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

Follow us on twitter - @ToftwoodFedera1

Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Newsletter 8 February 2026

Dates for the Spring Term

Dates since the last newsletter went out have been highlighted blue

Date	Infant School	Junior School
6th February		Classical Musician Visit to Juniors
9th February	Ellise Owen to Infants for Children's Mental Health Week	
11th February	Wellbeing Day	
12th February	Y1 Shabbat Visitor	
12th February		Swimming gala for selected KS2 children
13th February	Pete's Music for Reception children	
13th February	Schools close at 3.15/3.25 for Half Term	
23rd February	Schools reopen at 8.40 am for children	
23rd February	Planetarium to visit Year 1	
24th February	Bikeability for selected Year 1 /2 children	
26th February	Tell a Fairytale Day	
26th February	Email sent re parent consultations booking (Info on how and when to book)	
2nd March		Pedal Power Level 1 Course for selected Year 4
3rd March		Pedal Power Level 2 Course for selected Year 5
4th March		Pedal Power Level 2 Course for selected Year 5
4th March	Booking opens online for parent consultations at 4pm	
5th March	World Book Day	
5th March		Little Troopers Club Lunchtime
5th March		Tag Rugby Festival selected Year 5-6 children
6th March	Pete's Music for Year 1 children	
6th March 2.15 to 3 at infants 2.15 – 3.15 at juniors	Open Afternoon for all Year Groups. Come and look at your child's work ahead of parent consultations. No younger children in classes due to space limitations. If you need to bring a younger child, please telephone the office and they will arrange for your child and their work to join you in the library.	
9th March		Pedal Power Level 1 Course for selected Year 4
10th March	Cricket festival for selected Year 1 and children at UEA sports' park	Pedal Power Level 2 Course for selected Year 5
11th March		Pedal Power Level 2 Course for selected Year 5

Date	Infant School	Junior School
11th March	First responder visit to Year R	Selected Y5/6 to UEA for Athletics event Janet Marshall visit to Year 3
12th March	Parent Consultations online 4-7 online	
16th March	Parent Consultations online 4-7 online	
Week Beginning 16th March	National Sign Language Week	
18th March 9.15 – 11.15	Pre school activity morning for children due to start school September 2026	
19th March		Orienteering Festival for selected Year 4/5 Children at Langley School
19th March		Little Troopers Club Lunchtime
24th March	Janet Marshall to Year 1 for Lent and Easter visit	
27th March	Dance Show at The Space	
27th March	School closes at 3.15/3.25 for the Easter Break	

School Lunch Ordering

Please be aware that the new system will not allow your child to order a lunch if there is no credit on their account at Juniors, so please take responsibility for checking your child's account has funds on it each week. Thank you for your support.
Lunch funds at Juniors need to be uploaded onto COMPASS WALLET.
Funds for visits, trips etc do NOT go in this section, they need to be paid. This is paid via the link in the events tab which you will see as soon as you log into compass as it will say your child has a new event.
We cannot transfer money between the accounts.

Why We Teach RE in School – and What All Religions Have in Common

At our schools, Religious Education (RE) is an important part of helping children grow into thoughtful, respectful and well-rounded young people. RE is not about encouraging children to follow a particular religion. Instead, it helps them understand the diverse beliefs, values and traditions that shape the world around us.

We Welcome Children of All Religions – and None

Our federation community includes families from many different backgrounds and belief traditions, and we proudly welcome children of all religions as well as those with no religious belief. Learning about each other's values, celebrations and stories helps children appreciate what makes us unique, but also what brings us together. By understanding one another, we strengthen our sense of belonging and build a school where every child feels respected, supported and part of one community.

Building Respect and Understanding

We live in a wonderfully diverse society. RE helps children develop the empathy and respect needed to live and work alongside people who may think or believe differently from them. When pupils learn what matters to others—what they celebrate, what they believe and the values that guide their choices—they begin to appreciate difference rather than fear it.

