



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)

January 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

*We would like to wish you and your loved ones a
happy and healthy 2024.*

Thank you on behalf of our whole staff team for the lovely Christmas cards, wishes and gifts, we are hugely grateful.

The children have returned to school well and settled back into their learning routines happily today. We look forward to a busy, fun-filled and productive Spring Term.

Absence this term

I am sorry to share with you the news that I am having an operation to my foot this week which means that I will be unable to work in school this term.

Mrs Booth will be leading the school in the coming weeks with the support of our phase leaders; Mr Thomas, Mrs Collins and Mrs Hemming.

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To support Mrs Booth, we are making some slight changes to arrangements which we would be very grateful of your help with.

School gates and before school

Mrs Booth will be on duty during the morning whenever possible, opening one gate with Mr Devine opening the others at 8.40am.

Our Phase Leaders will be out on the playground at 8.40am to deal with any queries and supervise the children into lines or into the building in the event of wet or cold weather (we will send them straight in on cold/wet days).

Teachers will be on the playground by 8.45am to meet and greet the children and parents and take any messages. Children will line up as usual with parents saying goodbye then stepping away from the line. Teachers will take their line in at 8.50am or when the teacher can see that they are ready.

Communications and Queries

If you have a communication or a query, please contact your class teacher (if it is about your child) or the school office (if it is a general query or linked to an event) in the first instance.

If your query cannot be answered by the class teacher, please contact your child's Phase Leader (EYFS: Mr Thomas, KS1: Mrs Collins, KS2: Mrs Hemming) who will be happy to help.

Mrs Booth will be available to support, should her input be needed, once the above options have been pursued.

Incidents and Communications with parents

If an incident has happened, class teachers will speak to parents that day if at all possible (in person or by phone) about the incident in the first instance.

If parents would like to speak to 'the school' about such an incident this will initially mean speaking to class teachers, before speaking with Phase Leaders should their help and support be needed. Mrs Booth will be available to support once these options have been pursued.

We will ensure that we make contact with you regarding any matters that you raise as soon as we possibly can, however we would appreciate your support and patience with this wherever possible.

I will be in regular contact with Mrs Booth and the staff team throughout my absence. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Applying for a Reception Class Place September 2024

If you have family or friends looking for a Reception Class place for September 2024, we would love them to come and look around our school. Please ask them to book a tour through the school office: office@towcester.pdet.org.uk

Please remember that, **if you are applying for a school place for a Reception-aged child to start school in September 2024, the deadline for applications is Monday, 15th January 2024 at 5pm.**

Applications received after this time will be classed as late applications by the Local Authority and allocated places once the first round of applications has been allocated.

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Apply for your child's place through the Local Authority (West Northants) online application system using the link below: [Primary school places | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places)

Allocations of places will be communicated (by email if application is done online) on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

Family Support Worker News

Happy New Year!



Welcome back to a new term. I hope you have enjoyed the break and been able to get outside and splash around (or paddle!) in the puddles. I've enjoyed having a break for two weeks, however, I am looking forward to getting back into a routine.

I will be continuing with the Wednesday coffee morning, please do stop by, it's free and you can stop for a chat or get your drink to go. You can also buy our fresh eggs, £1 for 6 eggs.



The Samaritans 'Brew Monday' on Monday 14th January

Join us for Brew Monday on Monday 14th January. Brew Monday is a lovely way to check in with the people you care about – and share a biscuit or two. This year The Samaritans are inviting everyone to have a Brew Monday to catch up over a cuppa. We will be meeting at the Bandstand at drop off before enjoying a hot drink in The (newly refurbished) Hive!

Attendance

Our attendance target is 96% and, so far this year, our whole school attendance is 96.3%. This is amazing, we are above the national average which is currently at 94.4%.

We know that you understand that every school day counts towards your child's future. Having day's off can seriously impact on learning meaning that children miss vital information. This can have an influence on their self-esteem and wellbeing.

Pupils' welfare is of paramount importance to us and we believe that regular attendance and punctuality throughout the year is essential for their success and fulfilment. Please do come and see us if you have any concerns, we will be happy to help.

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This term's recipe

Whilst looking for a recipe to add to the newsletter, I came across an article from Nottingham University where a student has created "a series of recipes using common ingredients provided by food banks that are cooked with just a kettle and microwave, in a bid to help families create healthy and filling meals." I thought I would share the link with you, where can download the recipe booklet they have created.

