Towcester Church of England Primary School
November 2026 Newsletter

We will send the children out, as Noah did the dove (Genesis 8:8-12), having nurtured and prepared them for life. Knowing that they are valued, they can fly and take the values of the school out into the world.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of our autumn term!

It's been a wonderful start to this half term – the children have returned refreshed and ready to learn, and their enthusiasm has been brilliant to see. I've been particularly impressed by how many children have already shown me work they're proud of this week – what a fantastic start!

Year 3 and 4 continue to enjoy their brass lessons and are making excellent progress; we're very much looking forward to their concert. Last week culminated in our annual Remembrance service, and I'd like to thank all the parents and family members who attended. As always, it was a truly special event where the children were wonderful, and their respectful behaviour demonstrated their understanding of the importance of the occasion.

We're now looking forward to the run-up to Christmas with all the festivities and events ahead – please check the calendar at the back of this newsletter for full details.

We hope to see you soon, and thank you for your continued support.
Kind regards,

Sally Beaton,
Headteacher

Anti-bullying: Celebrating Difference and Standing Together Week 16th-20th November

Odd socks day on Monday 16th November



We're joining schools across the country to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week. We'd love to see everyone – children and staff – wearing odd socks on Monday 16th November!
Odd socks are a brilliant symbol of what makes each of us unique. They remind us that our differences are something to celebrate, not hide. Whether it's bright patterns, mismatched colours, or one spotty and one stripy – the odder, the better!

What we'll be doing during the week

Throughout the week, we'll be helping children understand what bullying is and, importantly, what it isn't. Through whole-school assemblies and age-appropriate class activities, we'll be:

- Exploring what makes bullying different from one-off disagreements or falling out with friends
- Learning how to recognise the signs of bullying
- Discussing practical ways we can all work together to prevent bullying and support each other
- Celebrating the things that make our school community special

Understanding bullying: the STOP approach

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we wanted to share an important tool we use at School to help children understand bullying. You'll find detailed information about our STOP approach in the 'Safeguarding and Wellbeing News' section on page 5.
This simple framework helps children remember that bullying is behaviour that happens:

- **S**everal
- **T**imes
- **O**n
- **P**urpose

Understanding this helps children distinguish between bullying and other friendship issues, and empowers them to speak up when they need support.







Christmas Events this term

We have several Christmas events for our children and also for families. This year we will be issuing tickets for the Reception Nativity, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Play and Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert using Arbor. Each ticket will cost £1.50 per ticket and includes a mince pie and hot drink. There will be a limit of 2 tickets per child for some of the performances.

- **Friday 4th December at 9:15am Year 3 and 4 pupils will be leading our special Christingle Service** for the whole school, celebrating the light of Christ during Advent. We're delighted to invite Year 3 and 4 parents and carers to join. The service will include a collection for The Children's Society, a charity that works to support vulnerable children and young people across the country. All donations will go directly to this important cause.

- **Monday 7th December at 2:30pm, Reception children** will be performing some songs with a Nativity scene theme to the whole school and pre-schools.

- **Tuesday 8th December at 2:30pm, Reception children** will be performing their songs with a Nativity scene theme to parents and family members of children in Reception.

- **Thursday 10th December at 2:00pm, Year 1 and 2 will be performing their Christmas Play** to the whole school and pre-schools. We encourage parents with younger pre-school siblings and Grandparents to come to this performance.

- **Friday 11th December at 9:30am, School Choir will be performing at Towcester Town Market** Please do come along and support our choir and enjoy the festive songs.

- **Friday 11th December at 2pm, Year 1 and 2 will be performing their Christmas Play** to parents. We would like this performance to be adults only to enable parents to fully appreciate their child's performance.

- On **Tuseday 15th December at 2pm, Year 5 and 6 will be performing Christmas Carols and songs** to parents. Come along with your singing voice and be prepared to feel Christmassy!

- **Wednesday 16th December at 9:30am** the whole school will be celebrating Christmas with our **Christmas service at St Lawrence Church** led by Year 5 & 6. All parents and families are invited to join us.

- **Thursday 17th December is our 'Very Christmassy Day'** with **Christmas dinner**, **Christmas crafts and visit from Father Christmas** with our **Christmas jumpers** on! In the afternoon M&M Theatre company will be performing a pantomime for the whole school – this is sure to be brilliant!





