on how immersed the children were in their learning.

I have the privilege of having seen our current year 6 join us many years ago and it was an absolute pleasure to see them thrive while they spent a week away from home in Humphrey Head on their residential trip. Over 6 years of living life in all its fullness has served them very well. I was so proud of them as a group of children.

We have also had new starters with Mrs Darley, Miss Berry and Miss Penfold joining our team and it has been fantastic to see how well they have settled in. Next half term Miss Taylor will be leaving us to have her baby. We have aimed for the 13th November but I am sure you will understand the challenges of setting a date at this time and you will join me in wishing Miss Taylor all the best. We have appointed Mr Mike Finan, who is an experienced teacher having taught in Leeds and abroad more recently. He will be starting with us on the 17th November.

This term we had a school review from Ebor Academy Trust. This is incredibly useful for us and we used it to have a deep look into our new classroom structures and assess the impact on the curriculum. For the review, the Director of Education, an executive headteacher, the head of SEND and the head of safeguarding immersed themselves into school life. The team spent the day in lessons, they also spoke to the children and to the staff. Our children and staff shone and I was particularly proud with the school's ethos being described as 'clear, established and profound'.

Our school development plan this half term is focussed on 3 strategic priorities:

- 1) To ensure consistency in high quality wave 1 teaching which leads to continued high outcomes for all children in all phases.
- 2) Developing resilience
- 3) For all children to reach their individual potential across the curriculum

These targets are very closely aligned with our vision for the school, for all children to reach their individual potential and, through our Christian values, prepare them for the future.

One other target I would be really keen to push next half term is the number of lates over the last few weeks. School starts at 8.50 and it is really important that your children are at school on time. We always talk about preparing our children for the future and being on time will make their and your lives much easier as they grow up into adulthood.

I hope you all have a lovely holiday.

Justin Reeve

Harvest Service

We were delighted to celebrate our Harvest Festival at Tockwith Church recently. It was a joy to see so many parents and carers joining us to support the children and enjoy their inspiring performances. The children shared powerful messages and sang beautifully - a real celebration of the season and their hard work.

Following the service, many families joined us back at school for a delicious Harvest Festival lunch. A heartfelt thankyou to our amazing kitchen team, for preparing such a wonderful meal. Thankyou once again to all our families for your continued support and well done to the children.



OPAL

It is hard to believe that we only launched OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) 8 weeks ago! The changes we have seen already are incredible. The choices children have for different schemas of play are continually growing and it has been fantastic to see the field full of laughing faces and muddy wellies. The mud kitchen and construction areas are really popular and great spaces to see the children's creativity and affordance in action. From dens and pumpkin smashing (and the mud pies they created), to Y5 and 6 children running around dressed as a gang of grannies, we are seeing all sorts of imaginative play that this time last year just wasn't happening.

We have had several visitors from Ebor who have come out to see the project unfolding and they all commented on how busy and vibrant it looked, and particularly how noticeable it was that children across year groups were choosing to play together and interact spontaneously. This is another way we are embedding the ethos of inclusion and community that Tockwith is already so brilliant at, and it was lovely to see that it was being lived out at playtimes.

Having watched the children play, and asked for their voices via our school council, we are focussing on expanding the construction resources and creating an enormous sandpit. This is a big investment and really exciting for the children. We will keep updating you and asking you for things we could put to use!

Thank you so much for your support, and for the 200 pairs of wellies you have provided to enable the children to flourish whatever the weather!

"I get inside a tyre and roll and it's really fun" Georgia.

"I like baking stuff and it's really fun to make mud pies so I love the mud kitchen" Freya.



Humphrey head Visit - Year 6

Year 6 had an amazing time on their residential trip to Humphrey Head! From getting stuck in sinking sand and knee-sliding down hills to performing in the annual talent show, every day was packed with laughter and adventure. We loved canoeing on the lake (and getting completely drenched!), enjoying Dave's delicious cakes for supper, and playing hide and seek in the dark. There were hikes up the mountain with incredible views, night walks to watch the sunset, and plenty of team-building games like the giant marble run. We even had the chance to make drums in the sand, build dens, and try our hand at fire-starting. Between hanging out with friends, playing games, and attempting to keep our dorms organised, there was never a dull moment. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience full of special memories—despite the late nights!



Eden Camp

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils had a fantastic day at Eden Camp War Museum as part of our World War II topic. The visit really brought our learning to life, giving the children a chance to step back in time and experience what life was like for a range of people during the war. From exploring the recreated wartime streets and air raid shelters to discovering the stories of soldiers, evacuees, and those on the home front, the children were fully immersed in history. They showed great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the day, and came away with a deeper understanding — and plenty of fascinating facts to share back at school!



