

Towngate Primary Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Staff in school can hardly believe that we are already at the end of our first half term back together this academic year. The children have worked so hard and have settled into their classes brilliantly. As we look ahead to next half term and the excitement that goes along with the run up to Christmas, we look forward to continuing our partnership with parents and carers.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to take the time to join us in school for our autumn term parents' evening. Class teachers thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all and we hope that the time spent discussing how your child has settled into school was informative. Following parent/carer views last academic year, feedback indicated parents/carers felt like they would like further updates throughout the school year on the children's attainment in core subjects: next half term a 'progress check point' will be sent out to inform families how children are progressing in school. We hope that this information will prove a valuable addition to the procedures already in place for reporting to parents. Parents / carers of children in Year 6 classes will be invited back into school towards the back end of January to discuss preparations for statutory assessments (SATs), booking arrangements will be shared next half term by class teachers.

Maternity Leave

As many of you are aware, Mrs Poole and Mrs Bateman are expecting their first babies in the upcoming weeks and today, as we begin our half term holidays, is Mrs Poole and Mrs Bateman's last day in school before they commence their maternity leave. Thank you to the parents/carers who have shared their best wishes and kindness with both members of staff; we are sure you will join us in wishing them lots of luck as they enjoy spending time with their new additions!

Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated food to our Harvest Festival. Our donations were taken to The Resource Food Bank by Peter and Marie who were special guests at our Harvest Assembly. A big thank you must go to the School Council, Mrs Schofield and Mrs Drury who – once again – did a wonderful job of organising this event. Thank you.

Children in Need

Friday 18th November is Children in Need and this year's theme is 'The Great Spooktacular'. Children are invited to wear non-uniform on this day, 'spots' if possible but not mandatory, for a donation to Children in Need. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

Reindeer Run & Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 9th December, we will – once again - be taking part in the Wakefield Hospice Reindeer Run in the school playground. Every child wishing to take part in this fun event, will receive a pair of reindeer antlers and will raise money for Wakefield Hospice by running/jogging/walking as many laps of the school running track as they can. Children are also invited to wear Christmas jumpers or tops as this date is also Christmas Jumper Day. Sponsor forms will be sent out with the children nearer the time.



Key Term Dates

Please see attached dates for your diary for this half term:

Date	Event	Class
01.11.22	Early Years 'Bats, Cats and Rats' Halloween event - times confirmed on letters sent out	Early Years
01.11.22	Halloween Discos – times confirmed on letters sent out	KS1 and KS2
09.11.22	INSPIRE event UKS2 @ 1.30pm	Parents welcome Year 5 Year 5/6 Year 6
15.11.22	Year 4 INSPIRE event @ 1.30pm	Parents welcome Year 4
	Nursery Stay and Play	Nursery Parents
18.11.22	Reception and Reception/Year 1 INSPIRE event @ 2pm	Parents welcome Year 1
25.11.22	Year 3 INSPIRE event @ 1.30pm	Parents welcome Year 3
25.11.22	Scholastic Book Fair arrives in school	All classes
02.12.22	Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles / sweets for the Christmas Fair.	All classes
05.12.22	Lower Key Stage Two Christmas Production	Year 3 & Year 4
06.12.22	Early Years Christmas Production	Nursery, Reception, Reception/Year 1
07.12.22	Key Stage One Christmas Production	Year 1 Year 2
08.12.22	Upper Key Stage Two Christmas Production	Year 5 Year 5/6 Year 6
09.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day Reindeer Run	All classes (school council event)
12.12.22	Christmas Fair after school	All families



Pupil Achievements



Attendance

Our attendance is this week is 95.28% - well done everyone. A particular well done must go to Year 2 who achieved a fantastic 97.51% All classes in school are working towards achieving their 'Perfect Attendance' treat for 100% attendance every day – keep going everyone!

Core Awards

	Compassion	Ownership	Resilience	Excellence
Nursery	Oliver	Summer	Teddy	Jenson
F2/Year 1	Hannah	Emily	Seth	Ivy
F2	Maizy	Emily	Oscar	Scarlet
Year 1	Mia	Freddie	Charlie	Bethany
Year 2	Finley	Verity	Oscar	Rosie



What have we been getting up to this week?

Nursery

This week has been learning about repeating patterns, the children used a variety of natural resources to make ABAB patterns. We have also been learning about rhyming words, the children were brilliant at spotting words that sound the same during story time. The children have really enjoyed listening to our Reading Ambassadors reading our Nursery top 10 books, they are becoming experts at scanning QR codes around nursery to access stories and challenges. Thank you for your continued support, we hope that you all have a wonderful half term and enjoy time with your family.

