

Towngate Primary Academy

Headteacher:
Mrs Annabel Berry

Chair of Governors:
Mrs Joanne Crook

Safeguarding Officers:
Mrs A Berry; Mrs L Poole; Mrs A Bateman;
Mrs E Johnson; Miss S Lockett & Miss A Chapman



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Dear Parents and Carers

28/01/2022

ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Another super week at Towngate. Our Wildlife Garden is coming along nicely, thank you to everyone that has donated items, the children are enjoying working on this area and turning it into a fantastic space for all to enjoy.

A Message from The Governors

At the start of a New Year and as we have moved into a new term, we wanted to update parents of some recent changes in the Governing Body. After many years of commitment to the school, Joanne Crook decided to stand-down as a Governor and therefore, as Chair of Governors at the end of 2021. Jo has been committed to the school for many years, including supporting the school in achieving a 'Good' Ofsted judgement in 2019, and we would like to thank Jo for all of her hard work over the years. At a meeting this week the Governing Body appointed me as Chair of Governors, which I am more than happy to do.

In the Autumn we had three new Governors join us, Sally, Becki and Pam, two of whom are Parent Governors, and Pam is co-opted, bringing experience of working in a Local Authority. They join myself and Darren, who have been Governors for a number of years, along with Staff Governors Mrs Berry, Mrs Poole and Mrs Bateman. The Governing Body formally meet three times a year on an evening to discuss progress in school, as well as spending three mornings per year in school to see how the curriculum is being delivered, that children are enjoying school, that behaviour is good and that they are safe. Outside of these structured dates, Governors often call in to school to meet with staff, meet with parents and generally support the running of the school. Whilst it is the function of Governors to hold the School Leadership Team to account and provide constructive challenge, ultimately it is our role to offer support to ensure children receive the best education possible. We are always keen to hear from parents so please do get in touch via the Chair's email address.

We would also like to thank Mrs Crook for her dedication and service to our school, on behalf of everyone at Towngate, thank you and you will be missed.

After School Club

Just a reminder that our After School Club is available to all pupils within our school. There are two tiers, up to 4.30pm and 6.00pm. If your child is staying until 6.00pm they will be provided with a snack tea. Please be aware that if you book your child into After School Club and then they do not attend, you will still be charged. Please also be aware that children need to be collected promptly before 4.30 or 6.00pm. If you arrive after 4.30pm you will be charged until 6.00pm and if you are later than 6.00pm, you will be charged accordingly depending on the time you collect.

Remote Learning

We will continue to update the website on a weekly basis with each class's learning timetable.

NSPCC Rocks / TT Rockstars

We have enrolled the school into an NSPCC Rocks competition on TT Rockstars which will take place on Feb 4th on NSPCC Number Day. Our NSPCC Rocks competition is a fun and engaging way of boosting enthusiasm for learning the times tables in your school whilst also showing support for NSPCC Number Day. The aim of the competition is to answer as many questions correctly as possible on the Times Tables Rock Stars platform. Make it a day to remember by holding a dress-up day or including



the awesome NSPCC Number Day resources in your lesson plans. Competition hours are limited to 7.30am to 7.30pm. A 60-minute limit playtime per player will also apply... once a player goes beyond 60 minutes between 7.30 am and 7.30 pm on Friday 4th February, they will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition. Those 60 minutes do not need to be played in one block - they can be spread throughout the competition hours.

I-Minute Maths

Maths Hub have released a new app for Maths Practice at home. Our new I-Minute Maths app helps your pupils to build greater number confidence and fluency. It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks! This first version of the app is aimed at Key Stage 1 pupils, and focuses on adding and subtracting – and on 'Subitising'. The free mobile app is available for Apple/iOS, Android and Kindle.

How does it work?

I-Minute Maths offers children engaging and easily accessible practice in basic number. There's no specific route or starting point. Having chosen a topic, each user answers a series of randomly generated questions (a different set of questions every time means they learn the concept, not a sequence of answers). When the one minute's up, the questions are automatically marked and presented on a breakdown screen, giving instant feedback on how they've done. If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button reformats the question as a familiar manipulative display that mirrors the approaches used in the White Rose Maths schemes of learning.

Check out these 7 top reasons for using I-Minute Maths!

