

## Topcliffe C of E Academy

School Lane,  
Topcliffe, Thirsk,  
North Yorkshire  
YO7 3RG  
(01845) 577412



Head teacher: Mrs Abigail Clay BA Hons, P.G.C.E, AST, NPQH

email: [admin@topcliffeacademy.org](mailto:admin@topcliffeacademy.org)  
[www.topcliffeacademy.org](http://www.topcliffeacademy.org)  
Reg charity no: 1053631

10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

*Growing, believing, achieving together*

Dear parents and carers

This fortnight, we have had some fantastic sporting achievements with 10 Key Stage 2 children going through to the next round of the cross country competition, our year 5/6 girls football team going through to the next round after finishing 1st and our year 5/6 boys football team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Huge congratulations to Oscar Knowles who won Hambleton Junior Sportsperson of the Year 2017 at a special awards ceremony on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This is a fantastic achievement!

Important message:

Next week we are starting a new trial of how we come into school. We have always opened the gate at 8.30am and we will continue to do that. The change will be that instead of your child waiting in the playground until 8.45am we will open up school for the children to come straight in. Once your child enters school there will be activities in their classroom to start the day. We hope that this will ease the pressure in the cloakrooms of all the children entering school at the same time. It will also give children more settling in time to prepare themselves for the day ahead. We will then start the school day promptly at 8.45am when the front gate will be locked. Nursery will continue with start times as usual.

Welcome to our new school councillors who are this year working with Mrs Whatley. They have got off to a great start planning for Children in Need next Friday.



### Curriculum updates

As many of you know we are using Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) now in school to promote quick instant recall of times tables facts. The children that are using it regularly really enjoy it and have said that they can feel the difference it is making to their maths. All children in Reception to Year 6 have got an individual log on that is stuck in the front of their link books. We now also have the TTRS app so that you can use it on mobile or tablet devices. Once you have downloaded the app it will ask you to select your school 'Topcliffe CE Academy' and then enter your child's Username and Password taken from their link books. This approach is also being used alongside the Big Maths Beat That challenge that children are taking part in every Friday. We are already seeing a huge improvement in the children's scores on this challenge and the fastest finishers are given the reward of a special Big Maths Beat That seat for their year group in collective worship all week.

After much research and visiting other schools we are taking a different approach to marking. We are involving children much more in the feedback process and so this makes the books look slightly different from what you may have seen in the past. Teachers use highlighters to draw children's attention to work they have successfully completed and work where they want the child to review and improve. Much of the feedback process goes on in the lesson with the children and this approach is proving to be very popular with the children. The feedback they are giving us is really positive and they are becoming much more independent at self correcting and finding ways to improve their work which in turn makes them more successful learners. Maple class will be making a video soon to explain how this system works and we will share that via the website and at parent evenings.

### New Starters 2018

Just a reminder that we are having an open evening event on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm for any parents looking for school places in September 2018. If you know anyone who has a child approaching school age please let them know and encourage them to come along.

### Children in Need – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

As Children in Need day this year falls on the same day as our school photos this year we are asking that children do come to school in school uniform. However school council will be selling homemade biscuits at playtime for 50p each. Please send in any loose change you have – we are trying to cover Pudsey Bear in money!! We are also having a Children In Need Disco on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm as well. Thankyou to FOTS for organising the disco.



## Sports updates

### KS2 Cross Country Results:

Well done to all of our pupils who participated in the KS2 Cross Country Competition held at Thirsk School on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November. The children were absolutely amazing and we had some fantastic results. Congratulations to Maisie Binks, Lexi Ramshay, Holly Binks, Eddie Clay, Oscar Knowles, Amelie Winter, Alice Binks, Charles Peters and Oscar Clay who have successfully qualified for the KS2 Cross Country HDSS Finals at Knayton Hillside Rural Activities Park on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. Good luck to all of you!

### Year 5/6 Football Results:

On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, some of our Year 5/6 pupils participated in a boys and girls football competition at Thirsk School. Both teams performed exceptionally well with the girls team finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place and the boys team finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Congratulations to the girls team who qualify for the Year 5/6 HDSS Girls Football Finals at Northallerton School on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November. Good luck to Amelie Winter, Alice Binks, Maisie Lamb, Emily Harvey, Heidi Knowles, Lydia Broadbent, Laura Wilkinson, Holly Binks, Eva Harris and Madeleine Macaulay.

#### Week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

Children celebrating achievement in GOOD NEWS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

WILLOW	Matilda Catterick Ben Waterworth	Tia Bowman
ASH	Alfie Young Florence Bumby	Finlay Aitken
SILVER BIRCH	Sebastian Bissett Lewis Harvey	Jake Pearson
ROWAN	Chelsea Townend Madeleine Macaulay	Bella Sawiros
MAPLE	Amelie Winter	Jacob Heatlie

WELL DONE!

#### Week ending 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Children celebrating achievement in GOOD NEWS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

WILLOW	Josh Hainsworth Florence Balderston	Grace Botma
ASH	William Macaulay	Katherine Alston
SILVER BIRCH	Charlie Stirk Chloe Mitchard-Graham	Charlie Lamb
ROWAN	Eva Harris Freya Kirby-Jemison	Felicity Alston
MAPLE	Archie Aubin Maisie Lamb	Charles Peters

WELL DONE!

### Praying together

Come join us as we pray for our school. If interested contact Pamela McMahon on 07926 427362



### Dates for your Diary (These can also be found down the left-hand side of our website)

Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> November	-	KS2 Cross Country HDSS Finals at Knayton Rural Park, 1pm.
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Open Afternoon for Admissions 2018 at 4pm.
Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Year 5/6 Girls Football HDSS Finals at Northallerton School, 10am.
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November	-	School pupil photographs.
		<b>Silver Birch sharing in Collective Worship – moved to 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>
		School disco, 6 - 7.30pm.
Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Ash Class sharing in Collective Worship at 8.55am.
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Gifted and Talented Sports Academy at Topcliffe.
Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> December	-	Willow Class sharing in Collective Worship.
		School Christmas fair.
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Parent Consultation Evening, 1.30 – 5.30pm.
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Parent Consultation Evening, 3.30 – 7.30pm.
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Flu vaccinations for YR - Y4 pupils.
		Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Silver Birch Class sharing Collective Worship
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December	-	EYFS & KS1 Nativity, 1.30pm.
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December	-	EYFS & KS1 Nativity, 6pm.
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Carol Service at St Columba's Church, 2pm.
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	-	Movie Club, 3.15 – 5pm.
Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	-	School closes at 2pm for Christmas break.
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Staff Training Day.
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January	-	School re-opens for start of Spring Term.
Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January	-	KS2 Young Voices Concert at Sheffield Arena.
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	-	Key Steps Gymnastics competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Gifted & Talented Sports Academy at Carlton Miniott School.
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February	-	KS2 Dodgeball competition.
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> February	-	School closes for half term.
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February	-	School re-opens for 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Spring term.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Abigail Clay  
Headteacher