Miss Haigh/Mrs Gordon

Reception / Year 1

This week we have been continuing to look at 'We're going on a bear hunt' but we have created our own bear hunt story walking through crunchy leaves, wobbly bridges and slippery ice! Our imaginations are brilliant and we have loved creating our own bear hunt story through drawing, role play and outdoors. We have also looked at the celebration of Diwali – exploring diva lamps, Rangoli patterns and reading the story of 'The Best Diwali Ever'. In maths we looked at repeating patterns in sound, movement and shape. We had so much fun making our own patterns with Lego, shapes, beads and even tried to trick our teachers by putting a mistake in our patterns and asking them to spot the mistake! Although we are all feeling a bit tired towards the end of this half term, we have continued to work super hard in all that we do.

Well done Reception and Reception/Year 1 and have an amazing holiday!

Mrs Kimbley, Miss Ayling and Mrs Allen,

Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have been writing instructions about how a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly; we have worked so hard this term to develop our understanding of capital letters and full stops and are really proud of the work we are producing. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of number bonds within 10, exploring multiple solutions of how to make different amounts. In Geography, we have been conducting surveys about the different types of houses people live in, we have displayed our findings in a pictogram! Mrs Bateman would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, carers and children for their well wishes and kind gestures for her new baby, she is going to miss the children very much!

Mrs Bateman

Year 2

In Year Two this week we have been recapping our knowledge of number bonds to 10. Knowing number bonds to 10 has helped us work out number bonds to 100! We have enjoyed learning this and seeing the connection between the two. On Wednesday, we had our inspire event, the children made beautiful 3D images with their grown-ups and were so excited with the results, thank you for attending! Following the inspire event, in English, the children are writing a recount of their exciting afternoon and sequencing the events in chronological order. We are so impressed with your hard work this half term Year Two, enjoy your time off!

Miss Senior

Year 3

This week in Year 3, it has been another busy but brilliant week! We have worked very hard in our maths lessons on addition and subtraction using the column method. Every single member of our class has shown our core value of resilience with this work - well done to all! In Science this week we have looked at how paper is made and how we can recycle materials to ensure we are living sustainably. We have also enjoyed learning about the Bronze Age in History and comparing this period of time to our previous learning about the Stone Age. Well done on another fantastic week Year 3, enjoy a very well-deserved rest!

Miss Riley



Year 4

In Year 4 this week, we have been working super hard in Maths, rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000 and we have also begun adding 4-digit numbers. In English, we have been writing an explanation text all about the dangers of climbing Mount Everest - did you know that one breath at sea level is equivalent to 3 breaths at high altitude! In Science this week, we have been learning about boiling and freezing points and in History, we have been learning what the Romans believed. In PSHE, we have been learning about assertiveness rather than aggression and in Music, we have been practising our drumming skills with Mr. Ellis. Well done for a super final week of the half term! Have a wonderful holiday.

Mrs Schofield

Year 5

This week, in Y5, we have mastered how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000! We have applied the fluency that we developed to some very challenging reasoning and problem-solving questions. In English, we have been busy producing some published writing based on sustainability. There have been some wonderful pieces created. In science, we have learned about combustion and discussed the environmental impact of combustion including the damage that acidic causes to our wildlife. In geography, we have discovered how we can improve food production around the world. Everybody demonstrated extremely strong analysis skills when looking at data relating to this. I hope you all have a lovely week off - you deserve it! I cannot wait to see what we achieve together next term.

Miss Wilson

Year 5/6

This week, in Year 5/6, we have studied some creative writing examples and have used a video clip as a stimulus to write our own narrative. We have looked at how to develop an effective description of a setting and have discussed how we can use characters to advance the action in our stories. We planned our writing in pairs, before completing an independent write to finalise our ideas. In science, we have learned about global warming, climate change and the link between the two. We have discussed the impact this has on modern daily life and the potential impact to future generations. In geography, we evaluated the impact of a growing population on towns and cities and compared two settlements. We compared the capital city of Kenya - Nairobi - with a slum settlement which is located just outside the city. We discussed where would be more comfortable to live and the effects that slums can have on a population.

Mr Adlington

Year 6

The final week of the half term and what a wonderful one it has been! This week, in English, Year 6 have finished writing a persuasive text. The children have worked hard to include new writing skills and the outcomes have been fantastic to read. In maths, we have learnt about the order of operations and used this to reason and problem solve. In geography, we have completed our population learning by working collaboratively to research ageing population before presenting our findings to the class. In science, we have learnt about global warming and climate change and what we can do to prevent this. In PE, the children had lots of fun making campfires. They then got to make roast bananas covered in chocolate - yum!

What a fantastic half term and a great start to what I know will be a brilliant year. Enjoy the well-deserved rest, Year 6. I am looking forward to another fantastic half term when we return.

Miss Richardson

