

Topcliffe C of E Academy

School Lane,
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(01845) 577412

TOPCLIFFE



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Growing, believing, achieving together

03.09.19

Dear Parents/Carers

A huge welcome to the start of the Autumn term at Topcliffe CofE Academy.

It is so nice to see everyone returning fit and well or joining us for the first time with great big smiles on their faces. Our 17 new Reception starters in Willow class have settled in well and looking as if they have always been here. We also have lots of other new starters in Nursery and the main school so a big welcome to our new families.

My role this term

Over this term I am currently working with another academy within our Multi Academy Trust two days a week and those days are mainly going to be Monday and Tuesday which will mean that if you want to catch up with me, I will be around at the end of the week. If you have something you need to discuss more urgently and can not wait for me to be in then either make an appointment to see me or speak to Mrs Hartley in the front office and she may be able to help you. Alternatively ask to speak to Mrs Kaufman who is acting assistant headteacher for this term. My work at Aspina Academy is only for this term and they have now recruited someone to take over after Christmas.

The Tree House

Many thanks to everyone who has already signed up for spaces at The Tree House, our after and before school club. It is good to see it being used well. This year Mrs Cari Parker will lead The Tree House. Places are still available and can be booked through Mrs Hartley in the school office. Although Mrs Parker can tell you if there is availability she can not take bookings directly.

Newsletters

This newsletter contains lots of information about up and coming dates, which we will try to give you as much in advance as possible. Please see the end of the letter. As part of these dates, you will see the date when your child's class will be sharing some of their learning in our Friday morning sharing assembly. Each class will do one of these per half-term and then, depending on the length of the half-term, we may also do a music assembly or a Big Sing where everyone is welcome to come and join in. Our whole school newsletter comes out every 2-3 weeks when I think there are some important updates or celebrations.

A reminder of who all the staff this year

School office - Mrs Hartley
Seedlings Nursery class – Mrs Stones, Mrs Watson and Mrs Cowton
Willow class – Mrs Kaufman
Ash class – Mrs Massey
Silver Birch class – Mr Cryer
Maple class – Miss Howard

All classes are supported by our fantastic teaching assistants: Mr Eastham, Mrs Menza, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Trueman and Mrs Weightman. Mrs Clay and Mrs Watkinson are our PE and music specialists who help make up Team Topcliffe. We are also supported by many parent and non-parent helpers whom we are incredibly grateful to. If you think you might have time to come in and help to hear readers or support with the children's learning then please let us know.



Development

In July our year 6's completed their SATs tests and we are pleased to say that our results in writing were phenomenal with 100% of children meeting the Age Related Expectation and 53% reaching Greater Depth. Our maths results were also strong with 87% at Age Related Expectation and our reading came out as 73% at Age Related Expectation. With those results and taking into account many other aspects of school monitoring our areas of focus for this year are below:

1. Reading – there has been a big shift in government expectation for reading based on research that children are not reading as much as they used to. As a hugely motivated reading school we will continue to work on this and will be really looking for your support with this area of school improvement. More to follow on our Reading Newsletter!
2. Improving children's long term working memory – we are focusing on this as a Multi Academy Trust and all staff will be receiving high quality training for this and we are really excited about this new learning.
3. Continuing with our work from last year on improving our curriculum base on the Real Writing project – you will hear more about the new way we are delivering our curriculum on newsletters and through your children.
4. Preparing for our next SIAMS (church) inspection.

School uniform

Please see attached the uniform guidance for our academy. Uniform and children looking smart for school is really important and so we do stick to this guidance as much as possible. This is the first year that we are asking for Nursery children to also be in a modified version of our uniform.

Alongside this guidance we also strongly request that your child uses a Topcliffe CofE Academy book bag until the end of year 4. The reasons for this is that Reception to Year 4 cloakrooms can not take big rucksacks and also we do not expect children to bring anything into school that should require more than a book bag and a drawstring PE bag. Once they move into Year 5 and 6 they do have more to carry and sometimes struggle to fit it all into book bags, however many do manage to keep the book bags going until the end of Year 6.

FOTS

Our PTA known as FOTS (Friends of Topcliffe School) are looking for new recruits! Whether you want to be part of the committee led by Jenny Bumby or if you feel you could help out with events occasionally, please let us know. Jenny's contact number is 07840 468672. They also have a facebook page which is 'Friends of Topcliffe School'. The Date of the first meeting this term is Friday, 27th September at 3.15pm and everyone is welcome. We have always relied on this source of income to support the 'little extras' in school but more and more we are now relying on it for essential resources so any help and support is really appreciated.

