**Towngate Primary Academy**



Headteacher:

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Chair of Governors:

Mrs Joanne Crook

Safeguarding Officers:

Mrs A Berry; Miss L Eke; Miss A Atkinson; Mrs E Johnson; Miss S Lockett

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Dear Parents and Carers 20.11.2020

**ACADEMY NEWSLETTER**

Another week finished at Towngate Primary Academy, can you believe 5 weeks today it will be Christmas Day! The time is certainly flying by. Unfortunately, we had to close the Early Years bubble this week, but the teachers have all been busy providing remote learning for both classes. Can we thank you for your patience and understanding during these strange times, but also remind you that we are doing our very best to keep school going and please remember to be patient and courteous to ALL staff,

**Notices for Parents**

* **After School Club**

It is with deep regret that we announce our After School Club provision will be temporarily closing as of the end of session on Friday 27th November. The decision to close the club temporarily has been a difficult one, however with limited take-up and places being reserved and not attended, the club is unable to sustain the costs of food and staffing at this time. We appreciate that many families are currently working from home or have been furloughed and therefore we will look to review this decision early in the Spring term, when we hope that the current Government restrictions are lifted further. Thank you to the staff running this club for your dedication - we hope to be in a position to reopen this club in Spring term.

* **Christmas**

As the festive season is growing ever closer, we have had discussions as a staff team about Christmas and how we can make this a special time for our children in school. Regrettably, we will be unable to hold our annual Christmas Concerts which we know always bring joy to the faces of our staff, children and families. We have made the decision that children in each bubble will learn some Christmas Carols and we will hold an outdoor Carol Concert per bubble which we will record and share with the families of children via SeeSaw, which is a protected site for Towngate users only. We appreciate that there are some parents/carers who choose not to allow their children on social media, therefore if you would prefer that your child is not visible on the recording, please let the school office know so we can make necessary arrangements.

Over the years, we have appreciated your kindness and generosity at Christmas time; unfortunately, this year we are unable to accept cards or gifts into school as we aim to limit items coming into school from home, which in turn also means that the children will be asked not to bring in cards for their friends as we will be unable to facilitate the Christmas Letterbox safely this year. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support with the decisions school are making at this time.

* **Remote Learning**

This week we have started our Remote Learning via Microsoft Teams and SeeSaw. All children have been provided with login details for both apps and are being supported in school with how to logon to these systems should a bubble closure occur. Thank you to the parents/carers who have found themselves in this position and to the staff for your hard work adapting to remote working from home. We appreciate everybody's efforts at this time. Please see attached

(at the end of this newsletter) a Ready, Respectful and Safe agreement that we would appreciate you sharing with your children in the event of a bubble closure. Thank you

* **Clothing and Layers**

Just a reminder that all children must attend school with their coats each day and ensure that they have full clothing to stay warm as the winter months begin to creep in. Children are encouraged to wear layers such as vests / t-shirts under their jumpers or cardigans to stay warm.

**Foundation Stage – F1 Nursery**

We have had a lovely week in Nursery this week. At the beginning of the week we made salt dough Diva lamps as part of our learning about Diwali - it was very messy moulding the dough into the shape of a Diva lamp but we thoroughly enjoyed it! Once they are dry and we return to school we will have lots of fun painting these so they are ready to take home.

We have also worked hard in our Maths and Phonics lessons this week. In Maths we have learnt about shapes, we even learnt about 2 new shapes; pentagon and diamond. We are continuing our learning using See-Saw and Teams at home - it's lovely to see everybody working so hard!  Well done Nursery :)

Miss Riley and Mrs Gordon

**F2 Reception**

This week is Antibullying Week in school and F2 have been thinking about how we can be good friends. We have thought of lots of positive ways we can work together in the classroom and how we can show we are good friends when we are outside too. We have made a friendship chain which we have put up in the classroom to remind us. We have also enjoyed reading our story Night Monkey, Day Monkey by our author of the term Julia Donaldson. We have tried hard with our adding skills and our writing skills this week. We have also been thinking about how we can be healthy and which exercises we enjoy following our picture news work. Well done everyone!

