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

**Newsletter 8 June 2023**

### **A Busy half term!**

This half term is a busy one, with events like our family picnic, race days and much more to fit in! We do hope you are able to join us wherever possible for our events. We put on several, in the hope everyone will be able to make at least one of them. By having a range we hope to allow you opportunities to attend where you can and do not expect everyone to come to every event.

Thankyou to everyone who came to our open afternoon, where you got to look at your child's work and progress over the year with them. Thankyou also to those who came to our wellbeing afternoons where you had the opportunity to learn more about the RSE curriculum and also carry out some simple activities for wellbeing with your child. It was lovely to see so many people in attendance.

### **Staff Changes**

As always at this time of year, staff move on to the next step in their lives and career.

**Mrs Chapman**, one of our Year 2 teachers, leaves us at the end of the term to have a change of career outside of teaching. Mrs Chapman has been here for many years, and taught throughout the Infant School. She has also led PE and made sure the children get the best physical education possible and arranged many sporting events. She has supported students and teachers new to the profession and new to our schools too. We wish her luck with her next steps and thank her for all she has done.

**Mr Williams**, one of our Year 3 teachers, also leaves us at the end of term to move to a role focused solely on computing, which is his area of expertise. Whilst with us he has taught in Years 3 and 4, and also reviewed our computing curriculum for us. We wish him luck in his new role and thank him for what he has done in his time with us.

**Mr Roberts**, one of our Year 6 TAs, is moving back to Wales at the end of term. Mr Roberts has been with us since we federated and has been a great support to so many children, offering a listening ear and a daily check in. He has worked at lunchtimes and in lesson times and is always happy to be flexible and work where he is needed. We wish him luck and thank him for all he has done.

**Mrs Gale**, one of our Year 5 teachers, moves on the week before the end of term. She stepped in temporarily when Mrs Smith left at Christmas, and has shown dedication and commitment to the class in her time with us.

We wish her luck with her next steps and thank her for all she has done.

**Miss Griffiths**, one of our Year 4 TAs, also leaves us at the end of term as she moves on to University to train as a teacher. It has been a pleasure to support her and watch her grow over the year and gain in confidence with working in a school and we know she will be a great teacher. We are so pleased to have had her with us this year and thank her for all she has done.

**Miss Ladbrooke** joined us a few weeks ago as a TA. She is also with us for the coming academic year before she too goes to train as a teacher in September 2024. We look forward to working with her over the next year.

**Mrs Bruce** has joined our teaching team this half term. She is supporting across the school currently, from Year 1-Year 6 and in September she will be based at the Infant School. She has already settled into the team and we hope she enjoys working with us.

In September we will be joined by **Miss Wicks and Miss Waller** who will join our teaching team at the Junior School. We look forward to them joining us and they should be with us for transition week.

We are currently interviewing for MSAs, so if you are interested in this role for September, please do ask for an application form. Posts will be offered subject to an enhanced DBS check and two satisfactory references: from a previous employer, including a reference from any school you have worked in as part of our safeguarding measures in place.

### **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 6 had an excellent time learning about WW2, looking at solving a DNA identity case with Dr Amanda Hartley. She told the story of two children whose Granny was moving in with them. She married during the war but her husband died in battle. She never spoke about him and his identity has remained a mystery in the family. When moving Granny's things, the children discovered a shoe box full of love letters, a locket and photos. They traced their grandfather's family who gave them some of his old things. She spoke to the children about how we would obtain DNA from the items given to them (a ration book, army uniform and gas mask) and prove that the man in the photographs really is their grandfather. This was a very interactive and visual session with children finding out additional information about RAF pilots in World War II, and how we can use science to answer questions about the past.

See photos here: <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/category/year-groups/year-6/>

The oral history group wrote letters to the residents of Sandford House and asked them lots of questions about their past. They sent them a thank you letter for their help and hope to keep in touch with them. They made a display of their letters in Junior School.

See more information on the link here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/history-summer-2-2023/>

All of the children were lucky to have a visit from Ellise Owen who has previously run wellbeing lessons with each class. This time Ellise, worked with each class to recap on recognising your feelings and understanding it is 'how you present to others that is important to keep good relationships'. The pupils loved trying out three different activities outside. The first activity focused on an individual challenge, the second challenge involved working with a partner and both moving inside a hoop and the final activity was a team challenge to develop pupils' teamwork skills. It was both challenging and lots of fun!

