

# Towngate Primary Academy

Headteacher:  
Mrs Annabel Berry

Chair of Governors:  
Mr Philip Emms

Safeguarding Officers:  
Mrs A Berry; Mrs L Poole; Mrs A Bateman;  
Miss S Lockett; Miss C Lowell; Mrs R Johnson



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15.03.2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final week of another half term, it is with great pride that we reflect on another half term of wonderful learning, memories made and teamworking. Today we have celebrated Comic Relief - thank you very much for all of your support. We have received a lot of donations for this fabulous charity and can't wait to announce our school's total contribution to Comic Relief on next week's newsletter.

## **Year 2 class assembly**

Year 2 had a wonderful Parent assembly, the children really enjoyed learning about the work & life of Sir David Attenborough, the children had learnt all about the different animals and read out their own work & sang beautifully to parents.

## **Easter egg competition**

All children are welcome to decorate a hard-boiled -polystyrene egg for the Easter egg competition, the winner will be drawn in each class next Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

## **Nursery & F2 police visit**

Today as part of their learning about 'people who help us' in Early Years we have had officers from West Yorkshire police in school to visit the children. It was lovely to see so many children understanding of the role of the police can help us all & our families stay safe.

## **Rescheduled Future in minds session**

We will be holding a session on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April @3.30pm -5.00pm with Future in Minds (managing emotions). This is an opportunity for parents and carers to join a session with practitioners from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) to support children's emotions. These sessions will need to be booked so please let the school office know by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 if you wish to attend.

Thank you

## **Parent Parking**

It has been brought to our attention that a number of cars have been parking near and on the yellow zig-zag lines outside of school. We would like to send a polite reminder that it is illegal to park on this area of the road as it poses a huge risk to the safety of our children. **We are requesting that this area is kept clear when families are collecting children from school.**

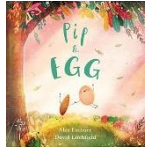
## **School Uniform**

Please can we remind parents and carers about children coming to school in correct school uniform. In school, we are pleased to maintain 'Towngate Pantry' where spare uniform can be taken if needed – please ask at the office if you would like to use this service.



### **What are we reading**

As suggested by her costume for World Book Day, this week Mrs Poole was keen to reshare the book she enjoys reading to her little girl at home: Pip & Egg. This story is about how Pip met Egg. Pip is a seed from a glorious tree, and Egg is a bird's egg from a nearby nest. When Pip and Egg first meet, they are almost the same size and shape - like two peas in a pod. But as their friendship grows, so do they. Mrs Poole shared this to her class and we all reflected on the key messages that are so important to remember: no matter where our journey takes us, we all have a special bond that ties us together.



### **Key Term Dates**

Please find attached event dates for each term on our newsletter. We have endeavoured to plan events for the whole academic year and we ask for your understanding if any dates need changing.



## **Pupil Achievements**



### **Attendance**

Our attendance is 93.92% this week; well done everyone. A particular well done must go to F2 Adventurers who achieved 98.95% attendance this week. All classes in school are working towards achieving their 'Perfect Attendance' treat for 100% attendance every day - keep going everyone!

## **What have we been getting up to this week?**

### **Nursery**

This week the children have begun to notice some signs that Spring is almost here. First, we worked hard in our grass area to turn over the soil and plant some new grass seeds, we talked about what the seeds would need and the children were very knowledgeable about them needing water and sunshine. Some of the children decided to go on their own independent Spring walk around the outdoor area and brought to my attention that the trees were starting to wake up, the children had noticed the buds growing! Well done everyone! I am looking forward to our meetings next week to tell you all the wonderful things your child has been learning about and how amazing they truly are! Thank you to the parents for taking some time out to come and tell us about your jobs this is very inspiring for our children, have a wonderful weekend everyone!

**Miss Haigh/Mrs Gordon**

### **Reception**

This week in Reception, our class book was 'The Journey' - an exciting book about a little boy who travels on his boat along a river to the sea. To show our learning we wrote sentences of what the boy saw on his journey, using the geographical features from the book. We used our creativity skills to plan and create our own boats, where we tested them in our water area to see whether it would float or sink. In Maths, we learnt all about shape and their properties and even went on a shape hunt looking for 3D shapes we had learnt about. Thank you to all the parents/carers for their donations today. Hope you all have a fantastic weekend, and I look forward to what we get up to next week.

