



## **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)

### **Spring Term 2 2024 Newsletter**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

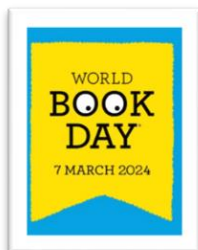
*We have had a busy term with so much to celebrate!*

*Thank you for all of your support and positive feedback over the last term.*

*We wish all of our families, friends and community partners a very Happy Easter!*



*Please do follow us on Facebook or Instagram to see what we are doing.*



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

It was wonderful to see all the children enjoying listening to stories on World Book Day with their friends, siblings and family members. Thank you to everyone who came into school and made it a special occasion for the children.

*'... nurtured and prepared for life ...'*



## *FOTOPS*

Thank you to FOTOPS who are working hard in school and behind the scenes. The 'Female Superhero' shop was a huge success especially the beautiful gifts made by members of Year 6. Thanks also goes to the FOTOPS members and staff who gave their time to sell World Book Day Costumes. There are many initiatives in the diary for next term including a school disco for the children to enjoy!

## *Science Week 8<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March*

Pupils across the school have been taking part in our Science week which included a Science Magic Show from Matt of Science Magic.

The children loved seeing the scientific tricks and phenomena that were performed and carried their enthusiasm back into their own work in the classrooms.

## *Easter Service at St Lawrence Church*

Thank you to our Key Stage 1 Team for leading our Easter Service at St Lawrence Church this morning. The children spoke clearly and confidently, performed scenes from the Easter Story and led us in reflections about the emotions we feel at Easter. The whole school sang our Easter songs beautifully, we were very proud of them all.

## *Year 3's Matilda Experience at the Grace Academy, Coventry*

Our Year 3 pupils were very lucky to be invited to watch a performance of Matilda by the students of The Grace Academy, Coventry. Starting their visit with a PE session led by the Grace Academy's PE Department, the children went on to enjoy an 'awesome' performance of Matilda.

Huge thanks are sent to the staff and students of the Grace Academy who gave our Year 3 pupils a day to remember – Thank you!

## *Saying Goodbye to Mrs Smith ...*

We would like to thank Mrs Hayley Smith for all of her work supporting so many of our families and children in her role as Family Support Worker over recent years. Hayley is now stepping away from this role, we wish her success and happiness for the future.

## *Saying Goodbye to Mrs Gamage ...*

We are also saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Kelly Gamage at the end of this term.

Mrs Gamage has been an amazing Year 5 teacher at Towcester for the last 2 academic years, she has driven the improvements and initiatives in Maths across the school enabling all of our pupils to flourish.

Mrs Gamage is moving to a new role in a school much closer to home, we are sad to say goodbye but wish her every success and happiness in the future. Good luck Mrs Gamage!

Mrs Curtis-Noor will be increasing her days to teach Lennon class on a Monday and Tuesday whilst Mrs Hayley Meller will teach the class for the remainder of the week.

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### *Term-time holidays*

We have noticed an increase in the number of applications for absences to take holidays in term time. We will be unable to authorise any applications for absence due to holiday and will refer families to the Local Authority for Penalty Notices in these instances.

Your child's attendance at school ensures that they build good learning habits, gain the carefully sequenced knowledge that is planned and maintain consistent friendships. Please avoid booking holidays in term time, the school holidays provide ample time for this.

### *School Day Timings*

The school gates open at 8.40 both at the Islington Road and the Rec entrances, children should walk straight to their lines ready for their teachers to take them into school at 8.50am. Our school day starts at 8.50am and therefore, children arriving after that time will need to go to the main school entrance. The gates will be closed to admitting children to the site at 8.50am promptly.

We've all experienced that feeling of arriving late somewhere; we know that arriving late to school can cause your child to be anxious and flustered and to miss important learning at the very start of the day.

We understand that on occasions things happen that make us late but ask that, if you are frequently late to school, you review your morning routine and timings or ask for some help from our Family Support Worker Mrs McShane, she is always glad to help.

### *KS2 SATS week 2024*

Our Year 6 children will be sitting their End of KS2 assessments (SATS) in the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. We wish our Year 6 children lots of luck, we know they will make us very proud.

Please could we remind Year 6 parents to avoid making appointments or taking time out of school during this week.

Thank you for your support.

### *Pre-school consultation*

Towcester C of E Primary School is investigating the possibility of extending the lower age limit of its intake to include Nursery aged children (+3 years).

We are opening a consultation on this, inviting you to raise questions or offer comments in the four weeks from today. A consultation meeting will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 5.30pm in the school hall to which you are invited.

