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

Newsletter 27th April 2023

Diary dates

As promised, here are a list of important dates for you for this term.

| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| Thursday 27 th April | Year R Hansel and Gretel workshop in school |
| Friday 28 th April | Infant School class photos |
| Friday 28 th April | Y3 and 4 tri golf event - invited children only |
| Monday 1 st May | School closed for May Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 2 nd May | Session for new Reception parents at Infants 9.15 - 10. All new Reception parents welcome. No booking required. |
| Wednesday 3 rd May | Y4 Anglo Saxon Trip to West Stow |
| Thursday 4 th May | Coronation celebrations in school. Children can wear red, white and blue outfits or come as royalty, past or present. Please make sure whatever they wear is suitable for a busy day in school. If the weather allows, we will all be eating outside. |
| Monday 8 th May | School closed for May Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 9 th May - Friday 12 th May | Year 6 statutory SATS tests |
| Wednesday 10 th May | Session for new Reception parents at Infants 9.15 - 10. All new Reception parents welcome. No booking required. |
| Monday 15 th May 9.30-11.30 | Pre-school activity morning at infants for all children starting Reception in September. If your child is not at William Cowper or Little Owls and they will be joining us in September, please let the infant office know if they would like to attend. We look forward to seeing them. Please note this is for children only |
| Thursday 18 th May | Special lunch for all children! Breaded chicken with a sub roll, wedges, coleslaw and sweetcorn. All followed by Toffee Cream Shortcake. |
| Tuesday 23 rd May | Junior School Class Photos |
| Thursday 25 th May | Y3-6 Quad Kids event for invited children only. |
| Friday 26 th May 2pm - end of school | Open afternoon for all Year Groups - parents/carers invited in to look at their child's work and learn alongside them. Please note all parents will need to leave 10 minutes before the end of the school day and all children will leave at the normal time. We can only have a maximum of two adults per child and no younger children as we do not have room for buggies etc |

| Date | Event |
|--|---|
| Monday 29 th May - Friday 2 nd June | Half term - school closed to all pupils |
| Monday 5 th June | School re-opens for all pupils at 8.40 am |
| Tuesday 6 th June 1.45 - 3.00 | Wellbeing café and classroom activities for parents/carers of Infant children. This event is for parents/carers will be held in the Infant hall to include information on PATHS and RSE. Mrs Bates will be present for support with parenting/out of school concerns. There will be wellbeing activities in classrooms after the hall session for parents to engage with their children, focused on 5 ways to wellbeing. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children please as we do not have the space for this. |
| Thursday 8 th June | Y5 and 6 Kwik Cricket for invited children |
| Friday 9 th June 1.45 - 3.00 | Wellbeing café and classroom activities for parents/carers of Junior children. This event is for parents/carers will be held in the Junior hall to include information on PATHS and RSE. Mrs Bates will be present for support with parenting/out of school concerns. There will be wellbeing activities in classrooms after the hall session for parents to engage with their children, focused on 5 ways to wellbeing. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children please as we do not have the space for this. |
| Friday 9 th June | Y 1 trip to Holkham Hall |
| Monday 12 th June - Friday 16 th June | Phonics check for Y1 and some Y2 |
| Wednesday 14 th June | Multiskills event for Junior children in school. |
| Thursday 15 th June | Y3 and 4 Tennis competition for invited children |
| Friday 16 th June | Y3 and 4 and Y5 and 6 taking part in a day of welcome event to learn about refugees and the challenges they face and how to support them |
| Thursday 22 nd June | Y6 team building transition festival invited children only |
| Wednesday 28 th June 12 noon until 1pm | Family picnic on the field. Pack up a picnic, a blanket or even a picnic chair and come on over to school to eat with us on the field, weather permitting! Pre loved uniform sales and other things too on the day. Up to four guests per child, including younger children. Further info to follow |
| Friday 30 th June | Y2 trip to Pensthorpe |
| Friday 30 th June | Y1 athletics trip for invited children |
| Friday 30 th June 9.15 - 11.15 | Session for New Reception children plus one parent (no younger children allowed) to be in the classroom with the new teacher and their child to try out the activities and see what it is like! |
| Monday 3 rd - Friday 7 th July | Sports' enrichment activities in school for children only. Details to follow. All children need to have their PE kit in school this week. |
| Tuesday 4 th July | EYFS tennis multi skills for invited children |
| Wednesday 5 th July 1.45 - 3 | Y2 art exhibition for parents/carers to visit and end of year celebration with families. 2 adults per child to join in with the art exhibition and the end of year celebration. Please arrive for 1.45 to be sure you can join in with all of the activities on the afternoon to celebrate the children's time in Infant School. All classes have their own timetable. Parents will need to leave at 3pm so we can dismiss all the children at the end of the day. No younger children please as we do not have the space for this. |

| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| Monday 10 th July 9.15 | Year 6 race day |
| Monday 10 th July 10.30 | Year 5 race day |
| Monday 10 th July 1.15 | Year 4 race day |
| Monday 10 th July 2.15 | Year 3 race day |
| Tuesday 11 th July 9.15 | Year 1 race day |
| Tuesday 11 th July 10.30 | Reception race day |
| Tuesday 11 th July 2pm | Year 2 race day |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Race days:</p> <p>All parents/carers welcome. If you bring younger children, you must ensure they stay with you throughout the session please. Please enter through the Junior gate for all race sessions. You will need to stay for that whole session, as the gates will then be closed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Can all children come in their PE kit on their race day please?</p> | |
| Wednesday 12 th July | End of term reports sent home |
| Thursday 13 th July | KS2 Panathlon event for invited children |
| Thursday 13 th July 1.45pm - 3pm | Year 6 leavers' event for parents and carers. 2 adults per child, but no younger children please, as we do not have the space. You will join your children to see performances from them and do activities with them to celebrate their time with us and moving forwards to High School. |
| Friday 14 th July | Year 6 leavers' event in school (children only) - details to follow |
| Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st July | All current Reception to Year 5 children in their new September classes for the week (We expect all Year 6 to come in and they will have separate activities Monday - Wednesday). |
| Monday 17 th July | Group A new Reception children in 9 until 11.30 |
| Tuesday 18 th July | Group A new Reception children in 9 until 1.45 pm including lunch |
| Wednesday 19 th July | Group B new Reception children in 9 until 11.30 |
| Thursday 20 th July | Group A new Reception children in 9 until 1.45 pm including lunch |
| Wednesday 19 th July after school - 4pm | Parents/Carers invited to come in and see their child's new class. If you have a younger child with you, please note we will not have room for buggies or prams and they would need to be left outside. |
| Thursday 20 th July and Friday 21 st July | Year 6 attending High Schools (Northgate and Neatherd) |
| Friday 21 st July | Last day of term for all children |

Strike Action

Just a reminder for you of the strike information.

| | GSR | ICR | OGR | KD1 | CC1 | TC1 | DC2 | RP2 | PA2 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|-----|-----|
| 27 th April | IN | IN | IN | NOT IN | IN | IN | NOT IN | IN | IN |
| 2 nd 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 th April | IN | IN | IN | NOT IN | IN | IN | IN | NOT IN | IN | IN | IN | IN |
| 2 nd May | NOT IN | IN | NOT IN | NOT IN | IN | IN | NOT IN | NOT IN | IN | IN | IN | IN |

Goodbye

We say goodbye this week to Mrs Spouge, one of our MSAs, who has worked with us for many years. Her kindness and patience with the children and her commitment to all of them has been much appreciated. She leaves us to take on some new challenges in a different role and we wish her well and thank her for all she has done for us and the children.

Mrs Gray has also left us as an MSA at Juniors. We thank her for her work and wish her well for the future.

If you are interested in working as an MSA, please ask the office for details. We have vacancies for five days a week and two days a week.

Reading Millionaires

Congratulations to Orson in HG5 who is the class's first Accelerated Reader millionaire!

Welcome

We say welcome to Miss Hanna Ladbrooke who has joined us for this term as a teaching assistant. We hope she enjoys her time with us.

Drumming workshop

Children in Years 1-6 at Toftwood were treated to a lesson in Rock n Roll this week when Jeff Rich, best known as the drummer from the legendary group Status Quo, visited us.

Jeff talked about how he learned to play the drums and the dedication and practice required over many years to hone the skills needed. He invited pupils to try their hand on a range of drums and cymbals as he explained the evolution of drumming from a hollow log slit drum, all the way to the full, professional drum kit that he would use for concerts and recording.

After introducing all the components of the drum kit, from kick drum and high-hat to snare and toms, the ex-Quo drummer dazzled us with an improvised solo. All children (and teachers) were then given percussion instruments and invited to join in a massive jam session!