Mrs Kimbley and Mrs Middleton

**Year 1**

Year 1 this week have made their own glossary page, they were brilliant at explaining what each feature was and they found the Gong farmer’s job quite funny!  In maths we have been subtracting, multiplying and even had a go at sharing, the children were very good at sharing the numbers between groups. We have been continuing to learn about castles in History and Literacy and the highlight of the week was the dancing raisins experiment, who knew a raisin could be so much fun? Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Miss Haigh and Mrs Watters

**Year 2**

In Year 2 this week we have been discussing the word 'bullying' and really unpicking the meaning. The children have been learning to understand the difference between impulsive and considered behaviour. The children looked at this through the story of The Ugly Duckling. The children talked about the feelings and that the chicks behaviour towards the duckling was considered. The children showed a really good understanding. Well done Year 2.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Lockett and Mrs Thackrah

**Year 3**

We've had another fabulous week in year 3.  In English, we are planning to write a newspaper report about a mysterious young boy who washes ashore in the Bay of Skaill.  In Maths, we are learning addition of 3 digit and 2 digit numbers - some of us had an outdoor lesson where we became the digits!  In French, we have been writing a letter to a French pen-pal and today we have watched a virtual assembly from 'Kings Way Church' about Elijah.  This week is 'Anti-Bullying Week' and we have been

learning about how to be a good friend, what we could do if we witness bullying and how to keep ourselves safe online.  What a busy week!  Well done Year 3.

Mrs Schofield and Miss Kilbride

**Year 3 / 4**

It has been a wonderful week in year 3/4 - we have really enjoyed learning about Anti-Bullying Week and we loved finding out more about what bullying is. In English, we became newspaper reporters and wrote a fantastic newspaper report about a mysterious character collapsing on a beach in Skara Brae! We were very impressed with how hard the children worked. In maths, we looked at rounding numbers we learned the rhyme 'five our more, raise the score, four or less, let it rest!" to help us.  In French, we learned the days of the week - our French pronunciation is great! In history, we said hello to the Iron Age and learned about how iron was produced.

Miss Marston, Mrs Bailey & Miss Hanley

**Year 4**

In class 4 this week we have enjoyed our Science lesson about the states of matter. We have previously learned about solids and liquids however we are now focusing on gases. We used a simple demonstration to highlight how gasses fill empty spaces by using a cup, paper towel and a bowl of water. By placing the paper towel inside the cup and submerging the cup upside down in the water we found that the towel was not wet when we lifted it out. This is because the air filled the space inside the cup. When we let the air escape by tilting it underwater bubbles quickly formed and rose to the surface. Now we understand the three states of matter we will be looking at how these states change by processes such as freezing and melting.

Mr Hellam and Mrs Broadbent

**Year 5**

This week in year 5, we have been taught maths by Miss Davies. We have learned how to divide by 10, 100 and 1,000 and how to solve word problems which include these skills. In English, we have continued looking at our graphic novel which depicts the struggles of a migrant as he flees his homeland to find better opportunities. We have used the book as inspiration to develop our own setting descriptions of a new city! In art, we have continued to use 'The Arrival' as our stimulus and have begun looking at the use of texture and light and shadow to create a 3-dimensional effect to our drawings.

Mr Adlington and Miss Pamment

**Year 5/6**

This week in year 5/6 the children took part in an exciting science lesson to investigate which solids would dissolve the quickest into water. We explored how varying the amount of the solid would affect the amount of time it took to dissolve. As part of our anti-bullying week work we explored hazards which we may encounter on-line and how we should respond to these appropriately. We looked at the facts behind the rumours about bullying and held a discussion about the long-lasting effects of bullying and appropriate channels to go down to deal with bullying. A great week Year 5/6, well done!

Miss Atkinson & Mrs Drury

**Year 6**

As part of anti-bullying week year 6 have been looking at cyber bullying. We looked at some statistics which say that 79% of children have seen someone being bullied online and that it is biggest factor in young people’s mental health.  We watched a moving dance clip which showed bullying as a virus and told us that a bully has often been bullied themselves which causes it to spread and that the way to break the cycle is to help both people involved and with kindness.  We created our own presentations about the different types bullying and what do to do if it is happening, we have started a guide to explain different things you can do - such as what the report button looks like.  We have discussed this week what bullying is and looked at different scenarios. We played a game of Chinese whispers in class to show how easily things can be misunderstood and lead to bigger problems.

Mrs Wolstenholme, Miss Eke and Mrs Johnson

**Stars of the Week**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Name** | **Name** |
| F2 – Reception | Verity R | Freddie H |
| Year 1 | Oliver B | Jude W |
| Year 2 | Kenny H | Umaimah M |
| Year 3 | Neve G | Finn H |
| Year 3/4 | Phoebe H  | Sam L |
| Year 4 | Carter G C | Molly T |
| Year 5 | Lacey H | Tom H |
| Year 5/6 | Freya S | Suzie C |
| Year 6 | Ellie M | Esme R |

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