1. Excellent practice – and no distractions.
2. A clear, intuitive process that children pick up straight away.
3. No login or internet access needed. Just download and play.
4. Enjoyable and motivating... How many can they get correct in one minute?
5. Helpful hints match those used in class.
6. Brilliant for building number fluency and confidence.
7. The mobile app is **completely FREE!**

Hibernation Day

It's almost Shelley's (the school tortoise) birthday! As usual we are holding a Hibernation Day to raise funds for his upkeep. On Friday 4th February children can come to school wearing their pyjamas for a small donation to Shelley's fund!

PTA Events

Please see the attached flyer for details of upcoming events.

Malawi Glasses

A reminder that we are all still collecting any old prescription glasses that you no longer need to send on to Malawi. If you have any to donate, please drop them either with your class teacher or in the office.

Updated Risk Assessments

Our Risk Assessments are being updated regularly in line with updated regulations and guidance. You can find a copy of our all our Risk Assessments on our website with the Newsletters.

Roses Chocolates Blue Lids

After the success of our fantastic Remembrance display, we are now looking ahead to next year where we will be contributing to a Yorkshire Day display in Ossett and we need your help! Please could you collect the lids from Cadbury's Roses this Christmas and send them in to school for our school council.

Towngate Academy School Council



Key Dates

Friday 4 th February 2022	Hibernation Day
Wednesday 16 th February 2022	Valentine's Disco
Friday 18 th February 2022	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 28 th February 2022	Inset Day
Tuesday 29 th February 2022	School Re-opens

Stars of the Week

Well done to our fantastic stars of the week who have been celebrated during our Celebration Assembly in school. Your hard work and determination this week has been noticed by your teachers – we are very proud of you!

Class	Name
F1 - Nursery	Avah H & Kimberley L
F2 – Reception	Mia W & Mahdi
Year 1	Freddie H & Joshua R
Year 2	Lexie C & Imogen H
Year 3	Thomas R & Archie S
Year 4a	David R & Joshua F
Year 4b	Eva H & Jacob P
Year 5	Isaac L & Harvey E
Year 5/6	Cameron B & William E
Year 6	Suzie C & Lewis G

Attendance:

This week's whole school attendance is 91.74%. Our attendance target 97%,

Mrs A Berry and Mrs L Poole

Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher
Towngate Primary Academy



What's been going on in school this week?

Early Years – Foundation 1 (Nursery)

Our focus story this week has been Rumble in the Jungle. The children have been learning about the jungle, we have been exploring the different animals that live there and looking at the different types of weather. In maths, we have been counting amounts of objects and matching them to the correct numeral. Next week, we are going to the forest! Have a great weekend!

Miss Haigh & Mrs Gordon

Early Years – Foundation 2 (Reception)

This week F2 have been thinking about how we can stay safe and learning about the PANTS rule. We have also enjoyed designing our own pants within provision. The children have worked hard in maths using dominoes to find the composition of a given number and they have shown a good understanding of their work. We have been reading "Walking Through the Jungle" this week, by Julia Lacombe and we have been practicing our writing skills. We have also been busy designing our own animal masks in DT. A very positive week, well done everyone.

Mrs Kimbley & Mrs Middleton

Key Stage 1 – Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have been learning how to write command sentences. We used the command sentences "STOP thief", "Get out of my shed!" and "Come back here!" implored Mr McGregor. In Science, we did a floating and sinking experiment. We found that some of our predictions were incorrect, we really enjoyed working scientifically. Also, we went on a materials hunt outside to reinforce our identification skills of naming materials. In Geography, we visited Northern Ireland and found out the capital city is called Belfast. I wonder where we will go next week in the UK? Have a lovely weekend

Miss Lockett

Key Stage 1 – Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been busy retelling the story of the Velveteen Rabbit. We split the story into different sections, discussed the key events of each part and then have begun writing this down in paragraphs. The children have included a range of vocabulary taken from the text such as; insignificant, splendid and superior! They have demonstrated resilience and independence whilst including a range of grammatical features. The children have been super with their times tables this week and used their knowledge to answer a range of reasoning and problem-solving questions. Next week, we will be moving on to division. In Geography, we have compared rural and urban locations in Kenya. Did you know the capital of Kenya is Nairobi? In Science, we have learnt three different ways to describe the properties of materials. These were transparent, translucent and opaque. We then went on a materials hunt to find materials that matched the different properties. Well done Year 2 and we can't wait to see what wonderful work you produce next week.