Mr Hardy was particularly thrilled when Jeff autographed a chord sheet for 'Rocking all Over the World' that the Toftwood Ukulele Group played after school that day! (For some reason the veteran Rock n Roller seemed to find Status Quo on the ukulele an amusing idea!)

"It was really loud and really funny!" - Isla-Rose

"When he played, it was amazing and impressive." - Olivia

"I liked it because we got to use all of the instruments." - Henri

"He showed us how he improved by practising for hours and hours." - Imogen

Reception Gressenhall Trip

To start the day we all had to gather in the Chapel for the grand opening of Mr Curator's museum. He had invited some celebrities along; Cinderella and Jack from Jack and the Beanstalk. We were interrupted by the Wicked Witch from Snow White, who was very upset as she hadn't been invited to the opening. When Mr Curator went to reveal the objects, we were shocked to see they had gone missing! The Wicked Witch told us she had taken them and wouldn't give them back! Our mission for the day was to take part in lots of different activities and see if we could find all of the museum artefacts.

One of our jobs was to go on Jack's Quest and search for the missing golden egg. We spent lots of time looking up and down and we found it near the playground. We helped Jack to retell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk as he had forgotten some of the words! Because we told the story so well, we got to climb down Jack's beanstalk.

We went to the woods and met the Wicked Witch from Snow White! She taught us how to make a potion and we found a special oak leaf and some magic water. We then found a magic wand and learnt a spell, which turned us into our favourite animals!

We went into the old shops and looked for the other missing objects. We found Snow White's apple, a trolls bogey and a sweetie from the Gingerbread House.

On the farm, we searched for fairy tale characters around the farmyard and we spotted some piglets and sheep. We then had to help the ugly sisters with their chores. We learnt how to use the water pump, dug up some potatoes, watered the flowers and learnt how to milk a cow.

We then had to help Cinderella with her chores as she couldn't go to the ball unless they were done. We offered to help her finish her jobs so she could go to the ball. We learnt how to use the water pump, dug up some potatoes, watered the flowers, washed some clothes and learnt how to milk a cow. In the house, we helped her to clean the table as it was a bit dirty. We rubbed the salt in and then scrubbed it with a brush all while singing songs which the step sister wasn't too keen on! Once we had done the cleaning, we helped Cinderella to look for the rest of the missing objects from Mr Curator's museum. We found Red Riding Hood's cape and Cinderella's glass slipper. Our next job was to pick up all the step sisters socks, they were very smelly! While we there, we also got to go on a tractor ride around the farm!

We all met back in the Chapel to conclude the day. We were all really happy that we had managed to find all of the missing objects and the wicked witch got turned into an artefact too!

The children had a wonderful day and behaved very well. We are very proud of them all!

Mia - "I liked when Cinderella turned into a princess."

Ellis - "I liked the tractor ride."

Daisy - "I liked going down the beanstalk."

See here for more photos of the day: <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/reception/receptions-trip-to-gressenhall/>

Summer 1 2023 Tri-Golf Event

On Tuesday 25th April, 10 children from KS1 took part in a Tri-Golf event at Taverham High School. The children rotated around eight activities throughout the day and learned how to vary the swing of the golf club, control the ball and aim at a target. Each activity station was played in teams and the Taverham High School sports leaders were there to praise and encourage the children whilst developing key skills.

All the children who attended the event received a certificate with one child receiving a special certificate for their demonstration of respect. Many of the children had never tried golf before this event and we were very proud of their enthusiasm and behaviour. A great time was had by all and we all agreed that this was a sport that we would definitely want to try again.

"I love golf now; I can't wait to go to mini golf!" -Year 1

Learning about Jewish Festivals in Year 2

The children enjoyed their visit from Marsha and Todd this half term. When the children arrived into the classroom, a Passover table, set ready for the Jewish celebration, greeted them. Marsha and Todd gave each child a kippar, which they wore throughout the session. The children were able to retrieve from their RE learning about the story of Passover, and Marsha and Todd were very impressed with their accurate knowledge. Marsha and Todd went through the story of Passover again and told the children the relevance of each of the parts of the Seder plate. The children were then able to try a traditional Passover Seder plate, trying Matzah bread, grape juice, parsley with salt water and more. Harley said "the bread is flat because the Jews had to leave the city quickly, the dough wasn't able to rise". Kendra said "I really enjoyed trying the Matzah".

