

Topcliffe C of E Academy

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22nd September 2017



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Growing, believing, achieving together

Dear parents and carers,

It is so nice to see everyone really back into the swing of things now we have been back for three weeks. The learning I have seen around school is excellent with Willow and Ash classes flying through their phonics using our new Read Write Inc scheme, plus Maple and Rowan classes enjoying their topic on the Titanic. Thankyou for those two classes for presenting school with their research so far in the last two Friday Good News collective worships. Clubs have got off to a good start and the uptake for all clubs has been fantastic. Thankyou to all staff for giving their time to run these clubs. Mrs Whatley is busy setting up the school council for this year and we will hear more about that over the coming week from class teachers.

Parents Evenings

As we are now part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) we have some agreed principles across the Trust of school life. One area of shared practice is around assessment and reporting to parents. As a result, this year we will hold three parents evenings over the year and the meeting times will be extended from 10 minutes per child to 15 minutes. You will receive a report about your child's progress ahead of the parents evening appointment. The first set of parents evenings will be on the 5th and 6th December. For New Starter children we will hold earlier appointments to discuss how they are settling and Miss Somerville will let you know these dates on the Willow class newsletter. In the meantime, you are always welcome to pop in and speak to your child's class teacher or arrange a formal appointment at any time should you have any questions or want to see your child's books before that December date.

Whole School trip to the Sikh Gudwara and Leeds Art Gallery

Following from our successful visit last October to a mosque in Middlesborough, we are continuing to teach children about world religions and show them other places of worship. As a team of staff, we are passionate about children seeing for themselves what the similarities and differences are between religions. As we are going further a field this time we have tied the trip in with a visit to Leeds Art Gallery where children will be able to enjoy and appreciate a huge range of art collections. This links to our Christian value of 'Creativity' that we are basing our collective worship on this term. Miss Somerville and myself have just visited the Gudwara and met Gurmukh Singh Deagon and think it is going to be an extremely educational trip.

Year 6 Big Maths

Each Friday the children will have a BMBT activity (Big Maths Beat That) where the children are in competition with themselves to improve their mental recall skills through times tables and number bonds. As it is the beginning of the year, we do envisage the children gaining lower scores than what is expected by the end of the year. They will be sent home as home activities for you to work on with your child. Each week we will hopefully see an increase in their scores. If you have any questions with regards to Big Maths, Mrs Kaufman has 6 years experience with this programme and will be happy to discuss this with you.

ParentPay

As from now, all trips will be payable using ParentPay. KS2 pupils will be able to pay for dinners and trips on ParentPay and Nursery will be able to pay for session fees, dinners and trips using ParentPay. This will enable us to streamline our finance systems and will help us to become a cashless school. Information on how to set up your child's ParentPay account is in their book bag today. If you have any problems with the process, please let Mrs Hartley know.

Data Collection Sheets

In your child's book bag today, you will also find a Data Collection Sheet. This shows current information that we hold on your child. It is imperative that this information is kept up to date. Please check through the information and update anything that requires updating. Please complete any blank sections and the consent at the bottom. Sign, date and return to the school office as soon as possible. Many thanks!

MarvellousMe

Pupils in school started using the MarvellousMe app last year and this has proved to be an excellent communication tool between staff and parents. Staff put on comments and photos of the class and of your children and you can see what they have been up to. If you have not yet registered for the MarvellousMe app, you will find details on how to do this in your child's book bag today.



Holidays

Could I please take this opportunity to remind you all about the tight guidelines we are asked to follow regarding holiday. If you request holiday during term time it will not be granted unless it meets the 'exceptional circumstance guidelines'. Most of you will have heard of the increasing pressure for schools to fine for time taken for holidays during term time. We urge you to follow these guidelines as we believe it is really important that your child attends school every day and that every day is a vital part of their learning journey through school. We appreciate your support with this.

KS1 Fun Run

Our Year 1 & 2 pupils had a very enjoyable time at their Fun Run at Sowerby/All Saints School yesterday, 21st September. All of our children did incredibly well but congratulations to Ollie Campbell, Alfie Young, Alfie Viney- Everitt and Freddie Fyfe for getting gold medals; Grace Botma, Harrison Baines and Emilia Brierley for getting silver medals; Zuzanna Krol, Sebastian Knowles and Harriet Binks for getting bronze medals and a special well done to Phoebe Alderson who got a medal for being an all round super star. We are really proud of our first sporting success this year.



Week ending 15th September 2017

Children celebrating achievement in GOOD NEWS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

WILLOW	Oliver Robertson JJ Waterworth	Ollie Campbell
ASH	Kayla Reeder Joshua Rreder	Emilia Brierley
SILVER BIRCH	Lexi Ramshay Isabel Broadbent	Richie Balderston
ROWAN	Georgia Wilson Oscar Knowles	Joe France
MAPLE	Emily Harvey Archie Aubin	Maisie Lamb

WELL DONE!

Week ending 22nd September 2017

Children celebrating achievement in GOOD NEWS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

WILLOW	Rosie Abbott Ava Smith	Joel McMahon
ASH	Harriet Binks Lily Burke	James Haley
SILVER BIRCH	Danny Campbell Max Binks	Billy Peacock
ROWAN	Freya Kirby-Jemison Madeleine Macaulay	William Metcalfe
MAPLE	Alice Binks Andrew Handshaw-Armitage	Jacob Heatlie

WELL DONE!

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

Monday, 25 th September	-	Willow and Ash Class visit to St Columba's Church, Topcliffe.
Wednesday, 27 th September	-	FOTS AGM at School at 7.30pm. New members welcome.
Friday, 29 th September	-	Ash Class sharing in Collective Worship at 8.55am.
Monday, 2 nd October	-	Year 3/4 Change4Life Festival at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 6 th October	-	Willow Class sharing in Collective Worship at 8.55am.
Monday, 9 th October	-	Glynn Fidgeon in school for Judo taster sessions.
Tuesday, 10 th October	-	Year 5/6 Tag Rugby competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 13 th October	-	Music Assembly at 8.55am.
Tuesday, 17 th October	-	Year 1-6 visit to Leeds Art Gallery and Gurdwara Temple, Leeds.
Wednesday, 18 th October	-	Year 6 Bikeability at Alanbrooke
Thursday, 19 th October	-	Year 6 Bikeability at Alanbrooke
Friday, 20 th October	-	Harvest Service at St Columba's Church at 2pm. School closes for half term at 3.15pm.
Monday, 30 th October	-	School opens for 2 nd half of Autumn Term.
Wednesday, 1 st November	-	KS2 Cross Country competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Monday, 6 th November	-	Year 5/6 Football Competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Thursday, 9 th November	-	Pupil individual school photographs

Yours sincerely

Mrs Abigail Clay
Headteacher