

Toftwood Infant School  
School Lane  
Toftwood  
Dereham  
Norfolk  
NR19 1LS

01362 692612

infantreception@toftwoodfederation.co.uk



Toftwood Junior School  
Westfield Road  
Toftwood  
Dereham  
Norfolk  
NR19 1JB

01362 694919

juniorreception@toftwoodfederation.co.uk

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 8 - January 2024

### **Year 1 Weather Experts**

Year 1 children were treated to a visit from Mr Bell from Weatherquest as part of the start of their Weather Experts topic this half term.

Mr Bell explained to the children that the scientific name for someone who forecasts the weather is a Meteorologist. He showed the children how he presents the local weather on BBC Look East and what the different images on the screen mean. He talked about how they show rain, the temperature and the wind speed.

Mr Bell then told the children about different types of extreme weather. He showed them some pictures from some of his storm chasing visits to the USA which the children were really interested about. They particularly loved seeing the videos of tornadoes and the size of some of the hailstones!

Mr Bell then talked to the children about the different instruments that are used to measure the weather. We learnt that a rain gauge measures the amount of rainfall, a thermometer measures the temperature and an anemometer measures the wind speed.

The children also had some interesting questions to ask Mr Bell;

Ava asked, 'How many weather forecasts have you presented?' and Rafe was intrigued to find the answer to his question "How do you know so much about the weather?"

The children really enjoyed the session and were engaged throughout (as well as the grown ups)!

You can see the write up and pictures on the website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-1/visit-from-mr-bell-the-meteorologist-spring-1/>

### **Domestic Abuse Support**

Our schools are part of the Domestic Abuse Champions Network. Mrs Feeke and Mrs Bates are trained to respond to and support people affected by domestic abuse.

Mrs Feeke and Mrs Bates are available whilst the schools are open and can be contacted via the Junior School office on 01362 694919. As they are part of the school community and they often see parents for various reasons, a visit to either of them would not seem out of the ordinary for those wishing to seek confidential help or advice.

Contact details are:

Mrs Feeke - Tuesday 08:30-15:30; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 08:30-13:30.

Email: [dsl@toftwoodfederation.co.uk](mailto:dsl@toftwoodfederation.co.uk)

Mrs Bates - Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 08:30-16:00.

Email [familysupport@toftwoodfederation.co.uk](mailto:familysupport@toftwoodfederation.co.uk)

Further information regarding this role can be accessed at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/domestic-abuse](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/domestic-abuse)

There are also local services which include: [www.leewaysupport.org](http://www.leewaysupport.org) and [www.nidasnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.nidasnorfolk.co.uk)

## KS1 PE Festival

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 10 children from Years 1 and 2 went to Easton Tennis Centre and participated in the PE Festival.

The children participated in eight different activities and worked well with other children from different schools. They had a go at games which involved throwing, catching and agility skills! The children really enjoyed the throwing activity in which they had to aim a ball at a hooped target; this was their favourite of the day!

They really enjoyed themselves and were well-behaved and polite throughout the whole day. We were so proud of how well they participated and challenged themselves at skills such as relay races, team games and parachute games. One child even received the *passion* sticker for showing a true passion for sport and trying his best in all activities!

You can see the full write up and some photos on the website:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/ks1-pe-festival-january-2024/>

## A Busy Autumn 2

Please do take a look at our website on the tab marked year groups to see what the children were learning about last half term. There is a section for every year group.

The link is

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/category/year-groups/>

**Reception** tells all about their work on celebrations, including Bonfire Night, Birthdays, Remembrance Day and Diwali

**Year 1** talks about their work on the book 'Dear Dinosaur' and a focus on letter writing, where they wrote to different people asking about their jobs.

**Year 2** . share their work on Christmas celebrations and retelling of the Nativity and art and DT linked to this.

**Year 3** tell us about their work on George's Marvellous Medicine and creating a performance using alliteration and onomatopoeia. They also share work on The Egyptian Cinderella and their descriptive writing on this. .

**Year 4** were applying descriptive techniques to write an alternative ending to a traditional tale. They also were following multiplication, how sound travels and the different parts of the ear, folk songs in Music, expanding their vocabulary in Spanish, making cake stands in D and T, gymnastics in PE and coding in Computing!

**Year 5** explored deeper the five British values, explored Black History Month, studied the life of Harriet Tubman and how she freed slaves in North America and made quilts with coded messages. They also share their work on Vikings, incorporating a pneumatic system into their Viking Longship, converted fractions to find equivalent fractions and studied poetry by Pam Ayres and Benjamin Zephaniah.

**Year 6** completed their work on WW2 and solved a DNA identity case with Dr Amanda Hartley, as well as looking forward to their residential visit this half term.

## Head Lice

We have had a few cases of head lice, so we ask everyone checks their child's hair and treats them if they are seen to stop the spread. It is really important to ensure all eggs as well as live lice are removed, so please do check the NHS guidance on how to treat them and prevent the spread.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

If we do see headlice or notice your child has been scratching their head a lot we will contact you so you can treat your child as we do not want them to be uncomfortable or distracted from their learning in class.