Mrs Davies

Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 3

This week in Year 3 the children have been busy with lots of creative learning. In Art, we were using a water-colour media to replicate impressionist landscapes from Claude Monet. The children used their new skill of 'washing' to merge colours together and create their desired effect. Next week, we will go outside to paint and will do our own impressionist artwork in the outdoors. During our PE lesson, the children were playing invasion games. They had to work as a team and begin to think tactically about their positioning and movements to win the games. In History, we looked at the different social classes that existed during the Shang Dynasty and what the qualities of people who were in the noble/working classes were. During Music we continued to look into the genre of Reggae by appraising 'Jammin' by Bob Marley. We also continued to learn our new song 'Three little birds' and are hoping to add some accompaniment to our performance next week. Super effort from all the children in Year 3 this week. Well done everyone!

Mr Hellam



Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 4A

In Year 4 this week, we have been finding that after the Romans left Britain the Anglo Saxons moved out of the towns and back to the country side to farm. We found out the different jobs for men and women and the children thought it was very unfair! In PSHE this week, we have been discussing families, we talked about who was important to us and compare all the similar and different types of family we have. In computing this week, we are really enjoying using different software to create and record our own music compositions.

Mrs Wolstenholme

Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 4B

In Year 4b this week, we have been working hard on our division in maths and we have been creating a balanced argument in English to argue whether soldiers should be taught to read and write. In Science, we learned about refraction and carried out an investigation using water and a picture of an arrow that actually changed direction! In RE, we learned about Gandhi and why he behaved the way he did. We learned how he carried out a peaceful protest and decided to live a simple life. In Music this week, we practiced our rap music with 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air'. Well done 4b!

Mrs Schofield

Upper Key Stage 2 – Year 5

This week, in year 5, we have looked at equivalent fractions, converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions and complete fraction sequences by identifying the rule and applying it to find the next term. We have solved problems and developed our reasoning skills to ensure we can explain our work and prove our knowledge. In English, we have continued to read our class book 'Mary Poppins' and have looked at the features of an alternative character description – the one used by Jane and Michael in the original film. We have written our own versions and edited and improved them. In geography, we have considered what factors might affect a biome and looked at the impact humans have on fragile biomes and ecosystems. We have discussed the fact that biomes are affected by ocean currents, temperature and precipitation, and altitude and latitude. In DT, we have used CAD to generate an image of our initial ideas in order to develop this further, ready to prototype next week. We have continued our work with Mr Ellis in music by learning to play the samba on a variety of instruments. We have also learned how to read and write simple music notation. In forest schools, we have used potato peelers to whittle sticks to look like owls which we really enjoyed.

Mr Adlington

Upper Key Stage 2 – Year 5/6

This week in Year 5/6 in English we have enjoyed planning a non-chronological report for the Civil Rights for Women and the way in which they were treated throughout the years, this was part of our studies of Mary Poppins. In Maths we have been learning about perimeters and areas of compound shapes. In computing, we have been using the website Sketchup to design an electric alarm for a biome in a rainforest. In Science we have been exploring electrical circuits and how electricity flows. During PE we have been learning how to stretch and balance with Miss Ella in Acro from Liquidance, we have also been learning how to dribble, Indian dribble and all about tackling and ball control in Hockey. Well done year 5/6 for another excellent week!

Mrs Bateman

Upper Key Stage 2 – Year 6

In Year 6 this week, we have been developing our skills as writers through planning and preparing to write a non-chronological report. From our work on civil rights and our current novel Mary Poppins, we did some research together about the changing roles of women throughout history, paying careful consideration to audience and purpose for our writing. In geography, after studying the taiga and the tundra biomes, we looked at the savanna and considered the specific climate, types of animals and plants which live there. Next week we will be exploring the climate crisis and the impact across various biomes. Well done guys for another super week together!

Mrs Poole





**What type of events
do you think deserve
a celebration?**



2022

Upcoming events

February - Disco - Weds 16th.

April - Easter Fair - Weds 6th.

May - Car boot/ table top sale - Sunday 15th

May - Break the rules day - Friday 20th.

July - Summer Gala - Sat 16th

July - Year 6 Prom - (TBC)

*Please support us in raising money to
improve our outdoor areas.*

*Thank you
Towngate Primary Academy PTA*

All guidelines relating to covid 19 will be adhered to.

