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

Newsletter - May 2023

Letters to the King!

All of our Year 1 children wrote letters to the King yesterday to congratulate him on his Coronation! They said what they enjoyed about it and how they celebrated it. They were all posted to Buckingham Palace yesterday. We do hope we get a response!

Year 6 SATS

Last week was Year 6 SATS week. All of the children were invited to breakfast beforehand so they could start the day relaxed and with fuel for the day! Thanks to Tesco who donated some items to us for the breakfast. Thankyou also to all the staff who voluntarily came in and helped, it is much appreciated. The children themselves worked hard and did their very best, and that is all we ask of them. In my room, I was impressed at how they kept their focus and worked through showing great resilience and perseverance. Other adults have all said the same. Well done Year 6. You have shown great maturity and commitment to your learning.

Key Stage One Opera

We are very excited to share that our Infant children will be watching 'Borka - an opera for young people' in July in school. This is an online performance but we hope the children enjoy the opportunity to see something different and expand their cultural and musical experiences!

Mobile Phones

We have shared information about mobile phones before. All of this information is on our website, along with other policies and procedures so do ensure you look at it. For information on mobile phones, just type in 'mobile phones'. The link below will take you directly to it.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection/mobile-phones/>

Prime and Prime Bottles

Can we please ask you NOT to send your child in with Prime to drink in school. Or with a Prime bottle with water in. Some of the Prime products are 'age restricted' and some are not but we do not have the time to check each one and the bottles cause arguments between children. A sports' top water bottle filled with water only for the class is allowed, and a bottle with squash may be sent to drink at lunchtime only with their meal.

Expanding your child's vocabulary using poetry

Miss Coombes recently undertook some training about how poetry can help children to learn.

If you would like to watch it the link is: <https://helicopterstories.co.uk/discover-the-poetry-basket/>

The basic points it makes are:

- Learning poems can narrow the language gap between children and supports language development
- It counteracts screen time
- Poetry can be a fun way for children to try out new vocabulary without them realising they are learning new words
- Teaching actions alongside new words helps to promote memory and recall
- Structure and pattern helps a child remember the poem
- Poems and songs can stay in our memories for years, well into adulthood
- Children often choose stories to read again and again. Adding rhythm to a story creates a poem children will want to go back to
- Children enjoy filling in the blanks or guessing the missing words from a poem. This gets them to think about other rhyming words they may know already and promotes rhyming skills. This in turn helps with spelling and writing.

Research shows that:

- A child that knows 8 nursery rhymes by heart by the time they are 4, are usually among the best readers by the time they are 8.
- Vocabulary is crucial to children's life chances.

We regularly read poetry to the children in our schools to support their learning and development. Why not try to support your child to learn some poetry by heart?

School Community Litter Pick

On Wednesday 19th April, school council borrowed equipment from Breckland Council to litter pick in and around our school. Before they started, the children discussed how to stay safe when collecting rubbish and had some great ideas! One child explained the importance of wearing gloves and washing their hands thoroughly once they had finished. Together, they collected a couple of bags of rubbish, which was mainly found in bushes close to the school.

Thank you to Breckland Council for lending us the equipment and to the council for taking such great care of the environment.

Check out some pictures here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/school-council-community-litter-pick/>

Year 5 Summer Cooking

To celebrate the King's Coronation, Year 5 made a Lemon Drizzle cupcake. They worked collaboratively to make the cakes, focusing on measuring, whisking, zesting and squeezing. After baking the cake, the groups made a sugary lemon drizzle. Most of the children loved the cake and thought it was sweet and zingy! The children finished their cupcake by adding a personalised flag for decorative purposes.

Check out some photos here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-5/year-5-summer-cooking/>

Year 5 Educational Visit

Year 5 parents/carers are aware the mid Norfolk railway cancelled our visit earlier this term as the trains were not running. We are looking to providing an alternative trip for Year 5, as previously explained, using the contributions already received. Thankyou for your patience whilst the Year 5 team look into this.

