

Topcliffe C of E Academy

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

TOPCLIFFE



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

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Reg charity no: 1053631

Growing, believing, achieving together

25.10.19

Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum

What an exciting end to the half term! All classes from Willow to Maple have had a landing day for their topic this half-term. From making castles with the younger children to dissecting Viking and Roman poo in the older classes, they have all shared truly memorable learning experiences and had a lot of fun along the way. Meanwhile Seedlings have been learning about Diwali and have been making Diyas lights and practising Rangoli patterns.



Following on from the Parent Surveys that were completed at the recent Parent Conversation meetings, please see the outcomes below:

All our new Reception year group parents were surveyed and we had a 100% response rate. All parents agreed with these statements about their child's start at Topcliffe CofE Academy.

Question	Summary of responses
1. My child is happy at this school.	100% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed with all these statements.
2. My child feels safe at this school.	
3. My school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	
7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	
8. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	
9. The school has high expectation for my child.	
10. My child does well at this school.	
11. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	
12. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	
13. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	
14. The school supports my child's wider personal development.	
15. I would recommend this school to another parent.	

The rest of school were surveyed and from this we had an 85% response rate. Please see below the responses that were given. Some of the questions had a 'don't know' response which I will address.



Question	Summary of responses
1. My child is happy at this school.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
2. My child feels safe at this school.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
3. My school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	98% agreed or strongly agreed *
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	98% agreed or strongly agreed
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	98% agreed or strongly agreed
7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	Of these responses 1 person felt that their child's needs were not being met.**
8. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	
9. The school has high expectation for my child.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
10. My child does well at this school.	98% agreed or strongly agreed
11. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
12. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
13. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	98% agreed or strongly agreed
14. The school supports my child's wider personal development.	100% agreed or strongly agreed
15. I would recommend this school to another parent.	100% agreed or strongly agreed

*The 1 response that did not agree had ticked the box 'strongly disagree' and this could possibly be as a result of misreading the question. However if it was a genuine tick I would urge that parent to make an appointment to come and speak to me as this is something we take very seriously and would welcome feedback.

**Sometimes despite the strategies being put in place by a mainstream school such as Topcliffe CofE Academy it is not always sufficient to meet the needs of a child with complex SEND.

In summary we are really pleased with your responses and think it shows a really good level of understanding that we are always available to talk to you as a school and we might not always get everything right but we take feedback and parent communication very seriously and feel that this is reflected in your responses.

If you did put 'disagree' to any of the questions and have not spoken to me I would ask that you please do get in touch and share your views with me. If I don't know then it is very difficult to help.

Recently I have spoken to many parents about how we plan for trips, events and specifically sporting events over the year. Some of the current challenges that the school is facing is the huge decrease in budget from the central government that has affected our school more and more each year. This means that when we need to update resources, such as reading books or technology, we rely heavily on your support through FOTS fundraisers and initiatives. Currently we are updating our reading scheme books (including chapter books) in school and FOTS have given us a large donation to support this. Many thanks also to the parents that have donated money specifically for books which we have already started to use to update our reading schemes and chapter books for free readers.

Alongside this lack of funding we are faced with increasing costs for coach hire and this is having an effect on us being able to book trips and visitors. We really need, and value, the parental contributions you send in for these events as without that we could not go ahead with them. Please know, that when we plan and book these trips or events, that we think very carefully about their educational value and how they will enhance the learning journey of your child.

KS2 Cross Country



Well done to all of our KS2 pupils who competed in the Cross Country competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College on Tuesday, 8th October. You all did remarkably well.

On Thursday, 17th October, the second round of the KS2 Cross Country was held at Thirsk School. We are proud to say that 8 children qualified to run (Josh Bellwood, Ralph Chapman, Alfie Young, Lewis Murray, Amelia Brierley, Maisie Binks, Lottie Day and Lexi Ramshay). After a fierce round, where the children showed amazing strength and stamina. We are delighted to announce that Emilia Brierley, Maisie Binks, Lottie Day and Lexi Ramshay have now qualified to run at the North Yorkshire Games County Finals at Dalby Forest on Tuesday, 5th November

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2019. The team spirit was wonderful and it was an enjoyable afternoon. We would like to thank the parents for all their help and support.