**Mrs Kimbley, Mrs Phillips & Mrs Patel-Daji**

### **Year 1**

This week we have been taking part in assessments for maths and reading and have shown what we have learned so far in Year 1. We have shown ownership and resilience in all the activities this week. In computing we spent time thinking do we need computers all the time and have looked at data handling using tallies and pictograms. In geography we have been learning about global warming and how we are trapping the dangerous gases which are heating up our planet. We made posters to describe how global warming is destroying our planet. We are very worried about this but have 5 tips we can use at home to make a small change towards helping to protect the earth. We know to switch off the lights in rooms we are not in, wear extra clothes to stop wasting energy, unplug things if not using, reuse and recycle and reuse water from the washing up onto the garden.

Well done Year 1. Remember to practice your 5 tips at home for helping towards stopping global warming!

Have a lovely weekend.

**Miss Lockett**



## Year 1/2

This week in Class 1/2, we have written a recount, describing in detail our visit from the Ossett Firefighters. The children were able to correctly write in the past tense, used a range of conjunctions, punctuation, question sentences and exclamation sentences! I am truly blown away by the progress we are making with our writing and how so many of us are applying our newly taught handwriting scheme. In Computing, we have been collecting data and creating our own digital pictograms. The children are working incredibly well independently on the I pads! In Geography, we have been reading thermometers placed around different areas in school to find out which parts are cold and which parts are hot! Our History learning has been all about the explorer, Christopher Columbus, we A huge well done to our Year 2 children for their class assembly this week, we are really proud of you! Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Davies**

## Year 2

We have had another lovely week in Year 2! This week was assessment week and we have all shown incredible resilience throughout this to show off our learning and knowledge in Maths and English. We did however, write some super recounts of our visit from the firefighters last week! We have continued to be super scientists in our unit of 'Keeping Healthy and Hygienic'; this week we looked at ways that we can keep ourselves clean including brushing our teeth and hair, and washing our hands and body. In Computing, we have continued our learning on databases by looking at different ways to represent data on computers, such as tally charts. In Art, we have progressed in the process of making our collages; this week we used different tearing and overlapping techniques to create a desired piece of art. In PE, we have further developed our fundamental movement skills through a range of fun games that required us to use our hand-eye co-ordination! Today, we have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Red Nose Day and discussing the meaning of this through a range of different activities. Finally, I would like to say a huge well done to everyone for the wonderful assembly that they delivered for their grown-ups. It was absolutely beautiful to watch you and that was because of all of your hard work and dedication to bring it all together. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I'll see you next week!

**Miss Wilson**

## Year 3

In Year 3 this week, we have been writing our very own acrostic poems about rain with some amazing results inspired by our core text 'Poems from a Green & Blue Planet' and in Maths, we have been learning how to calculate perimeter. In History, we learned about how Ancient Greece was organised and in Geography, we have been learning about what makes up the weather. In French, we learned the months of the year and in PE, we continued our dance moves with Elite and invasion games with Mr. Hitch. In Art, we continued working with water colours to complete our painting inspired by Monet's 'Impression, Sunrise and in RE, we learned about the 99 names of Allah and we discussed why we thought they would have some of these names. In Science, this week we learned about our bones and why we need them and in Music, we sang our new song 'Love What We Do'. Well done for another super busy week Year 3.

**Mrs Schofield & Miss Leveridge**

## Year 4

We have had a great week, on Tuesday we had the Rock Steady concert and 5 members of our class blew us away. The level of performance was unbelievable and left us incredible proud! We have been continuing to learn about Poetry, in particular we are now looking at Limericks. In Maths, we have been learning about fraction, particularly focusing on partitioning fractions. Thank you to all the parents, carers and siblings for coming along to our excellence exhibit. Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming you to parents evening. Have a wonderful weekend.

