

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

Welcome back!

A huge welcome back to all of our families, and welcome to all of our new families. It is so lovely to have the children back in school with us.

They are settling in well, and it is good to visit them all in classes and see them at lunch, break and in assemblies. Our first few days have focused on 'kindness'. How we should be kind to each other, look after each other and only say kind things. We discussed how to talk to each other and to make sure everyone can feel safe and happy in school.

We also went over the 5 Golden Rules:

- Do be gentle
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do look after property
- Do listen to people
- Do be honest

It would be helpful if you could go over these rules with your child.

Our PATHS rule is

'Treat others as you would like to be treated'

We will reinforce this over the next few weeks also, and we are talking to the children about being a good role model to others and what that means and praising them when we see good manners, good behaviours and kindness.

New zig zag lines

The zig zag lines have been extended alongside School Lane for the children's safety. You should not drop off or park on these.

They run from the corner of William Cowper Close to the gate of the park on School Lane. Thankyou to everyone who has followed the rules and parked considerately to keep the children safe.

Celebrations

As always, we know some children will do amazing things out of school that we may not know about. If your child has a significant achievement you would like them to share with us, send in a photo of them and a trophy/medal etc and a little information about what they have achieved and we can add it to our celebrations board in each school.

Already at Juniors we have Elijah who read 40 books and Erin who was awarded a trophy for writing an excellent story. Well done to them. We look forward to adding more celebrations and personal achievements in the future.

Well done!

A huge well done to Tomas and Ariana in Year 6 who have been going to Infants to support a new child in Year 1 who does not speak any English. They have been extremely kind and helpful to her.

Food help for Families in Need

We have been informed that Hawthorn and Bee, a health food shop in Dereham have a fresh bread, fruit and vegetable delivery on a Friday. You can pick some of these up for free if you need a hand or are having financial difficulty.

You can put a few coins in the jar for a donation if you wish to, but if you are unable to that is not a problem.

Free School Meals

If you are on a low income or certain benefits in your household, you could be entitled to Free School Meals. Even if your child is at Infants, you should apply if eligible because often there is other financial help that comes if you sign up to this. If you want any more information, please do contact the office and someone will be happy to help you.



School Lottery

To help raise funds for children in our schools for treats and extras, we have a school lottery. See below for details of how you could join.



- Join the lottery to support our school
- Win weekly cash prizes up to £25,000
- Free entry into the bonus Super Draw

BUY TICKETS:

Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
And search for: Toftwood, FOTS



Mornings!

Just a reminder for everyone that the gates open at 8.40 am at both sites and close promptly at 8.55 am. Children arriving after this time have to be marked as late and need to be taken to the school office. Junior children in the mornings can enter via the Infant gate and walk across the field.

End of the Day

Thankyou to everyone for finding the right lines for the end of the day! We will have it cracked by Friday I am sure. Can we politely remind you that you need to walk round on the path to go from Infants to Juniors as children in juniors are still outside learning or changing in the classrooms so for safeguarding reasons you need to go in through the playground or Year 6 gate. Thankyou for your understanding.

Questions or Queries or Information

Please remember if you have any questions or queries you can contact us in the following ways:

- On the gate in the morning for a quick question or something to pass to the class teacher
- By emailing the office at either school
- By leaving a message on the answer phone if a child is absent. Please do not message absences on dojo as they may not be seen before the register closes.
- By dojo if you have a non-urgent message for the class staff and want to communicate something to them
- By phoning if it is something you want to discuss or you need to make sure someone knows something quickly.
- See the teacher at the end of the day if you have a quick query or question or a piece of information. Please do let them see all of the children safely to their adults before you speak to them.

Attendance

You will have received the information about attendance and legal intervention at the beginning of term. As explained in our email, we are legally obliged to send this to all families at the beginning of term, although we may not want to send it then. We apologise if anyone thought this was directed at them, as it was not and was shared with the whole Federation. It had been queued up to send since July on the system so it went automatically. Next year we will try and rename the email so it does not alarm anyone.

However, the Government and the Local Authority have a huge focus on attendance, and we support this. We know there may be the odd occasion when a child is not well enough for school, but anyone who has regular absences will be offered support for this to improve and we will work with families to improve attendance. We can also work with Just One Norfolk too to get you the support that would be useful.

Below is the information from Just One Norfolk:

Every Day Counts ✓

Supporting Good School Attendance

Guidance for Parents / Carers
Good attendance at school is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

Did you know?
90% Attendance
for one year = 4 weeks of learning missed, this is called persistent absence.

Research has shown that there is a strong link between levels of attendance at school and levels of achievement. Students with high levels of attendance tend to gain better results in tests and examinations than students with lower attendance levels. Children with good attendance are more than twice as likely to pass their English and Maths GCSEs compared to those who are persistently absent.