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Year 5/6 Football

We started off the month with the mixed year 5/6 football, where the children had an excellent opportunity to play against some very competitive schools at Thirsk. Although we did not receive a medal, it was a wonderful opportunity for players to practise and develop their skills at a high level.

On Tuesday 14th October, the girls went to Thirsk to compete against six other local teams in the Year 5/6 all girls football tournament. Showing amazing skills and team work, they successfully secured first place and went on to compete in the HDSS Year5/6 Football Finals on Wednesday. They have still not conceded a goal or lost a match. They will now complete in the North Yorkshire Games County Finals in York in January. Good luck team! What a fantastic result.



Topcliffe's Service Children Yoga Session



On Monday, 14th November, Mrs Lucy Day, professional yoga instructor came in to work with our service children. The emphasis was to introduce the children to basic yoga positions and breathing exercise, with the focus on creating mindfulness and calmness.

The children loved learning about the origin of yoga in India and learning the basic poses as you can see by our pictures. What a wonderful afternoon!



Please could I ask that everyone is vigilant of their children whilst waiting by the gate at the end of the day. Increasingly children are playing around the staff parking area and, as well as this being potentially dangerous, there has been damage to one of the staff cars.



PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Thank you for our friendship, our compassion, our respect and our strength.
Amen

By Florence Bumby, Harriet Binks and Phoebe Alderson

Message from the kitchen

'Bonfire' special on Tuesday, 5th November 2109:
Sausages in a bun (proper sausages) and wedges. Sticky toffee pudding.

Jacket potato and 'Grab Plate' option is available.





What's Coming Up at The Tree House?

- Monday, 4th November 2019 – **STARGAZING** (bring a sleeping bag)
Monday, 11th November 2019 – **ORIGAMI**
Monday, 18th November 2019 – **GAMES NIGHT**
Tuesday, 19th November 2019 – **TRY A WORLD RECORD ON GUINNESS WORLD RECORD DAY**
Monday, 25th November 2019 – **BUILD AN IGLOO** (milk bottles required)
Thursday, 28th November 2019 – **FRENCH TOAST DAY**
£8.50 per child
3.15 – 5.30pm
Light Tea included

If you would like to book your child on any of the sessions, please contact Mrs Hartley in the office.

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

October

- Friday, 25th – 'Big Sing' in Collective Worship.
Friday, 25th – Academy closes for half term, 3.15pm.

November

- Saturday, 2nd – FOTS Nearly New Sale at Topcliffe Village Hall, 10am - 12.30pm.
Monday, 4th – School re-opens for 2nd half of Autumn Term.
Friday, 8th – Ash Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Monday, 11th – Emily Jakeman from Footloose in for workshops.
Monday, 11th – Richard Wilton from Music in Schools to meet with parents, 3.15pm.
Thursday, 14th – Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 15th – Willow Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Friday, 15th – FOTS meeting, venue TBC.
Thursday, 21st – Individual Pupil Photographs.
Friday, 22nd – Maple Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Friday 22nd – Willow & Ash Class visit to Ritz Cinema, Thirsk.
Friday, 22nd – Christmas Fair, 2pm.
Monday, 25th – Maple Class visit to Crucial Crew 2019 at Carlton Lodge Outdoor Activity Centre.
Friday, 29th – Silver Birch Class sharing in Collective Worship.

December

- Thursday, 5th – Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics competition at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.
Friday, 6th – Ash Class sharing in Collective Worship.
Friday, 6th – School Disco, 6 - 7.30pm.
Tuesday, 10th – Year Reception up to and including Year 6 Flu Vaccinations.
Tuesday, 10th – Year Reception, 1 & 2 Nativity Performance at 2pm & 6pm.
Friday, 13th – Seedlings Class Nativity performance at 2.30pm.
Wednesday, 18th December – Carol Service at St Columba's Church, 2pm.
Thursday, 19th – Christmas Lunch.
Thursday, 19th – Seedlings Class Christmas Party, 2 - 3pm.
Friday, 20th – Cinderella Pantomime visits to school.
Friday, 20th – Academy closes for Christmas at 2pm.

January 2020

- Monday, 6th – Staff Training Day
Tuesday, 7th – Academy re-opens for Spring Term
Tuesday, 14th January – KS2 Young Voices 2020 at FlyDSA Arena, Sheffield.

Have a fantastic half-term and stay safe around fireworks and bonfires.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Abigail Clay
Headteacher

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