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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Newsletter 9 March 2026

Dates for the Spring Term

Dates since the last newsletter went out have been highlighted blue

Date	Infant School	Junior School
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 2pm	
5th March	World Book Day	
5th March	Little Troopers Club Lunchtime	
5th March		Tag Rugby Festival selected Year 5-6 children
5th March	World Book Day Please see dojo and notifications for details of suggested no cost or low cost outfits if your child wishes to dress up. They can come in school uniform if they prefer.	
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
Week beginning 9th March	British Science Week	
	Radiographer visit to Reception	
10th March	Cricket festival for selected Year 1 and children at UEA sports' park	Pedal Power Level 2 Course for selected Year 5
10th March	Bikeability for selected Year 1 /2 children	
11th March	First responder visit to Year R	Selected Y5/6 to UEA for Athletics event Janet Marshall visit to Year 3 Pedal Power Level 2 Course for selected Year 5
12th March	Parent Consultations online 4-7 online	
12th March		Step into the NHS event for Year 5
13th March	Pete's Music visit to Year 1	
16th March		Earth Day event for Year 3 with staff from Gressenhall Museum

Date	Infant School	Junior School
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	
25th March 10 am		Junior Rocksteady Concert for parents
26th March 10am	Infant Rocksteady Concert for parents	
27th March	Dance Show at The Space	
27th March	School closes at 3.15/3.25 for the Easter Break	

Recent Posts on the Toftwood Federation Website

🎭 **Pirate Themed Musical Workshop – Spring 1 2026**
Our children enjoyed a fun and imaginative *Pirate-themed musical workshop* this term, bringing storytelling, music, and creativity to life.
🔗 **Read the full post:**
https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk

🏊 **Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala – Spring 1 2026**
Eight pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the **WNDSSP Swimming Gala** at UEA Sportspark, competing in a range of races from breaststroke to relays. The children showed incredible teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, even earning certificates and a 'Determination' sticker. They finished 8th out of 12 schools—an achievement they were very proud of!
🔗 **Read the full post:**
Spring 1 2026 Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala

🌎 **Reception – Spring 1 2026**
This half-term, Reception explored the topic **"Our World."** Activities included learning about winter, light and dark, nocturnal animals, space, and the Chinese New Year. The children even created their own shadow puppets and learned about astronauts and life on the ISS!
🔗 **Read the full post:**
Spring 1 in Reception 2026

🌌 **Year 1 Planetarium Experience – Spring 2 2026**
Our Year 1 children had an unforgettable experience on **Tuesday 24th February**, when a **mobile planetarium** visited the school to enhance their learning about space and astronauts. The children crawled inside a darkened dome classroom where they enjoyed an engaging presentation about **our solar system**, covering the Sun, Moon and planets — including our own planet Earth. They also learned about astronauts such as **Tim Peake** and revisited earlier learning on the **1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing**.
[toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]
The children were captivated by the immersive visuals and shared their excitement afterwards:

- *"I wish I could do this at home and see the planets."* — Marli, CM1 [toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]
- *"My favourite part was when the lights went off and we could see the planets."* — Elowyn, GA1 [toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]

You can read the full write-up on our website here:
👉 **Year 1 Planetarium – Spring 2 2026** [toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]

🌟 **Year 2 Learning Highlights**
Our Year 2 children have had an exciting and creative half term! They explored the lives of historical figures Admiral Nelson and Amy Johnson, comparing their achievements and discovering how different modes of transport have changed over time. Inspired by their history learning, the children looked ahead to imagine what cars might look like in the future and even designed and built their own moving vehicles, carefully ensuring they included wheels and an axle. In Art, the children learned about Op Artist Bridget Riley and created their own spiral artwork, experimenting thoughtfully with shading techniques. [toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]

🌟 **Special Events Highlights**
This term has been full of exciting learning opportunities across the federation. Children celebrated **Safer Internet Day 2026**, taking part in workshops exploring the theme *"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."* Across both Infants and Juniors, pupils learned how AI works, discussed everyday examples like Alexas and streaming recommendations, created their own "virtual assistants," and even experimented with micro:bits to train simple machine-learning actions. [toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]
KS2 pupils also enjoyed a **visit from author Julia Edwards**, who shared from her *Scar Gatherer* series. Children were captivated by insights into historical life through her time-traveling character, Joe, and loved comparing Roman daily routines—such as unusual hair-dye methods and tooth-cleaning traditions—with modern life. [toftwoodfe...tion.co.uk]

