



Towcester Church of England Primary School

October 2025 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,

What a fantastic start to the year!

We can hardly believe how quickly this term has flown by! We've been incredibly impressed with the children's positive attitude to learning throughout the autumn term. Our whole-school focus on handwriting has really paid off – every single student has made wonderful progress since September, and it's evident in their work across all subjects.

Both children and teachers have thoroughly enjoyed our new approach to blocking foundation subjects, which has allowed everyone to become truly immersed in science, geography, history and art. The children have told us they feel they've learnt and understood more, as well as enjoying their lessons even more – which is exactly what we hoped to achieve!

We've been delighted to welcome a number of visitors into school to support the children's learning this term, and we're already looking forward to some exciting trips out into the community next term, alongside all our Christmas events. Please do take a look at the calendar at the end of this newsletter for further information about upcoming events.

Thank you for your continued support in making this such a successful term for our school community.

Kind regards,

*Sally Beaton,
Headteacher*

A Wonderful Start for Our New Foundation Children

We are delighted to share how brilliantly our new Foundation children have settled into school life this term!

They have made themselves at home in their newly refurbished classrooms, complete with brand new furniture, and have quickly adapted to our school routines. It's wonderful to see them confidently enjoying lunchtimes and OPAL play alongside the rest of the school community.



Miss Lawrence has been incredibly impressed with the progress they've already made – from learning our school's learning behaviours to writing their names and mastering their phonic sounds.

The children have truly become valued members of our school family, and this was beautifully demonstrated at our

Harvest Festival when they delivered a wonderful singing presentation of 'Big Red Combine Harvester' for the whole school.

What a fantastic start to their school journey!



A Term of Community Spirit and Celebration

This term has been a wonderful celebration of our school community coming together to support important causes and share in our cherished traditions.



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

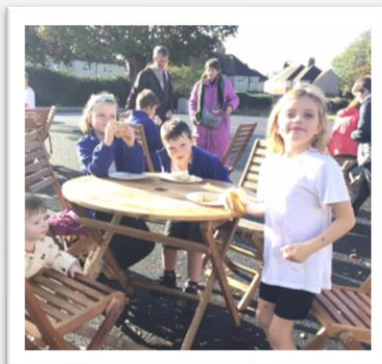
Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. We were overwhelmed by your generous cake donations and delighted to see so many families supporting this vital cause. Together, we raised an incredible **£208.80 for Macmillan Cancer Support** – a testament to the kindness and generosity of our school community.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival service at the church was truly beautiful, with every year group playing their part. From our youngest children singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester' to Year 6 leading us in prayers with maturity and confidence, the children shared the true meaning of harvest with the congregation. It was wonderful to see so many parents celebrating this special occasion with us.



The celebrations continued with our annual Harvest Supper, which saw a big turn out – we'll need to make even more food next year! Every child contributed by making bread during the week, and the afternoon provided a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, share food, and enjoy each other's company.



Food Bank Donations

A particular highlight was our 'human food chain' – **every single child** participated in passing an amazing **176.5kg of harvest donations** from the school to the local food bank. The children loved being part of this special moment, discussing each item of food with their friends as it travelled along the line. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.



These events truly showcase the strong community spirit at Towcester CofE Primary School, where we come together to support one another and those in need.

Football Tournament Success at Sponne School



Year 6 Team Unbeaten Despite Challenging Conditions! We're incredibly proud to share the fantastic achievements of our football teams at the recent tournament held at Sponne School. Despite facing the wettest day of the month, our pupils demonstrated remarkable resilience, positivity and true sporting spirit.

Outstanding Team Performances

Year 6 Team – Unbeaten Champions! Our Year 6 team had an exceptional tournament, winning all three of their matches:

- Won 1-0
- Won 2-0
- Won 2-1

Miss Appleby, who organised the event, unofficially confirmed that our Year 6 team won the tournament. While they didn't receive an official trophy due to the weather forcing an early end to the fixture list, their unbeaten record speaks for itself!