CEO visit to Tockwith

Mrs Brown, who is the CEO of all of Ebor, visited Tockwith in September to see our school. Mr Reeve asked Y6 School Council (Harmony and I) to take her on a tour. We started in the Y6 corridor and showed her the hall and all the displays. We told her about the boards around the top like "imagine" and "push yourself" and we explained we should try and do them in our everyday lives to live life in all its fullness. We looked in the windows of all the classrooms and told her about why we call our classes teams now. We kept pointing out the different art work as we walked around. We told her we had introduced Opal and she asked to see outside so we did a walk around the playground. She asked our opinions on if we like it and whether it was better than before and we said it used to just be football but now there is a lot more variety in what you can do.

I was proud when she said she liked our art work, the whole school's, and that she thought the pupils were really well behaved. Mrs Brown was really kind and friendly and I hope she enjoyed her visit.

Amy C, Y6 School Councillor

Our 25/26 School Council

In September the new school council was chosen for the year. We wrote our application and then we were anonymously elected to go through to interview. It wasn't too scary but we had to think of good answers!

We have been busy already interviewing teachers applying to teach Year 3/4. Hopefully our questions weren't too scary either! In our meetings we have been talking lots about Opal and getting ideas from our class about playtimes. We asked our class what they like and what they want so that we are representing our class. We are also thinking of ideas of how to raise money for charity and are going to be planning school activities for Children in Need in November. We are excited because there are so many things happening and we don't know what we will be planning next!

Amy, Duncan, Reeva, Frankie, Mila, Eli, Jessie, Lincoln



Welcome to Reception Service

We had a truly lovely service at our church this half term to welcome our new Reception children into both school and church life. The children listened beautifully to a heartfelt song and poem performed by our Year 6 pupils, showing what caring and supportive buddies they will be.

Reverend Martin and Mrs Flood then led us in prayer, lighting a candle to symbolise the beginning of our Reception children's journey here at Tockwith.

A huge thank you to all the parents and families who joined us in our special place — it was wonderful to share this meaningful moment together. We look forward to making many more happy memories as the year unfolds!

Mrs Grainger



Confirmation

The parish of Marston Moor, which incorporates the villages of Askham Richard, Bilbrough, Long Marston, Rufforth and Tockwith, is welcoming Bishop Flora, the relatively new Bishop of Selby to the parish on the 30th November for a service of confirmation. This is to take place in Tockwith at 10.00am. Confirmation is the occasion for those wishing to say yes to Jesus' call to follow him on our journey through life. It is a confirming of the promises made by us if we are older enough to do so, or more usually for us, at our baptism. Confirmation gives us the chance to say yes ourselves. The only criteria in our eyes for being confirmed is to be able to truly understand what is happening and what the individual is 'agreeing' to, usually this is around the age of 10, although a child who regularly comes to church, and understands the concept more clearly, might be a year or so younger, and of course there is no upper age limit!

If you would like further information about the confirmation, please feel free to either contact Rev'd Martin, martin@theottersholt.plus.com, 07842 106044, or Rev'd Karen, karen-flood@doctors.org.uk, 07733 440425.

There will be 4 short 'teaching' sessions before the confirmation, between 2-3.00 on the Sunday afternoons of the 26th Oct, 2nd, 9th and 16th Nov. There is no test and if you miss a session that will be fine, but please call one of us if you are concerned with the times of these sessions.

With our Blessings, Martin and Karen.

Stump Cross Caverns 3/4

This week, year 3/4 enjoyed our exciting adventure to Stump Cross Caverns. We spent the day exploring the caves, where we learned about stalactites and stalagmites. We were amazed by how old these rock formations were! During our visit, we also learned about an incredible discovery made at the Caverns: the teeth of a wolverine, an extinct creature that once lived in Britain thousands of years ago. It was amazing to imagine such a powerful animal roaming the countryside long before humans were here. The guides told us how the wolverine's remains were found deep inside the caves, preserved in the rock and mud. Learning about this ancient animal helped us understand how fossils and bones can reveal what life was like in the past. It made our trip feel like a real journey through time.