**Mr Hitch**

## Year 5

This week, in year 5, we have begun new learning in maths. We have started learning about area and perimeter by firstly discussing how we can calculate both these measurements. We discussed this in terms of length and width for which we substituted letters L and W. This allowed us to create equations for both area and perimeter. In English, we have redrafted our flashback in a narrative by using classroom resources to uplevel our writing. We have looked specifically at using new sentence models to develop our sentence structure and impact on the reader. In geography, we have looked at non-renewable energy sources and how countries in Europe produce their energy. We compared environmentally friendly countries such as Sweden who generate most of their electricity from renewable sources with countries like Estonia who heavily rely on fossil fuels. In history, we looked at the historical significance of the Selma to Montgomery marches which took place during the 1960s in America. We discussed how these events contributed to new laws being passed to support voting rights for all people.

**Mr Adlington**



### **Year 5/6**

In year 5/6 this week we have had a lovely week, in English we have been learning about the Windrush Child and embedding our use of semi colons and colons in our writing, the children have shown a great understanding! In Maths, we have been learning how to convert Centimetres to Millimetres and Metres. In History this week, we have been furthering our learning about the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Lives Matter Movement. In Art, we have been learning how to use oil pastels to make a space themed image, year 5/6 found this very interesting and had a lovely art lesson. During science this week, we have been enjoying learning about the different phases of the moon. Thank you year 5/6 for a super week.

**Mrs Bateman**

### **Year 6**

In Year 6 this week, we have had a fantastic week developing our knowledge of calculating using percentages. We have worked hard to improve our arithmetic skills so that we can tackle these tricky questions with ease and confidence. In English, we have been busy working on identifying the features and preparing to plan a flashback within a narrative, based on our core text, Windrush Child. We discussed how to write an effective flashback, the writer would need to consider an important object that would trigger the flashback – we look forward to drafting our writing, ready for publishing next week. In History, we continue our learning on Civil Rights; this week we have looked carefully at the three Selma marches and how these were arranged as part of Martin Luther King's drive for non-violent civil disobedience. In Science, we have concluded our learning on Earth and Space, understanding the various phases of the moon and the causes of a solar eclipse. To finish our week, we have worked on a 'Spring Review' quiz where we could showcase our learning over the half term. As always, Year 6, you blow me away with your commitment and care to your learning. I am so very proud of each and every one of you!

**Mrs Poole**



Please see below dates for the next academic year, **dates highlighted in yellow are open to parents and carers.** If any dates change, we endeavour to give as much notice as possible!

**Spring Term**

18.3.24	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:00pm	Whole School
19.3.24	Y1 Class Assembly 2:30pm	All Year 1 Parents
20.3.24	Spring fair – throughout the day	Whole school
21.3.24	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Whole School
22.3.24	Easter Egg Competition	Whole School
22.3.24	Break Up Today	Whole School



## Summer Term

Date	Event	Class
8.4.24	Back to School	Whole School
11.4.24	Early Years Open Evening 4:00pm – 5:30pm	New Early Years Parents
2.5.24	INSET Day	Whole School
9.5.24	Early Years Open Evening 4:00pm – 5:30pm	New Early Years Parents
13.5.24	KS2 SATs Assessments this week	Year 6
21.5.24	Y3 INSPIRE Afternoon 2:00pm	Year 3
22.5.24	Excellence Exhibit 3:00pm	Whole School
23.5.24	Trip to Butterfly Garden Sheffield	Nursery
24.5.24	Break Up Today	Whole School
3.6.24	Pride Month	Whole School
10.6.24	Back to School Today	Whole School
10.6.24	Year 6 Bikability this week	Year 6
13.6.24	Early Years Open Evening 4:00pm – 5:30pm	New Early Years Parents
14.6.24	Scholastic Book Fair all week	Whole School
17.6.24	Refugee Week	Whole School
19.6.24	Y4 Trip to Murton Park	Year 4
20.6.24	Year 6 Class Assembly 2:30pm	All Year 6
24.6.24	Year 5 Class Assembly 2:30pm	All Year 5
01.07.24	Year 5 Camping Trip	All Year 5
3.7.24	Transition Morning	Whole School
3.7.24	Nursery Stay and Play 2:00pm – 3:00pm	New Nursery Parents
8.7.24	Transition Morning	Whole School
10.7.24	Nursery Stay and Play 2:00pm – 3:00pm	New Nursery Parents
11.7.24	Excellence Exhibit 3:00pm	Whole School
11.7.24	Early Years Open Evening 4:00pm – 5:30pm	New Early Years Parents

