

Friday 11th October 2019 - Newsletter 17 (Bumper fortnight double issue!)

A message from Miss Towler...

Dear parents and carers,

It has been another wonderful week in school. A special highlight was definitely the Harvest Festival which was a pleasure to attend. I really enjoyed listening to the children sing Harvest songs and was very proud of the children representing Tadcaster Primary Academy so brilliantly.

Another highlight for me has been watching the Early Years children settle so well into their team. It was lovely to see the Reception children in the outdoor learning environment on Tuesday as part of their 'Pond and Beyond' sessions. Check out Twitter for more updates on their fun in the wilderness!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Caroline Towler, Headteacher



What a wonderful Harvest Festival!

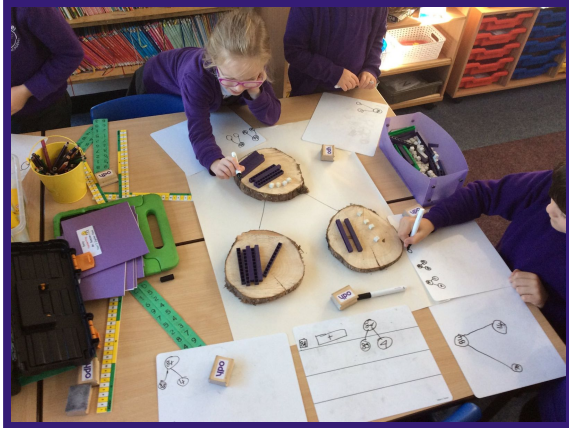


Yesterday, years 1- 6 walked down to St Mary's Church to celebrate Harvest Festival. We had a fantastic afternoon singing and

sharing poems and stories all about the importance of generosity and giving to others who are less fortunate. Many thanks to those families who were able to come along but also for all those that donated food items to the local foodbank. We have a bumper collection of boxes of food that are winging their way to the foodbank next week. Thanks to Rev Simon for his thoughtful message and prayers and for welcoming us into church.

Shoebox appeal

Reminder: If you would like your child to take part in the shoebox appeal, please return the reply slip from the recent letter alongside a £1 coin by next Wednesday. Once you receive the box, you can then fill with items for children less fortunate. Please contact the school office if you have any queries regarding this.

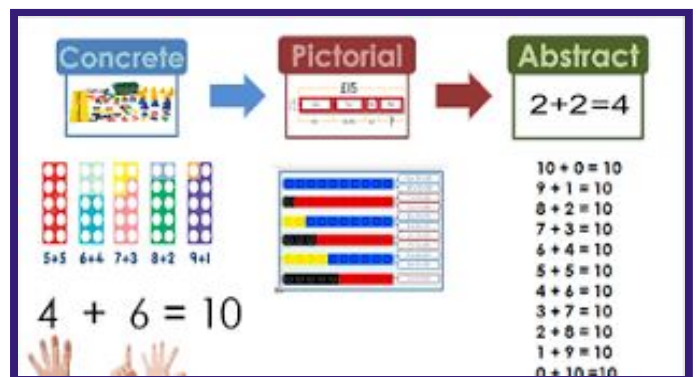


Teaching for Mastery in maths

Over the last year the staff at Tadcaster Primary Academy have been working hard to develop an approach to maths which allows children to explore number and other aspects of mathematics by looking beyond calculation strategies. This is called '**teaching for mastery**' and this describes the elements of classroom practice and school organisation that combine to give pupils the best chances of mastering maths. Achieving **mastery** means acquiring a solid enough understanding of the maths that's been

taught to enable pupils to move on to more advanced material. Teaching for mastery approaches enable all pupils to succeed in maths.

At Tadcaster Primary we use concrete, pictorial, abstract (CPA) strategies to help children understand maths. This means that initially children might learn the value of number using counters, dienes or even sticks to represent different numbers. This then moves onto using pictures and then the abstract which could be addition sums for example. Alongside this, our children are encouraged to solve problems and through a reasoning approach explain how they know the answer to a problem.



Since the summer term Mr Parkinson, our maths lead, has been looking at maths teaching within a teacher research group (TRG). This allows teachers to watch each other teach maths in different schools and take on new ideas and approaches. This great practice is then shared with the rest of our staff team through staff meetings.