Road Crossing

Please note Mr Charles, the lollipop man, will not be on the crossing on Wednesday afternoon.

King's Coronation Celebrations

The Federation came together for two days of activities and a special lunch to help celebrate the King's Coronation. To mark this important occasion, the children dressed were invited to dress up in red, white and blue or as a king or queen.

Over the course of two days the children took part in lots of fun activities including crown making, creating Union Jack flags, learning to sign the National Anthem and naming photos of the royal family. Year one children will also be writing to King Charles next week. A special assembly to commemorate the King's Coronation led by Janet Marshall took place at both schools.

Children were invited to participate in a competition to decorate a Coronation rock. We were very impressed with the individuality of the children designs which included a corgi, a crown and the Union Jack flag. The children have been given the opportunity to take their rocks home or place them in the community in Toftwood or Dereham. Perhaps you will find one of the special rocks when you take a walk around the locality. On Thursday we had a special federation picnic lunch which we were lucky enough to have outside and all together. Seeing the children outside laughing, playing and enjoying their time together was a wonderful sight.

What a wonderful two days we have had celebrating such an important historical event and special time for our country. Hopefully very memorable for all the children and staff. A big thank you goes out to our wonderful lunchtime and kitchen staff for their hard work and all the staff that planned and organised the events.

Check out some photos here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2022-23/the-kings-coronation-celebration/>

Coronation Rocks

Year Group	Winner	Runner Up
Reception	Mykolas	Amber M
Year One	Harlow C	Ava R
Year Two	Archie O	Thomas K
Year Three	Elijah	Blake
Year Four	Poppy B	Elouise S
Year Five	Ariana M-P	Olivia Oulds
Year Six	Erin S	Bailey Wright

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up and a huge well done to everyone who took part. You all did a fabulous job!

PE Kit/Uniform

Please note PE kit should be in school at all times. Recently at Juniors, we have noted more children 'forgetting' or choosing not to bring their PE kit, so from this week the children have been told that there will be a sanction for not bringing it and they will be expected to use our spare kit.

Infant PE kits come in at the beginning of each half term and go home at the end of the half term.

If you have any issues providing your child with a PE kit, please do let us know as soon as possible.

All children should have a **change of footwear** for PE as they should not be doing PE in school shoes.

In terms of uniform, a reminder that school shoes should be PLAIN BLACK ONLY. Plain black trainers can be worn, but should be completely black and not have logos or white soles or parts on them.

Leggings can ONLY be worn as an extra layer for warmth, NOT as a uniform in their own right. A skirt or trousers should be worn over leggings please. Just remember also that skirts should be knee length.

Thankyou for your support.

Year 4 Trip to West Stow

This term year 4 went to West Stow Anglo Saxon village. They were so excited to discover what it was like to be an Anglo Saxon and the children couldn't wait to put their existing knowledge to the test!

The children also had the opportunity to explore lots of Anglo Saxon artefacts such as an Anglo Saxon key, knife and board game.

They also had lots of fun exploring the replica houses, hall and workshops which have been built on top of the original archaeological dig site.

Each dwelling was built using similar materials and methods as they would have done in Anglo Saxon times and they could see the progression through the time period as buildings became more complex.

Check out photos and information here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-4/year-4-west-stow-trip/>

Fire Drills

We had our fire drills today and were all out safely and quickly. We did them in both schools at the same time and the children came out sensibly and safely.

Buddy Club

On Thursdays and Fridays at Juniors we have a 'buddy club.' Children are invited across the age ranges and we mix the older with the younger children. Favourite activities are chess, play dough, lego, crafts and kerplunk! It gives the children opportunities to play together and support each other.

After half term we are going to be having a year 2 and 3 buddy club to support with transition.