Sickness/absence guidance

If your child is absent due to illness, please contact the academy office on 01845 577412 before 9.15am to notify us. Please note that if your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, they must be 48hrs clear from last bout before they are able to return to school. If your child requires time off from school for a medical appointment, a copy of an appointment card must be handed to the office. Please visit our website, www.topcliffeacademy.org for a full copy of our Attendance policy which you will find in the School Information/Policies section.

Holiday authorisation

For those of you who are thinking of booking holidays this year, just a reminder that I can not authorise any holidays during school term time, unless extenuating circumstances which are clearly outline in the North Yorkshire County Council guidance on leave of absence. I would also encourage you to consider any requests to take children out during term time carefully as it does effect their learning. The children work very hard all year, including the run up to Christmas, Easter and Summer. Any lesson or lessons missed do have to be then caught up and so will require them to access intervention groups and extra work to ensure they do not fall behind their peers. Many thanks for your continued understanding with this matter.

Lunches/water bottles

We really encourage children to bring in water bottles to school and they can fill them up here during the day. Water is the only drink they are able to bring in as we are trying to be a 'healthy school'. We are also keeping an eye on packed lunches to ensure children are coming with a balanced meal. We are teaching children what this is in school and value your support with this.

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Nursery

A huge thankyou to Mrs Cowton and Mr Tindall who have painted the side of Nursery to make it more attractive. We are hoping to extend this around the Nursery soon. We are also pleased to announce that the Nursery cloakroom will be refurbished during October half-term and should give the entrance a fresh feel. We have also had parents help out with Nursery improvements over the last year which have been fantastic and really given the facilities a boost so thankyou to those parents too.

We still have some spaces available in our Nursery so if you know anyone with Nursery age children (2-4 years old) please let them know about us.

Governors

At the end of last term Mrs Knowles, our Chair of Governors, stepped down after being a governor at Topcliffe for 4 years. Once again, I would like to thank her for her years supporting the academy through its transition into an academy and her hard work and dedication throughout her time with us. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Richard Tindall as our Chair of Governors. Mr Tindall was elected as a parent governor last academic year and is ready to take on the role of Chair. If you need to contact Mr Tindall please use this email address:

r.tindall@topcliffeacademy.org.

Our governing body now consists of: Mr Tindall (Chair), Mr Park (Vice-chair), Mrs Kaufman (Staff), Reverend Susanne (Ex-officio), Mr Bissett (Associate), Mrs Southwell (Co-opted), Mr Fyfe (Associate), Mrs Binks (Associate).

If you are new to our academy or not sure about anything and you want more information, then please either pop in to the school office or drop us an e-mail/phone call and we will help you as quickly as we can. We would much rather you ask than be worrying about anything. Your views are really important to us and although we regularly survey parents we also encourage you to feedback at any time in order for everyone to feel happy and supported.

Dates for your Diary (These can also be found down on our website)

September

Friday, 6th – Maple Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Friday, 13th – Silver Birch Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Tuesday, 17th – Year 4/5 Dodgeball Competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 20th – Ash Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Tuesday, 24th – KS1 Fun Run at All Saints/Sowerby School.
Friday, 27th – Willow Class sharing in Collective Worship

October

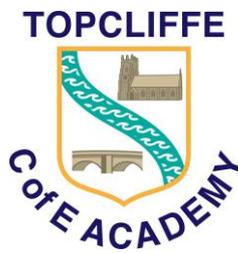
Wednesday, 2nd – Parent Conversation Meetings, 3.30 – 6pm.
Thursday, 3rd – Willow & Ash Class visit to St Columba's Church.
Thursday, 3rd – Year 5/6 Football Competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Thursday, 3rd – Parent Conversation Meetings, 1.15 – 5pm
Friday, 4th – Maple Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Tuesday, 8th – KS2 Cross Country Competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 11th – Harvest Service at St Columba's Church, 2pm.
Tuesday, 15th – Year 5/6 Girls Football Competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 18th – Silver Birch Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Friday, 25th – 'Big Sing' in Collective Worship.
Friday, 25th – School closes for half term, 3.15pm.

November

Monday, 4th – School re-opens for 2nd half of Autumn Term.

Future Dates

Tuesday, 10th December – Year Reception, 1 & 2 Nativity Performance at 2pm & 6pm.
Wednesday, 18th December – Carol Service at St Columba's Church, 2pm.
Tuesday, 14th January – KS2 Young Voices 2020 at FlyDSA Arena, Sheffield.
W/C Monday, 11th May – KS2 SATS Week.
W/C Monday, 18th May – Year 5/6 Residential Visit to East Barnby.
Friday, 19th June – Sports Day at 1.30pm.
Friday, 17th July – End of Year Celebration & Leavers Service at St Columba's Church, 10am.



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