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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Newsletter 10 February 2025

Half Term is Here!

As we reach the end of another busy half term, here are a few updates and also things to do for children in the holidays and beyond. Thank you for all your support this half term, we hope you enjoy a relaxing break with the children.

Valentine's Day

This year, the School Council decided they wanted to celebrate Valentine's Day. After some discussions about how we celebrate love for everyone in our lives on Valentine's Day, the School Councillors devised a competition – who can create the most love-filled door?

Each class entered and the School Council had the tricky job of deciding which door they liked best! The Councillors saw some fabulous door designs, which very clearly showed how important love is in our lives, alongside some lovely links to our Toftwood Values of respect and empathy for others. We were all very impressed and it was no easy job choosing a winner!

After much deliberation, the School Council voted KD2 (Infants) and EW5 (Juniors) as the winners. Well done to all who took part! For more doors see https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/valentines-day-at-toftwood-federation-2025/





Sports' Event

On Thursday 13th February 2025, a group of 12 children from Year 3 and 4 attended the WNDSSP Alternative Activities event at Easton Tennis Centre. There were six activities: baseball, fitness exercises, Frisbee-throwing, trampolining exercises, darts-based football and golf, and even karate! Some of these activities provided were new and exciting experiences for many of the day's attendees, including the adults, and operating in a carousel meant each child could explore each new sporting opportunity.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their day out. Miss Makins was incredibly impressed with their outstandingly sensible behaviour, their non-stop enthusiasm, their determination to succeed, and their excellent teamwork. She was also very proud of the children for representing the school so beautifully. Well done, Year 3 and 4!

For pictures of the event please see: https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/alternative-activities-2025/

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 11th February 2025, the children at both the Infant and Junior school celebrated Safer Internet Day. Children at each school had an assembly informing them about the day.

At the Infants the children thought about internet scams and how these can be prevented. The children spoke about keeping safe online and knowing, that if something makes you uncomfortable, to tell a trusted adult. The children also retrieved their knowledge of SMART – and were able to make connections to their Computing learning.

The children at the infant school also shared the stories 'Mo and Jaz' and 'Hatch Me' – Isla in Year 1 narrated that the chick should be careful in the story 'Hatch Me' as she was going to visit a friend chick who she didn't know. Isla said that you shouldn't meet strangers you may speak to on the internet.

In Reception the children shared the 'Hatch Me Story' and also thought about what to do if you are worried about anything online.



Parking and Dropping Off

Once again we ask you to act responsibly about driving and parking sensibly at drop off and collection.

We still have a small number of adults who continue to stop on the zig zags, drop off on the road and let children out where it is not safe or legal to do so. In addition to this, we have seen some adults turning in the Year 3 gate, which is also not safe for the children. Please leave five minutes earlier, give time to park correctly, and keep everyone safe. It really is not too much to ask that we are all considerate towards others. The majority of our parents and carers are sensible, but it only takes one poor decision by a driver to end in an accident.

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

We sometimes have reports of unkindness or inappropriate language between pupils online on snapchat, Instagram and what's app groups out of school. As we have often said, these platforms are not for children of this age and can lead to a lot of upset between children, which can then continue into school. This can take quite some time to talk through with children so we ask all parents/carers to be aware of what their child is using/posting and ensure they are acting sensibly and appropriately and talk to them about appropriate use of social media. We would suggest limiting use of screen time, including phones, and removing all devices at least one hour before bedtime for **all** children. Some of our children find it difficult to engage in imaginative play or to create games on the playground and in conversation show how much screen time they have, be it a phone, tablet or gaming. Please do carefully monitor your child's online activity and speak with them about it.

There are events for parents/carers about this you can book onto:

Please note there are two parts to the parent events, and you will need to register for each independently. Each session will be repeated 8 times until December 2025. Both are 1hr sessions and are suitable for parents/carers of children in Year 5 (age 9) and above. This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child's online world.

Parents Event – Part 1 - Introduction to Cyber Choices and Online Risks

This session will introduce you to the Cyber Choices programme and will provide:

- An overview to parents and carers on what cybercrime is.
- What the risks to young people are.
- How the Cyber Choices programme supports at-risk individuals.
- How you can refer a young person into Cyber Choices.

