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

**Newsletter 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023**

### Library Books

The children are really enjoying their library books at the moment and the extended choices on offer. At Juniors we are extending the library so we can have even more books and adding a new room with non fiction choices in it. We look forward to developing this over the coming weeks.

### School Visits

As you are aware, school budgets are particularly stretched at the moment. This means we cannot afford to pay for the school visits for the children this year and moving forwards. We know finances are tight for all families currently, but without families supporting by paying for the cost of the visits, we just will not be able to run them.

We were very close to cancelling the Reception and Year 4 visits this week as a substantial number of families had not paid. We had many families offering to pay extra, and their kindness and support has been very much appreciated. A sincere thankyou to everyone who was committed to ensuring the trips could go ahead. Thankfully, we then received enough donations to cover the cost of the trip so they have been able to go ahead.

The law says we can only request a voluntary donation, but the reality is if we do not have enough money from families to cover the trip, then they will have to be cancelled. We are doing our very best to keep the coats down and to give you plenty of notice, and if you have any financial difficulty in paying for a trip, please do talk to us.

We really value the experiences the children get from their visits and hope they can continue.

### Strike Action

The NEU have announced further dates for strikes in schools as part of their campaign on pay and ensuring all schools are funded effectively.

The opening/closure of some classes is inevitable, please see the email sent on Friday and the snapshot below:

	GSR	ICR	OGR	KD1	CC1	TC1	DC2	RP2	PA2
27 <sup>th</sup> April	IN	IN	IN	NOT IN	IN	IN	NOT IN	IN	IN
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	NOT IN	NOT IN	NOT IN	NOT IN	IN	NOT IN	NOT IN	IN	IN

	SW3	CT3	LM3	SP4	LJ4	MM4	RL5	LW5	HG5	GG6	GB6	KH6
27 <sup>th</sup> April	IN	IN	IN	NOT IN	IN	IN	IN	NOT IN	IN	IN	IN	IN
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	NOT IN	IN	NOT IN	NOT IN	IN	IN	NOT IN	NOT IN	IN	IN	IN	IN

## Reading Millionaires

Congratulations to our first Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires this term. Sophia and Phoebe in KH6. Well done!

## World Autism Acceptance Week

The week beginning 27th March was World Autism Acceptance Week and the theme for this year was 'Colour'. To support this important week we asked each year group to learn about the life of a famous person who is on the Autistic Spectrum or was believed to have been.

Reception - Pablo Cbeebies

Y1 - Lewis Carroll

Y2 - Chris Packham

Y3 - Albert Einstein

Y4- Tim Burton

Y5- Charles Darwin

Y6- Steve Jobs

We wanted the children to understand that Autism comes in all different forms, and that it can be a superpower to many. Each year group joined in with an assembly helping them to understand what Autism is and how it can affect people. The children learnt that the brain is our body's computer and it can work differently for all of us. It controls how we feel, learn and communicate. We discussed the importance of connecting with others to help our wellbeing and mental health. Everyone is unique and this is something as a Federation we like to celebrate.

"So he just kept trying and didn't give up". (Yr 2 Chris Packham)

"He has a brain like me. Sometimes when I'm in crowds I don't like it". (Yr2)

"That man is like me. I love nature and animals". (Yr 2 Chris Packham)

In Reception the children watched an episode of Pablo (Cbeebies) and talked about how he had felt going to a noisy birthday party. They made brightly coloured rainbows to support the colour theme.

You can see photos on the website <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2022-23/world-autism-acceptance-week-2023/>

## Debate Club

The Infant School Debate Club met this month for another exciting debate - 'Computers are better than books'.

The session began with a discussion about what a debate is and what rules we might need in place to ensure that our debate runs smoothly. We looked at our British Values poster and discussed 'Respect and Tolerance'. During our debate we agreed that everyone's opinions would be listened to and whether we agree with them or not, as a group we would respect each other. Our debate question had no wrong or right answer.

The children got into two groups (for and against), discussed their ideas, and decided which ones they should use to get their views across. Once we started our debate the children took turns to speak and respond creating some interesting discussions, with some children confidently challenging their peers and swaying their opinion. The debate was so much fun and even carried on into the dinner hall!

For those children that could not attend the club they left their vote at the two voting stations in the KS1 corridor.

Here are some of the comments made during the debate. What do you think?

Computers are better than books

"No because I can't take a computer to bed". (Yr2)

One child said "Computers, because you can keep your past photos on them". Another responded "But you could write a diary in a book or make a scrap book". (Yr2)

"Computers are better because you can research on them". (Yr1)

One child said "Computers light up so you can see them better". (Yr1) Another responded "You could just use a light to read a book". (Yr2)

"You can collect books". (Yr2)

You can see photos on the website <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/clubs/debate-club-march-2023/>

### **Key Stage 1 Cross Country 2023**

On 30th March 14 children from years 1 and 2 took part in the West Norwich and Dereham School Sports Partnership Cross Country Festival.

