



Towcester Church of England Primary School

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.

'If we live by the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.' (Galatians 5:25)

October Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful first term of the new academic year!

It's been a busy few weeks with events, visitors, trips and celebrations. Our children have represented the school brilliantly throughout demonstrating our school values in their learning as well as in their social times – they make us very proud every day.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our events this term, Wednesday coffee mornings, Harvest celebrations, Macmillan coffee and cake, Phonics open mornings to name but a few; it is great to see so many of our community members supporting our school events.

Thank you also to our fantastic staff team who go over and above to support our children and make Towcester Primary School a very special place to be.

The newsletter articles below aim to provide relevant information about school life as well as celebrating many of our recent achievements. We hope that you find it informative and enjoyable.

Kind regards,

*Sally Beaton
Headteacher.*

What a BRILLIANT Start in EYFS!

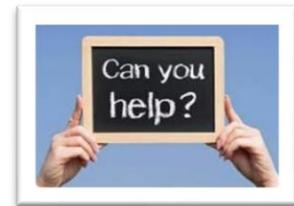
A huge well done to all of our new Reception children for making such a wonderful start to their school career at Towcester Primary! This term they have settled in brilliantly, taking part both in whole school assemblies and our Harvest Festival in the Church. We are so proud of you all!

EYFS Donations

Our Reception classes need your help! We are refreshing and adding more resources to all the areas children can access when in continuous provision or 'job time' as the children love to call it!

We are looking for:

- Birthday candles (normal and digit ones)
- Cake boards and small silicone baking cases
- Playdough tools e.g. pattern makers, rolling pins, playdough cutting tools and scissors
- Kitchen utensils e.g. whisks, wooden spoons etc..
- Kitchen scales (traditional, plastic and electric)
- Children's mop, bucket and vacuum cleaner
- Plastic boats, submarines and sea creatures
- Small wooden road signs and fences
- Hand and finger puppets
- Well known story characters (soft toy or plastic)
- Large pebbles
- Small stones
- Cork wine bottle tops



If you have any of the items listed laying around at home, if your children have outgrown any of these items or if you could collect and share with us any of these items, we would be incredibly grateful as our youngest learners would love to use them to support their learning.

Donations can be given directly to the Reception staff team or brought to the school office.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

Meet our newest community member



Please do support us in keeping our children safe by ensuring that you drive safely and park considerately at the beginning and end of the school day for drop-offs and pick-ups.

Please do not drop off on the yellow chevrons outside of school or park in private parking areas or on double yellow lines.

We want all of our children and families to access school safely, thank you for your support with this.

Living Streets Initiative

Mr Boon is initiating the Living Streets' initiative at our school. Working in partnership with National Highways to promote walking to school and taking part in an audit of barriers that prevent families walking to school in the morning. More details will follow after half term.

Start of the school day routines

We are really pleased to see how our children line up at the start of the school day, smart and ready to learn. Please could we remind parents to say goodbye to your children before they enter the line then stand against the KS2 building wall if you would like to see them go in.

Please could we ask KS1 parents to say goodbye to their children as they enter the line then step back from the line to allow teachers to greet the children and establish smart lines before taking the children to start their learning.

We will close the school gates at 8.55 am, please endeavour to leave the site by this time whenever possible. Children arriving after 8.55am should enter through the main school reception.

KS2 lunchboxes should be placed on the trollies outside of the KS1 classrooms before lining up. The trollies are then wheeled to inside the lunch hall ready for the children to collect as they come inside to eat their lunch. Lunchboxes can be collected from the trollies at the end of the school day.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended our Macmillan coffee session, we raised a wonderful £192 for this worthwhile cause - thank you for your donations!

Anaphylaxis Awareness Events ... Staff and Children

This term, our school has participated in Anaphylaxis Awareness Week. Staff have been trained, children have learnt about Anaphylaxis in our collective worship and completed follow up tasks in their classes. We are hoping to earn the Allergywise Schools Award as a result of our work. Please ask your children about this.



We are an Anaphylaxis Aware School.

Please could we ask that our community are mindful of those children who have allergic reactions, some severe, to nuts. **We ask that when selecting items for your child's lunchbox or mid-morning snack that you choose nut-free options. Please avoid using sandwich fillers such as peanut butter or Nutella as these pose a direct risk to pupils with allergies.** Your consideration and support enables us to keep all of our children safe in school. Thank you for your support.

School Uniform

Please remember, we want our children to wear their school badge with pride and for people to look at our pupils and their first impression be - WOW—these children really represent Towcester Primary School well!

