



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your support over this short but very busy half term. It has been lovely to see the weather improve and less mud around the school!!

Can I say a massive thank you for all your support with your children's attendance this year so far. We have seen a real improvement in the levels of attendance this year which is to be celebrated. The government has had a massive push on children being in school stating that: 'Every day at school counts. The evidence is clear - even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects.

One of the recent initiatives is for each school to be issued with an AI minimum attendance improvement target. Our target has been set as 96.9% which is 0.1% more than last year and 2% more than the national average. We are also compared to 21 like schools for attendance and persistent absentees and we are 1st for both.



I have had the pleasure of going on 2 trips with Year 1 and 2 to the Deep and the Railway Museum and it was an absolute pleasure to see the children living life in all its fullness. This newsletter will further explore the fantastic experiences the children have in school. Thank you so much for supporting these visits, it is really appreciated and also thank you to the governors who are giving up their time to help out on these trips.

Thank you also to everyone who joined us for our Easter Services and Lunch. We are so lucky to have such a supportive community.

Justin Reeve

Easter Services

I, like some of our lucky parents, was fortunate enough to sit through all of our Easter Services and I was so very proud of our school. The children were all incredible and were given the perfect platform to shine by our talented staff. The confidence of our children is really impressive and the singing was incredible from the control and tone in year 6 to the passion of the reception class singing about Spring chickens! Thank you so much to Rev Martin who hosted us all morning and always makes the church feel so welcoming for us.

I have just had the pleasure of spending all morning in church watching the Easter Services and what a joy it has been. Every child was given their moment to shine and shine they did. There was clear speaking and story telling, seamless transitions from one child to another and one class to another, clear understanding of the story they were telling, team work, support for each other, beautiful, beautiful singing and pure joy from Reception. It was also so inspiring to see all the Staff supporting, encouraging and praising the contributions of every child and to see you and your families filling the church to celebrate their input and efforts. As Justin and I commented, it was so lovely to see all our growing school community together and in action and to feel the cohesion, happiness, respect and support for each other.

Sue Corbett



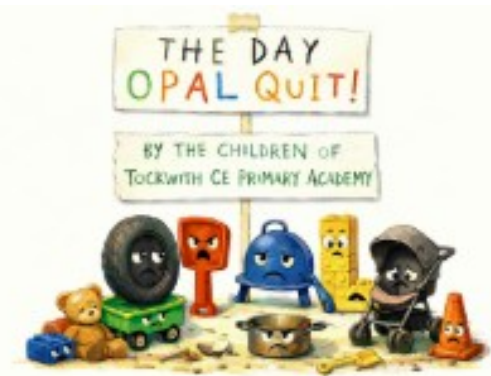
World Book Day

What a fantastic time we had celebrating World Book Day this year! Inspired by the much-loved story *The Day the Crayons Quit*, our children put a special Tockwith twist on the tale and created a brilliant whole-school book titled, **"The Day OPAL Quit."**

We started the day by coming together to enjoy the story; each class was then given a different piece of OPAL equipment to bring to life, resulting in some wonderfully imaginative pages. Classes worked together to write a letter on behalf of the equipment and it was incredible to see the variety of humorous, vibrant and unique ideas. From disgruntled saucepans and miserable tyres to cheerful, happy handbags, the creativity on display was simply outstanding! Every child contributed their own illustrations, making each page as vibrant and unique as the ideas behind them.

It was truly special to share one book across the entire school, from Reception through to Year 6, and to feel the buzz and excitement that comes from a shared love of storytelling. The pride in the children's work was clear for all to see.

Watch this space... a published copy may be coming soon!