Year 5 Team – Strong Showing Our Year 5 team also performed brilliantly:

- Won 7-0
- Lost 0-2
- Won 2-0

Year 3 and 4 Team Our younger pupils also represented the school with pride and enthusiasm throughout the tournament.

True Sporting Spirit

What makes us most proud isn't just the results, but the attitude our children showed throughout the day. Despite torrential rain and challenging conditions, every single child remained upbeat, positive and committed.

In fact, Towcester CE Primary was literally the last school standing – all other schools had left before us, but our teams stayed until the very end. No one gave up, and every child demonstrated the values we hold dear: perseverance, teamwork and a positive attitude.

We're awaiting confirmation about any further recognition for our teams' achievements and will keep you updated. Well done to all our footballers – you made us incredibly proud!

Thank you to all staff, parents, and pupils for your continued support of PE and sport at Towcester CE Primary School. Here's to more sporting success ahead!



Bio-diversity at Towcester CE Primary School

Our starting point.

We scored 4/10 in our environmental review. We knew this needed to be one of our focus areas!

Our aims

To improve biodiversity around our school by creating habitats for wildlife and increasing understanding of how to protect nature and the environment.

January Newsletter



RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch

We're excited to launch the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch this term. For over 20 years, this initiative has connected children with nature in their school grounds. Mrs Beaton introduced the Birdwatch in Collective Worship today, and all our children will participate in this simple bird survey together. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to observe and appreciate the wildlife around us. Look out for an email with details on how your family can join in the fun at home too!

Developments

- We planted 345 tree saplings around our school grounds! (Donated by the Woodland Trust)
- We created hedgehog habitats
- We sowed bee-friendly flower seeds to support pollinators
- Reception learnt about life cycles through 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'
- We created wildlife-friendly areas around the school
- We created a new allotment area.
- We've kept our school free from litter to protect wildlife
- We created bird feeders out of recycled materials, such as plastic milk bottles



Here you can see Reception children mixing up some bird food to hang on the hedges in our school grounds.



We planted pollinator-friendly flowers and sowed pollinator-friendly flowering seeds in several areas.



What's next?

We are having a pond installed over the summer holidays! The Eco-council will be in charge of the planning of the area around the pond, including planting, creating habitats and a usable outdoor learning space.



Children in Reception learnt about minibeasts using recycled materials.

We left an area of our grass unmowed to allow small wildflowers to grow freely during May, providing food and habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Schools Grounds at Towcester CE Primary School

School Newsletter

Opal Play: Exciting Developments at Towcester CofE Primary

We're thrilled to share the fantastic progress of our Opal Play initiative, which continues to transform lunchtimes into rich learning experiences for all our children.

Thanks to your support through the Tesco Community Grant scheme, we secured £1,500 to enhance our outdoor provision. This funding has enabled us to purchase a radio for music on the playground every lunchtime, creating a vibrant atmosphere, and walkie-talkies for all playground duty staff, significantly improving communication and safety across our outdoor spaces. We've also commissioned a local carpenter to build bespoke welly racks, meaning every child will be able to safely store their own pair of wellies. This will ensure all children can enjoy outdoor play in all weathers and access our school field throughout the year.

The Opal play shed arrived in the final week of last term and is already stocked with exciting resources including crates, wood, large blocks, boxes, fabric, child-size pushchairs, and a wheelchair. These resources will be introduced gradually throughout this term during special Opal assemblies, ensuring children understand how to use them safely and creatively in their play. Thank you to FOTOPS for the funds to buy the shed. We're excited to see how these developments will further enrich your children's outdoor experiences.

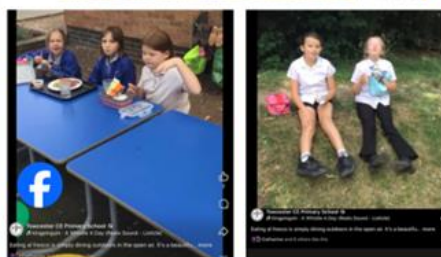
Digging pit and den building



We now have giant cable reels, a massive sand pit, slack lines, rope ladders, hammocks, rope swings, bikes, scooters, water play, wheelchairs, large buggies, dressing-up, music, lego, small-world and so much more!!!

