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

Newsletter 20 December 23

Diary Dates

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

| Spring 2024 Date List | | |
|--|--|---|
| Date | Infant School | Junior School |
| Thursday 4 th January | School reopens at 8.40 am for children. Gates close at 8.55 am | |
| Friday 5 th January | Reception Year fantasy dressing up day. Check Tapestry message for details. | |
| Monday 8 th January | Weather expert meteorologist Chris Bell to visit Year 1 as part of their weather experts topic. | |
| Thursday 11 th January | Parent support session at 9.15 am in the Infant hall on Sleep with a 'virtual' visitor' | |
| Tuesday 16 th January | National dental survey of 5 year olds. You will have had a letter if your child is one of those randomly selected to take part. | |
| Wednesday 17 th January | Information session for parents and carers re potential new Specialist resource base for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties being built on site for September 2025. Information on this will follow in the first week back. Junior School Hall | |
| Thursday 18 th January | PE festival for selected Year 1 and 2 children. | |
| Tuesday 23 rd - Thursday 25 th January | Book fair 3.15- 4 for all children in the Junior School Main hall. Please come through main office and browse the selection of books! | |
| Week beginning 29 th January | Storytelling week across the Federation to inspire a love of reading! Further details will follow | |
| Monday 29 th January | | Years 3-6 wellbeing sessions for children with Ellise Owen. |
| Wednesday 31 st January | Computing workshop for all parents and carers about Computing . This will be in the INFANT hall. Come and learn more about how we support children with computing and what the children are learning. | |
| Thursday 1 st February | | Years 3-6 dodgeball competition for selected children. |
| Week beginning 5 th February | Mental Health Week Further details to follow | |
| Week beginning 5 th February | Year 6 residential. Details on days/times will be shared with parents/carers by Year 6 | |

| Date | Infant School | Junior School |
|---|--|--|
| Wednesday 7 th February | 9.15 - 11.15 Pre- school activity morning. If your child is due to start school in September 2024 and attends Little Owls or William Cowper, you will receive a letter. your child is due to attend school from September 24 and attends elsewhere and you would like them to join us for this session, please email infantoffice@toftwoodfederation.co.uk Make sure you leave a contact phone number and details for the day and inform us in advance if your child has any specific medical needs. | |
| Thursday 8 th February | | Year 3 and 4 sports' festival for selected children |
| Friday 16 th February | Email sent home about booking a parent consultation meeting | |
| Friday 16 th February | Last day of the first half term | |
| Monday 26 th February | Schools re open after half term break at 8.40 am. Gates close at 8.55 am. | |
| Monday 26 th February | Parent consultation bookings open from 4pm online | |
| Wednesday 28 th February | Open afternoon from 2 pm to come and see your child's books ahead of parent consultations. No younger children please in the classrooms, but if you have no one to look after a younger child, please let the offices know and we will find a separate room for you to take the books with you to share with your child. | |
| Thursday 29 th February | Year 4 and 5 non club football festival for selected children who DO NOT play for any club currently. | |
| Monday 4 th March | Ben Langley, star of the Hippodrome Christmas Spectacular and Britain's Got Talent, to perform for all of the children across two performances! | |
| Thursday 7 th March | World Book Day - details to follow | |
| Thursday 7 th March | Online parent/carers consultations 4-7pm | |
| Monday 11 th March | Online parent/carers consultations 4-7pm | |
| Week beginning 11 th March | British Science Week - details to follow | |
| Friday 15 th March | | Years 3-6 Dance Show. Details to follow |
| Monday 18 th March - Wednesday 20 th March | Reception hearing and vision checks for all children in Reception | |
| Monday 18 th March | Brazilian Samba Workshop for Year 2 children | |
| Tuesday 19 th March | | Y6 SATS session for parents/carers in the Junior Hall at 2 pm. Please come to the office. No younger children if possible. |
| Wednesday 20 th March | 9.15 - 11.15 Pre-school activity morning. If your child is due to start school in September 2024 and attends Little Owls or William Cowper, you will receive a letter. your child is due to attend school from September 24 and attends elsewhere and you would like them to join us for this session, please email infantoffice@toftwoodfederation.co.uk Make sure you leave a contact phone number and details for the day and inform us in advance if your child has any specific medical needs. | |
| Thursday 21 st March | World Poetry Day | |
| Wednesday 27 th March | Last day of term in school | |
| Monday 15 th April | Schools re open after half term break at 8.40 am. Gates close at 8.55 am. | |

A Great Term!