We would very much like to hear your views and invite you to send comments and questions that you would like considered and answered at the consultation evening to [preschoolconsultation@towcester.pdet.org.uk](mailto:preschoolconsultation@towcester.pdet.org.uk) by 12 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Questions that are shared will be collated and wherever possible, addressed at the consultation meeting.

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## *Parent Governor Recruitment*

We are currently recruiting for a new parent governor to join our Governing Board.

If you would like to find out more about the role or learn how to apply, please look out for the separate email that will be shared before the end of term.

Parent governors are very valuable members of the Committee; we rely on them to help us keep in touch with what parents are thinking.

All nominations and declarations should arrive via email to the School office at [office@towcester.pdet.org.uk](mailto:office@towcester.pdet.org.uk) by 10.00am on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

## *Could you be a volunteer?*

We have several adults who volunteer every week by spending time listening to children read or helping in the classrooms. Giving your time in school can not only make a difference to a child, but it can also be rewarding, fulfilling and on a personal level, can build confidence and promote wellbeing for the volunteer. If you or someone you know has a spare hour or two and wants to make a difference, why not volunteer at school? We can support you to find the right year group and days/times. Please speak to the office staff for more information.



## *Lost Property*

As always, we have accumulated a large amount of lost property across the term. We will put the items in the bandstand at the end of the day today, please do have a look for any lost items! Any items still left in school at lunchtime tomorrow (Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March) will be collected up for sale at our pre-loved uniform stall or donated to charity.

Please do make sure you come and check what's there!

## *Mental Health Support Team*



We receive support from The Mental Health Support Team. This support can take a variety of forms including small group work, 1:1 sessions for a child with a trained Mental Health Practitioner and parenting advice. The Practitioners can help children and parents who are experiencing mental health difficulties including anxiety, worry, low mood, low confidence.

If you feel your child or yourself could benefit from external support, please speak to or email Mrs Booth [c.booth@towcester.pdet.org.uk](mailto:c.booth@towcester.pdet.org.uk)

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## Family Support Worker News



*Did you know we are here to help all parents with any support they may need, big or small?*

*Please come and see me on the playground before and after school or chat to me over a cup of tea in The Hive.*

*My email address is [w.mcshane@towcester.pdet.org.uk](mailto:w.mcshane@towcester.pdet.org.uk)*

### *Parents and Families*



The free 'hot drink to go' continues to be a success every Wednesday in the Bandstand. We 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!

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 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. We will share the session schedule with you at the start of the new term and look forward to seeing you there!

*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.*

*With kind regards*

*Sally Beaton  
Headteacher*

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## Dates for this term

<i>Dates and Events for the Term Ahead</i> <i>Summer Term 1 2024</i>	
<b>Week 1</b>	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School Opens to Pupils
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 Trip to Lunt Roman Fort
	Hive Parent Group 9-10:30am: West Northants Voices in Partnership
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 6 MHST workshops on Sleep
	FOTOPS Disco after school
<b>Week 2</b>	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Preschool Consultation Meeting 3:30pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Class photos – Lisa Jeffries
	Year 3 to St Lawrence Church pm
	Online Safety Parent Session 5:30pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 MHST workshops on Sleep
<b>Week 3</b>	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent Open Afternoon: Humanities
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Hive Parent Group 9-10:30am Talk led by Foodbank
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Inflatables Day
<b>Week 4</b>	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday – School closed
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Open Morning: Maths
<b>Week 5</b>	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS WEEK
	Year 5 Bike-ability Week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Hive Parent Group 9-10:30am: Sleep Talk led by School Nurse
<b>Week 6</b>	
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Shakespeare Theatre Workshop for Years 4, 5 & 6
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Final Celebration Assembly for the Term
	Term Ends
<b>Spring Half Term Holiday</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	New Term for all children

**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.**

## Term Dates

### Academic year 2023/24

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

### Academic year 2024/25

Term 1	Training day	Monday 2nd September 2024
	Training day	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
	School re-opens	Wednesday 4th September 2024
	School closes	Friday 25th October 2024
Term 2	Training day	Monday 4th November 2024
	School re-opens	Tuesday 5th November 2024
	School closes	Friday 20th December 2024
Term 3	Training day	Monday 6th January 2025
	School re-opens	Tuesday 7th January 2025
	School closes	Friday 14th February 2025
Term 4	Training day	Monday 24th February 2025
	School re-opens	Tuesday 25th February 2025
	School closes	Friday 4th April 2025
Term 5	School re-opens	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
	School closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
	School closes	Friday 23rd May 2025
Term 6	School re-opens	Monday 2nd June 2025
	School closes	Tuesday 22nd July 2025