

Towngate Primary Academy

Headteacher:
Mrs Annabel Berry

Chair of Governors:
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Safeguarding Officers:
Mrs A Berry; Mrs L Poole; Mrs A Bateman;
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Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas time. It has been lovely to see the children's smiling faces around school this week and they have all settled back into their school routines really well.

Welcome back

We would like to give a warm welcome back to Mrs Wolstenholme, who has returned from maternity leave. Mrs Wolstenholme will be teaching in Year 2 and will also temporarily join our Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher, until Mrs Poole & Mrs Bateman return from maternity leave.

Relationships and Health Education

Today, you will receive an email regarding the DfE statutory requirements for schools to teach Relationships and Health Education to all children from September 2020. These lessons help children to learn about their bodies; including changes that take place, how to keep themselves safe and their relationships with others, now and in the future.

This half term in PSHE/RSE, the children are learning 'How to Keep Myself Safe' which includes understanding how to stay healthy, how to stay safe online, what to do when they feel unsafe and for the older children, recognising the dangers of substances. You can read about the DfE requirements on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

Date	Event	Class
03.02.23	Shelly Hibernation Day – wear your pyjamas	Whole school
08.02.23	Y4 Times Tables Check Parents Meeting 3:30pm	Year 4 parents
10.02.23	Young Voices	Choir
10.02.23	Break up for half term	Whole school
20.02.23	INSET Day – school closed	Whole school
21.02.23	Return to school	Whole school
02.05.23	Class photos	Whole school





Pupil Achievements



Attendance

Our attendance is 98.1% this week; well done everyone. A particular well done must go to Year 1 who achieved a fantastic 100% attendance this week. All classes in school are working towards achieving their 'Perfect Attendance' treat for achieving 100% attendance every day – keep going everyone!

Core Awards

	Compassion	Ownership	Resilience	Excellence
Year 3	Ruby	Leland	Ben	Eva
Year 4	Bradley	Umamah	Archie	Toby
Year 5	Maisie	Neve	Lola	David
Year 5/6	Matilda	Thomas	Sonia	Nancy
Year 6	Harvey	Matthew	Alfie	Millie

What have we been getting up to this week?

Nursery

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back after the festive break. The children were really excited to see their friends and talk about what Santa had brought. In Maths this week, the children have been practising counting objects, focusing on touching each item and counting at the same time. Our topic this half term is looking at different countries around the world and this week the children have been learning about different areas of the country such as, the countryside, villages, towns and cities. In Phonics, we have been learning about words that begin with the sound's 'p' and 'n'. The children have worked very hard at sorting these within the provision, to challenge themselves further. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Miss Haigh and Mrs Gordon

Reception / Year 1

This week in Reception and Reception/Year 1, we have settled really well back into school routines after a lovely Christmas break. We have moved onto our new half term topic of 'Around the World' and begun looking at what we already know about our planet, such as the animals that live there, different habitats, and how climates are different across the world. We have also begun to learn about David Attenborough and what he does to protect the planet and its animals. In Maths, we have been learning about mass and capacity, applying what we have learnt when weighing sweets in the sweet shop and mixing potions in the potion lab. In PE, we have started our gymnastics topic, practising different balancing and stretching. A brilliant start to the Spring term for Reception and Reception/ Year 1.

Mrs Kimbley, Miss Ayling & Mrs Allen



Year 1

Welcome back Year 1. Wow, what an amazing week we have had! Thank you so much for all your kind words and wishes in welcoming me back to school. The children have worked so hard in their first week back and I am very proud of them all.

In English we have started a new book. The genre is classic fiction and the book is called Peter Rabbit. The children used a new word in their writing this week - mischief. They enjoyed writing it in a sentence.

In Maths, we have been practising place value to 20, counting forwards and backwards and thinking about the teen numbers, partitioning into a 10 and ones. In Art, we have started a new technique - printing. We looked at William Morris' work and how he used block painting to create his wonderful designs. We used Lego and K-Nex to explore printing with paint. In Science, we have learnt about life processes and what makes something living alive. We also know new words such as survival and reproduce and use these when we talk in our science lessons. Well done, Year 1.