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

Check out some photos here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2022-23/social-and-emotional-wellbeing-sessions-summer-term-2023/>

Year One had their trip to Holkham Hall to link to their learning in History. They had a tour of the hall itself and were amazed at the sculptures, carpets and ceilings. They also learnt about and explored toys from the past.

Check out some more information and photos here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-1/year-one-holkham-hall-2023/>

### **Norfolk SENDIASS Newsletter**

The Norfolk newsletter for parents/carers of children with SEND is now available here:

<https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/news/newsletters/may23-e-newsletter-2/>

### Sunny Weather!

Now the summer seems to be here, please remember the following to keep your child safe:

- Make sure your child has a hat every day. We have a no hat, no play rule on very hot days and they would then need to sit in the shade.
- Apply long lasting sun cream to your child **before** they come to school. We would not have the time to assist all of the children in the class to out suncream on so it is vital you apply it before they come to school.
- If you think your child will need a top up of suncream, they can bring in a **roll-on or solid stick only**. You can buy empty roll on bottles on line and fill with a sun cream of your choice if required. These are the safest option for the children to use in school.
- Ensure they bring a bottle of **water only** to school every day for drinking in class, at break etc. (They can bring a different drink to have with their lunch but not for use throughout the day)
- Children should not bring sunglasses to school.

More advice on keeping your child safe in the sun can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>

We would also advise putting an ice pack in your child's lunchbox if they bring their own lunch. You can also freeze things such as 'frubes' and pop them in their lunchbox to keep things cool and to enjoy at lunch! Please do make sure the lunch boxes are cleaned out daily to avoid sticky items being left in them.

### MSAs

A reminder that we have some MSA vacancies for September 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.

### Help our Libraries!

You could nominate our schools and help us win £1000 for our library. We love making sure we have new and up to date books for the children, so if you can nominate us we would be really grateful. The more nominations we have the better our chances! 1 in 7 Primary Schools do not have a library, so our children are very fortunate to have 2! You can find more information here:

[https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm\\_source=nbt&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=nominate-your-school&utm\\_campaign=20230606\\_schools\\_B2B](https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nominate-your-school&utm_campaign=20230606_schools_B2B)

Or enter here:

[https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm\\_source=nbt&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=nominate-your-school&utm\\_campaign=20230606\\_schools\\_B2B#nominate-your-school-title](https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nominate-your-school&utm_campaign=20230606_schools_B2B#nominate-your-school-title)

If you need any help with the links, please let us know. Thankyou for your support.

### Feast on the Field

On **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July** we will be having a 'feast on the field' for the children. Fingers crossed for good weather. The menu for the day will be:

Hot dogs, chips, cucumber sticks and a rocket ice lolly

All children will be able to eat out on the field, whether they have the school meal or not. Please note this will be the only meal on offer on this day. We will send a reminder closer to the day. Vegetarian hot dogs will be on offer for those who require them.

### Family Picnic

Just a reminder our family picnic is on June 28<sup>th</sup>. A link to respond to to say you are coming will be sent out shortly.

### Late arrivals

Please do ensure your child is in school and on time every day. They need to be in by 8.55 every day.

## Safe School Run Pledge

Safe parking outside our school is important. It helps our children and families to feel safe & confident on the school run. We regularly ask parents/carers to drive and park sensibly outside our schools to keep our children safe.

We asked children how they feel when they are dropped off / picked up at the end of the day. This is what they said:

'When parents are in a rush they park where they should not'

'Fire engines, ambulances, police cars won't be able to get past if cars do not park properly.'

'Too many cars mean pollution levels go up and we breathe this in. It is not good for our health.'

'When we have to cross the road in between parked cars, it's not always safe.'

'Outside my school there's always lots of cars parked and it is very busy.'

**To meet these identified needs of feeling safe and confident, we are launching a 'Safe School Run Pledge' and we hope ALL parents/carers will sign up.**

The aim of this 'Safe School Run Pledge' is to promote responsible and considerate parking when children are dropped off or picked up outside our schools.

By signing up to this pledge, you will be helping to ensure; school drop off/collection times are as safe as possible.

If you would like sign up to the safe school run pledge, please complete the form accessed by this link: [Safe School Run Pledge](#)

In support there are a few useful resources we can offer you: -

- A special safe school run pledge 'badge' can be emailed to you on request for you to display in your car to show others your commitment to the scheme. This will hopefully encourage other drivers to do the same.
- Information on the [NCC Road Safety website](#) including, [learning resources](#), a useful [Parking Information Leaflet](#) and a Calendar of [Road Safety National Events](#) that may be of interest highlighting many active travel events that families can engage with in supporting the safe school run pledge.

