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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Newsletter 11 March 2025

We have been extra busy with our learning recently, please do take a look at the website. Remember it is our **Federation Open Afternoon on Friday from 2pm** where you can come in and look at your child's work ahead of parent consultations. Children will be dismissed at the usual time and we will ask all visitors to leave ten minutes before the end of the school day. We don't have room for buggies/prams but if you let your child's teacher know in advance we can arrange somewhere to see your child's work that afternoon away from the classroom.

Infant Secret Writing Club

During the first spring half term some children attended a secret writing club – shhhh! Don't tell anyone!! We started our time in this club writing secret messages and codes using wax crayons and revealing them using water colour paint! They LOVED this! The next week the children split into two groups and each wrote a story of their own choice about an animal character – one named Croc the Crocodile and the other called Diggy the Dog. They then illustrated their story and retold this using the iPad voice feature. We have put these voice notes and illustrated pictures together for a grand reveal during World Book Day. The children were so engaged with this task that some boys from Reception drew their characters in their continuous provision time!! We finished off with a playdoh party becoming superheroes to support their fine motor skills and to end on a great celebration!
Check out the photos here: https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/clubs/infant-secret-writing-club-spring-1/

Congratulations!

We say congratulations to Mrs Harvey and her husband who are expecting their first baby in August. Mrs Harvey is planning to be here for the rest of the school year with her current class.

Young Carers in Schools Award

In our schools we have many children who are young carers when at home. They may look after parents, grandparents or brothers and sisters. We have a club for these children run by Mrs Thompson and Mrs Harvey, giving these children opportunities to focus on themselves and enjoy the activities on offer.
We have now been presented with the Young Carers in Schools Award, which is an award to schools that actively support Young Carers.
This is important to us as it not only recognises the work we do in our schools to support Young Carers, it also celebrates the amazing, caring children who carry out this role.

PE and Uniform Reminder

Thankyou to all of our families who always ensure their child is in the correct uniform at all times.
Just a couple of reminders:
Children in Years 1-6 should come to school in their PE kit on PE days. Please note the following for PE kit requirements:
Plain black OR grey jogging bottoms should be worn. No logos etc. These should be loose and not fitted eg not tight/yoga pants etc.
Black PE shorts. These should be worn if your child does not want to wear jogging bottoms, but not tight cycling shorts, very short shorts or other shorts. In colder weather, or if preferred, black leggings or black base layers may be worn underneath them
Royal Blue plain PE t shirt OR Royal Blue Sports' shirt. Birds sell the plain t shirt in the correct colour from £3. The sports' shirt is of a different fabric and more expensive but may be preferred by some parents/carers or children. You can buy these with or without logos.
School Royal Blue Sweatshirt. The school sweatshirt or cardigan should be worn on PE days and not a hoodie of their choice.
Children should come to school in their normal school shoes on PE days.
They should bring **their plain black trainers** in a small drawstring bag and leave them on their peg for PE days.

Hair bands etc should be blue, black or white and functional. They should be functional, eg to tie hair back, and not for decoration. Large hair decorations, bows etc are not acceptable. Hair should be of the child's natural colour, not dyed or coloured. Excessive hair decorations, nail varnish, make up and tattoos are also not allowed. Any inappropriate hair decorations will be placed in the going home tray for safekeeping.

Skirts should also be knee length.

Thankyou for your support with this.

Mental Health Week 2025

The week beginning 10th February was Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year was 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. During the week we had an assembly thinking about this theme and how to have positive mental health and wellbeing.
At the end of the week, every year group helped to create a federation tree! Each child wrote something they are good at and something they would like to learn on a leaf. All the leaves were placed on the tree from across all year groups. The finished tree looked amazing and it was wonderful to see all the positive comments the children said about themselves, as well as their aspirations!



Toftwood Science Fair

On Monday an email was sent home about the Toftwood Science Fair that is coming up.
This year we will be hosting our Science Fair on Tuesday 11th March to celebrate British Science Week.
We had an excellent visit for all the children from 'Mad Science' last week when we were visited by Dr Dee Enay from to get the children excited about science. They learned about how Bernoulli's air theory is used to fill up a large balloon and how static electricity can make tin cake cases fly and hair stand up on end!

The theme for British Science Week this year is 'change and adapt'. During the week (10-14th March) there will be lots of science happening across the Federation which we hope the children will be able to come home and tell you all about.

Our science fair is especially for children to show of anything 'science-y' that they have been up to at home, displaying them in the school to share with others.

If your child would like to take part in the science fair please create a project and bring it into school by the morning of the 11th *at the very latest*. Alternatively, you can send in photos or videos to your child's class teacher via Dojo or Tapestry of any science experiments that you have done at home and we will display these at the fair.

The fair will take place on **Tuesday 11th March in the Junior School Hall**, straight after school. Please do come and visit, even if your child has not contributed.

Book Week Story Competition Winners

We enjoyed reading all the entries for the story writing competition as part of book week and were impressed with the entries from our budding authors.
Well done to everyone who entered, keep up the good work! Each winner received a book, and there is a certificate for the runners up.
The results are:

Reception	Winner Sara K CSR	Runner up Gabby OGR
Years One	Winner Emily C CM1	Runner up Ella GT1
Year Two	Winner Samara KP2	Runner up Hermione RP2
Year Three	Winner Harlow LM3	Runner up Fletcher CT3
Year Four	Winner Adelyn SW4	Runner up Archie O MM4
Year Five	Winner Rowan EW5	Runner up Freya P LJ5
Year Six	Winner Isla GB6	Runner up Alice BR6

Football Finals

Our Junior team became county champions this term and as a result can go to the finals near London at the end of the month. The cost of transport for this is between £800-£1000 so we are asking if anyone works for a company that would be willing to make a donation towards the cost to please get in touch. Any donations gratefully received. Unfortunately, we can only take a squad of 10 out of the 15, so we know some children will be disappointed, but Mr Barnard will be making the final decision on this shortly.

Year 1 and 2 Disney Football

On Tuesday 4th March children from across KS1 enjoyed a trip to The Nest to take part in a Disney themed football session for girls. The children had a go at 7 activities, focusing on different football skills such as dribbling the ball, stopping the ball and shooting at the goal. Each activity was based around a Disney character and the children enjoyed listening to Disney music while getting involved at each station. There was even a special appearance from Freya Symonds, who plays for Norwich City Women's Football Club who said that she hoped to inspire lots of girls to play football.
Sophie – "This was the best day ever!"
Elsie – "I didn't think it was going to be fun but when I tried it, it was!"
Check out the photos at
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/ks1-disney-football-2025/

Norfolk Disability Cricket Sessions

Norfolk cricket are setting up a new disability cricket team open children aged 10 and over. There will be sessions in Dereham and all abilities are welcome, it is free and kit is provided.

For more information email abi.sutherland@norfolkcricket.co.uk



Sandringham Estate



Girls' Football Opportunities

The Girls 'Wildcats (5-11 years old) football group allows girls to join a club where they can enjoy the game and mix with others. It's non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with other girls their own age. Most importantly, Wildcats is all about having loads of fun and meeting new amazing friends.

For more information, visit their website:
https://www.norfolkfa.com/players/youth/girls/wildcats
Or email Rosie.Filby@NorfolkFA.com
Or call 01603 70450 Option 1 then 2