



Tockwith CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another Christmas has come around so quickly, and as I said in the Key Stage 2 concert, we do Christmas really well at Tockwith. It is a true time for the children to live life in all its fullness, whether that is at the panto, or performing in a play, or even rocking out at the school disco.

Thank you for supporting the school so much this half term. It has been so lovely to see so many of you in school celebrating your amazing children and continuing to collect special memories. I feel very fortunate to work in a school with such a supportive community wrapped around it.

One of our aims is to inspire everyone to reach their individual potential and our efforts have been recognised in the Yorkshire Evening Post.

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/education/the-27-best-primary-schools-in-yorkshire-5442059>

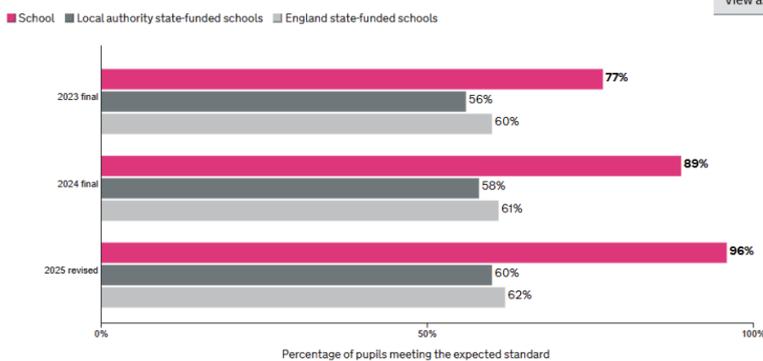
There are over 1,800 state primary schools in the Yorkshire region so our position of 11th in the top 27 schools is pretty impressive .

Each year the government release end of Key Stage 2 data and allow people to compare data across local authorities.

Each year the Department for Education update their compare schools performance website . This gives you a detailed look at schools performance but also allows you to see where schools compare to others. It is interesting to see how your old schools are getting on but also useful for looking into the future.

Comparing all North Yorkshire schools shows that we are 3rd in the county of 355 schools. All other schools in the top 20 have less than 20 children in their year 6.

Results over 3 years

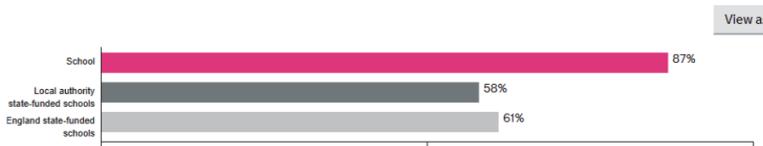


[View as table](#)

Whilst it is important to celebrate the success of a fantastic cohort of children, we must also remind ourselves to look at results over 3 years.

There are many ways to judge a school: Data, OFSTED, SIAMS. Etc but I always say to prospective parents that it is the 'feel' of the school that is so important and, although biased, I truly believe we have this and prepare our children for the next stages of their lives.

Three year average



[View as table](#)

I hope you have a lovely time with family friends. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Mr Reeve

Message from our Chair of Governors

Our agenda for full Governor meetings is sent to us by Ebor to ensure consistency across all the Ebor schools and at the end of every agenda there is an item headed 'What we can celebrate'.

As you can imagine when the Governors have been sitting round the table for a good couple of hours to be faced with this one at Tockwith is a absolute conundrum. This Agenda item could fill the next hour, two, three! There is as you can imagine so much to celebrate about our amazing school. Don't get me wrong, we've toyed with the idea of putting this item at the beginning, but as you can imagine any discussion about curriculum, finance, health and safety would go out of the window.

So we've decided to put some of our 'Celebratory Moments' in the Newsletter.

There have been some changes recently to the Governing Body. We said goodbye to Janet Marriner, who has been one of our Foundation Governors for many years. Having last year moved to York, Janet decided it was time to give her time to her new community and how lucky they will be to have her. She has been such an asset to Tockwith bringing all of her professional experience of safeguarding and the Early Years to her role and she will be missed.

We have also welcomed three new Governors this term, all of whom have hit the ground running and immersed themselves in school and all that revolves around it.

Chris Evenson has joined us as a Trust Governor and has taken on the role of Health and Safety. Dave Cunningham has become our new Foundation Governor and Karen Cumming, our new parent Governor. We welcome them all to the Governing Body and I am sure they will become familiar faces to you all as we move through the year.