How you can help your child have good attendance

- ✓ Get into good routines: start the year right and make attendance a priority, or even better, get into good habits from the start of nursery!
- ✓ Show an interest in school and education; attend parents meetings, concerts and other school events.
- ✓ Talk about school at home: ask your child what they're learning, how their friends are and how they're getting on.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take part in school activities.
- ✓ Don't let your child take time off school for minor ailments: particularly those which would not stop you from going to work.
- ✓ Where possible, make appointments outside of school hours.
- ✓ Take family holidays during school holiday time only.
- ✓ Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school. If you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school, you should contact the school straight away.
- ✓ Acknowledge, praise and reward good or improved attendance, even small successes.

For advice on support for your child's attendance, speak to your school or visit justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

Norfolk County Council

If you have any questions about attendance or would like a little support, please contact us.

Help with Debt

Please see below information from Christians against Poverty, a charity that helps with debt. If you want any information, you can contact them or Mrs Bates, our family support worker, She can be emailed on familysupport@toftwoodfederation.co.uk and she is working Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.00 – 4.



Newsletter



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



Money Course – book your free place now

The Money Course is a series of four workshops full of tips for budgeting and prioritising what you spend money on. Our next course will be held at Dereham Baptist Church and starts on Thurs 5th October, 9:30am–11:30am.

An attendee of a previous course says:
"Worried about your finances, or maybe really don't know the full picture of your finances? Do you struggle to budget and stick to a budget? Might you have debts but you really don't know the size of the problem? Even if you're confident you have all under control This Course could help you understand more about your finances and it's FREE!"

Please email catherineweatherill@capuk.org or phone 01362 695221 to book a place

How do you feel about money?

We asked visitors at the Dereham Windmill Teddy Zipline how they felt about money and they gave a range of responses, with many feeling that money doesn't go as far as it used to! Do you feel in control of your finances, or are you struggling? Either way the Money course is for you! Our money coach Morgan started running budgeting workshops after attending one and seeing the benefit for herself and her family. We'd love you to sign up and come along – it's free and open to everyone.

Morgan and our team of volunteer befrienders continue to work tirelessly to help others. If you're struggling with debt please get in touch as we may be able to help.

Our debt services are free, and available for those in postcodes NR19 and NR20. There are other centres in Norfolk.
For free debt help phone 0800 328 0006. Visit capuk.org for more info

Dereham Debt Centre Newsletter Sept 2023

money money money

Free, expert money coaching

Managing your money doesn't have to be a pain. Learn the skills to make it simple at Dereham Baptist Church. Best bit? It's totally free.

4 sessions, starting:

Thursday 5th October, 9.30am–11.30am

Book your free place, call 01362 695221 or email catherineweatherill@capuk.org

capuk.org/trymoneycoaching

Charity Registered No: 1097217 (England & Wales), SC038776 (Scotland). CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



money money money

Money coaching is a free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better manage your finances. Anyone can benefit – from seasoned budgeting experts to those struggling to get to grips with their spending.

- Learn how to build and balance a household budget
- Learn how to structure your finances using a system proven to work
- Find ways to save more and get the most out of your spare cash
- Learn how to use credit wisely and navigate unmanageable debt
- Explore the difference between essential and optional expenses and find ways to realistically cut costs

capuk.org/trymoneycoaching

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Parenting Support Sessions

We understand that parenting can be the most difficult job in the world! It can also feel very lonely. With this in mind we are offering some informal sessions - simply a coffee and a chat, with our family support worker Mrs Bates and other parents and carers. There will be no formal presentation, it will be parent-led focusing on your needs and whether there is anything we can suggest that might help. It can also be an opportunity to meet other parents and carers and ensure you do not feel isolated or alone.

These parent support sessions will be held on the Infant School site. You will even get a cup of tea and some biscuits!

Thursday 28th September at 09:15. Please can you book through the school office as places are limited.

2nd November at 09:15. Please can you book through the school office as places are limited.

7th December at 09:15. Please can you book through the school office as places are limited.

Please note that these sessions are for parents/carers only. We respectfully ask that you do not bring any other children. We will have to turn you away and this is something we would wish to avoid. There is an expectation that we all respect each other's confidentiality if anything is shared, so everyone feels confident to do so. Parents/carers from both schools are welcome.

Diary Dates

Here are the updated diary dates for this term, all correct at the time of sending the newsletter. The ones highlighted in yellow are new from the ones shared at the end of the Summer term.