Mrs. Longlands and I are very proud of what you have achieved this week. Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Lockett

Year 2

What a fantastic start to the new year! This week in English we have looked at apostrophes for contractions and found these in the text of our new book, The Velveteen Rabbit.

We were very pleased to have Miss Collins back to teach us in Music. We changed to new instruments and played different rhythms together as a group. It was very tricky trying to all play at the same time!

In PSHE we looked at medicine safety, discussing how to keep ourselves safe. The children showed an excellent understanding and knew that we should always get a grown up to measure out the correct amount. I have had a wonderful first day back with Year 2 and am very excited for this half term.

Mrs Wolstenholme

Year 3

What a fantastic start to the year we have had! Well done Year 3 for settling back in to school life so quickly. This week we have begun our learning about the Shang Dynasty in History, including writing our own story in Chinese writing. In English we have started to read our new book, 'When Life Gives You Mangoes' and we are currently working on a setting description based on this. In Maths, we have worked hard to use our related facts to work out some tricky calculations. In RE, we have thought about who God is to us and why that might be different to different people. A superb effort from all of you this week - well done Year 3!

Miss Riley

Year 4

We've had a super first week back in Year 4 and have been working very hard. In English, we have been planning a letter from a migrant father to his daughter as part of our new 'wordless' picture book, 'The Arrival'. In Maths, we have been learning factor pairs which has proven to be a bit tricky at first but we persevered and we got there in the end. We have also been learning how to multiply by 10. In Science, we have been learning about igneous rocks as part of our new topic 'The Rock Cycle'. In History we are learning about 'The Anglo-Saxons', how we don't have much written evidence about them and that this period of time is often called 'The Dark Ages' for this very reason. In PSHE this week, we have been learning about the difference between a danger, risk or a hazard. In RE we have been learning about our life as a journey. Well done for a busy return to school Year 4!

Mrs Schofield



Year 5

What a wonderful first week we've had! In English, we have started looking at our new book, "Once Upon a Hillside". We have planned and produced a setting description based on the illustrations and the descriptive language in the book. In Maths, we have started our unit on fractions. To start with, we have mastered multiplying unit fractions so that we can apply this to multiplying mixed number fractions next week. We have also been super geographers as we began our unit on Globalisation - there were some amazing discussions had and we discovered the largest companies in the world! I'm so proud of each and every one of you this week for your hard work and settling straight back into our routine. Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Wilson

Year 5/6

This week, in Year 5/6, we have settled back into our routines and enjoyed spending time with our friends after our Christmas break. We have started studying a new class book 'Once Upon a Hillside' which is a fictional book that follows a journey through time on the same hillside - from 4,000BC to the present day. This collection of short stories begins with Tani, who lived on the hillside 6,000 years ago. We have written a setting description of the scene which greeted Tani at the first moment she saw the landscape, after moving from her winter camp by the river. We analysed a class model by identifying the required features and planned our own writing ready to complete our draft version. Our Y6 children have been working extremely hard to complete their mock SATs this week to identify the areas we need to work on in lessons. In Geography, we have begun our new unit of learning by understanding what the term 'globalisation' means. We have discussed how companies have benefitted from globalisation and how this impacts us all. In Art, we have researched the illustrator of 'Once Upon a Hillside' - Chiara Fedele. We have looked at the artistic style of her work and discussed what the subject of her artwork is. We have compared her work to that of Jackie Morris who illustrated similar images in 'The Lost Words.'

Mr Adlington

Year 6

Firstly, I am so proud of all the children in Year 6 as this week has been mock SATs week. The children have worked incredibly hard; they have been resilient and powered through to show us the amazing progress they've been making during Autumn term. Well done! Alongside this, we have been busy learning about physical and chemical reactions in Science. We've looked at how the particles change and how we can identify a chemical reaction. In Geography, we have started our Globalisation topic by looking at what globalisation is and how this links to transport, technology and trade. In RE, we have reminded ourselves about the different places of worship for different faiths, we have explored why these places are special and what functions they have for communities.

Miss Richardson