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

Also...

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff and children for such an **amazing** Christmas performance this week. To organise that number of children so seamlessly and efficiently is incredibly impressive.

I thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful range of performances — from *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and Neville having a wee! to the beautiful poetry from Year 6, as well as the fantastic dancing and choreography throughout.

It was truly lovely to see all the children's smiling faces, and they were certainly living life in all its fullness during the performances. All the hard work that goes into producing events like this is very much appreciated.

Laura Stubbs

A Miracle in Town

Christmas has officially started when school starts planning and rehearsing for the nativity. This year our wonderful Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children entertained their families and school with 'A Miracle in Town', and what an amazing performance it was. Reception and Year 1 dressed up as kings, shepherds, angels, stars, donkeys, camels and sheep, townsfolk, innkeepers and not forgetting Mary and Joseph to tell the story, with Year 2 taking on the role of narrators. Year 1 recited a poem, where even Neville featured and Year 2 sang a song, with a small group taking on the first verse before all joined in.

The hard work paid off and the children did a sterling job entertaining everyone and helping to spread the festive cheer- special lifelong memories! Well done children!



Key Stage 2 Concert

This year Key Stage 2 brought a mix of poetry, song and dance to our Christmas concert. It was typical Tockwith—children shone, teachers showed their creativity and the community of Tockwith joined in a gold old sing song at the end! I was so impressed with the singing during the concert, particularly the slower pieces that showed so much control and were beautiful to listen to. It was fabulous to see the children enjoy performing for their audiences.



Panto time!!!

On Wednesday 17th December, pupils from Tockwith C of E Primary School enjoyed a much-anticipated trip to the Electric Press in Leeds to watch the annual pantomime. From Reception through to Year 6, excitement filled the theatre as the show delighted everyone with its quick-fire puns, laugh-out-loud moments and the much-loved cries of "He's behind you!", making it a truly unforgettable day for all.

The pantomime was packed with brilliant highlights, including Jez Edwards' hilarious "6-7" routine and an unexpected rendition of Ghostbusters in the haunted woods, which had the audience in stitches. The performers made excellent use of audience participation, ensuring everyone felt involved, and by the end of the show we were all on our feet dancing along to "Chu Chu Wa", guided by our enthusiastic team captains.

Trips like this are a wonderful example of how we encourage our children to live life in all its fullness—sharing joy, laughter and memorable experiences together beyond the classroom. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive parents, whose time, effort and encouragement allow this visit to continue to be one of the highlights of the school year.

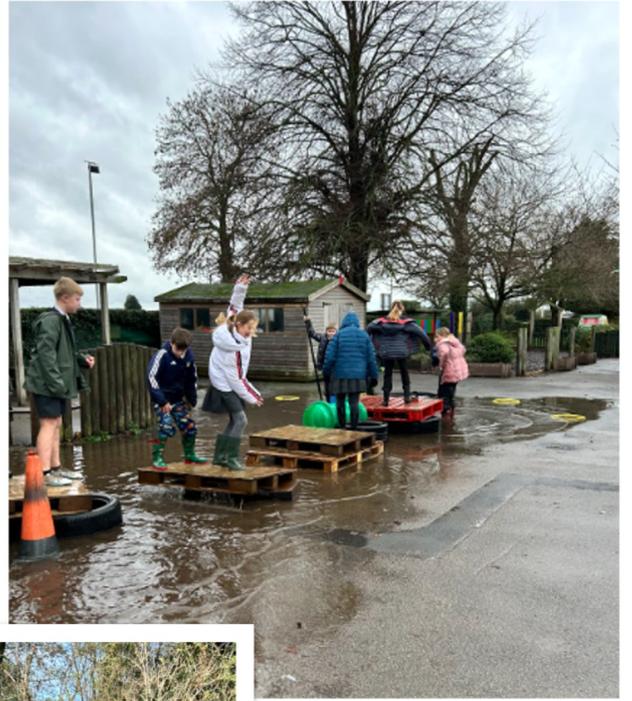
(Zach, year 5)



OPAL

"We've been getting lots of new equipment like the mud area and it's really fun. I have waterproof trousers and I go in and dig and it's fun to do something new and something you haven't done before" Isabella Y3

"We've been able to do things with opal that we wouldn't have been able to do before like the barriers and construction. That's my favourite place. Sometimes we start with one idea and then we work as a group to develop new ways over lots of playtimes to make something even better" Max S Y4