Autumn 2023 Date List		
Date	Infant School	Junior School
Mon 18 th Sept		Egyptian Day in school for Year 3 children. Year 3 to send out information to parents.
Thurs 28 th Sept	Parent Support Sessions 9.15 at the infants. All welcome but please contact the Info office to book a space as spaces are limited	
Mon 2 nd Oct	2-3pm Phonics Workshop for parents/carers Reception. Year 1/ 2 parent/carers also welcome if they feel they would benefit or their child needs some support with phonics	
Mon 2 nd Oct		Y6 National Child Measurement Checks
Thur 5 th Oct	KS1 football event for selected children	
Fri 6 th Oct	Year 2 History day in school	
Mon 9 th Oct	Farm visit to Year 1 children (in school)	
Tue 10 th Oct	World Mental Health Day. Details to follow	
Wed 11 th Oct	2-3pm English Workshop for parents/carers in Year 1/2. Year 3 parent/carers also welcome if they feel they would benefit or their child needs some support with phonics	
Wed 11 th Oct		Year 3 Norwich cathedral Trip
Fri 13 th Oct	KS1 Rugby festival for selected children	
Monday 16 th Oct	Information sent to all parents/carers with instructions on how to book a parent/carer consultation	
Tue 17 th Oct	9:15-11:30am Reception Harvest Activity Morning. 1 adult per child. No younger children please.	
Fri 20 th Oct	2pm onwards. Year 1-6 Harvest Activity sessions for parents/carers. Please note, children will not be allowed to leave until the end of the school day. Adults will leave the sessions 10 minutes before the end of the school day. No younger children please.	
Mon 23 rd to Fri 27 th Oct	Half Term	
Mon 30 th Oct	Parent Consultation booking site opens at 4pm	
Tue 31 st Oct	2:15-3pm Maths Workshop for parents/carers in all year groups, Infant Hall	

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Wed 1 st Nov	KS1 cross country event for selected pupils	
Thurs 2 nd Nov	Parent Support Sessions 9.15 at the infants. All welcome but please contact the Infant office to book a space as spaces are limited	
Fri 3 rd Nov	2pm onwards Year R- Year 6 Open Afternoon for parents/carers to come and look at books before Parent Consultations. Please note, children will not be allowed to leave until the end of the school day. Parents/carers will leave the sessions 10 minutes before the end of the school day. No pushchairs allowed in school.	
Tue 7 th Nov		Pupil wellbeing sessions with the Sports' partnership in school for all children
Thur 9 th Nov	4-7pm Online Parent Consultations	
Fri 10 th Nov		Year 5 Viking Day in School. Year 5 to send out information to parents/carers.
Mon 13 th - Fri 18 th Nov	Maths Week. Details to follow	
Mon 13 th Nov	4-7pm Online Parent Consultations	
Tue 14 th Nov		Year 4 and Year 6 Girls' football competition at goal for selected children.
Fri 17 th Nov	Children In Need. Details to follow	
Wed 22 nd Nov	9:15-11:15am Pre-School Activity Morning for children starting school in September 2024.	
Wed 22 nd Nov		Y3-6 Cross Country Final (TBC)
Tue 28 th Nov		Flu Vaccination NHS team in school
Wed 29 th Nov	Flu Vaccination NHS team in school	
Thur 7 th Dec		2:30-3pm Year 6 Residential Information Session for parents/carers Main Hall at Juniors.
Thurs 7 th Dec	Parent Support Sessions 9.15 at the infants. All welcome but please contact the Infant office to book a space as spaces are limited	
Mon 11 th Dec		Year 4 Roman Day. Y4 to send out information.
Tue 12 th Dec	9:15-11:15am Reception Christmas Activity Morning. 1 adult per child. No younger children please.	
Wed 13 th Dec	Federation Christmas Lunch. Children can bring festive headwear to wear at lunchtime if they wish.	
Thur 14 th Dec		9:15am Year 5 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please. Year 5 Christmas Party (children only) Year 5 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.
Fri 15 th Dec	Reception Christmas Party (children only) Reception children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.	9:15am Year 6 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please. Year 6 Christmas Party (children only) Year 6 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Mon 18 th Dec	9:15am Year 2 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please. Year 2 Christmas Party (children only) Year 2 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.	10:45am Year 3 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please. Year 3 Christmas Party (children only) Year 3 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.
Tue 19 th Dec	9:15am Year 1 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please. Year 1 Christmas Party (children only) Year 1 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.	10:45am Year 4 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please. Year 4 Christmas Party (children only) Year 4 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.
Wed 20 th Dec	Non uniform day. Christmas Activity and Cinema Afternoon. Last day of term. School closes for Christmas holiday at the end of the school day and reopens to children at 8:40am on Thursday 4th January 2024.	

Here's to another lovely week with the children in school!

Best wishes

Joanna Pedlow