After our cave tour, we made our own fossil imprints to take home- a perfect souvenir of our visit! It was such a fun and unforgettable trip that really brought our science lessons to life. A big thank you to our parent helpers for enabling us to run this trip so successfully. Miss Taylor and Miss Berry



PTFA

We've had a lovely, gentle start to the term as we welcomed our new reception children and their parents with our welcome packs. Our first planning meeting brought a few new faces to the table - it's wonderful to see our PTFA community growing! Now the festive fun begins as we get ready for our Tockwith Christmas Fair - one of the highlights of the school year! Join us on Friday 5th December for an afternoon packed with cheer, including Christmas games, a chocolate tombola, a hot chocolate station, and plenty of cakes and treats. It's the perfect way to kick off the festive season with family and friends and raise vital funds for school. We're also busy preparing for the Christmas Disco on Thursday 11th Dec, look out for tickets coming soon.

Keep an eye on ParentHub for the date of our next meeting — everyone's welcome to join in the fun and help make this Christmas extra special for our school community! On the agenda is also exploring new fundraising ideas to support OPAL. A huge thank you and warm welcome to all our new volunteers — your support makes these events possible.

Under 5's

It has been wonderful to welcome back Tockwith Under 5s on Tuesday mornings at school - now our permanent home! The group has enjoyed a fantastic start to the term, with lots of fun and busy sessions. We've had several themed weeks, including Pumpkin Week, Autumn Week, and a delightful Teddy Bears' Picnic Week. A particular highlight was a visit from TrainMaster, who filled the school hall with an amazing network of train tracks for the little ones to explore and enjoy.

If you have a child under 5 who would like to join in the fun, we'd love to see you on Tuesday mornings from 9-11am in the school hall. Sessions cost £3.50 for the first child and 50p for additional children, which includes snacks, activities, and messy play. There's no need to book - just come along! We're now looking forward to the lead-up to Christmas, always a magical and special time for our Under 5s.



Pastoral Note

For happy playtimes you can ...

The children have been sharing with each other what they love to do at playtimes . Embracing our OPAL opportunities, having fun while building on their skills of working together.

We choose kindness

The children have been sharing their acts of kindness. The boards also reflect the lessons going on in class.

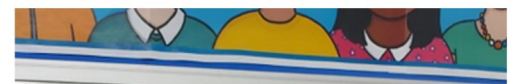
PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) lessons include discussion on diversity and inclusion

If you have any worries or concerns and would like support, please contact

Pastoral.toc@ebor.academy

Have a lovely half term

Sarah Slack



We are fair to everyone

be an upstander

Test: either
people how you
would react to
be treated.

