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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Newsletter 3 October 2025

New dates are highlighted in yellow.

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Friday 14th November	Children in Need – details will follow nearer the time	
Monday 17th November	Online parent consultations 4-7 pm	
Thursday 20th November	Tennis festival for selected children	
Friday 21st November		Year 5 Viking Day Year 5 teachers will send further information
Monday 24th November	Pre school activity morning for children due to start school in September 2026. Little Owls and William Cowper parents will be invited via the Nursery. If your child attends elsewhere and is eligible and you would like them to join, please contact the Infant office. This is a children only event.	
Wednesday 26th November	Flu immunisations (New consents or mop ups)	
Thursday 27th November	Little Troopers club at Lunchtime This is for children whose parents/carers are serving in the armed forces If your child is eligible and you would like them to join, please let Mrs Bates know	
Monday 1st December	Email and information to book a Christmas Lunch	
Tuesday 2nd December	Reception class vision and hearing checks with the school nursing team	
Wednesday 3rd December 2.30 pm	Maths parent workshop for all interested parents in the Infant Hall Come and see how we teach maths from Reception to Year 6 and how you can support at home	
Thursday 4th December 9.30 am	* Dress rehearsal for Year 1 children Junior Hall	
Thursday 4th December 1.45 pm	*Dress rehearsal for Year 2 children Junior Hall	
Thursday 4th December		Wellington House Dental Surgery to visit Year about keeping your teeth healthy
Thursday 4th December		World War 2 vehicles and artefacts experience Year 6

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Thursday 4th December	Little Troopers' Club at lunchtime	
Friday 5th December 10 am	Last Day to donate to the sugar for shelters collection	
Monday 8th December	Year 1 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall	
Monday 8th December 1.45		*Dress rehearsal for Year 3 children Junior Hall
Tuesday 9th December 9.15	Year 2 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall	
Tuesday 9th December 1.45pm		*Dress rehearsal for Year 4 children Junior Hall
Wednesday 10th December 9.15		Year 3 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Wednesday 10th December 1.45 pm		*Dress rehearsal for Year 5 children Junior Hall
Thursday 11th December 9.15		Year 4 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Thursday 11th December 1.45 pm		*Dress rehearsal for Year 6 Junior Hall
Friday 12th December 9.15		Year 5 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Monday 15th December 9.15 am	* Dress rehearsal for Reception Children in the Infant Hall	
Monday 15th December 9.15		Year 6 performance. 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Junior Hall
Monday 15th December	Year 2 Christmas Party pm	Year 3 Christmas Party pm Year 6 Christmas Party pm
Tuesday 16th December	Year 1 Christmas Party pm	Year 4 Christmas Party pm Year 5 Christmas Party pm
Tuesday 16th December 9.15 pm	Reception Christmas Performance 2 adults maximum per child. No younger children. Infant Hall Reception Christmas Party	
Wednesday 17th December	Federation Christmas Lunch This must be booked in advance using the link sent	
Wednesday 17th December 9 am		Rocksteady Xmas Performance Junior Main Hall
Thursday 18th December 9.30 am	Rocksteady Xmas Performance Infant Hall	
Thursday 18th December	Little Troopers' Club at lunchtime	
Friday 19th December	Schools close at 3.15/3.25 for the Christmas Holiday	

Please note the 2 adults only for the performances. If you have a younger child and no one to look after them, please book a space at the dress rehearsal through the class teacher.

Sugar for Shelters Appeal 2025

Again this Christmas our school will be collecting sugar to support a local appeal, " Sugar for Shelters". Every year Norfolk and Suffolk school children donate sugar to help homeless and needy people throughout the county at Christmas. (The total last year was an amazing 6 tonnes!).