School uniform expectations are as follows:

- ✓ black or grey trousers or skirt,
- ✓ a plain white polo-shirt or shirt, with school logo where possible
- ✓ a blue school jumper or cardigan with the school logo
- ✓ black or grey socks or tights
- ✓ smart, closed-toe black leather shoes. No trainers or astros please.

During warmer months:

- ✓ blue and white summer dresses.
- ✓ smart black or grey shorts

Hair:

- ✓ We ask that long hair is kept neatly tied back during school time.
- ✓ Simple headbands may be worn in the school colours.
- ✓ Please do not send your child into school wearing large bows, clips, scrunchies or headbands.
- ✓ Please save adding hair colours, dyes and shaved-in shapes for the summer holidays

Other

- ✓ Simple stud earrings can be worn; hoop or dangly earrings are unsuitable for school. Children will be asked to remove or tape their earrings for PE, please provide your child with a suitable container for storing removed earrings safely.
- ✓ Jewellery should not be worn (for religious jewellery please contact the school office to discuss)
- ✓ Smart watches or watches with a camera or internet access are not permitted

*The school cannot be responsible for valuable items

PE Kit:

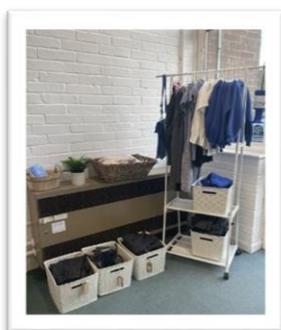
- ✓ Blue or white Towcester badged T shirt
- ✓ Black shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms
- ✓ Trainers/Plimsolls depending on the weather
- ✓ In cold weather children may wear a plain, dark coloured sweatshirt or hoodie.

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with a sewn-in label or a Sharpie (Biro washes out) as we already have a mountain of unclaimed clothing, most of it unnamed.

Please do let us know if you need support with providing the listed school uniform. We have a supply of excellent quality, unclaimed uniform items that we are happy to provide.

Please contact the school office team who will be happy to help: office@towcester.pdet.org.uk

Pre-loved School Uniform



Have you visited our pre-loved school uniform stand in our reception area? You are welcome to come in and have a browse. Items are being sold for FOTOPs funds with a minimum donation of £1 per item.

We currently have a couple of summer dresses, t-shirts, shorts and trousers and a few small sized jumpers/cardigans. If anyone has any good quality pre-loved uniform they would like to donate, especially in larger sizes, please drop these in at reception, thank you.

Staying Safe Online

We hope that you are finding our regular Online Safety newsletters useful, please look out for the monthly copy that will be emailed to you.

Our website also contains information about staying safe online as well as giving advice on the features of different platforms, please follow the link to find out more. [Towcester CE Primary School - Online Safety \(towcesterprimary.northants.sch.uk\)](http://towcesterprimary.northants.sch.uk)

Harvest Celebrations

Well done to our Year 4 pupils who started our Harvest Celebrations by leading our *Harvest Service at St Lawrence Church*. It was lovely to see so many families and friends attending – thank you! Our Harvest collection tipped the scales at **162.6kg**. Thank you to everyone who donated items to support *Towcester Foodbank*. Their team were impressed both by the overwhelming support for their work and by the human chain made of all our staff and pupils that delivered the items to their door. Thank you everyone!



Our *Harvest Supper* was also a huge success, the children were excited to make the bread that formed part of our Ploughman's Lunch! It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the food in the sunshine. Our School Council will be deciding which charity the funds raised will be used to support. If anyone would like to make a donation, please do send it in to the school office.



Pupil Leadership

Towcester CE Primary pupils love to take on responsibilities and lead by example; we have a number of different whole school roles and responsibilities that children of all ages can be involved in. Many of these roles involve children giving up a little of their own time, and this is something which they love to do as they relish supporting and enthusing others both socially and academically. Our leaders have been very busy this term. The Mental Health Champions after their training session lead by the Lucy from One Goal Organisation they organised 'snack and chat' for the whole school on World Mental Health Day. The Library Champions ran a book cover competition during Libraries Week; the results of the winners will be announced soon! The Library Champions are opening the Library at lunchtimes for all children on a Monday and Friday. The Playground Buddies have been leading playground games for all children and successfully installed the Playground Buddies bench, so everyone always has someone to play with. The Maths Champions are planning a whole school event whilst the School Council discussed what charities the school could support at their latest meeting. We look forward to many more exciting initiatives and events organised by our pupils.



School Term Dates and Holidays

This academic year we will be 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.

Saying Goodbye to ...