As part of our academy trust's professional development, a group of Headteachers, including Miss Towler, have been invited to see this approach in further detail by visiting Shanghai, China. Shanghai is very much at the forefront of the mastery approach. From Thursday 17th October to Saturday 26th October, Miss Towler will be in Shanghai visiting schools and looking at the great maths practice going on there. The cost of the trip will be funded by grants and the academy trust, therefore not affecting our school budget. During this time if you should have any queries please consult with Mrs Bartlett, who is a member of the senior leadership team. School will also be supported by Mr Justin Reeve (Headteacher at Tockwith Primary, which is also a member of Ebor Academy Trust).

Dates for the next few weeks

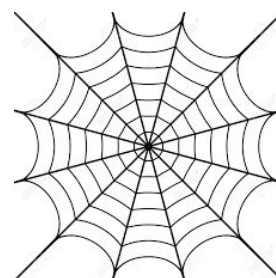
Date	Event
Tuesday 15th October	Years 4 and 5 'Dance it Up North' at the York Theatre Royal - 2.00pm to 10.00pm.
Monday 21st October	Photo orders to be returned by Monday 21st October
Tuesday 22nd October	Parent's Evening Reception to Y6 - see letter
Thursday 24th October	Parent's Evening Y1 to Y6 - see letter
	Kidditch Quidditch session for Y1 -Y6. Games activities inspired by Harry Potter's favourite sport, Quidditch. All children must bring in their PE kit and trainers for their session.
Friday 25th October	Star assembly - Y1-Y6 parents welcome from 2.50pm
	Break up for half term - return on Monday 4th November
Tuesday 5th November	Bonfire lunch - special menu to celebrate Bonfire Night
	Non-uniform day - bring a Tombola prize for the Christmas fair (bottles, chocolate, games etc)
Thursday 7th November	School Halloween disco - more details to follow from TPAC
Thursday 14th November	Children in Need day - non-uniform day, bring a donation to go to this worthy cause



Halloween dinner

Next Friday (25th October) we will be having a special Halloween lunch. Please see below for the meal choice for that day. Please note that this will be instead of the menu which was originally published.

Spider's pepperoni pizza
Witch's finger chips
Ghoulish vegetable sticks
Halloween cupcake



We have now reached 154 twitter followers!!! Let's get our followers to 200!

@TadPrimaryAcad 

Message from Reverend Simon, St Mary's Church Tadcaster

It was such a delight to have Tadcaster Primary Academy's Harvest Celebration in St. Mary's yesterday. The children gave us plenty to smile about and their enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment (especially in the wonderful singing) made for a very special occasion. Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune also gave us plenty to think about and challenged the way that we behave towards others. The respect, tolerance, kindness, friendship, confidence and creativity which are valued by school - and church - were plain to see.

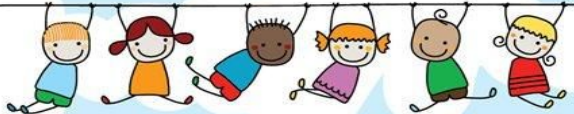
I am very grateful to Miss Towler for allowing me to pop something into the school newsletter. You and your children are always very welcome at everything that we do at St. Mary's and we will keep you updated with things that we plan with families in mind. (And, whilst I apologise for using the word, we are starting to plan for Christmas...)

In a normal month, we have All Age Worship on the 1st Sunday at 10.30am. On the 4th Sunday, children have their own group called 'Sunday Explorers' which takes place during the 10.30 service. Please join us at any time.

If you have pre-school children, we run a group for pre-schoolers and their parents/carers on a Monday afternoon during term time in the Boys' Sunday School, opposite church. It's a very friendly group so come and join us.

Reverend Simon Biddlestone

revsimonbiddlestone@hotmail.com
stmarystadcaster@googlemail.com



Praise & Play

Mondays from 1.15 - 3.00
Boys' Sunday School, Tadcaster
(off Kirkgate, opposite St. Mary's Church)

Praise & Play is a free, fun-filled group for pre-school children and their parents / carers. We chat, laugh, make new friends and have fun while we play, have drinks and snacks, sing songs and share a Bible story together.

For more information contact Reverend Simon Biddlestone:
revsimonbiddlestone@hotmail.com
(01937) 558172

Wrap up warm!

As the weather has now dropped colder and there is certainly lots more rainier days, can we remind families to ensure that children have warm, waterproof coats with them. This is particularly important on the days when the children have swimming.



Attendance at Tadcaster Primary Academy

Our school attendance target is 97%. Please see last week's attendance figures:

Reception: 93%

Jupiter: 90%

Saturn: 91%

Neptune: 96% *Top team attendance!*