Thankyou everyone for your support this term. It has been a very busy one, but the children have shown us what they can do when they all work together and follow the Golden Rules.

Each Year group did a different but equally beautiful Christmas concert or performance, designed by each year group to show the talents of their children.

We hope next year, now we are fully back in the swing of things, to make some of them a little longer and possibly add in a Nativity theme for children in Reception and Year 1 at the very least and make use of the stage at Infants also. .

Next year we may just have a performance for Reception so two adults can join them for this and not have the activities in the class. We hope this will spread that joy further to families! The plans are already forming in our minds! We do hope you enjoyed them and thank you to all of the staff who worked so hard, the children and also the adults that came to support them. We hope you enjoyed them.

Christmas card Competition

We had some fantastic entries for our Christmas Card competition! Well done to everyone who entered. It was very difficult to choose a winner.

Here are the winners and runners up.

Infant School

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Winner - Elliot TC1 Elliot won a set of bike wheel lights, chocolate reindeers, a book and a certificate | 2nd prize - Emily in ICR Emily won a book and a certificate | 3rd prize - Ava in GSR Ava won a book and a certificate |
|  |  |  |

Junior School

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Winner - Seren HP3 Seren won some bath fizzers, chocolate reindeers, a book and a certificate | 2nd prize - Nilah Hardy LJ4 Nilah won a book and a certificate | 3rd prize - Frazer Jarvis LM3 Frazer won a book and a certificate |
|  |  |  |

Year 6 Residential Information

If you were unable to come to the meeting or just want a refresh, please look on the website where you will find all of the information about the Year 6 residential.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-6/year-6-residential-information-2/>

School Council Post Deliveries

Some of our School Council members made and delivered Christmas Cards to our neighbours. See photos on our website:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2023-24/christmas-card-delivery-2023/>

MSA Vacancies

We still have some MSA vacancies so if you are interested in supporting our children, please ask for further details. We would need two work references, and if you have ever worked with children one would need to be from that employer in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. We would also have to have a fully completed application form, a full enhanced DBS check and an interview. Please contact either office if you are interested.

Sadly Miss Woodgett is leaving us as MSA for a new role, but we thank her for her commitment to the children and her time spent with us. We have had a few MSA changes recently, so to all of those who have moved on, thank you for all you have done for our children. Thank you to Mrs Cushley and Mrs Claxton also who have recently left us.

Spanish!

It has been a busy term learning and developing our French speaking and understanding in Years 3-6. We have also now made friends with a Spanish School in Madrid. We look forward to getting our first replies.

Please see the website for more in depth information on what the children have been learning.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/mfl-autumn-2023/>

Reception Reading

We have been so excited to see our Reception children develop into readers this term. They have learnt all of their single sounds and started to learn to read tricky words that you cannot sound out. They have been exploring activities to support their reading and writing this term. You can see more and pictures on the website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/reception-literacy-autumn-2-2/>

PE Kit

Thank you for your support with the children coming in PE kit on PE days. It has made a positive impact on their engagement and time spent with active learning but we just wanted to outline again the process as we will continue with this in January.

- Plain black OR grey jogging bottoms should be worn. No logos etc.
- PE shorts should be worn if your child does not want to wear jogging bottoms, but not tight cycling shorts or other shorts. In colder weather, or if preferred, black leggings or black base layers may be worn underneath them
- The school PE t shirt should be worn
- The normal school jumper or sweatshirt should be worn
- Children should **come in their school shoes** and leave their trainers in a bag on their peg to change into for PE. This prevents trainers becoming wet or muddy at break or lunch and then bringing this into school or to the PE equipment
- Black trainers should be worn, but if your child currently has a pair of a different colour they can use these until they need replacing
- Earrings should be removed if your child is unable to do this themselves

See the uniform page of the website for further information or contact your class teacher for any questions.