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Fisher who will be leaving us shortly after half term (October 31st). Mrs Fisher has supported children's learning across the school for the last twelve years, she has also been the driving force behind many of the school's trips and visits throughout this period. We will miss Mrs Fisher very much and wish her much happiness in her future ventures. Thank you, Mrs Fisher!

Mrs Redding will also be leaving us at the end of this term to pursue her passion of supporting mental health and wellbeing in her role as a counsellor. We would like to thank Mrs Redding for her

Learning Mentor work with so many children across our school, she really has made a difference. Good luck Mrs Redding!

Towcester Primary Pupils in the Community

Our Year 4 and 5 children have recently been out on school visits to enrich their learning in school. Year 5 visited Waddesdon Manor where they learnt about Greek mythology to support their writing in English this term. Year 4 visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to experience artefacts from the Ancient Egyptians to deepen their understanding in History.

We ask our children to wear their school badge with pride when they represent us in the community and, with the feedback that these year group's teachers received from museum staff and members of the general public, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have certainly made us very proud.

Comments were shared about their courtesy and kindness as well as their knowledge of the topics that they are studying. Well done Year 4 and 5, you have represented our school brilliantly!

Tiny Tows

As I'm sure you will be aware, Tiny Tows sadly closed to pupils this month. We are aware that this is a much-needed service in our local community and will be looking to offer a Nursery provision on our site in the coming months. We will keep you updated of the timelines for this through our Newsletters.

Sporting Success

Boccia

Our Boccia teams took part in a county wide tournament this week, putting in brilliant performances to achieve 2nd and 8th places. Coming second means that we qualify for the County Finals later in the year!

Not only did our pupils compete brilliantly; they were also noticed for their great sporting attitudes and qualities. Two of our pupils were recognised for the Spirit of the Games awards. Well done to Aaron and to Hayley who earned these accolades. We are so very proud of you.



Football

Our KS2 children attended a football event at Sponne this term, Year 5 and 6 competed brilliantly in a tournament with other teams whilst our Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed 'skills' sessions. Our pupils were praised for their attitudes and sporting behaviours, they made us all very proud!

Sports Crew

Our Sports Crew were awarded their Hoodies and pin badges in this week's celebration assembly. We look forward to seeing them leading games activities on the playground and promoting fun activity for all of our pupils – Well done Sports Crew!



Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who would like to listen to readers or run some small group activities. We would love to hear from you if you are interested and can spare an hour or two on a regular basis. Thank you.

School Website

Have you visited our new website? It contains lots of important information about the life of our school. Please visit: [Towcester CE Primary School - Home \(towcesterprimary.northants.sch.uk\)](http://towcesterprimary.northants.sch.uk)

We have added the school term dates for the next two coming academic years. There is a school calendar on the website which we will keep updating with school events.

Family Support Worker Section

It's been lovely to see the children settle back into the school routine and how proud they are of the work they are producing. Having both playgrounds open to all children has been incredible positive with children showing all of our school values towards each other.



Thank you to everyone who has attended one of the coffee mornings in the bandstand, it's been great to see so many of you. As this has been such a success, we will continue with the Wednesday coffee morning and keep it in the bandstand for as long as the weather allows; we will move to The Hive when it's too cold! It would be great to invite some professionals to our coffee morning for informal workshops and advice sessions. If you have a suggestion for a particular topic e.g. diet/food, sleep, online safety, please do let me know.

With the half term break nearly here, you may be thinking about things to do over the holiday that don't cost any money. I'm already thinking ahead to Christmas and the expense that brings, so saving money anywhere possible is helpful. Activities like going to the park, a walk around the water meadows, conker picking (if there are any left!) or a visit to the library are not only free but fun.

Has anyone tried the previous recipe? There's another one for you on the last page of this newsletter. The recipe is from Jack Monroe's book 'Cooking on a Bootstrap' Five-Minute Bread. I made the recipe using Gluten-Free flour, and it tasted good. Let me know if you try it.

Happy half term!

Thank you for reading our newsletter, if you have any questions or queries about any of the items, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

We look forward to another wonderful year in the life of Towcester Primary School and hope that you will join us in our events and celebrations!