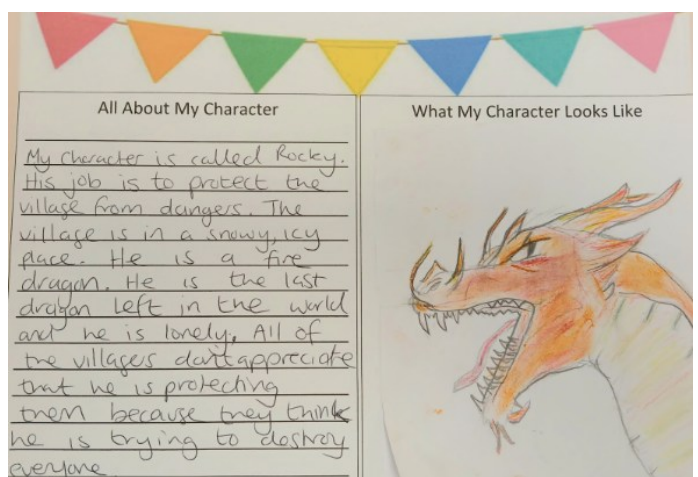


To mark World Book Day, we ran a competition to design a new book character. We had lots of entries and some fantastic ideas about what the book characters might wear, their special powers and the quests they were on.

The overall winners were Raya, with her design of two characters called Milo and Evi; Everly, who created a dragon called Rocky; Amy, whose character linked to our school values; Ben, whose character was engulfed in vines; Arthur, who designed Queen Malika and Poppy, whose character was a witch called Skye.

Thank you to everyone who took part!

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



Governors corner

Message from the Chair of Governors

I always love the Spring term. It starts quite quiet with children settled into classes and routines but then builds as the weather gets warmer and everything starts to grow.

We, as Governors, see it as an opportunity to get into school and see what is happening. We now do this as a Monitoring Afternoon as a whole team on, wait for it, a Friday afternoon. Now I know what you're thinking, "Give the staff a break" however as you all know Friday afternoons are business as usual. We look at books, talk to children, investigate resources, go on learning walks and see how the curriculum is being implemented. It's great to have the chance to work as a team in school and to be able to chat together about what we are seeing.

When I asked the Governors for feedback at the end of the afternoon the praise and positives poured out. They had seen good differentiation and classroom management. Focused children and on task. Children helping and caring for each other, Great displays which supported children's learning and helped with independence. Books showing consistent marking and progression. Complete coverage, transparency, honesty and accountability. Quality leadership with embedded vision, values and ethos. Seamless transitions. Dynamic reflection areas. Good use of technology to support learning. Supportive TA's and quality interventions.

The purpose of our afternoon was to gather evidence of the implementation of a whole school broad and balanced curriculum, that all children can access and I think we can safely tick every box.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and all our children a happy and relaxed Easter break. See you in the Summer Term.

Governor Monitoring Visit Report - David Cunningham Summary - 6

March 2026

This visit was a wonderful opportunity to see the school at its best. Across every classroom and shared space, there was a strong sense of joy, purpose, and pride. The children were confident, polite, and deeply engaged in their learning, while the staff demonstrated exceptional professionalism, warmth, and care.

From vibrant displays and reflective spaces to high-quality workbooks and well-structured lessons, the school's values were clearly lived out in every corner. It was especially encouraging to see the school's Christian ethos, commitment to wellbeing, and

celebration of creativity woven so naturally into daily practice. Overall, the visit highlighted a thriving school community where children flourish both academically and personally.

Maths Day

Last Friday the whole school abandoned their usual timetable to dedicate the day to everything maths. Throughout the day it was a hive of activity both in and out of the classrooms. We launched it in an assembly where we talked about the importance of maths in our everyday maths and how we are often using maths without realising it! There was a range of activities happening: reading recipes and measuring ingredients for playdough, working collaboratively to use rulers to measure body parts and create a BFG, shape hunts, using PE to gather and interpret statistics to help reflect and improve performance, escape rooms, chalking numbers and number hunts. Great fun to see so much maths activity and fun.

Don't forget the competitions we have running with generous prizes. Details will be sent out again.

- Easter maths bingo- please send pictures in on Seesaw
- Feast for a fiver (Jamie Oliver style) Pictures and recipes with costings shared on your child's Seesaw.
- The Great Tockwith Bakeoff will take place with cakes being judged and then on sale after school on Wednesday 15th April.



