



## **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)

### **February 2024 Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Can you believe we are already halfway through our Spring Term? We have had a successful and busy term with achievements and experiences in and out of school.*

*Trips include Year 4 visiting Shire Court Dental Surgery as part of their science learning, Year 3 visiting Pizza Express to make pizzas and enjoy them at school for lunch, an Inclusive Sporting Event for a group of children in Years 3-6 at Sponne and Year 5 took part in the PDET Maths Day. All these trips have given children experiences that enhance their learning, develop their understanding, and give them opportunities to learn new skills. This is part of our school vision: to nurture and prepare children for life and a reason we do, all we do.*

*I hope you enjoy reading about more events that have happened this term and some upcoming news for next term. Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram to see many more news items.*

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### *Mental Health Week with a visit from Coram Life Education*

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week this year was 'Your Voice Matters' and we wanted to empower every child by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. They all had an opportunity to express themselves through art. We are thankful for the amazing volunteers who used their time to come into school, share their expertise and inspire the children to learn new techniques or experiences. The activities included printing, painting, embroidery, natural collage, clay, poetry, meditation, and music. Throughout the week we took the opportunity to remind ourselves on where we have used our voice to make a difference, how we can continue to make our voice heard and who will listen.

### *RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch*



For a couple of weeks this term, we all became 'twitchers' after every class made bird feeders to attract more wildlife to school. Each class then spent time observing the birds and recording their observations onto the RSPB survey. There was a real buzz around school with some children inspired to even spend their lunchtime and playtimes recording the birds they could see.



### *Young Voices*

Once again, children from years 4-6 were given the opportunity to take part in Young Voices. They arrived at Birmingham Resorts World Arena for the afternoon rehearsal with schools from the Midlands to be one of the 3000 children in the choir. The concert in the evening was amazing and every child loved the event and wants to go again!

### *Tombles*

Did you spot a Tomble? Or perhaps you have noticed a sign the Tombles have left after their litter picking session? We believe it is very important that children from Towcester CE Primary School develop their sense of citizenship and can take the school values out into the community. We have started with a litter pick and next term will be looking at other community projects for the children to be involved in led by the School Council.

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## World Book Day – 7<sup>th</sup> March

On World Book Day we will be encouraging every child and adult to 'snuggle up with a book' - classrooms will have cosy corners, inviting children to 'snuggle' up and enjoy a book with friends and adults. With this in mind, children can come to school in pyjamas or dressed as a character from a book (fiction or non-fiction). FOTOPS will be organising and leading a 'World Book Day Costume Swap Shop' where you can bring any costumes that you don't want and swap for a new costume! **The Swap Shop will be open before and after school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

## Family Support Worker News



*It's been a great term with many additional events and activities not just for the children but also parents. I'm enjoying getting to know and supporting so many parents and families. There are more parent and families events coming up next term.*

*On*

*Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March between 9-10.30am we have our SEND Parent Support Group in The Hive, we have a sleep talk by our Mental Health Practitioners, with help and tips on all things sleep related. It would be lovely to see as many people there as possible. We also have the Food Larder in The Hive on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 9-10.30am.*

*Attendance as a whole school is at 96%, which is great, let's see if we can improve on that. Please don't forget to call and let us know if your child/children are not going to be in school, and the reason for their absence. Thank you.*

*Wishing you all a lovely half term. If you have time, give the latest recipe a try (Let me know how you get on, pictures would great!). Look forward to seeing you all next term.*

*Recipe:*

[Apple and Cinnamon Loaf Cake and A Girl Called Jack | The Baking Beardy \(wordpress.com\)](#)

## Parents and Families



The free 'hot drink to go' continues to be a success every Wednesday in the Bandstand. It is great to see some parents taking the time to sit, chat and enjoy a drink whilst others we know are enjoying a hot drink as they rush to get to work. Mrs McShane will continue to set up the drinks every Wednesday with a variety of hot drinks including tea, coffee, fruit teas and hot chocolate. Bring your own cup or help yourself to a takeaway cup and enjoy a drink! You can also buy our fresh eggs, £1 for 6 eggs.

Thank you to the parents who came along to one of our groups or workshops this term. It's great to see some 'regulars' as well as new faces. If you have not been along, please do as the sessions are very informal, friendly, and supportive. The sessions run from 9:00 – 10:30am and are held in The

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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.

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 9-10:30am	<b>Drop-in session</b> to voice any queries or concerns about your child’s academic progress, social and emotional difficulties, mental health or specific needs/difficulties at home and at school <b>with the Inclusion and Wellbeing Team (Mrs Booth, Mrs McShane and Mrs Grant)</b> . Support from other professionals and agencies can be discussed too.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 9-10:30am	<b>Towcester Community Larder</b> are sharing who they are, what they do and how you can be part of the Community Larder.
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 9-10:30am	Nicola and Kim are joining the session from <b>West Northants Voices in partnership</b> . They will explain who they are and how they can help and support children and families in West Northants.
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 5.30-6.30pm	<b>Online safety</b> workshop by <b>Simon Aston</b> . Simon is an expert on informing parents how to ensure their children are safe online. <a href="#">Simon Aston - West Northamptonshire Council - YouTube</a>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 9-10:30am	<b>Foodbank</b> are sharing recipes and advice to make healthy, child friendly meals on a budget!
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 9-10:30am	Laura Byard (School Nurse) is available to share advice and support on <b>sleep</b> – come along with any concerns or difficulties your child may have.
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 9-10:30am	Laura Byard (School Nurse) is available to share advice and support on <b>eating/diet/food</b> – come along with any concerns or difficulties your child may have.
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 9-10:30am	Awaiting confirmation!

*Save the date: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

## **FOTOPS**

The current aim of FOTOPS’ fundraising is to install a new playground for all the children to enjoy! This is an ambitious project, with an estimated cost of £20,000, but with your help we know we can do it! They currently are coming into school during lunchtimes and with the help of some Year 6 children making beautiful gifts to sell at the ‘Female Superhero’ shop which will be open at lunchtimes on Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. More information about this will be sent out next 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 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!*

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*With kind regards*

*Sally Beaton*

*Headteacher*

### Dates for this term

<i>Dates and Events for the Term Ahead Spring Term 2 2024</i>	
Week 1 26 <sup>th</sup> February	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	School Opens to Pupils
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Boccia and Kurling Finals
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> /Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	FOTOPS Swap Shop
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 SATS Meeting for Parents 5.30
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 2 leading Family Service at Church
Week 2: 4 <sup>th</sup> March	
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> March	'Female Superhero' shop open at lunchtimes
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year R & Y6 Height & Weight checks
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	The Hive SEND Parent Group
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> to Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/6 Netball – Sponne
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	3pm Mother's Day Songs
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day
Week 3: 11 <sup>th</sup> March	
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
Week 4: 18 <sup>th</sup> March	
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Magic Science Workshops
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening 4 – 7pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Hive Session
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents Evenings 4-7pm
Week 5: 25 <sup>th</sup> March	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Service in St Lawrence Church
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Term Ends
Term 5	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens to pupils

**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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## Term Dates

### Academic year 2023/24

Term 3	School closes	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Term 4	Training day	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
	School re-opens	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
	School closes	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Term 5	School re-opens	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	School closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
	School closes	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Term 6	School re-opens	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024
	School closes	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024