11.7.24	Transition Morning	Whole School
12.7.24	French Day	Whole School
15.7.24	EY Trip to the Watering Hole	F2
15.7.23	Y6 residential to PGL @ Newby Wiske, Northallerton	Year 6
17.7.24	Nursery Stay and Play 2:00pm – 3:00pm	New Nursery Parents
18.7.24	KS1 Inspire Afternoon 2:00pm	Year 1 Year 2
20.7.24	Summer Gala	All welcome
22.7.24	Sports Day EY: 9:00am KS1: 10:30am LKS2: 1:00pm UKS2: 2:00pm	Whole School
23.7.24	Y2 Graduation 2:00pm	Year 2
24.7.24	Towngate's Got Talent	Whole School
24.7.24	Year 6 leavers fest	All Year 6
24.7.24	EY Graduation 2:00pm	Foundation
25.7.24	Y6 Leaver's Assembly 2:00pm	Year 6
25.7.24	Break Up Today	Whole School





# 'Towngate Pantry'



The Pantry is now open for families to access

We are here to offer a little extra help to families that may  
need it

We have food supplies, clothes, uniform, shoes, toys, books  
and toiletries

Please let us know if you need anything

This is a confidential service and can be accessed discreetly

We are here to help



# Spring Fair

Wednesday  
20th  
March

Raffles, refreshments, games and more.

Children will be given the opportunity to visit the fair throughout the day with their class.

Thank you for your support.





# Attendance Matters

Ring: 01924 302865- Select option 1 to report an absence.

## Attendance Expectations:

The school has high expectations for pupils' attendance and punctuality and ensures that these expectations are communicated regularly to parents and pupils. Pupils will be expected to attend school punctually every day they are required to be at school, for the full day.

The school day starts at 9.00am, and pupils will be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons at this time; therefore, pupils will be expected to be on the school site by 8.55am

- The morning register will be marked by 9.00am. Pupils will receive a late mark (L) if they are not in their classroom by this time.
- The morning register will close 20 minutes later at 9.20am. Pupils will receive a U mark of absence if they do not attend school before this time.
- The afternoon register will be marked by 1.15pm

## Absence Procedure:

Parents will be required to contact the school office via telephone before 9.00am on the first day of their child's absence – they will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimation of how long the absence will last, for example, one school day. Parents must contact school on each day of their child's absence.

Where a pupil is absent, and their parent has not contacted the school by 9.30am to report the absence, the Attendance Officer (or a member of the office staff) will send a text message to parents asking them to contact school urgently or they will contact the parent by telephone to ascertain the reason for absence.

If no reason for absence has been established by 10am, this absence will be reported to the Headteacher. School staff may undertake a home visit to establish a reason for the absence.

## Home Visits:

Where a pupil is absent for more than five days in a row (including weekends), school staff may undertake a home visit to offer support and check on the child's wellbeing.

Home visits are also conducted if there is no contact from parent/career when a child is absent from school, home visits are also conducted when children are absent from school the day before/after the school holidays.

## Attendance Officer Role:

- Undertaking first day absence processes.
- Following up on incidents of persistent poor attendance.
- Rewarding pupils for excellent attendance
- Communicating with pupils and parents about poor attendance.
- Involving and working with other agencies, including the Trust Educational Welfare Officer, to support children and families with poor attendance to improve.
- Providing reports and analysis of attendance and absence to the Attendance Strategic Lead.
- Conducting Home visits with another member of staff where necessary.
- Liaising with the Local Authority to issue Penalty Notices to parents/ carers for their child's non- attendance at the Academy and to implement and take the lead on Fast-Track to Prosecution.

## Term Time Holidays:

- Applications for leave of absence must be done in writing, addressed for the attention of the Headteacher, this letter must include the dates of absence, how many school days will be missed and how many school days will be missed and any reason for the absence in detail.
- Headteachers shall not grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless they consider there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.
- Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time which may result in a penalty notice.
- Any term time holiday that for 5 days (10 sessions) or can result in a penalty notice being requested.
- Towngate Primary Academy accommodation an extra week at summer half term which gives families the opportunities to book holidays without the term time holiday costs, this year 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

*We are here to support you and your children, keep them safe and create a welcoming environment.  
Every child deserves an education!*



Thank you,  
Attendance Officer