Thank you for your support.

### Speech and Language Support

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a life long condition. 2 children in a class of 30 start school with DLD which affects listening, attention, memory, language processing, following instructions, understanding, expressive language and social interaction.

Individuals with DLD are also at risk of difficulties with reading and writing, or producing speech sounds. Confusingly, some students with DLD may even talk a lot. The impact of DLD can be mitigated if people with DLD have their needs identified and appropriately supported. Without that support, people may face challenges with their mental health and wellbeing, relationships, personal development, education, employment, and quality of life. A diagnosis of DLD can only be made by a specialist, such as Speech and Language Therapist. Speech and Language therapy helps people with DLD to maximise their language potential, but the strategies to support children with speech, language and communication difficulties have to be implemented in the classroom and supported at home.

These videos may be of use to parents and carers.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/playlists/view/51857a74-b0c4-421f-be4a-30522c093d0d/en/3?options=wc4Rc3pinsFZbYN8U7YyPm9Fu8PPw0y38D7tg60qQr4kFwCpqqv0AqrxG9MexxexnlZ4WioZqlwxbVU5beT3OQ%253D%253D&s=03>

<https://hwb.gov.wales/playlists/view/51857a74-b0c4-421f-be4a-30522c093d0d/en/5?options=wc4Rc3pinsFZbYN8U7YyPm9Fu8PPw0y38D7tg60qQr4kFwCpqqv0AqrxG9MexxexnlZ4WioZqlwxbVU5beT3OQ%253D%253D>

### NHS Parent Workshops

The Psychology in Schools Team run a program of parent workshops throughout the year to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. All the workshops are recorded for you to watch at any time.

They cover a range of topics such as supporting young people with anxiety, building confidence, sleep and regulating emotions.

Please do check the website <https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops/>

### Colder Weather

There has been a chill in the air lately! Please can all children come with a warm winter coat, gloves, hat and a scarf to keep them warm outside.

We do have a small number of pre loved coats in excellent condition available to buy. Please contact Mrs Knox in the Junior office if you would like to see the sizes available.

Equally, if you have any warm coats your child has grown out of and that are still in good condition, we would be grateful for any donations.

### Nursery Spaces

We know some families may have been impacted by the closure of Magic Tree day nursery. Norfolk County Council's Family Information Service (FIS) is available to help any families affected. FIS offers free confidential, and impartial information about local services and support for children aged 0-19 years (or up to 25 for children with special educational needs and disabilities). It also matches families up with alternative provision in the local area.

The council is also working with other providers to see what further support might be needed in each area. The council is responsible for making sure there are enough childcare places in the area, it does not run nurseries itself nor own any nursery sites. Alpha is a private business and the council had no role in the closure.

For anyone having difficulty finding childcare, please do contact the Family Information Service outreach team on 0344 800 8020, email [fis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:fis@norfolk.gov.uk) or visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/fis](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/fis). Their family information officers will offer support to help you find the childcare that meets your family's needs.

# 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 **Green Pastures Community Hub, 20 Norwich Road, Dereham.** Best bit? It's totally free.

3 sessions:

Thursday 8th Feb, 1-3 pm

Thursday 15th Feb, 1-3 pm

Thursday 29th Feb, 1-3 pm

Book your free place, call 01362 695221  
or email [catherineweatherill@capuk.org](mailto:catherineweatherill@capuk.org)

[capuk.org/trymoneycoaching](https://capuk.org/trymoneycoaching)

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



[capuk.org/trymoneycoaching](https://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



## Newsletter



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



2023 was a busy year for us. We received 21 new referrals for our debt help. 4 households were declared debt free and 15 progressing through the CAP process.

April saw Catherine start working with us, building links within the community and raising our profile - with the aim that anyone who is struggling with debt knows that there is help available.

In October, 12 people attended the Money Course. They learnt how to budget effectively, set their spending priorities, and two attendees used the benefit calculator and identified that they were entitled to additional benefits.

### Money Course - book your free place now

Is one of your New Year Resolutions to get in control of your money? Perhaps it's to save for that special holiday? The CAP money coaching programme can help.

Our next course starts on Thursday 8th Feb, 1-3pm at Green Pastures Community Hub (20 Norwich Street, Dereham). Three sessions (8th, 15th, 29th Feb) full of tips for budgeting and prioritising what you spend money on.

Please email [catherineweatherill@capuk.org](mailto:catherineweatherill@capuk.org) or phone 01362 695221 to book your place

We currently have appointments available for new clients - please phone **0800 328 0006** and see if we can help you. Please tell your friends about us.

Our debt services are free, and available for those living in Dereham and the surrounding villages. There are other centres in Norfolk and across the UK.

For free debt help phone **0800 328 0006**. Visit [capuk.org](https://capuk.org) for more info