Year 2 Transition

Activities for Year 2 transition are already underway! We have joint playtimes with Year 2, we have Year 6 that support the younger children on the playground, and we will have some joint assemblies and a range of other activities. The year 2 children have been over for their dance workshop in the new hall, so lots of opportunities to mix, learn and play together.

New Reception starters

We welcomed new reception children in for their pre school activity morning this week. They all came in beautifully, separating from their adults, and enjoyed playing inside and out. It was lovely to see them all. There are further sessions so if your child is joining us make sure you know when they are.

If your child is joining us and you have not yet sent your admission forms in, please do so before half term so we have all of your details.

We have also had our settling in sessions where we have met a number of parents and carers. There is a further session on Wednesday 17th at 6 pm for new Reception parents/carers. No booking required, we do hope you can join us if you have not made it so far.

If there is anything you are worried about, or you have a question, please do contact us so we can ensure a smooth transition for everyone.

Behaviour Support

The vast majority of children in our schools show excellent behaviour and behaviour for learning. Some children need some support with this and they may have a specific behaviour plan. In assemblies we are talking to the children about always doing our best and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to learn and play safely.

We have introduced the following consistent phrases:

'First time, every time.' This means if we are asked to do something, we should do it the first time and not have to be reminded.

'Aim to do the right thing, all day, every day.' We want our children to have this goal in mind, keeping in mind we all make the odd mistake or have a wobble. By using this consistent language we are aiming to support the behaviour of everyone. It would be appreciated if you could discuss this with your child at home also.

Community News

Hoots Holiday club

If you need childcare in the half term or beyond or just want a club your child can go to, Hoots can offer this for you. They run in our Junior Hall in the holidays and at both halls for after school clubs.



HOOTS HOLIDAY CLUB



WHERE IS HOOTS LOCATED?

Hoots is located at Toftwood Junior school.



HOLIDAY CLUB

Hoots Holiday club is open from 8am until 6pm during all school holidays only closing for public bank holidays.

Holiday club offers set sessions times however we can be really flexible to meet families needs.

WHAT DOES HOOTS OFFER?

Hoots offers a wide range of resources for all our children from ages 4-14, from small world, construction, role play, board/ card games, nintendo switch, XBOX, messy play and much more.

Hoots plan around the childrens interests and offer really exciting opportunities within our holiday club such as in house visits and trips within the local area for example:

- Go- karting
- Park visits
- Multi sports coaching
- Slime parties
- Pottery painting
- Nerf battles
- Planet zoom/strikes
- Crazy golf
- Mini beast visits and birds of prey!



ANY OTHER INFO

Hoots is run by Little Owls Day Nursery, who offer two outstanding settings located in Toftwood and Scarning. Hoots is Managed by our Hoots Manager Laura and our Deputy Maisie along side our dedicated and passionate staff team.

CONTACT INFO



For any enquires please contact Laura on 01362 699700, or email on hootsmanager@littleowls-nursery.co.uk