Year 5 and 6 Flamingo Land

We had a fantastic time at Flamingo Land to support our learning in our Rainforests topic. The children really impressed the zoo staff with their knowledge and understanding of the rich and varied habitat that so many fascinating animals call home.

"During our trip to Flamingo Land, we saw many different animals and even took part in an exciting workshop. In the workshop, we learned about the rainforest and the animals that live there. Some of us were brave enough to hold a giant cockroach and stroke Raymond the tenrec (if we wanted to). Raymond was very cute!

After the workshop, we went to explore and see more animals. We saw penguins, hippos, giraffes, lions, baboons and many more. Overall, we had a fantastic trip and I would definitely go again." Harmony, Year 6



Governors - what can we celebrate

Classes 5 and 6 visited The Tropical Rainforest experience and Flamingoland Zoo at the start of March. Their behaviour was exemplary and even though we were delayed arriving by 2 hours, they were very well behaved on the coach and then were attentive to the learning experience offered. I was very proud to be associated with Tockwith School.

Dawn Kennett
Foundation Governor

Owls in school

The Under 5s Toddler group that holds their sessions in the school hall every Tuesday in term time had some incredible owls in their last session! The owls were brought in by 'Owl Adventures' (www.owl-adventures.co.uk). The owls spent some time flying around the school hall and then went into a couple of classrooms in school. It was incredible to see these beautiful birds up close and flying around. What an experience!



Red Nose Day

For Red Nose Day this year, we held a quiz in school. We worked in teams to answer over 70 questions. The rounds included name the Mr Men, identify the famous landmarks, name the boardgame and guess what's under the microscope.

As well as this, we encouraged everyone to wear something red for the day and there was a wonderful range of items including football shirts, hair ribbons, hats and (of course!) red noses.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our excellent, final total of £198.20, which we raised to support Comic Relief. A special mention to our quiz team winners - Freya, Amy, Duncan, Alistair, Winter, Ben and Tom; congratulations on your success! We've got lots of exciting things coming up next half term and we hope that you all have a fantastic Easter break!

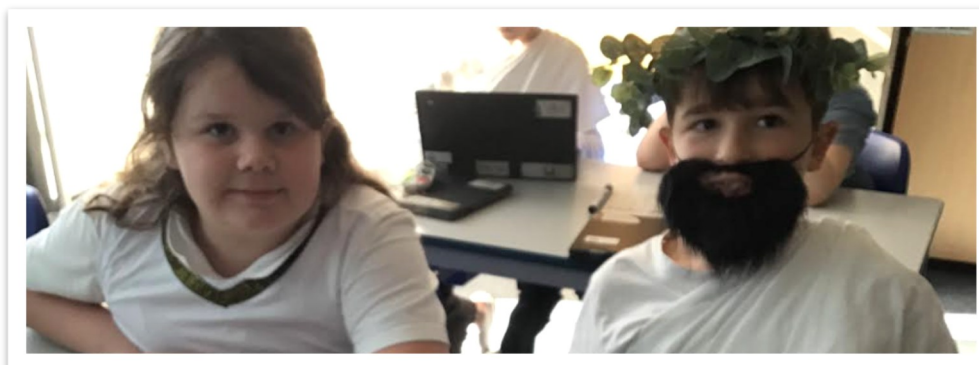
Greek Day 3/4

On the last day of term, children from Team Santon, Team Finan and Team Berry took part in an Ancient Greece themed day. Children were invited to come to school dressed as an Ancient Greek person.

The morning started with a welcome talk, followed by an artefact workshop. After break, the children had a banner making session where they created banners and chants ready for the afternoon.



In the afternoon, the children took part in a mini Ancient Greece Olympics. Events such as javelin, long jump, sprinting and discus were enjoyed by all, earning points for their city state.



Treasure Island

On the first day back at school, the PTFA treated the whole school to a special performance from M&M Productions, one of 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 children had a great time watching the production of Treasure Island and then Y6 took part in a workshop after the performance, talking about lighting, special effects and all of the different elements involved in putting on a performance.



