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Toftwood Junior School  
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Website: [www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk](http://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk)

Follow us on twitter (X) - @ToftwoodFedera1

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

### Newsletter 5 December 23

#### Diary Dates

Here are the updated diary dates for this term, all correct at the time of sending the newsletter.

For the Christmas party days, children can come in in an outfit for the performance and the party. Please make sure these are suitable for school. Nothing too short, no cropped tops, no heels. Year 6 have suggested something suitable for the Christmas play which is themed around WW2. Check dojo for further information.

For our performances, please note the following:

- **Filming of the performance is not allowed**
- **Photos should not be taken during the performance. You can take a photo of your own child at the end of the performance.**
- **Phones should be switched off during the performances and the activity morning.**
- **Standing is not allowed at the performances due to fire regulations**
- **Younger children cannot attend due to space limitations**

As each year group in Years 1-6 is only doing one performance, we really want everyone to be able to focus on the children, be able to hear the performance and see the result of their hard work.

December 2023 Date List		
Date	Infant School	Junior School
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9:15-11:15am Reception Christmas Activity Morning. 1 adult per child. <b>No younger children please.</b>	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Federation Christmas Lunch.</b> Children can bring <b>festive headwear</b> to wear at lunchtime if they wish. Uniform should still be worn. Pre booked lunches only - if you have not ordered, please send your child with a packed lunch	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day for the sugar collection Thank you for your support with this so far, it will really help the homeless this Christmas.	
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec		9:15am <b>Year 5 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please.</b>  Year 5 Christmas Party (children only) Year 5 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Reception Christmas Party (children only)</b> Reception children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.	9:15am <b>Year 6 Christmas Performance, Main Hall. 2 adults per child. No younger children please.</b>  Year 6 Christmas Party (children only) Year 6 children can wear clothes suitable for a party all day on this day.
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Non uniform day. (No charge) Sparkle and shine, be festive, or just wear your favourite outfit suitable for a day in school. Christmas Activity and Cinema Afternoon.  Last day of term. <b>School closes for Christmas holiday at the end of the school day and reopens to children at 8:40am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</b>	

### Special Visitors

It has been our pleasure to welcome in Reverend Laura Purnell to come and speak to the children about the Christmas story. She is also joining us to enhance our understanding of Christianity. The children are really enjoying seeing her in school.

### KS1 Gymnastics Trip

Some of our KS1 children went to Norwich Gymnastics club and took part in a Gymnastics festival. The children had the opportunity to use lots of the equipment including the beams, bars, vault and the foam pit. They completed a range of different activities, which allowed them to practise their jumping, balancing and rolling movements. Everyone had a fantastic time and all the children tried their best with the new skills; even when some of the activities were very challenging and a tad scary. We were so proud of how they had a go at everything!

The 'determination' sticker was given at the end of the festival to one child for demonstrating excellent bravery and determination on the beam. They found it quite scary to begin with, but had another go and did brilliantly.

You can see the full update and photos on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/ks1-gymnastics-trip-december-2023/>

### Maths Week

The children really enjoyed the Maths Week activities

Please check out the website to see something from each year group!

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/maths-week-england-2023/>

### Parking

We have again had some neighbours expressing their concerns over adults parking irresponsibly or across their driveways. Our PATHS golden rule is treat others as you would like to be treated so if we can all remember that, it would be much appreciated.

### Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

All children who receive means tested free school meals will have had an email about the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme, which runs free activities in the holidays for eligible children.

Please do remember you need to sign up if you wish your child to attend.

If your child is registered with us as a young carer, you need to contact the office to make the booking for you.

Further information on the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/big-norfolk-holiday-fun>

### SMSC Quality Mark

We are pleased to share that we have been awarded the GOLD quality mark for SMSC. This is social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.

They noted positively so much of the great work we do in our schools, and how we support the children to become confident individuals, we respect and understand others, celebrate differences and support each other.

A huge thanks to all of the staff, especially Mr Hardy and Miss Gold who put in a great deal of work to achieve this award, and also to Governors and the children, who did an excellent job sharing all their learning with the assessor.



### Winter Advice Hub

Norfolk have a Winter Advice Hub.

Whether it's a feeling of isolation, advice on housing, benefits, disability rights, debt and money, legal help, homelessness or domestic abuse, the charities which make up the Norfolk Community Advice Network can help you.

You can contact any of the [network charities](#) directly, or call the Your Norfolk Advice Network for help. A specially recruited team of staff will answer your calls and emails. The helpline number is 0333 996 8333 and the email is [helpline@ncan.co.uk](mailto:helpline@ncan.co.uk). Their opening hours are 10am - 4pm Mon - Fri.

If nobody is available to answer your call, or you phone outside these hours, you can leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you.