Children in Need

For our Children in Need fundraising day, we organised a fun-filled day of exercising as this year's theme was 'Challenge Yourself to 25'. To let everyone know about what we planned to do, we delivered an assembly to the whole school, talking about the challenges that some children face in their lives. At lunch time, we set up a treasure hunt around the school grounds, with lots of children taking part and trying to find the Pudsey bear faces with letters on, which they then had to unscramble to make a word. As well as this, each class spent 25 minutes moving and grooving their way through some 'Just Dance' videos in the hall. It was a real challenge to keep going non-stop for that amount of time but everyone did a fantastic job and, as a result, the school raised over £240 for charity!

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



Christmas cards



As it's Christmas, we wanted to do something thoughtful for others and so we asked our classmates to help support people who may feel a little isolated in our local community by making a Christmas card for an older person in a nearby care home.

To cover the cost of the postage, we designed and decorated some homemade tea-light holders, which we sold at the PTFA Christmas Fair.

Let's hope that our hard work brings a bit of festive cheer to someone who really needs it. We can't wait to see what the new year will bring as our school councillor roles develop even more!

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



"Hi Everyone at Tockwith

The residents were delighted with the Christmas cards. We have got them up in the home.

Thank-you once again for thinking of us.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Kind Regards

Activities Coordinator, Peacock Manor Nursing Home"

PTFA

We've had a fantastic term, and it's been wonderful to see the children enjoying so many events and opportunities. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising activities. Our Christmas Fair and School Disco were both big successes, raising over £1700 for the school. These funds have already been put to good use, helping to support OPAL play and enhance playtime experiences for all pupils.

Looking ahead, we're excited to start planning for next term's events, including our Easter Fair and World Book Day activities. We're also delighted to share that the travelling theatre will be visiting school again, fully funded by the PTFA. This year's production will be *Treasure Island*, which we know the children will love.

As always, if you'd like to get involved or volunteer with the PTFA, please do get in touch - we'd love to have you on board.

Under 5's

We've had a truly lovely half term at Tockwith Under 5s, settling into our permanent home on Tuesday mornings.

The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities each week, from seasonal crafts and messy play to role play and hands-on explorations. Most of our sessions have had a winter or Christmas theme, and it's been wonderful to see the children so engaged, creative, and full of festive excitement.

The highlight of the term was, without doubt, our very special visitor - Santa himself, who made a surprise stop to meet the children and spread some Christmas cheer.



If you have a child under 5 and fancy popping along on a Tuesday morning, we'd be delighted to welcome you. It's a warm, friendly group and a lovely way for little ones (and grown-ups!) to connect, play, and have fun.

Pastoral Note

The children have shared their thoughts on the communal boards this half term

"We choose Kindness" "I am grateful for "

"It's a nice reminder to think what you and other people are grateful for" - Ruby Year 6

"You can reflect on the thoughts of others, It makes you realise how lucky we are" - Ella and Amy year 5

How to Improve children's well being in winter (Kids planet)

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

Pastoral.toc@ebor.academy

Have a lovely half term

Sarah Slack

<https://>

[www.kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.u](http://www.kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.uk/news-and-events/how-to-improve-childrens-wellbeing-in-winter/)

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[winter/](http://www.kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.uk/news-and-events/how-to-improve-childrens-wellbeing-in-winter/)

Remembrance



We marked Remembrance Day with a special collective worship assembly. We were honoured to hear one of our governors, Mrs Kennett, read a moving letter written by her grandfather, who served as a soldier in the First World War. The children reflected on the importance of remembrance, thinking about the courage and sacrifices of others, and we joined together in song and prayer to show our respect.

Meanwhile, our school council team represented our school at the Parish Remembrance service at Long Marston Church. They were a pleasure to take and we even shared a minibus with the children from St Mary's Primary in Askham Richard.

Art Club

The Year 5's have really challenged themselves in our latest Art Club, by learning some brand new skills. Our first piece of art used origami where everyone learnt three basic paper folds to create their radial wheels. We then moved on to spiral mosaics, which were simple in comparison, but still extremely effective. The 'clubbers' final challenge involved both folding and cutting skills to produce these wonderful snowflakes. We finished off our final session with a party feast too (well it is Christmas)! I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I'll see you in 2026 for more fabulous creations, Mrs Starr

