



Tockwith

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been a fairly short one but has still been very busy. In the penultimate week, our Year 6 children sat their SATs tests like every other 10-11 year old in the country. I had an enormous sense of pride watching the confidence and positive attitude our team displayed. They tried their hardest and, like I have said to them before, this is only one measure of them. It doesn't measure what amazing young people they or their skills in many other areas of school life. They will now be building up to the best half term in their schools' careers! As part of this they will be going to visit the Houses of Parliament on the last week of term. Due to the expense of this, the Year 6 children hosted a stay and play session afterschool this week to help fund it. This was a massive success and the children and staff all had a fantastic time. Thank you very much for supporting this.

At present, we are formulating our plans for next year but we are unable to make any firm decisions regarding class teachers next year. When we have confirmed this we will let you know.

In the summer, we will be saying good bye to a long standing member of staff, Mrs Starr, who will be retiring after many years of dedicated service. It has been a pleasure to see Mrs Starr flourish in the last 13 years I have known her. A member of staff like Mrs Starr is invaluable to school; leading with such knowledge and passion in her art teaching across the school and being able to cover teachers when they are not in the class. This allows for consistency for the children and also saves the school a lot of money on supply cover! I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Starr all the best in the future.

Also, next year Mrs Gould will be teaching for 2 days in the Early Years in reception and Mr Finan will be covering Mrs Grainger's maternity within KS2. Congratulations to the Grainger Family who welcomed Henry William into the world on the 16th May. Both Mum and Baby are doing really well.

Wishing you a lovely holiday
Mr Reeve



Diversity Week

During Diversity Week, each class focused on a different inspiring person and learned about their life and achievements. Examples included Katherine Johnson, Mae Jemison, Kevin Sinfield, Leonardo da Vinci, Muhammad Ali, Cathy Freeman and William Wilberforce. The children explored how these individuals showed courage, determination and kindness, and discussed why they are inspiring role models. As part of our spirituality focus, we reflected through "windows, mirrors and doors" — looking out to learn about others, looking inward to reflect on ourselves, and considering how we can make a difference in the world around us. Throughout the week, the pupils enjoyed sharing their ideas and learning from one another. At the end of the week, the children proudly shared what they had learned during a special assembly.

It was a pleasure to join the school assembly on diversity this morning to hear about the work the children have been doing to better understand diversity and why it's so important. I heard presentations from the children about celebrating differences and where people come from, working hard and never giving up, working together and giving people a helping hand, the importance of being able to be your true self and helping create a better world for everyone. I also heard the children talking about the fact that sometimes it can be hard to do the right thing but that staying true to your values is important and over time can make a real difference. I was so impressed by the fantastic messages the children have been unpicking and grateful that our children attend a school where diversity is valued and celebrated in this way. A huge thank you to Miss Davidson for organising this topic work and inviting me along. I will be having a think this afternoon about what I would do to improve the world if I had a magic pencil!

Harriet Gwinn (Parent Governor)



Experience Church

This week, the whole school had the opportunity to explore Ascension, Pentecost, Ordinary Time and Trinity Sunday as part of Experience Church.

By looking at how three pieces of string or rope are stronger than a single one, the children learnt about how Christians believe that God is in three parts: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. While braiding their own bracelet, the children considered how they all have their own, unique strengths and that, by combining their qualities, they can be stronger together.

The children found out about the different seasons and colours of the church year: gold, red, purple and green. Green is used during 'ordinary time' and, for Christians, is a time for learning and growing. Although Christians are born in God's likeness, they don't all have to be the same as one another and the children reflected on the attributes they currently have and what sort of a person they would like to aspire to be in the future by decorating a bookmark, which was linked to the golden rule - treat others as you want to be treated.

During the sessions about Pentecost, the children learnt about how Jesus had said to his disciples that he had a gift for them, which was the ability to be able to speak in different languages so that they were able to spread the word of God to everyone around the world. Using play-doh, everyone made a mini sculpture of someone who helps them - friends, family, teachers or anyone special to them in their life. They also learnt about the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Planting a sunflower seed to take home with them helped them to understand how Christians believe that the Holy Spirit acts as a guide and helps them to grow in their own way.

In their final session, the children learnt about what Ascension means for Christians. They discussed how, according to the Bible, this happened forty days after Jesus' resurrection when he rose up to Heaven and told his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come to them. The children reflected on how we can sometimes see things (like bubbles, rainbows or candlelight) for a short time and then they appear to vanish but that doesn't mean that they weren't there at some point. Thank you to Reverend Karen, Reverend Martin and all of the volunteers who helped to lead each group activity and explain things in an engaging and accessible way for the children.

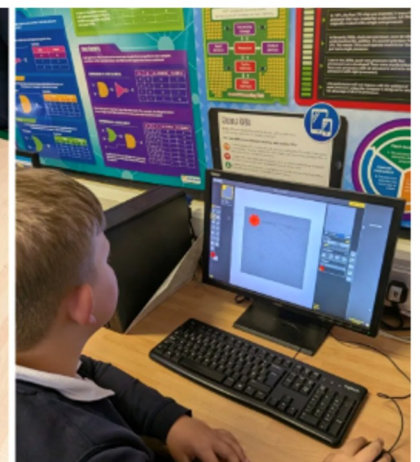


Day in the life of a Secondary student at Wetherby

Year 5 pupils recently participated in an enriching taster day at Wetherby High School, giving them a wonderful opportunity to experience life as high school students.