Alternatively you can enquire through our website link below

www.littleowls-nursery.co.uk



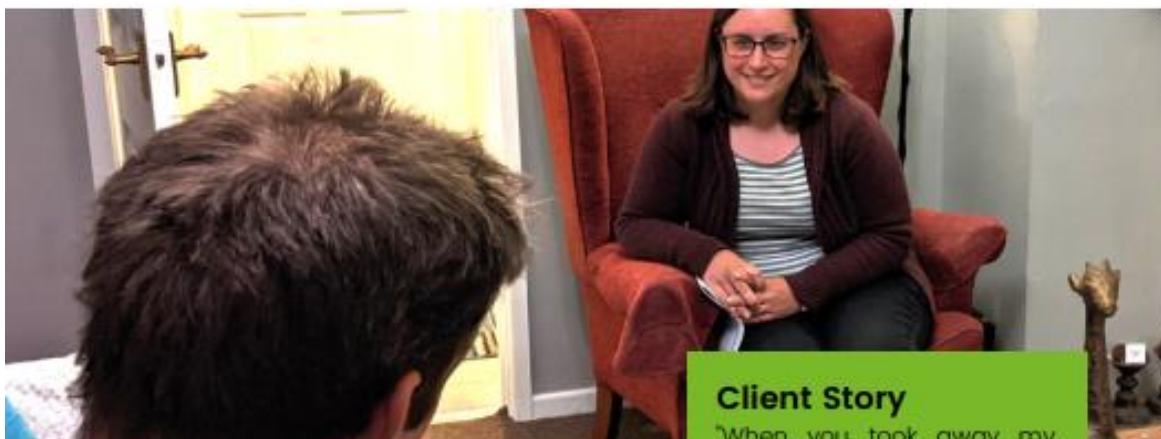
Hoots After School & Holiday club



News



Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, in partnership with Dereham Baptist Church



We offer:

Dereham Debt Centre works with national charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to support those who are struggling with debt.

Individuals self-refer to CAP by phoning 0800 328 0006 and an appointment is made for Morgan (our Debt Coach) to visit them in their home. The team at head office develop a personalised budget and debt plan, they will advise options. A local befriender will support the individual until they become debt free.



Why?

You may find yourself struggling with debt, perhaps a relationship breakdown or unemployment, or simply the rising costs of living. Maybe you don't know where you can get help or what options are available to you.

Often there is a feeling of shame or embarrassment, and debt may be linked with mental ill-health.

We want you to know that CAP can help, there is hope and with support you can become debt free.

Client Story

"When you took away my paperwork and said I don't have to worry about that anymore, that CAP will take care of it all, I felt the weight lift immediately. Now I'm not getting the phone calls and letters demanding money all the time, I can relax and enjoy my family again."

"I was laid off work two years ago and was finding it so hard to meet my monthly payments... I decided to speak to my housing officer and they gave me CAP phone number so I got in touch with them and it was the best thing I done"

Who?

Our debt services are free for everyone. Our local centre offers support for those living in postcode areas NR19 and NR20. There are other debt centres within Norfolk.

For free debt help
phone
0800 328 0006
Visit capuk.org for
more info

Breckland Mobile Food Store

Breckland Mobile Food Store is formed in partnership with Norfolk Community Foundation and Breckland Council, and is delivered by Kickstart

The service provides:

- Affordable, healthy, nutritious food and store cupboard staples at a reduced price
- Friendly, expert staff who are trained to offer wider support
- Help to address challenges such as debt management, mental health, and wellbeing issues
- Signposting to a range of services offering further support
- A membership that residents can join for a one-off fee of £3 per household

Check out the website and the timetable here, as well as further information:

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/BMFS>

AFC Crisis manager

Do you need help right now?

The AFC Crisis Messenger text service is a free, confidential, 24/7 text message support service for anyone who is feeling overwhelmed or is struggling to cope. The service is staffed by trained volunteers who will work with you to take your next steps towards feeling better.

They can help with issues such as anxiety, worry, panic attacks and depression and are here to talk at any time of day or night.

If you need support, you can text **AFC** to **85258**.

They know that finding the right support is important, especially if you need someone to talk to right now. They aim to connect every texter to a trained volunteer promptly to provide crisis help. They will listen to you and help you think more clearly, enabling you to know that you can take the next step to feeling better.

This service is provided by Mental Health Innovations (MHI) and Crisis Text Line branded as SHOUT.

For further information and advice go to the website which is:

<https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/afc-crisis-messenger/>

They also offer other advice and support for parents and can be found by searching

<https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/>

They offer advice and guidance for parents and carers to help them support a child or young person experiencing poor mental health or wellbeing. There is support also for:

- Adoptive parents, foster carers, kinship carers and special guardians
- Advice on reducing the impact of conflict between parents/carers and children
- Podcasts to support families
- Understanding your child's behaviour
- Families in conflict following separation or divorce