Parents can enjoy our school grounds too!

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We have introduced alfresco dining! Children can choose to eat their school dinners or packed lunches outside.

Raised beds have recently been installed in the Hive garden, ready for growing vegetables!



Our recent Spirituality day provided children with opportunities to feel inspired by nature.



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

School Term Dates and Holidays

This term we will continue monitoring attendance, punctuality and absence closely.

We believe that 'every lesson counts' and encourage regular attendance at school. We have high expectations of our children just as you have high expectations of us; these expectations cannot be met if your child is frequently absent or late.

We ask that you avoid booking holidays during term-time. Our term dates are published on the website a year in advance giving ample notice of holiday periods. Any holiday in term time will be treated as unauthorised absence and will be taken into account when referring parents and families to the Education Welfare Services. We will refer families to the Local Authority to consider administering Penalty Notices for non-school attendance when holidays are taken during term-time.



If your child's attendance drops below 95%, we will notify you and work with you to ensure that their attendance rate increases. Our target for every child is an attendance rate of above 96%. If your child's attendance drops below 90%, they will be classified as a 'persistent absentee'. We will work with you to set targets to improve their attendance, but if attendance rates don't increase within the timescales that are set, we have a duty to report the absence to the County Attendance Team. A Penalty Notice Warning may be issued which could result in a fine or further legal action through the courts.

Our school gates will close promptly at 8.50am as this is when our school bell goes to mark the start of the school day. Please allow ample time to arrive, park (if driving) and drop your children safely at school. Children arriving after 8.50am will need to enter school via the main school office. If your child is regularly late, we will contact you to offer support as important learning takes place from the very start of the school day.

Good attendance at school gives your child the very best opportunity to flourish, please support them in this by ensuring that they are in school every day that they are well enough to be.

If you need any support with your child's attendance, please do contact us through the school office. We will be more than happy to help.

Our School Parents and Family News



Wednesday 'Hot Drink to Go'

Our Wednesday morning 'Hot Drink to Go' sessions continue every week – and it's been wonderful seeing familiar faces!

Everyone is welcome. Pop by the bandstand to pick up a free hot drink or stay for a chat – there's no pressure either way. It's simply a relaxed space to connect with other parents over a cuppa.

Christmas Craft Workshops

We're excited to announce two festive workshops for parents this December:

Wreath Making Workshop



Thursday 3rd December, 9–11am



Create your own Christmas wreath to take home



Free, but booking essential so we can order materials

Christmas Craft Session



Tuesday 8th December, 9–11am



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: w.mcshane@towcester.pdet.org.uk

Parent & Child Baking

Our popular baking sessions are back! The next one is on Friday 13th November 2-3.30pm. A lovely chance to bake together and enjoy some quality time with your child. Book through emailing w.mcshane@towcester.pdet.org.uk

Grow Cook Eat!

Our next parent cooking session will be on Thursday 26th November, 9–11am. Come along to learn new recipes and cooking skills in a friendly, hands-on session in the school Hive.

If you have any concerns, questions or would simply like a chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing all our families a happy, healthy and restful break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term!

Wendy McShane (Family Support Worker)

Safeguarding and Wellbeing News

Safeguarding Team

Introducing our Safeguarding Team:



Mrs Clare Booth
Deputy & SENCO



Mrs Sally Beaton
Headteacher



Mrs Wendy McShane
Family Support Worker



Mrs Wendy Grant
Learning Mentor

Safe 'Trick or Treating'

We were delighted to welcome **PCSO Charlotte** to school this week for a special assembly on Halloween safety. She shared some really important reminders with our children about how to stay safe during Halloween and when trick or treating.



Key Safety Messages

PCSO Charlotte talked to the children about:

Before You Go Out:

- Always go trick or treating with a trusted adult – never go alone or just with friends
- Plan your route in advance and stick to well-lit areas you know
- Wear bright or reflective clothing so you can be seen by drivers
- Make sure costumes fit properly so you don't trip, and avoid masks that make it hard to see

During Trick or Treating:

- Only visit houses with lights on or Halloween decorations – these show they're happy to have visitors
- Stay on pavements and use pedestrian crossings
- Never go inside someone's house – stay at the doorstep
- Be polite and respectful to neighbours
- Look both ways before crossing roads, even if you're excited!