We choose
SMILE kindness

respect
happiness

UPSTANDER

Smile and
be positive

Kind words
be Happy

Kind actions

everyone is equal

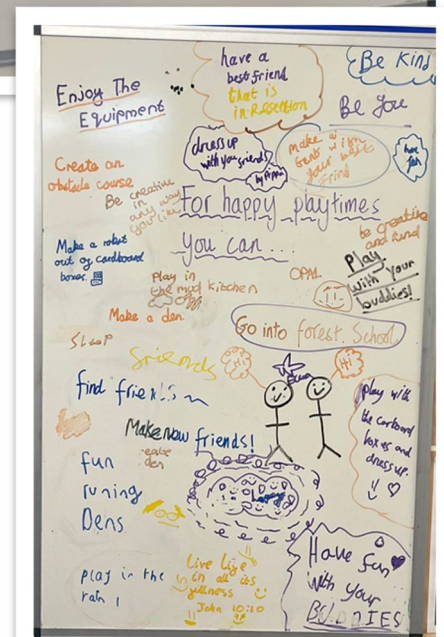
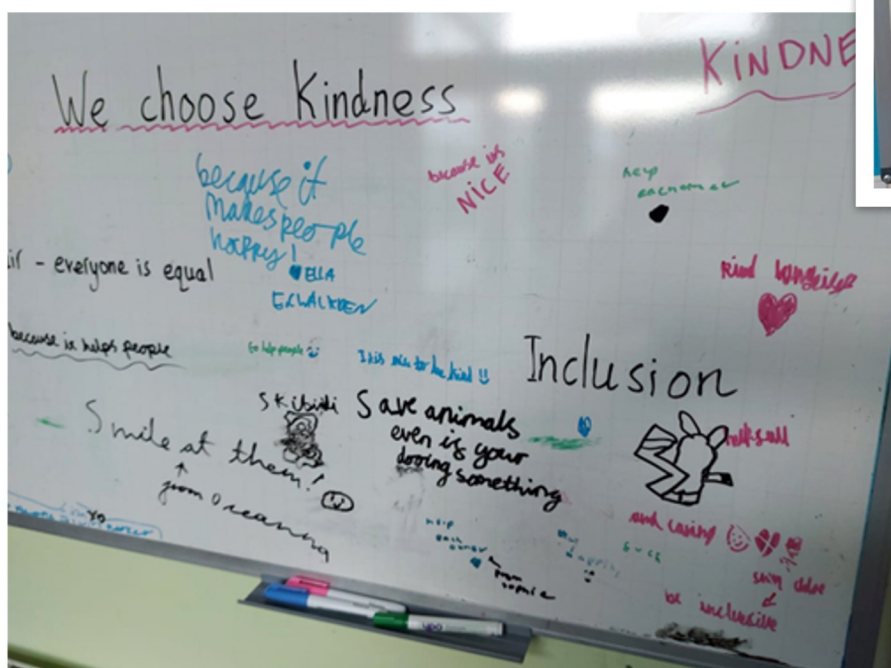
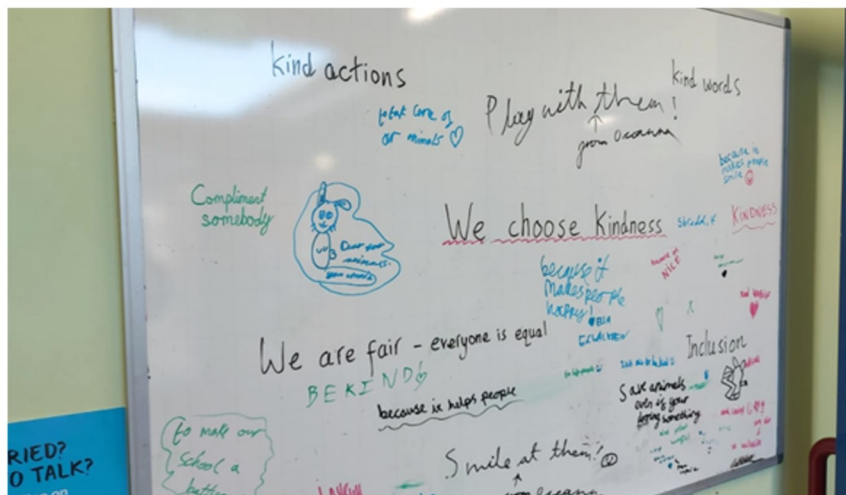
being
an
upstander

include everyone

look out for each other

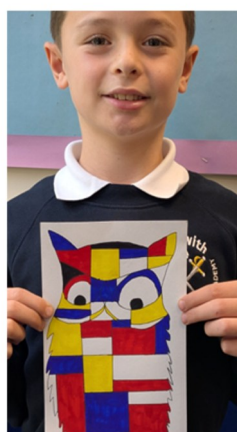
be positive

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Art Club

The Year 4 art clubbers have packed a lot into a brilliant seven weeks of art, each creating three masterpieces to be proud of. A firm favourite with the children were the quirky birds, which are always so colourful and fun. I love to see each bird's character emerge. The children then developed their pattern skills producing a very effective zentangle capital letter. Our final piece was an homage to Piet Mondrian with a three colour geometric owl. We even gave each owl a name. I'm looking forward to working with the Year 5's again after the holidays. Mrs Starr



KS1 zoomed into space for the morning—Space Planetarium Visit

This half term the children have been exploring 'why was the mission to the moon so important?'. As part of this they have enjoyed finding out about space, the different planets and the first people to walk and leave their mark on the moon. We have loved it and found it fascinating. The children enjoyed their very own trip into space when the planetarium came into school. For the morning the children got the opportunity to explore around the solar system and to get a feel for what life is like in space. The children asked Laura some fantastic questions showing off their curiosity towards the topic, but also enjoyed sharing their own facts. An enjoyable morning spent by all.



Key Stage 1 RE visit.

As part of this term's theme of Judaism, the children welcomed Helen in from a local synagogue to talk about her life as a follower of the Jewish faith. We enjoyed sharing all the facts we had learnt about the topic and also showing her some of the resources we have in school to help us explore the topic, she was very impressed. She talked about how she celebrates Shabbat with her family and friends, and even brought in some Challah bread- it smelt delicious.. Helen brought in a ram's horn called a shofar and explained that this is blown to celebrate the Jewish New Year. It was nice to be able to welcome her into our school and she remarked what friendly and knowledgeable children we have.

North Yorkshire Music Service

At the start of the month we were delighted to have members of the North Yorkshire Music Service come into school to deliver an assembly to the whole school. They showcased all of the different instruments that are available to learn how to play, cello, bassoon and saxophone to name but a few! There were some very excited children (and adults) listening to the various movie themes and popular songs being played!

Lessons can be applied for via the Music Hub website, or letters are available from the school office.