Asthma

We have care plans in place for children with Asthma, but recently we have had requests for additional doses of the blue reliever medication to be given in advance of exercise or going outside.

We have spoken to the nurses at Asthma UK to ensure we do the right thing for the children.

The advice from the nurse is that the blue inhaler should only be used when the child displays symptoms (coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath) and not at set times to prevent the onset of symptoms. She advised that if the child's asthma is being managed well they should not need to use their inhaler regularly, and if it is the case that it is being used a lot then the child should see a professional for an asthma review.

Therefore we cannot give it at timed intervals unless parents/carers provide us details from the prescribing professional who has asked for the medication to be administered in this way.

Please do speak with your surgery if you feel your child has been directed by a medical professional to use their blue reliever before exercise or going outside so we can all do the right thing for the children in line with professional medical advice.

Christmas Lunch

We had an excellent Christmas Lunch cooked and served superbly by all of our Kitchen staff. They served hundreds of lunches on that day and a great time was had by everyone. Thank you to all the MSAs and other staff that helped it run so smoothly.

Thankyou

As always, a huge thankyou as we move towards Christmas.

Thankyou to all of the **children** who have worked so hard, settled in to their new classes, extended their learning and worked hard to overcome challenges they may have in their school and home lives. Our pastoral/care support team have worked non stop this term, and will always be here to support families experiencing tough times or just needing a listening ear.

Thankyou to all of the **parents and carers** for your support this term. For getting your child to school on time, for working with us to support the children, for your kind messages and cards. We never expect gifts, especially with the financial situation currently, but are always humbled by the kindness we receive from you. We have had some lovely messages and cards and these all mean so much to staff.

Thankyou to the **staff** who always, without fail, work tirelessly to ensure the best for ALL children in the Federation, working across the two schools to ensure the children have the best school experience possible. Our staff go above and beyond in so many ways and their commitment to the children is exceptional.

Thankyou to all our **Governors**, a small but hard working team for all they do for the school. We are still looking for Governors, so if you know anyone who may have skills we can use, or would be interested in supporting our schools and wonderful children, please do let us know.

Thankyou to all of the **parents and carers** for your support this term. For getting your child to school on time, for working with us to support the children, for your kind messages, cards and gifts. We never expect gifts, but are always humbled by the kindness we receive from you.

Thankyou to all our **visitors and volunteers** who come in to support our children and our schools. From assemblies to cooking, from Romans to dance, their input makes for a really enriching and exciting school experience.

Support at Christmas

We know Christmas can be a difficult time for some. You may have been bereaved and this is the first Christmas without a loved one, or you may be going through a difficult time or struggling with your mental health.

There are still agencies you can contact over Christmas, and support information, and we regularly tweet these on our x/twitter page.

Some you may find helpful are:

The Samaritans

Norfolk Mental Health Support

MIND

The Good Grief Trust

BEAT (Eating Disorders)

CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)

CRUSE Bereavement Support

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

National Domestic Abuse BSL Line

Call 116 123 for free

Call 111 and ask for the mental health option

Call 0300 123 3393

<https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/contact-us/>

Call 0808 801 0677

0800 58 58 58 or thecalzone.net (lines open 5pm - midnight)

Call 0808 808 1677 or cruse.org.uk

Call 0808 2000 247

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/en/bsl>

MIND have a webpage full of support contact at <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/useful-contacts/>

Christmas Wishes

We do hope you have a peaceful and restful Christmas, to make new memories with friends or family or think of those good times from the past. We hope it gives you all some time to relax and reflect and look forward to the New Year.

We look forward to seeing all of the children back on the 4th January 2024.