See some photos here: <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/19th-april-2023-marsha-and-todd-visit-to-year-2/>

Year 4 and 6 Netball Trip

On Thursday 20th April, a team of eight Year 4 girls and seven Year 6 girls entered the WNDSSP netball competition, exploring a new sport which they had never been taught before. The matches were made even more challenging by removing the positions of wing attack and wing defence, thus changing the rules. The girls adapted and excelled at the new game, swiftly rotating positions between each match so they all had opportunities to play centre, goal attack, goal defence, goal keeper, and goal shooter.

The event focused on the value of teamwork, with two pupils awarded special certificates for showing great team spirit. Miss Makins and Miss Griffiths were very impressed with the girls' positivity, resilience and determination.

See some photos here: <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/sports-competitions/year-4-6-netball-trip-20-4-23/>

Music in EYFS and KS1 last term

Reception had lots of fun joining in with the drumming workshop. The children enjoyed dancing to the music and Miss Gold showed us how to play the drums!

In Year 1 the children have explored wide range of musical styles and have had an introduction to learning about the beat of a song. They have experienced listening, singing, playing as well as performing their ability to find the beat. The children enjoyed learning the songs, 'Hush Little Baby' and 'Upside Down'.

The children also enjoyed a visit from 'Rocksteady' where the children got to experience live music and some even got the chance to play instruments like the drums, electric guitar and keyboard to make part of a band!

Year 2 This half term the children in Year 2 have been exploring lots of different music styles that link to community. They have listened and appraised different genres of music such as swing and classical. They have learnt different songs and performed these in class. One of their favourites was 'The Music Man'. They have worked on listening and responding whilst learning these songs and performed these in groups.

See some photos here: <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/music-eyfs-ks1-spring-2-2023/>

Year 5 learning about Stephen Lawrence

Year 5 have been learning about racism in the run up to the Stephen Lawrence, 30 year memorial weekend. They listened to "Blinded by your Grace" by Stormzy, sung by the Kingdom Choir and discussed their thoughts and feelings. They also made links with the talk given to them in January by Paddy, who reflected on his childhood in South Africa and the impact that apartheid had on him, growing up.

The children compiled their understanding in pictures and words and some were sent to the Forum for a display on 21st April.

Music in KS2 last term

Children in Year 3 have continued to gain more ukulele skills and are now playing the chords of Am, F and C and moving between these chords to accompany songs. They can strum and pick different rhythms.

Baboushka (not the Kate Bush song, unfortunately) and Tab Tango really put their abilities to the test!

In Year 4 this half term, we have been following the Charanga English Model Music Scheme and looking at the unit "Creating Simple Melodies Together". The children have used recorders and glockenspiels to play songs such as Let Your Spirit Fly and Frère Jacques. They have been working hard on their recorder technique, in particular focusing on how to hold the recorders in the correct position when playing.

Year 5 Have been the first to try a new feature on Charanga - Yu Studio. This online sequencer allows the children to build electronic beats, basslines and melodies in much the same way as most professional producers do. They have been guided through this process and have made their own Hip Hop tracks!

Year 6 have been focusing on the key question: 'how does music teach us about our community?' as a link to the social theme 'music is a builder of community and guardian of cultural identity'. We have been listening and responding to a variety of songs such as 'Let's Rock', 'Simple Gifts' and 'Friendship Should Never End'. This has helped us to sing along by clapping and moving to the rhythms we have heard. We have developed our performance skills by working together in groups to perform parts of the song.

Readathon

Thank you so much to all of our children who participated in the Readathon. We raised £641 for books for children in hospital, which is a great result for those who took part.

We also get a voucher to spend on books for the school for £128 which will be put to good use.

Speech and Language Support

If your child benefits from some support, then there is video on You Tube , for parents/carers. Children can often say a sound during a structured activity (SAL intervention) when they are focusing on speech, but it can be much harder to remember to use it in everyday conversation. Generalising a sound to every day speech takes longer and requires lots of practise.

<https://youtu.be/dohOrCbJnDg>

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform as set out on the website.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

Please remember that leggings are not to be worn instead of trousers or a skirt. Shoes should be plain black with no white soles, trims or coloured logos. We have a wide selection of pre loved uniform available to buy in all sizes. If you wish to buy any or need support with this, please contact Mrs Knox in the Junior office or email her on fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk

Best wishes

Joanna Pedlow