When we arrived at the venue of Langley Prep at Taverham Hall School we were able to walk around the course - 600m for Year 1 children and 800m for Year 2.

The Year 1 girls raced first followed by the Year 1 boys. Then it was the turn of the Year 2 children with the girls again racing first and finally the Year 2 boys.

Each race had about 80 children competing in it. One of the girls in Year 2 did really well to get 12th place.

All the children did were great at cheering for the other children from Toftwood and showed excellent examples of good sportsmanship, supporting each other and clapping children from other schools too.

The course length was a challenge but they all persevered to finish the race and put their own best efforts in and were proud of their achievements.

Well done everyone!

Read more about it on the website <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/sports-competitions/key-stage-2-cross-country-2023/>

### **Young Interpreters**

You can read about the training and work of the Young Interpreters on our website

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/young-interpreters/>

Young Interpreters is a scheme aimed at both Primary and Secondary school children, and involves a group of children who display an empathetic outlook. These children at Toftwood are responsible for welcoming new arrivals to the school and supporting them during their transition. They are also able to assist with ongoing social situations around school.

At Toftwood a group of children from Years 1 - 6 have been trained in becoming a Young Interpreter, around 3 from each year group. These children have received training of either 4 or 5 sessions and are enjoying becoming confident with what they have learnt.

The children wear a badge around school to show their role and are proud of this responsibility.

Some of the Young Interpreters at Toftwood are monolingual and others have simply been chosen for their understanding and compassionate manner.

The Young Interpreters meet 2/3 times a half term and will continue to hone and develop their skills throughout the year, or if they choose to, throughout their time at Toftwood

### **Clubs**

Catch up on what is happening with various clubs at the Infant school on our page on the website

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/category/clubs/>

### **Wellbeing Café and Enrichment Afternoons**

These are events for parents and will be held at both schools to include information on PATHS and RSE in the hall. Mrs Bates will be present for support with parenting/out of school concerns. There will be wellbeing activities in classrooms for parents to engage with their children, focused on 5 ways to wellbeing. There will be two separate days - one for infants and one for juniors.

Tuesday 6th June - Infants

Friday 9th June - Juniors

Further information to follow

### **Diary Dates**

We are just confirming dates for your diaries for this term and will aim to send these home next week, full of Summer term activities and sessions.

### **Community News**

There are lots of free opportunities and avenues of support for families in our local area. Please see below.

## Kidical Mass Norwich Ride

Sunday 7th May - 2pm, meet in Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich

**[SEP]** Kidical Mass is a family cycle ride to celebrate cycling and show that we want to cycle and we need safe spaces to do so. This is a gentle cycle, for EVERYONE (all ages and abilities) with the aim to enjoy cycling as a group, improve confidence in cycling.. And, most importantly, to have fun!

Norwich will be joining 23 other UK towns, and more than 350 other rides worldwide with our Kidical Mass ride on 7th May (the weekend of the Coronation). Last year 90,000 children, young people, families and friends joined in worldwide! The Norwich ride will start from Chapelfield Gardens at 2pm and will gently process around the town centre (route tbc), before ending back at Chapelfield Gardens again. Everyone welcome: children on their own cycles, balance bikes, stabilisers, BMX, cargos, trailers, trikes, tagalongs. (We ask that children are accompanied and that you're self-sufficient and responsible for any children you bring along. However, we'll ride as a group and there will be adults to lead the ride and help navigate any traffic.) It would be fantastic if members of our school can join.



## Support with Debt

If you are struggling with debts or in financial difficulties there is a free service available to help you. The Dereham Debt Centre, working with Christians Against Poverty help you on a journey towards becoming debt free. They offer free debt counselling services which are available to all, and will liaise with creditors on the clients behalf. They also run courses such as the CAP money course which teaches budgeting skills, and the CAP Life skills course. Further information can be found at [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) and clients can self refer for debt help by phoning the central booking system on 0800 328 0006.

## Cricket for Children in Years 1-8



**It all starts with...** **ALL STARS CRICKET**

We all play at:  
**Bradenham Cricket Club**

Session dates:  
**8 weeks starting Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Session timings:  
**10:15 – 11:15**

Contact:  
**brownie.69@live.co.uk**

**Sign up today at**  
**[allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk)**

## Norwich Puppet Theatre Workshops

Fun, weekly sessions in puppetry, theatre skills and puppet making! Junior Puppeteers Youth Theatre will explore the skills needed to be a puppeteer including improvisation, voice work, physicality and teamwork through drama games and exercises. They will also have the opportunity to design and build their own puppet character. A great way to build confidence, develop communication skills and get creative!



**JUNIOR PUPPETEERS**

**Saturday Youth Theatre**  
**for ages 6-12**

**£60 per 10-week term**

**Summer term**  
**starts 22 April**

- Ages 6-8  
10 - 11am
- Ages 9-12  
11.15am - 12.15pm

**[www.puppettheatre.co.uk](http://www.puppettheatre.co.uk) | 01603 629921**