Easter Egg Competition

There was such a fantastic response to this competition with in excess of 130 entries from across all key stages. Thank you to everyone who took the time to paint, colour, draw, collage or embellish their wonderful Easter egg designs. I had a very difficult task deciding on the final nine winners! Chocolate prizes were kindly donated by Parkhill Vets in Wetherby and grateful thanks must go to Mrs. Linney who presented the Easter eggs to the lucky winners.

EYFS / KS1: 3rd Jessie, 2nd Freddie, 1st Leila. Years 3 / 4: 3rd Oceanna, 2nd Marcus, 1st Chloe.
Years 5 / 6: 3rd Harriet, 2nd Phoebe, 1st Everly.

Happy Easter everyone and enjoy the rest (and the chocolate!) Mrs Starr



Chor visits the Hub

Some of the children who attended the Young Voices choir were selected to sing for the Tockwith Community Hub. This is a local group who meet each Monday from 10-12 in the Tockwith village hall for friendly chat, tea/coffee and a biscuit. They were delighted to hear the school choir sing a few songs from the Young Voices concert.

Children from the Young Voices choir visited the Tockwith Community Hub in the village hall to share some of the songs we'd learned. They really enjoyed the entertainment, and joined in some of the familiar songs, and have invited the children back at Christmas to lead a sing a long with the community. To say thanks to the children, they had a notebook and pen for the children which was really generous. The choir, as always, represented the school brilliantly and were a credit to us. Mrs Curry

Many thanks to Miss Berry and Mrs Curry for managing the event and bringing something special to the Tockwith Community Hub.



Cricket

Our school recently enjoyed an exciting visit from Joe, a Yorkshire Cricket Coach who spent the day leading fun and energetic sessions for every class. The children had the chance to learn new skills, improve their teamwork and take part in friendly mini-games. It was fantastic to see so many children getting involved and enjoying cricket together. It was a memorable day that inspired many budding young players!

If your child enjoyed their session with Joe, here is what's on offer at your local cricket clubs:

Kirk Hammerton Cricket Club
All Stars Cricket (5-8)

Friday 8th May
6-7pm

Link: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/c93656ae-9cc8-41e5-a15c-e348a5e896af?venue=KirkHammertonCricketClub>

Bilton in Ainsty Cricket Club
All Stars Cricket (5-8)

Friday 8th May
6-7pm

Link: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/7426e748-7d50-49c5-8fa2-08f500f442f8?venue=biltoninainsty>

Bilton in Ainsty Cricket Club
Dynamos Cricket

Friday 8th May
7-8pm

Link: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/a74d9c75-2667-4506-a9b0-95dca0406600?venue=biltoninainsty>



Multi-skills at Wetherby

A total of 112 children from Years 3, 4 and 5 recently attended a multiskills event hosted at Wetherby High School. The event was led by a team of Year 10 sports leaders who organised a variety of fun and challenging activities designed to develop teamwork, coordination and confidence.

All of the pupils showed brilliant effort and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon whilst being excellent ambassadors of our school.



PTFA

It's been a busy and exciting term for Tockwith PTFA!

We brought a little sweetness to World Book Day with our Wonka Bar treats. Was your child lucky enough to get a golden ticket?

We celebrated Mother's Day and all our special people with beautiful daffodils and personalised labels.

We then rounded off the term with our fantastic Easter Fair, featuring the ever-popular Rainbow Raffle, letter hunt, and a variety of stalls enjoyed by all.

Thank you so much for your continued support—together we've raised well over £1000 this half term, vital funds that directly benefit our children at school. Due to your generosity during these events, we have been able to fund the sandpit (which will open after Easter), the Treasure Island production, and a large set of Meccano, which Mrs Williamson is using for Meccano club.

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated volunteers and staff who make these events possible. Without them, none of this could happen. We are always in need of more volunteers, so if you can spare some time to help run stalls at future events, we would love to hear from you! Contact Nicola Arthur 07955 665562

We look forward to our next term, with a disco already planned and lots more in the pipeline!

Thank you again,

Nicola & Claire