The children followed a packed secondary school timetable and threw themselves into a variety of engaging lessons. They challenged themselves with problem-solving in Maths, showcased their creativity in English, explored digital skills in Computing, and discovered their rhythm in Music. They also wrapped up the day with some high-energy, collaborative activities in PE.

Our pupils fully embraced the experience, and we were incredibly proud of their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school!



Year 5 Bikeability

Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme. This training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of well-being. After Bikeability, children are better at responding to risk and report increased confidence. As a result, more children cycle to school which in turn improves mental health and wellbeing. This allows children to get more out of the classroom, improving their attention span and engagement. Healthier habits lead to increased attendance and improved academic results.

The children spent a morning in the school playground and then ventured out onto the roads of Tockwith! The children were extremely well behaved and had a great time learning and improving their cycling skills!



Pupil Parliament:

Our wonderful Year 5 Pupil Parliament representatives have been busy researching all the fantastic ways Tockwith promotes mental health and wellbeing. After a brilliant collaboration meeting with our School Council to share their findings, they even pitched their ideas to other schools across the trust! We are incredibly proud of everything we do to support wellbeing at Tockwith. To celebrate our achievements and raise money for a great cause, our representatives are already busy planning a special charity event. Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting details after the half-term break!

School Council

When we brainstormed with School Council back in September, booking the inflatable fun run again was the first thing they asked for! The PFTA kindly agreed to this and so we were able to celebrate the end of SATs week with fun for the whole school. Year 6 of course had earned a double session! It was lovely to see the children laughing and enjoying their time, but equally heartwarming to see the children looking out for each other and helping others if they were struggling. "I love this school, it's the best school". We agree!!



Tockwith Trekkers

Miss Davidson and Miss Penfold have been incredibly lucky with the sunshine every Thursday for our Year 2 Forest School Club! The children have had a wonderful time exploring the great outdoors, diving into nature themed around some of our favourite stories like Elmer, Harry Potter, and This Is Not a Stick. A highlight of the term was definitely our campfire, where we toasted delicious marshmallows.

Throughout it all, the children demonstrated incredible curiosity, creativity, and a brilliant understanding of safety, especially around the fire. A huge thank you to our Year 2s for filling the woods with fun songs and magical wands!



Attendance

As we approach the upcoming school holiday, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support in ensuring our children arrive at school on time and ready to learn every day. High attendance is directly linked to student progress, confidence, and social well-being. Missing even a few days of school creates gaps in a child's learning that can be incredibly difficult to close.

Monitoring Absences Around School Holidays

We have noticed a rising national trend of school absences immediately before and after official school holiday periods. While we understand that peak-season travel costs are high, we have a strict statutory duty to safeguard our pupils and monitor all attendance patterns closely.

To ensure fairness across our school community, we are updating our procedures

- **Welfare Home Visits (From Day 2/3):** To support family well-being and fulfil our local safeguarding requirements, the school will conduct a home welfare visits from **Day 2 or Day 3 of any child's absence**, regardless of the reason provided (unless it is a pre-advised holiday). These visits ensure our pupils are safe and allow us to offer practical support to families dealing with genuine illness and to keep updated with lost learning.

Accuracy of Register Marks: The school holds the ultimate legal responsibility for ensuring the registration codes are accurate. Please note that if a child returns to school and provides information that contradicts the reported illness (e.g., mentioning they have been on holiday), the school is required to update the record. The absence will be changed from an Illness code to an **Unauthorised Absence** code

Our school office staff are bound by these national registration regulations and are required to ask for specific symptom details when you call in a child's absence. We appreciate your cooperation, honesty, and politeness when speaking with our team.

We want every child to have the absolute best chance to succeed, and that starts with being in the classroom. Thank you for working in partnership with us to maintain high standards and keep our school community thriving.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Fencing

We were lucky enough to have Simon Trevithick join us from the Harrogate Fencing Club to teach the children in KS2 the basics of fencing. Fencing promotes individual initiative and discipline as well as respect, sportsmanship and a well-rounded form of mental and physical exercise. The children have had a great time learning the terms and moves unique to fencing. If you would like to join a fencing club, the Harrogate club is open to both adults and children. Please click on the link to be taken to the Harrogate Fencing club website

<https://www.harrogatefencingclub.co.uk/>



Art Club

The fabulous Year 4's have enjoyed a super busy six weeks of all things art, where we explored the artist Picasso and created our very own Picasso-inspired faces. We also enjoyed using charcoal again, building on the skills we'd learnt previously in the year, to compose and draw our brilliant tea pots. Our final piece of art being one of my personal favourites - the 'Family' frame, where we used paint pens to decorate our picture frame before describing our family unit in one sentence. Everyone had great fun drawing their family - we even had chickens! Happy half-term everyone, Mrs Starr



Stay and Play

We were extremely grateful to this week's weather that the 3pm hail came down 24 hours before our Stay & Play fundraiser! We were delighted so many children stayed and played; all our usual playtime areas were open with a few additional embellishments courtesy of Y6. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to immerse themselves in extended play - making potions in the mud kitchen, dressing up, playing dodgeball or digging for fossils. All proceeds raised will help to fund Y6's London trip in July. Thank you to all the staff who gave their time to support it.