### Twinkl Phonics

Our children are really enjoying learning with Twinkl Phonics. It is always helpful if they can practise at home, as long as the sounds are pronounced correctly. You can see all of these on their You Tube channel

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/phonics-videos/>

We hope you find it helpful and enjoyable! Your child will enjoy showing you what they know and have been working on.

### Sleep Workshop for Parents and Carers

Does your child find it difficult to sleep at night? If so we have a visitor, Teodora, joining us 'online' from the UEA to discuss how you can help get into a routine of successful sleeping! It is free to attend and is at the Infant School at 9.15. Please ring the Infant Office if you'd like to join us.

### School Lottery

We have had another School lottery winner over the weekend and because more people have bought tickets recently, the winner has receive a little more prize money. Not enough to retire on, but every little helps. So don't miss out - get your tickets now [click here](#)

### Community News

### NIDAS - Support for those suffering from Domestic Abuse

The poster features a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of white snowflakes and stars. On the right side, there is a large graphic of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of pink, green, yellow, and white. The NIDAS logo, consisting of a colorful puzzle piece icon and the word 'NIDAS' in white, is positioned in the top left. Below the logo, the text 'Joined-up domestic abuse support in Norfolk' is written in a smaller font. The main title 'Christmas Opening Hours' is in a large, bold, green font. Below this, the dates for December 2023 and January 2024 are listed with their respective opening hours. A section for 'Core opening hours' is also included, along with a red text box at the bottom stating 'If you're in immediate danger, always call 999.'

**Visit: [www.nidasnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.nidasnorfolk.co.uk)**  
**Call: 0300 561 0555**  
**Out of hours: 0808 2000 247**

**NIDAS**  
Joined-up domestic abuse support  
in Norfolk

## Christmas Opening Hours

**December 2023**

Sunday 24th (Christmas Eve): 9am - 3pm  
Monday 25th (Christmas Day): 9am - 3pm  
Tuesday 26th (Boxing Day): 9am - 3pm  
Wednesday 27th - Sunday 31st: Normal core opening hours

**January 2024**

Monday 1st (New Years Day): 9am - 3pm  
Tuesday 2nd: 9am - 6:30pm  
Wednesday 3rd: 9am - 6:30pm

**Core opening hours**  
**Weekdays: 9am – 6:30pm**  
**Weekends: 9am – 3pm**

**If you're in immediate danger,  
always call 999.**



## Financial Support



**THE CLIENT HARDSHIP SERVICE**  
INCORPORATING THE NORFOLK ASSISTANCE SCHEME  
AND THE MONEY SUPPORT SERVICE

**Are you in crisis and worried about managing financially?**

We can give you support to get back on track with information and guidance on a wide range of issues including budgeting. We can also support you financially as part of our holistic service.

**Do you fall into any of these groups?**

- Working on a low income
- Working and receiving a means tested benefit
- Claiming benefits
- Disabled/pensioner
- Caring for someone
- Trying to get back to work
- Unexpected expenditure

The fastest way to apply is online: [norfolk.gov.uk/chs](https://norfolk.gov.uk/chs)  
If you do not have internet access, call 0344 800 8020  
To discuss an open application, call 01603 306131 option 1

 Norfolk County Council

## Adult Learning

Adult learning have a number of health and wellbeing courses coming up - including sessions on mindfulness, yoga and sleep.

The full list can be found on their website [Adult learning courses in Norfolk - Norfolk County Council](#)

## Unpaid Carers

Winter and the Christmas period can be a challenging time for people supporting a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction.

Carers Matter Norfolk offer free services and support to people caring for another adult.

Unpaid carers can contact Carers Matter Norfolk directly to ask for support by visiting [carersmatternorfolk.org.uk](https://carersmatternorfolk.org.uk), by emailing [info@carersmatternorfolk.org.uk](mailto:info@carersmatternorfolk.org.uk) or calling 0800 083 1148.

## Norfolk Hoopstars

Norfolk Hoopstars, are a local basketball club who are delivering local sessions in Dereham Neatherd High School!

### Community Hub Sessions Details:

- **Location:** Dereham Neatherd High School
- **Timings:**  
Wednesdays:  
18:00-19:00 - Year 1 - Year 6  
19:00-20:00 - Year 7 - Year 13

Signing up is easy, log your interest here - <https://www.norfolkhoopstars.com/dereham-hoopstars-form-1-1-1> for more information and to register for the sessions.

Alternatively, they contact them via email at [info@norfolkhoopstars.co.uk](mailto:info@norfolkhoopstars.co.uk) for any enquiries or registration assistance.

### Pricing:

- £5 per session (when paid upfront for the entire half-term)
- £6 per session (when paid weekly)

Phone 0757 0560226 or look at the website [www.norfolkhoopstars.co.uk](https://www.norfolkhoopstars.co.uk)