[News - Nutritious recipes created using only food bank ingredients, a kettle and microwave - University of Nottingham](#)

If you need any help, support or guidance, please do just pop in and see me, I will be happy to help.

Mrs McShane

Parent Groups in The Hive this term

Thank you to the parents who came along to one of our groups or workshops last term. We are continuing to offer a number of events for parents this term. The sessions run from 9:00 – 10:30am and are held in The Hive. Sessions are open to everyone – including grandparents and family members. Babies and pre-school children are welcome and we have toys and games for them to use.

The SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) sessions are more specific to family members who have children with SEND, however they are open to everyone and anyone can attend.

We hope you will come along – they are very informal and a great opportunity to meet other parents.

Wednesday 10 th January 9-10:30am	SEND Parent Group	Understanding your child's Edu Key profile – Drop in sessions to answer any questions you have about your child's learning plan and/or interventions
Wednesday 24 th January 9-10:30am	Parents in The Hive	School nurse, Laura Byard, is here to give advice, helpful tips and support on continence and toilet training. She will also share advice on to how to help children become 'dry at night'
Wednesday 7 th February 9-10:30am	SEND Parent Group	Sarah Yates from SEN-ED Kitchen runs cookery groups for children with special needs and supports parents with the many challenges they may face. Come along to find out more... https://www.senedkitchen.co.uk

Save the date: Wednesday 24th April 5.30-6.30pm

Simon Aston is the **Online Safety and Wellbeing Advisor** for West Northamptonshire County Council. He is leading a parent and family session on Online Safety. [Simon Aston - West Northamptonshire Council - YouTube](#)

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Towcester Primary Wraparound Care

Our Breakfast and after School Club have successfully opened this week. It is wonderful to welcome children into both clubs. The staff team of Dana Bakusova and Nicole Farmer will continue to run our Breakfast Club with Dana Bakusova and Angie Owens running our after-school sessions.

We are able to take 30 children into each club and, at the end of January, will review the number of places that we have available at each session and offer the remaining spaces out to other families. If you require childcare for your child, we will communicate the availability that we have at the end of the month along with advice on how to secure a place.

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

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

Term Dates

Academic year 2023/24

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

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Dates for this term

<i>Dates and Events for the Term Ahead</i> <i>Spring Term 1 2024</i>	
Monday 8 th January	School Opens to Pupils
Thurs 11 th January	Year 5 Swimming starts
Friday 12 th Jan	Celebration assembly
	Year 4 visit to Shire Court Dentist
Monday 15 th Jan	Collective Worship with Revd Paula
	<small>From 8.40 drop off</small> Brew Monday Tea, coffee and chat session, just drop in, all welcome!
Tues 16 th Jan	Parks Class visit to Pizza Express Northampton (am)
	Parks Class Visit to Towcester Library (pm0)
Wed 17 th Jan	9-10.30am SEND Parents Meeting Session 1: Your child's learning plan and interventions (drop in Q&A session)
Thurs 18 th Jan	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics
	CENSUS day
	Year 5 Swimming
Fri 19 th Jan	Celebration Assembly
Tues 23 rd Jan	Hawking Visit to Towcester Library
Wed 24 th Jan	Young Voices
	9 – 10.30 Parents' Group, The Hive: Continece Support session, School Nursing team
Thurs 25 th Jan	Year 5 swimming
Friday 26 th Jan	Celebration assembly
Monday 29 th Jan	Year 6 to Sponne Science Lessons
Tuesday 30 th Jan	Y4 Darwin Visit to Towcester Library
Wed 31 st Jan	PDET Maths Day Year 5 All day
Thurs 1 st Feb	KS2 Inclusive festival
	Year 5 swimming pm
Fri 2 nd Feb	Celebration Assembly
Sun 4 th Feb	9.00am Year 3 St Lawrence Family Service
Mon 5 th - Fri 11 th Feb	Children's Mental Health Week ' My Voice Matters' (Express Yourself theme)
Tues 6 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
	Scott Class library visit
	9 – 10.30 SEND Parents' Support Group: Sarah Yates, SEN ED Kitchen session for parents
Thurs 8 th Feb	C-Salt collective Worship
	Year 5 Swimming
Mon 12 th Feb	Rev Paula leading Collective Worship
Tues 13 th Feb	Year 6 Tull Visit to Towcester Library
Thurs 15 th Feb	Year 5 Swimming
Fri 16 th Feb	Break up for half term
	Celebration Assembly

Please note, that these dates may be subject to change, we will do our utmost to update you as soon as possible should any changes be needed.

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