Sugar for Shelters is a part of the Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal (BEFA). This NORFOLK farm based Christmas Food Charity, founded by Norfolk farmer Mike Buckingham in 1985, provides the food for more than 5000 Christmas dinners. Schools help Sugar for Shelters by collecting bags of sugar for the homeless, needy and vulnerable in local shelters. Huge amounts of sugar are needed and make a REAL difference in Shelters and Food Kitchens throughout Norfolk and Suffolk in the cold days of winter and particularly over Christmas. Collecting sugar is simple and affordable and helps children focus on the spirit of giving at Christmas. British Sugar will match the schools' donations of every kilo of their brand of sugar (Silver Spoon) up to 2000kg!

We appreciate that many people will be experiencing hardship this winter and there is no obligation to donate but if you are able to help, please send a bag of sugar into school with your child **by 10am on Friday 5th December 2025.**

Thank you in anticipation for supporting the Appeal at this special time of the year.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) programme provides holiday activities for schoolchildren aged 4 - 16 in Norfolk.

Children receiving **benefits-related free school meals** (not those who have an Infant Universal Free school Meal) can claim free spaces, whilst paid spots are available on many activities for those who don't.

The programme is a fantastic way to encourage young people to try new things whilst keeping their brains and bodies active over the school holidays. All children taking part will also receive a free nutritious meal as part of the offer.

Bookings go live on Monday 17thNovember.

Activities will run across 6 days from Monday 22 December to Monday 5 January, excluding weekends and bank holidays.

For more details and to sign up go to https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/

School Activities and Achievements

Please check the following links to see things the children have been learning in school, with information and photos.

Year 2 History Day
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/category/year-groups/year-2-children/

Year 4,5,6 Girls' Football Competition
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/girls-football-competition/

Remembrance Day 2025
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/remembrance-day-2025/

Year 4,5,6 Panathlon Ten Pin Bowling Trip
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/panathlon-tenpin-bowling-trip-november-2025/

Staff Changes

As always, coming towards the end of term, we have a few staff changes.

Mrs Herring, one of our TAs leaves us after many years of supporting children in the Infant school. Her enthusiasm, her sense of fun, her commitment to making the learning enjoyable and her expertise in working so effectively with the children will all be much missed by us. We wish her luck in her next steps.

Mr Hardy is retiring at Christmas. He has spent his teaching career at the Juniors, and his enthusiasm for music and his dedication to ensuring all children have experience of playing an instrument have been legendary. He has also been a fabulous Spanish teacher for the children and instilled a love of the language for them. He has taught in all the age ranges and in all the subjects and everyone has benefited from his teaching in that time. We will miss him, but know he has many exciting plans for his retirement and will certainly be very busy! We wish him lots of happiness in his retirement.

Packed Lunches

We know children bring packed lunches because they may have particular likes or dislikes with food, or that the cost of a school lunch is too much for every day.
However, the nutritional value in some of the lunch boxes is not as good as it could be so we are sharing the information below to help you work with your child about healthy eating and a balanced lunchbox. We hope it helps. It is not compulsory, but could help encourage healthy eating habits at a young age.



Children's Clothing

Now we are wearing more layers and items of clothing for winter, please do put your child's name in all items of clothing, including hats and scarves. We have parents/carers asking us if we have found items, but they have not been named.
Can we also give another gentle reminder that on PE days, children in Years 1-6 should come in their normal school shoes and bring their trainers to change into for PE so we do not have muddy trainers in the halls and the classes after PE, especially if it is on the grass. Trainers should be plain black for PE, so if your child's are not, can you make sure their next pair is when needed please.

Children's Safety

It is disappointing to have to write yet another reminder about **not parking or stopping on the zig zags** outside school. This term we have had two accidents due to this, with cars also pulling out without looking, and two cyclists have been knocked off their bikes.
Parking or stopping on the zig zags is dangerous for the children's safety. Sadly, it may only be a matter of time before someone's child is knocked over due to the inconsiderate actions of some drivers.
To avoid this, please leave home earlier or park further away, ensure you are in plenty of time and do not use the excuse of 'we are running late' to park or stop there.
There is no excuse for dangerous parking or driving.