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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation
Executive Headteacher - Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Newsletter 8 - January 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a new school year. The term is now well underway and the children have settled back in well. It is lovely to see how quickly they got back into their routines for school and got on with the work in class.

Celebrations in School.

There have been lots of excellent things happening in our schools. Please do check our website to keep up to date. <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/>

Please do also remember to check your dojo (Years 1-6) and Tapestry (Reception) to see each Friday what your child's year have been learning and keep up to date with things that are happening.

Year 1 have been learning more about the weather with Mr Bell, who is a meteorologist and weather forecaster.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-1/visit-from-mr-bell-the-weatherman-in-year-1-spring-1/>

Year 3 had an enrichment day to enhance their learning about life in the stone Age

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-3/spring-term-year-3-stone-age-visitor-2/>

Children in Years 3-6 have shared what they were learning about in Geography

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/geography-autumn-term-2022%ef%bf%bc/>

Children in Years 3-6 have also shared what they have been learning about in History

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/history-autumn-term-2022/>

These are just a few of the things we share on our website, so please do check it for more updates!

Babies!

Our Federation babies have been arriving!

Mrs Rathi is pleased to share the safe arrival of baby Freddie, just before Christmas and Miss Briggs is pleased to share news of the safe arrival of baby Maxwell Maclean in the New Year! Our congratulations to them as they start their next chapter as new mothers and their family journey together.

MSAs

A reminder that we have some MSA vacancies and to contact the office for further details. The hours are 12-1.15 daily. You need to be able to provide two references and a full enhanced DBS check will be undertaken also. Please do pass the details on to anyone you think may be interested.

Morning drop offs, afternoon pick ups and parking

The majority of our parents and carers drive and park considerately when dropping off or collecting from school. We thank them for being thoughtful about the safety of others and not thinking of themselves. However, we STILL have issues with a small number of inconsiderate and thoughtless drivers.

Please DO NOT stop and drop off or park on the zig zags. We have said this so many times, yet still we are having to mention it to drivers at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please DO NOT park in the bus parking outside Juniors on a Monday afternoon as we need to ensure the children returning from swimming can get dropped off safely and without hindering the road users. This week, when they returned at 2.30, the bus could not get into the parking space as already parents and carers had parked in there! Please do not park in this before 2.50PM on a Monday.

Please also take care when opening car doors onto the pavement as we had someone who was hit by an opening car door today.

The other thing we ask, and should not have to, is that you model the behaviour you would like to see from others, and acceptable behaviour in front of the children. Some parents/carers have pointed out to others they have parked or dropped off inconsiderately and have been met with, not to put too finer point on it, a mouthful of abuse and some very unacceptable hand gestures. Please conduct yourself appropriately with others, especially in front of children. Be kind to each other.

If you have any concerns about driving or parking, please report them to Breckland Council

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/parking/civil-parking-enforcement-and-legal-orders>

Teacher Strike Action

You may have heard on the news that one of the teaching unions has held a ballot which is proposing strikes by their members this year.

The reasons behind this are complex, and the media stance is certainly very 'anti-teacher' but please let me reassure you that our teachers do very much care about the children in their classes and beyond, and if they elect to take part in this it is in no way a reflection of their commitment to your children. We are very fortunate to have a staff of teachers and non teaching staff who care very much about the children and who work tirelessly for them, and not as the media implies from 9-3. We have teachers here from 7am, and some still here when the caretakers are ready to lock up. They come in during the holidays to make sure the classes are ready for the children, and may have work they complete in the evenings and weekends.

The planned dates for the national strikes are:

1st February

1st March

15th and 16th March

I have asked each teacher if they feel able to tell me if they are being involved in the strikes or not, and once I have this information, which they are not obliged to share, I will let you know if and how our schools will be affected. Until I have the information I cannot let you know any more, so ask for your patience and understanding as we support their right to strike, but also maintain our commitment to doing what we can for our children. As soon as I know more I will let you know.

Author Visit

Last week we were very fortunate to have a visit from the author Julia Edwards, author of the Scar Gatherer series of books. Julia gave a talk to all of the children in Years 3-6, and also did some writing workshops with Years 4 and 6, which were not only enjoyable, but really useful.

