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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Newsletter 12 May 2026

Well done to the netball team!

Our Year 5 and 6 netball team went to the UEA to take part in a tournament with lots of other schools in the area.

Toftwood A had an outstanding start, winning all three of their group games against Drayton, St Augustine's and Lyng. Across these matches, the team did not concede a single goal, including an impressive **8–0 victory**, demonstrating excellent defensive discipline and attacking accuracy.

Toftwood B also performed strongly, securing wins against St Mary's and Thomas Bullock. They narrowly missed out in a closely contested match against Scarning, losing 1–0. After progressing to the knockout stages, Toftwood B finished **7th out of 12 teams** – a fantastic achievement. Well done, Toftwood B!

Toftwood A advanced to the quarter-finals, where they faced a derby match against Dereham Church. After conceding an early goal, the team showed great determination and composure to fight back, finishing with a well-earned **2–1 victory**.

This result secured a place in the final, where Toftwood A finished **2nd overall**, narrowly losing 3–1 to Bawdeswell School after an exciting and hard-fought match.

All pupils showed exceptional determination, resilience and teamwork throughout the tournament. Miss Waller and Miss Wicks are incredibly proud of every child who took part; they represented Toftwood with enthusiasm, sportsmanship and pride.

Northgate Visit

We had a fabulous visit from some drama pupils from Northgate High School who came and presented us their play about the Little Red Hen. It was lovely to see some of our previous pupils there and to catch up with them. Well done to Dominic and Alex! They then helped the ear 2 children with their own drama and they made a human machine with a job they chose.

Lovely to have those links forming so early on.

Free Dental Screening for all children

Please remember to send your permissions forms back in for the free dental screening coming in May. Without it your child cannot be seen. Forms are available form the office if you can't print at home.

Spellings Juniors

We are making some changes to how spelling is taught and assessed, following recent research.
There will no longer be a formal weekly spelling test, as evidence shows that tests are not a reliable way of ensuring spellings are retained in long-term memory. Instead, we want children to focus on learning their spellings more securely. At home, children should practise spelling their words by writing them in sentences and revisiting them over time to see what they can remember.
From September, we plan to use Spelling Shed for home learning. This will allow spellings to be tailored more effectively to each child's needs. The focus will be on understanding spelling rules and patterns, rather than memorising individual words.
Thank you for your continued support with spelling at home.

Every Day Counts – Why Good Attendance Matters

At our schools, we know that children do best when they are **in school every day, on time, and ready to learn**. Good attendance isn't just about being present – it's about giving every child the best possible chance to succeed, feel confident, and enjoy school life.

Thank You to Our Families

We would like to say a **huge thank you** to the parents and carers who make attendance a priority. We know that busy mornings, illness worries, and family pressures can make this challenging at times. Your commitment makes a **real and lasting difference** to your child's learning, friendships, and wellbeing.

Why Attendance Is So Important

When children attend school regularly, they:

- Build strong learning habits and confidence
- Keep up with lessons and avoid gaps in understanding
- Develop friendships and feel a sense of belonging
- Are better prepared for transitions, tests, and the next stage of education

Missing school, even occasionally, can quickly add up. For example:

- **90% attendance** equals almost **4 weeks of lost learning a year**
- **85% attendance** means a child misses **nearly one half-term** of school

Attendance and KS2 Outcomes

National data consistently shows a clear link between **good attendance and higher achievement** at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6):

- Pupils with **attendance of 95% or above** are **significantly more likely** to meet or exceed the expected standard in **reading, writing and mathematics**
- Children who are **persistently absent** (below 90%) are **around half as likely** to meet the expected standard compared to good attenders
- Regular absence particularly impacts **reading comprehension and maths problem-solving**, where lessons build step-by-step over time

Improving attendance is one of the **strongest ways to support academic success**, especially for children who may already find learning challenging.

Working Together

We understand that children do become unwell, and we always encourage families to use their judgement when illness is genuine. At the same time, we ask that appointments, holidays, and other non-essential absences are kept outside of school time wherever possible.
By working together, we can ensure every child:

- Feels confident and secure in school
- Makes the most of every learning opportunity
- Leaves primary school well-prepared for the future

Every day really does count – and your support truly matters.
Thank you for helping your child to be the best they can be.

Uniform

Thank you so much to everyone who has so kindly donated spare uniform to us for our pre loved collection. It really makes a difference to families and the environment.
Mrs Knox sorts through the donations and washes them all so they are all ready to wear.
We will be selling pre loved uniform at the family picnic in June, and sweatshirts, cardigans, skirts, dresses, pinafores, trousers, shorts etc will be £2 each, cash payments only.
If you need any before then, email fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk and let Mrs Knox know what you are looking for and she will get back to you.
If you have any uniform in a good condition that no longer fits your child, then you can also bring this to us and we will swap it for the next size up.
We don't generally have polo shirts or PE shirts. PE shirts can be bought at Birds for £3.
https://www.birdsofdereham.com/shop/product/sports-t-shirt-house-colours-2282/
No logo is required on any items, as always, but we do ask you stick to the required colours please.

Please **note** jogging bottoms are not a part of normal school unform and should only be worn on PE days. These should be plain without any logos and **black or grey**. PE shorts should NOT be tight cycling type shorts or very short shorts. They should be loose shorts designed for PE. Leggings are not permitted at any time unless worn under the PE shorts for warmth.

Family Learning Sessions

We have been lucky enough to been given some FREE family learning sessions for courses starting in September. These will all run form the Junior School and are open to all parents and carers. More information will follow nearer the time, but here is a quick outline of what is being offered.

Dates/Duration	Course	Overview
22nd September at 9 am	A place to grow	Do you find it difficult to get to school on time or to ensure good attendance? This one off session will offer you help and advice with that and about how you can promote positivity around attendance with your child.
4 weeks (Maximum of 8 spaces available)	Cooking for fussy eaters	Is your child reluctant to try new foods? Do you want some support with this and some suggestions of how you can ensure they eat a balanced diet. Come along for 4 weeks and try this out.
28th September for 3 weeks	Supporting behaviour together	Do you sometimes find it a challenge to deal with your child's behaviours at home and when out and about? Do you feel you would like some support with new strategies for this? Would you like a fresh look at how you can support positive behaviour? This course is there to support you.
Monday 2nd November for 5 weeks at 9am	Raising resilient children	Does your child lack some resilience? Do they need a lot of support with day to day tasks? Do they worry about changes? Do they get upset when they don't win a game or can they not cope with any disappointment or you saying no? Resilience is one of our core values and this will support you to help your child develop resilience for life.
Thursday 5th November for 5 weeks	English for parents with English as an additional language	Is English not your first language? Do you want to feel more confident with your spoken English? This 5 week course will help you develop skills for communication and understanding.

Further details, including how to sign up, will follow in the September term.

Year 2-3 Transition

We have lots of sessions planned in for Year 2-3 transition as always. The children will get tours, joint playtimes with Year 3, assemblies with Year 3 and more. This will ensure they can see the similarities and consistencies between both schools in terms of learning and behaviour and feel confident ahead of their move in September.