You will also receive an overview of:

- Some of the potential risks that children and young people may experience online.
- Advice to support parents to make informed decisions and keep their children safer online.

The event is free, and tickets can be book directly via:

Wednesday 12 March - 10:00 – 11:00 - Link
Tuesday 22 April - 13:00 – 14:00 – Link
Thursday 15 May - 16:00 – 17:00 - Link
Tuesday 10 June - 10:00 – 11:00 – Link
Wednesday 9 July - 19:00 – 20:00 – Link
Monday 8 September - 14:00 – 15:00 – Link
Thursday 16 October - 16:00 – 17:00 – Link
Tuesday 25 November - 10:00 – 11:00 - Link

Parents Event – Part 2 - Tools and techniques to improve the cyber security of your family

This session will:

- Provide advice on how to improve your personal cyber security.
- Help you to identify and protect your (and your children's) key accounts.
- Identify threats and techniques that cyber criminals may use to target you / your family.
- Highlight the benefits of family accounts and identify parental controls on your router.
- Signposting to useful resources.

Advice and guidance from the session will be in line with the Government's Stop! Think Fraud and the National Cyber Security Centres CyberAware campaign.

The event is free, and tickets can be book directly via:

Wednesday 19 March - 10:00 – 11:00 - Link
Monday 28 April - 13:00 – 14:00 – Link
Thursday 22 May - 16:00 – 17:00 - Link
Tuesday 17 June - 10:00 – 11:00 – Link
Wednesday 16 July - 19:00 – 20:00 – Link
Monday 15 September - 14:00 – 15:00 – Link
Thursday 23 October - 16:00 – 17:00 – Link
Tuesday 2 December - 10:00 – 11:00 - Link

Any questions please email cyberprotectersou@beds.police.uk

Dereham Day

On Saturday 10th May, Dereham Neatherd High School will be the host site for **Dereham Day 2025**.

In preparation for the day, the art department are running a competition that is open to painting, drawing, printing, sculpting, and much more.

The competition is open to schools in order to create a varied collection of works from all ages within our community.

Entries will feature in an exhibition at Dereham Day and there will be prizes for all winning entries.

They hope to give students a creative perspective of their surrounding area, and celebrate the town.

The deadline for entries will be Wednesday 2nd April 2025. Please contact William_Wright@neatherd.org if you have any further questions.



Free Children's Fitness Sessions

FG JUNIORS

Toftwood Scout Hut
Starting from 26th April until Easter Holidays

Ages 5-7yrs
Wed & Fri
4-5pm

Ages 8-10yrs
Wed & Fri
6-7pm

FREE KIDS FITNESS SESSIONS



We are excited to provide FREE fitness sessions aimed at children that don't currently meet the recommended physical activity levels.
Our sessions will create a safe environment to be adventurous with new ways to be active.
We encourage kids to explore their movements and abilities to allow for a more enjoyable and engaging experience.



Email Tim@fgpersontraining.co.uk or Jake@fgpersonaltraining.co.uk to book

Girls' Basketball



As a part of our All Girls Campaign we are providing the following FREE opportunities:

1. Norfolk Hoopstars All Girls Festival-
On Saturday 1st March we are running a FREE All Girls Basketball Festival at City Academy, Norwich, 2pm-5pm. During the festival we will have skills stations, fun skill games and mini games. The festival is for ages 5-18 years and is open to all abilities.

2. Norfolk Hoopstars All Girls 3x3 Tournament-
On Saturday 15th March, 10am-1pm, we are running a FREE 3x3 tournament at City Academy, Norwich, in collaboration with Basketball England and their campaign Her World, Her Rules. The tournament is aimed at all abilities, with all participants receiving a FREE T-shirt!

To sign up to our All Girls Festival and/or 3x3 Tournament please complete the sign up form here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V89u9McAz-8U5ZCJw2pEoj5e2odY-QXuw_W08MhnF6A/edit
Once you have completed the form we will then be in touch to confirm your place and confirm all the important details of the events.
If you are unable to come to either event but are interested in joining our All Girls programme, please email info@norfolkhoopstars.co.uk for further information.
We look forward to welcoming you to the court soon!
Norfolk Hoopstars
https://www.norfolkhoopstars.com
info@norfolkhoopstars.co.uk