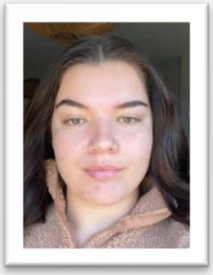


Clubs

We are continuing to offer a number of clubs this coming term. The unhighlighted clubs are on offer for free and led by staff at school. These can be booked through Arbor.
Green highlighted clubs are booked and paid for through freestylegroup.co.uk/event-list/term-time-clubs/. Blue highlighted are booked privately – contact the school office for more information

	Before school	Lunch time	After school
Monday	Freestyle Archery		3:30-4:30pm Baking (any age max of 8) with Mrs Scanlon Coding Club (KS2 max 20) with Primary Coding Clubs
Tuesday		Freestyle Dance & Performing Arts 12-12:30 Year 2-6 Choir with Miss Buckland	
Wednesday	Freestyle Gymnastics		3:30-4:30pm Freestyle Football 3:30-4:00pm Chicken Club (Yr1-6 max of 5) with Mrs Scanlon to feed, collect eggs and clean out the chickens
Thursday		12-12:30 Orchestra (child must be having music lessons) with Miss Buckland	3.30 – 4.30pm Little Chefs Club (Yr1-6 max of 8) with Mrs Scanlon Step by Step Kids Dancing (Year 3-6 max of 20) with Jayne £5 per session booked on Arbor.
Friday			3:30-4:30pm Freestyle Dodgeball

Our School Parents and Family News



A Fond Farewell to Mrs McShane

Mrs McShane was overwhelmed by the kind words, comments and gifts she received during her last week. To say she has left a large hole is an understatement! Her dedication to supporting our families has made a real difference to our school community, and we're incredibly grateful for everything she has done.

Welcome to Miss Bryant

Miss Bryant spent the last week working alongside Mrs McShane, ensuring a smooth handover and getting to know many of you already. She's excited to make the role her own and carry on the important work Mrs McShane has started.

Wednesday Morning 'Hot Drink to Go' Sessions

Miss Bryant will be continuing our popular **'Hot Drink to Go' sessions every Wednesday morning** at the bandstand – and it's been wonderful seeing familiar faces!

Need Support with Parenting or Children's Behaviour?

We understand that parenting can sometimes feel challenging, and you may have questions or concerns about your child's behaviour or wellbeing. That's why we're here to help.
Miss Bryant is available to support parents and carers with:

- Parenting questions – whether you're looking for advice on managing everyday situations or need guidance on specific concerns
- Children's behaviour – help understanding and responding to your child's behaviour at home or school
- Worries and concerns – a listening ear for any concerns you may have about your child

Miss Bryant can:

- Discuss your concerns in a confidential and supportive environment
- Provide practical strategies and advice tailored to your situation
- Signpost you to specialist services and additional support in the community
- Make referrals on your behalf to appropriate agencies when needed

If you do have any concerns or worries, please do come and talk to Miss Bryant on the playground, give her a call on 01327 350332 or send her an email to e.bryant@towcester.pdet.org.uk

📅 Friday 13th November 2-3.30pm.	**Parent & Child Baking** A lovely chance to bake together and enjoy some quality time with your child. 📧 Book your place: e.brynat@towcester.pdet.org.uk
📅 Thursday 26th November, 9–11am	**Grow Cook Eat!** Come along to learn new recipes and cooking skills in a friendly, hands-on session in the school Hive.
📅 Thursday 3rd December, 9–11am	**Wreath Making Workshop** 🎄 Create your own Christmas wreath to take home 💷 Free, but booking essential so we can order materials Please note: These are adult-only events. 📧 Book your place: e.brynat@towcester.pdet.org.uk
📅 Tuesday 8th December, 9–11am	**Christmas Craft Session** 🎨 Join us for seasonal crafts and festive fun 💷 Free, but pre-booking required to ensure we have enough supplies Please note: These are adult-only events. 📧 Book your place: e.brynat@towcester.pdet.org.uk

Safeguarding and Wellbeing News

Safeguarding Team

Introducing our Safeguarding Team:



Mrs Clare Booth
Deputy & SENCO



Mrs Sally Beaton
Headteacher



Miss Collins
Online Safety



Mrs Wendy Grant
Learning Mentor

Anti-Bullying Week: Understanding STOP

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we wanted to share with you an important approach we use at Towcester CofE Primary School to help children understand and tackle bullying.



What does STOP mean?

At our school, we use the acronym **STOP** in two important ways:

STOP helps children recognise bullying:

- **S**everal
- **T**imes
- **O**n
- **P**urpose

This definition helps children understand that bullying is not a one-off disagreement or accident. It's behaviour that happens repeatedly and intentionally. This clarity is important because it helps children distinguish between bullying and other types of conflict.