With kind regards

Sally Beaton

Headteacher

Dates for this term

Date	Event
Tues 17 th Oct	Open Morning for September 2024 Intake 9:15am – 11:15am
Wed 18 th Oct	Open Morning for September 2024 Intake 9:15am – 11:15am
	Tag Rugby Tournament
	Year 6 Young Citizen Day
Friday 20 th Oct	School closes for half term week 'You choose' Mufti/Uniform day
	WB Mon 23 rd Oct Half Term
Mon 30 th	Road Safety Week
Wed 1 st Nov	New Age Kurling event (teams will be contacted)
Wed 8 th Nov	Year 6 Oxford Castle and Prison Trip
Thurs 9 th Nov	Cross Country Event (details to follow)
Friday 10 th Nov	Life Education Bus: Years 3 and 4
	10.45 am Remembrance Service on the school field (all welcome)
Mon 13 th Nov	Anti Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day
Wed 15 th Nov	Scholastic Book Fair opens
Tues 21 st Nov	Parents Evening 4-7pm
Thu 23 rd Nov	Parents Evening 4-7pm
Fri 1 st Dec	9:15am Y3 Christingle Service in school to parents
Mon 4 th – Thurs 7 th Dec	Bikeability for Year 6 pupils
Tues 12 th Dec	KS1 2pm Dress Rehearsal – to whole school/pre-school/care-home
	Year 3 visit Oxford Natural History Museum
Wed 13 th Dec	KS1 2pm Nativity to parents
Thu 14 th Dec	KS1 2pm Nativity to parents
Fri 15 th Dec	Christmassy Day – ABM Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Crafts Day
Mon 18 th Dec	School Christmas Church Service
	Year 5 - Planetarium in school
Tues 17 th Dec	Y5 and 6 Carols and Readings – in school for parents
Wed 20 th Dec	1.30 Carols around the tree – whole school and community Term ends for Christmas
Term 3 – January 2023	
Thursday 4 th January	Training day
Friday 5 th January	Training day
Monday 8 th January	School opens to pupils

Term Dates

Academic year 2023/24

Term 1	Training day	Monday 4 th September 2023
	Training day	Tuesday 5 th September 2023
	School opens to pupils	Wednesday 6 th September 2023
	School closes	Friday 20 th October 2023
Term 2	School re-opens	Monday 30 th October 2023
	School closes	Wednesday 20 th December 2023
Term 3	Training day	Thursday 4 th January 2024
	Training day	Friday 5 th January 2024
	School re-opens	Monday 8 th January 2024
	School closes	Friday 16 th February 2024
Term 4	Training day	Monday 26 th February 2024
	School re-opens	Tuesday 27 th February 2024
	School closes	Thursday 28 th March 2024
Term 5	School re-opens	Monday 15 th April 2024
	School closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
	School closes	Friday 24 th May 2024
Term 6	School re-opens	Monday 3 rd June 2024
	School closes	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024

FIVE-MINUTE BREAD (VE)

MAKES 4
FLATBREADS

**100g self-raising
flour, plus extra for
dusting**

**½ tsp bicarbonate of
soda**

a pinch of salt

**70ml soya milk
(or any other milk
equivalent)**

**½ tsp lemon juice or
vinegar**

One September morning, while he was off school and recovering from surgery, my Small Boy announced he wanted 'dippy bread' for breakfast. Bread with something to dip it into, I surmised. Seems fair enough – who doesn't enjoy dunking warm bread into something soft and viscous, and ramming it in their gob? I made a yoghurt dip and whipped last night's leftover roasted squash with a little coconut milk, then realised we didn't have any bread. Drat. He was struggling to walk, so I was reluctant to drag him up the steep hill to the nearest shop, and at seven he was just slightly too small to be left alone while I bravely hunted down our breakfast, so I decided to make some bread. Instant bread, because as the parent of any hungry child knows, there are nanoseconds between being a bit hungry and full-scale tantrum hungry. I set a 5-minute timer, just to see, but I'm an avid baker, so give yourself eight to start with and see how quickly you can break your own record.

- 1 Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/gas 7, you'll need this in just a minute! Pop a large non-stick frying pan onto the hob but don't heat it yet.**
- 2 Grab a large mixing bowl and pour in the flour. Add the bicarb and salt and give it a quick but thorough stir. Pour in the milk and lemon juice and mix vigorously for a minute to form a dough.**
- 3 Tip the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and briefly knead it to bring it together, just for a minute. Divide the dough evenly into four pieces and roll each into a ball. Now turn on the heat under the frying pan to high.**
- 4 Roll each ball out with a rolling pin until about 4mm thick, then pop them into the hot frying pan, two at a time. Cook on high heat for 1 minute, then flip them over for 30 seconds. Transfer them to the oven to keep warm and finish off cooking, then fry the other two.**
- 5 And you're done. Now you can go into your day knowing that you're only ever 3 minutes away from freshly baked bread. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm a tad competitive, so I'm just setting myself a 4-minute timer over here ...**