Some of the children visited her after school and bought some of her books, which she signed for them. Unfortunately due to staff absences the letter did not go out as early as we would have liked, so if you missed out and you order for her website directly, she will still sign the book and send it to you!

We know that finances are hard for some families right now, so if you child was inspired but may not be able to buy a book, please be aware we have 5 copies of each set in the Junior library and will be getting some copies of her brand new book so everyone can borrow one.

Her website is <https://www.juliaedwardsbooks.com/> and you can follow her on Twitter at @ScarGatherer I am sure she would love to hear some feedback about her books and her visit!

We are currently looking to expand our range of library books and class readers for the children, and are ordering some graphic novels and inclusive and diverse books too. Remember children in Juniors can have two books, one AR book and one free choice, reading for pleasure, book. Reading to your child and with your child to expand their reading experiences is as vital as them reading themselves.

Book Fair

As sent out via email, here are the details again for the book fair.



January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Scholastic Book Fair is arriving on 24/1/23 until 27/2/23 at Toftwood Infant and Junior Federation. We are pleased to announce that parents/carers will be able to attend again with their children (Infant and Junior) after school on the following dates in the main hall at Toftwood Junior School:

Tuesday 24th January - 3:15 - 4
 Wednesday 25th January 3:15-4
 Thursday 26th January 3:15 -4
 Friday 27th January 3:15-4

The children will also have a slot during the week to be able to browse the fair to explore the books available. The date that you child is visiting during school time is below if you like to base your visit on when your child has already been in school. **There is no expectation for anyone to attend the book fair or to purchase books from the fair.**

If you visit the book fair, you can pay with cash or via the online payment system but books must be paid for online whilst attending the fair before the book has been taken home.

24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
CC1	KD1	ICR	RP2
TC1	PA2	OGR	DC2
SW3	LM3	GSR	LW5
LJ4	SP4	CT3	GG6
RL5	HG5	MM4	GB6
		KH6	

Diary Dates for this term

Wednesday 18th January
 Wednesday 18th January
 Thursday 19th January
 Thursday 19th January
 Tuesday 24th January - Friday 27th January
 Wednesday 25th January 9-10
 Thursday 26th January
 Monday 30th January 9.30 - 11.30

Monday 6th February
 Monday 6th February - Friday 10th February
 Thursday 9th February

Friday 10th February
 Monday 20th February

Monday 20th February
 Wednesday 1st March

Visitor for Year 2 from Norwich Cathedral
 Height and Weight checks for Year 6
 PE festival (Infants) selected children
 Special lunch for children
 Book fair after school in the Junior Hall
 Infant parents reading and writing workshop
 Junior swimming gala for selected children
 Pre school activity morning for those due to start school next year (September 2023)
 Hearing and Vision Checks for Reception
 Year 6 residential
 Year 3-6 dodgeball competition for selected Children
 Last day of term before the half term break
 Children return to school after half term
 Break
 Reception bus trip around Toftwood
 RSPCA visit for Reception children

Monday 13th March
Thursday 16th March
Wednesday 22nd March
Thursday 30th March
Friday 31st March

Firefighter visit for Reception children
Adapted sports trip for selected children
Nurse visit for Reception children
KS1 cross country for selected children
Last day of term before the Easter holidays

Staffing Updates

We have recently welcomed Mrs Cushley and Mrs Donnachie to our team, based at infants. We look forward to working with them.

Community Events

<p>Minis Rugby – Sundays at 11am Swaffham RUFC</p>		
	<p>Building on the success of the Wednesday Minis Tag Rugby held in collaboration with ICS, we plan to launch regular Sunday Training sessions for Boys and Girls in School Years 4 and 5 on Sunday 8th January at 11am. We welcome existing participants in Tag Rugby, and new participants alike. There will be no charge for the Sunday sessions for the remainder of the 2022/23 season.</p> <p>For further information: contact Chris Upton on 07702 116035</p>	

Best wishes

Joanna Pedlow