Treats and Sweets:

- Only eat treats that are sealed and wrapped
- Check all treats with an adult before eating anything
- If you have any allergies, be extra careful and always check with a grown-up first

How You Can Help

We'd encourage you to chat with your child about these safety messages before Halloween. It's also a good opportunity to:

- Agree on a time to be home
- Make sure they have a charged mobile phone if they're old enough to have one
- Check their costume is safe and visible in the dark
- Remind them about road safety, especially as it gets dark earlier now

We want all our children to have a fun and safe Halloween. Thank you to PCSO Charlotte for taking the time to visit us and share these important reminders with our pupils.

Stay safe and have a spooktacular Halloween!

Dates and Events for the Term Ahead

Autumn Term 2026

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Week 1 – 2nd November

Monday 2 nd	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3 rd	Back to school for children
Wednesday 4 th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Friday 6 th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	First Access Brass
	10:45am Remembrance Service

Week 2 – 9th November

Monday 9 th	6-7pm: Reception Intake Open Evening Session
Tuesday 10 th	Y1 & 2 Silverstone Museum
Wednesday 11 th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
	Y3/4/5/6 Cross Country
Thursday 12 th	Y5 & 6 Bhangra Dance Workshop
	EYFS to Church
Friday 13 th	First Access Brass
	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	Parent and Child Baking Session

Week 3 – 16th November

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 16 th	Anti-Bullying Day – Odd socks day
	Collective Worship: Anti-bullying
	EYFS & Y6 Height and weight check
Tuesday 17 th	Y6 Young Citizen Day
Wednesday 18 th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 19 th	Open Book Story Time
	EYFS Not such an Ugly Duckling performance
Friday 20 th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	First Access Brass

Week 4 – 23rd November

Tuesday 24 th	Y5 & 6 Oxford Castle
	Y3 & 4 Walking Tour
Wednesday 25 th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 26 th	Y5 & 6 Oxford Castle
	Grow, Cook, Eat, parent cooking session
Friday 27 th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	Flu vaccinations
	First Access Brass

Week 5 – 30th November

Tuesday 1 st	Y1 & 2 Atomic Tom Workshop
Wednesday 2 nd	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 3 rd	Parent Wreath Making
Friday 4 th	9:15am Christingle Service led by Yr 3 & 4 (refreshments after)
	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon

Week 6 – 7th December

Monday 7 th	Y3 & 4 Atomic Tom Workshop
Tuesday 8 th	2:30pm EYFS Christmas Tableau to parents
	Parent Christmas Craft Session
Wednesday 9 th	Year 5 & 6 CSI Workshop with Giant Journeys
	Choir to Churchill Retirement Living

	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
Thursday 10 th	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 11 th	Year 6 catch up swimming in afternoon
	First Access Brass
	2pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance
Week 7 - 14th December	
Monday 14 th	2pm Year 5 & 6 Christmas Carol Concert Dress Rehearsal to school
Tuesday 15 th	2pm Year 5 & 6 Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 16 th	8:40-9am Parent Hot Drink to Go
	9:30am Christmas Church Service Yr 5 & 6 leading
Thursday 17 th	Very Christmassy Day – Christmas jumpers, lunch, Christmas Crafts and cards, Father Christmas visit
Very Christmassy Day	2pm Sleeping Beauty PANTO for whole school
Friday 18 th	9am Last Celebration Assembly
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BEGINS	

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

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026						
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January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
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May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
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Key						
	School Holidays					
	Training Days					
	Bank Holidays					
	School Day					
	Weekends					

PDET Term Dates 2027/2028

(North Northants, West Northants and Peterborough Schools)

September 2027							October 2027							November 2027							December 2027						
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January 2028							February 2028							March 2028							April 2028						
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Key						
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