World Book Day
We have some exciting events for the children on World Book Day on 5th March. For those that wish to, they can dress up as a favourite book character. Here are some low cost or no cost ideas: https://www.beattockandmoffatacademycluster.org.uk/News/World-Book-Day-Homemade-Costume-Ideas/

Junior children are lucky enough to be visited by Ryan Vernel, a UK
based children and mystery author, best known for writing The Lochview Mysteries, a spooky, supernatural adventure series for younger readers. His work includes:
- The Lady of the Loch (Lochview Mysteries #1)
- The Trickster and the Thief (Lochview Mysteries #2)
- House of the Claw (Lochview Mysteries #3)

Ryan Vernel will be selling his books in the junior hall from 3:25pm. If you would like a signed copy, please pre-order them following the links below.
To purchase the first book in the series for £5.99, please click here - https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QRM4FOPC

To save a little money and get all three for £15.00, please click here- https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QO7A83JJ

When ordering, please enter the **child's name** in the notes box, so he knows who has ordered. All books wil l be signed on the day. If you miss the pre-order, he will also bring some to sell on the day.

All children have an opportunity to create something for a display at Dereham Library as part of our reading celebrations. They are all going to think of a word that describes why they enjoy reading or why reading is important.
There are also other activities taking place to highlight and celebrate reading in the schools so please do ask your child about them!

Parent Consultations
Our online parents' evening consultation booking opens soon. We have brought forward the time it opens to 2pm as there is a new system and office staff will be able to help if you have a difficulty.

This year it will be via a zoom link that will be sent to you in advance and you will enter the waiting room. We will still have ten minutes per meeting, and the teacher will cut the call off after ten minutes so no one is kept waiting.
Miss Morgan will be in the Infant office and Mrs Evans will be in the Junior office for both consultation evenings if you have a difficulty.
Please ensure you log in in advance of your appointment so you do not miss any of your available time.
Please remember that you have the opportunity to come in for open afternoon to see your child's books with them in advance of the meetings. If you have a younger child you need to bring, please let the office know and we will set aside a different space for you to look at their books with them due to space restrictions.

Free Online Parenting Courses

Family Lives offer free online parenting courses which could be useful for all of us! They are a great way to get advice and learn new skills in the comfort of your own home and at times to suit you. All of the courses are filled with helpful techniques and ideas developed by their experienced parenting professionals to help you become a confident and happy parent. Crucially, you can do the course whenever and wherever suits you and work through it at our own pace. The range of courses are below.

Parents together – A course for families with younger children
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/parents-together

Let's play – How to enhance and develop play ideas with your child
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/lets-play

Parenting Teens – understanding their behaviour, risky behaviour, conflict and sensitive issues
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/coping-with-teens

New baby in the family – supporting your child with their emotions when a new baby comes
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/a-new-baby-in-the-family

Raising confident children – how to support children to flourish, mange feelings and build resilience
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/bringing-up-confident-children

Sibling arguments – sibling rivalry, giving skills to deal with conflict and ways to reduce it
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/sibling-arguments-and-how-to-manage-them

Co-parenting – the impact of separation, communication between parents and self-care and managing new relationships
https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/co-parenting-after-divorce-or-separation

The family lives website https://www.familylives.org.uk/ has a helpline, live on line chat, what's app support service and other support available for free.

There are also advice sections on **shared parenting**, including divorce and single parenting which we appreciate can be a challenge. These look at how to navigate shared parenting for the benefit of everyone, especially the children.

https://www.familylives.org.uk/browse/30114/shared-parenting

Recipe Time

Here is another recipe form our school caterers that the children enjoy at school!



Ingredients list

200g Baking Margarine

200g Caster Sugar

200g Self-Raising Flour

4x Eggs – beaten

50ml Milk

1 Tsp Vanilla Flavouring

200g Icing Sugar

4 Tbsp Water

25g Cake Sprinkles

Method

1. Place the margarine, caster sugar, self-raising flour, eggs, milk and vanilla flavouring into a large mixing bowl and beat until blended (this is called the all in one method).
2. Grease and line a 20cm x 30cm cake tin and pour the mixture in.
3. Bake at 180°C for 25-30 minutes, until golden and firm to touch.
4. Leave the cake in the tin to cool.
5. Make the icing by adding the water to sifted icing sugar until smooth and glossy. Spread the icing carefully over the cake with a palette knife and top with sprinkles.