### **Safe School Run Pledge:**

By signing the pledge via the form, you would agree to:

- Walk to school whenever possible or parking further from the school and walking the last bit of the journey
- Park safely outside the school, **keeping the yellow zig zag line outside the school gate free**. This keeps the area clear so all road users can see the school entrance and keep our children safer on their way to and from school.
- Not park on the pavement - pavements are important for our children to walk to school. They need to be kept free of obstructions and to enable the independence of vulnerable, older, or disabled people who may have visual or mobility impairments who need to use the path. To allow families with pushchairs to safely walk on the pavement without having to walk into the road to go around vehicles parked on the pavement.
- Park considerately and think about the local resident who may need to access to their homes.
- Not to park in the staff car park (this also applies to parents/carers dropping children off, picking up for any school clubs) unless agreed by the School.
- Turn off my engine when parked (improving air quality & keeping us healthier)
- Think about my speed, 20 is plenty

This initiative is supported by Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Constabulary, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and we look forward to your support too.

We would like the children to design a poster about safe parking.

Can all posters be completed and sent in to the office by 26<sup>th</sup> June and we will put some of them up around the schools and on the gates. Put your child's name and class on the back of the poster. The School Council will look at all of the posters and choose some winners.





## Support for Families and Community News

### Second Hand School Uniform

Just a reminder that we have a selection of pre loved uniform in excellent condition available to buy from the Junior office. If you email [fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk](mailto:fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk) with what you are looking for, Mrs Knox will be happy to let you know if we have items in the sizes you require.

If you have any good quality uniform you would like to donate, or swap for the next size up, please also let her know. All donations gratefully received.

We will have uniform on sale at the family Picnic so do pop along and snap up a bargain, as well as helping the environment by buying pre-loved!

### Flourishing Families

The Flourishing Families Tool has been designed for families who might want a little extra help meeting their child's needs. We know that parenting can sometimes feel overwhelming, but we all share the common goal to give our children the best start in life.

There are all sorts of things that families can get help with, whether it's healthy eating, fun activities or financial management, and this tool was developed to help families work out what they are already doing well and help them to find support when and if they need it.

The tool is available at [www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/flourishingfamilies](http://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/flourishingfamilies) and in just five minutes families can find out about the support that's available.

### Dereham Theatre Company School of Rock

Music plays an important part in education and Dereham Theatre Company would like to celebrate this by inviting our children to take part in our poster competition.

Dereham Theatre company are celebrating 75 years of shows and this summer are excited to present School of Rock the musical. 1<sup>st</sup> prize in our poster competition will include 4 tickets to watch the show. In addition, selected posters will be displayed in the foyer of the memorial hall, during show week.

If you would like to enter, please send your poster to the school office by the 24<sup>th</sup> June. Make sure your child's name, age and school is on the back so they know who has sent it in!

We have pupils starring in the show. Wren is playing the part of Zack the guitarist, Dylan is playing the part of Billy the stylist and Orson is playing the part of James, security.

## COMPETITION

### DESIGN A POSTER FOR YOUR OWN SCHOOL ROCK BAND.

WHAT WOULD YOU CALL YOUR BAND? WHAT INSTRUMENTS WOULD YOU PLAY? WHAT WOULD YOUR LOGO BE?

Music plays an important part in education and we would like to celebrate this by inviting schools and students to take part in our poster competition. Selected posters will be displayed in the foyer of the memorial hall, during show week.

Designs can be A4 or A3 using any media. Students need to include their first name and initial, school and age, on the back of their design.

Closing date 26<sup>th</sup> June

1st Prize - 4x tickets to see School of Rock at Dereham Memorial Hall.

Runner up prizes include craft sets. Winners will be contacted via their school by July 3rd



Dereham Theatre Company  
Registered Charity No. 1042094

## DEREHAM THEATRE COMPANY

proudly presents an amateur group production  
by arrangement with the Really Useful Group

# THE NEXT GENERATION SCHOOL of ROCK THE MUSICAL

Based on the Paramount movie written by Mike White  
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Book by Julian Fellowes,  
Lyrics by Glenn Slater

**26th - 29th July '23**  
7.30 pm nightly & 2.30pm Sat Matinee  
Doors open 30 mins before the show starts

Buy tickets online:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/derehamtheatrecompany](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/derehamtheatrecompany)  
Or on the door

All tickets £15  
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DEREHAM THEATRE COMPANY  
MEMORIAL HALL DEREHAM

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