STOP also tells children what to do:

- **S**tart
- **T**elling
- **O**ther
- **P**eople

This gives children a clear, actionable response when they experience or witness bullying. We encourage all children to speak up and tell a trusted adult – whether that's a teacher, teaching assistant, parent, or another member of staff.

Why is this important?

The different types of bullying (including online bullying) can have a significant impact, and we teach children about the responsibilities of bystanders, which primarily means reporting bullying to an adult, and how to get help.

We want every child to feel safe, respected, and confident that any concerns they raise will be taken seriously. All safeguarding concerns about a child should be recorded in writing, and we have clear procedures in place for recording and reporting incidents.

How you can help at home

Please reinforce the STOP message with your child:

- Remind them that bullying is behaviour that happens **Several Times On Purpose**
- Encourage them to **Start Telling Other People** if they experience or witness bullying
- Reassure them that telling an adult is the right thing to do and that they will be supported

If you have any concerns about bullying, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team. Together, we can create a school environment where every child feels safe and valued.

Dates and Events for the Term Ahead

Autumn Term 2026

HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
Week 1 – 2nd November	
Monday 2nd	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3rd	Back to school for children
Wednesday 4th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Friday 6th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	First Access Brass
	10:45am Remembrance Service
Week 2 – 9th November	
Monday 9th	6-7pm: Reception Intake Open Evening Session
Tuesday 10th	Y1 & 2 Silverstone Museum
Wednesday 11th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
	Y3/4/5/6 Cross Country
Thursday 12th	Y5 & 6 Bhangra Dance Workshop
	EYFS to Church
Friday 13th	First Access Brass
Friday 13th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	Parent and Child Baking Session
Week 3 – 16th November **Anti-Bullying Week**	
Monday 16th	Anti-Bullying Day – Odd socks day
	Collective Worship: Anti-bullying
	EYFS & Y6 Height and weight check
Tuesday 17th	Y6 Young Citizen Day
Wednesday 18th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 19th	Open Book Story Time
	EYFS Not such an Ugly Duckling performance
Friday 20th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	First Access Brass
Week 4 – 23rd November	
Tuesday 24th	Y5 & 6 Oxford Castle
	Y3 & 4 Walking Tour
Wednesday 25th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 26th	Y5 & 6 Oxford Castle
	Grow, Cook, Eat, parent cooking session
Friday 27th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	Flu vaccinations
	First Access Brass
Week 5 – 30th November	
Tuesday 1st	Y1 & 2 Atomic Tom Workshop
Wednesday 2nd	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 3rd	Parent Wreath Making
Friday 4th	9:15am Christingle Service led by Yr 3 & 4 (refreshments after)
	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
Week 6 – 7th December	
Monday 7th	Y3 & 4 Atomic Tom Workshop

Tuesday 8th	2:30pm EYFS Christmas Tableau to parents
	Parent Christmas Craft Session
Wednesday 9th	Year 5 & 6 CSI Workshop with Giant Journeys
	Choir to Churchill Retirement Living
	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 10th	10am EYFS to Derngate Theatre to see What the Ladybird heard
	2pm Key Stage 1 Dress Rehearsal to Whole School, pre-schools & extended families
Friday 11th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	First Access Brass
	2pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance
Week 7 - 14th December	
Monday 14th	2pm Year 5 & 6 Christmas Carol Concert Dress Rehearsal to school
Tuesday 15th	2pm Year 5 & 6 Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 16th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
	9:30am Christmas Church Service Yr 5 & 6 leading
Thursday 17th **Very Christmassy Day**	Very Christmassy Day – Christmas jumpers, lunch, Christmas Crafts and cards, Father Christmas visit
	2pm Sleeping Beauty PANTO for whole school
Friday 18th	9am Last Celebration Assembly
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BEGINS	

PDET

West/North Northants and Peterborough's Term Dates 2026/27

September 2026						
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July 2027						
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August 2027						
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Key	
	School Holidays
	Training Days
	Bank Holidays
	School Day
	Weekends

PDET

PDET Term Dates 2027/2028

(North Northants, West Northants and Peterborough Schools)

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March 2028						
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April 2028						
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May 2028						
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June 2028						
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July 2028						
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August 2028						
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Key	
	School Holidays
	Training Days
	Bank Holidays
	School Day
	Weekends