Developing Thinking Skills

RE gives children opportunities to explore big questions about life, fairness and right and wrong. They learn to listen carefully, consider different viewpoints and form their own thoughtful opinions. These skills help them grow as individuals and support them across all areas of learning.

What Religions Have in Common

While religions may appear different on the surface, children quickly discover that many share similar ideas about how we should live and how we should treat one another. Some common themes include:

- **Kindness and compassion**
  Most major religions teach the importance of caring for others and showing empathy.
- **Treating others as you would like to be treated**
  Often known as the "Golden Rule," this message appears across many faiths and encourages fairness and respect. It is also our PATHS rule in our schools.

- **Community and togetherness**
  Many religions emphasise supporting one another, gathering as a community and helping those in need.
- **Caring for the world**
  The idea of looking after the planet and acting as responsible caretakers is shared by many belief traditions.
- **Celebrating life's special moments**
  Festivals, feasts and days of reflection may look different, but they all help people mark meaningful times with family and friends.
- **Asking big questions**
  Many religions encourage people to think deeply about life, purpose and how to live well. RE provides a safe space for children to explore these ideas.

Preparing Children for Life

Whether or not a child comes from a faith background, learning about religion helps them understand the world they are growing up in. It gives them the tools to make sense of culture, history, community and current events. Most importantly, it teaches children to challenge stereotypes, value diversity and treat everyone with dignity.

A Reminder About Parking on the Zig-Zag Lines

Please can we remind all parents and carers that stopping, dropping off, or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school is both unsafe and **against the law**. These markings are there to keep the area clear so children can be seen as they enter and leave school. When cars stop on the zig-zags—even for a moment—it puts pupils at risk by blocking visibility and forcing children to move between vehicles.

We know mornings can be busy, but we ask everyone to help keep our school community safe by parking legally and respectfully. A few extra minutes walking from a safe spot makes a big difference to the safety of all our children.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Free Norfolk Family Voice Conference

The free annual Family Voice Norfolk conference is a hugely valuable day for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, offering workshops, information stands, one-to-one sessions and opportunities to connect with professionals.



Recent Posts on the Toftwood Federation Website

🏅 **Multi Sports Festival – Spring 2026**

Children took part in a Multi Sports Festival, enjoying a range of physical activities designed to build teamwork, confidence and fitness.

👉 **Read more** https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/multi-sports-festival-spring-2026/

🚌 **Spring 1 2026 – Year 3 School Trip**

Year 3 recently enjoyed an educational trip as part of their Spring 1 learning. The visit supported curriculum work and gave the children hands-on experiences linked to their current topics.

👉 **Read more:** https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-3/spring-1-2026-year-3-school-trip/

ES **Spanish – Autumn Term**

Recent updates highlight the children's progress in Spanish this term, including vocabulary development and cultural understanding across different year groups.

👉 **Read more:** https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/spanish-autumn-term/

Active Canaries Special Lunch Coming Up



Congratulations and welcome!

We send our congratulations to **Miss Briggs** and her partner who are expecting their second baby in the Summer! Max is looking forward to being a big brother.
She will be with us until June and we will inform you of the arrangements for the class for the rest of the Summer when they are finalised.
We welcome **Mrs Barron** to our Federation who has joined us as a Teaching Assistant, currently in Year 3.
We also welcome **Miss Hardy** as an MSA next week.
We look forward to working with them both and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our families who attended the Book Fair last week. Your support is very much appreciated and we hope all the children were happy with the books they bought. It is wonderful to see such a love of reading being promoted.
The children also enjoyed a visit from the author Julia Edwards this week at Junior School. She has written the Scar Gatherer series of books. https://www.juliaedwardsbooks.com/scar-gatherer-series
She talked to them about her books and being an author. Year 5 also had a workshop on WW2 with her, in preparation for Year 6 when they study this in more detail. Year 5 then had a writing workshop also.
Some children were lucky enough to come and buy some of her books, but please be aware we have all of her books in the Junior Library so every child has access to them.

Swimming Lessons

