

Toftwood Infant
School
School Lane
Toftwood
Dereham
Norfolk



Toftwood Junior
School
Westfield Road
Toftwood
Dereham
Norfolk

Website: www.toftwood.norfolk.sch.uk
Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

27th March 2018

Newsletter 11

Class Attendance Award

We are looking at the classes with the top attendance in each class each week.

	Infant School	Junior School
Week beg 5 th March	100% Mrs Chapman	100% HD3
Week beg 12 th March	99.67% Mrs Harrison	99.67% RL5
Week beg 19 th March	99.31% Mrs Chapman	98.67% MS6
Highest class over Spring Term	98.22% Mrs Chapman	98.10% GG5
Whole school attendance Spring Term 18	96.32%	95.39%
Whole school attendance from September 17	96.32%	97.33%

The Big Shakespeare Book Hunt

Toftwood Infant School are taking part in The Big Shakespeare Book Hunt this year. Our 'Book Explorers' lunchtime club have been learning about Shakespeare as part of Shakespeare Week and have "released" a Wild Book into the school grounds for anyone to find and pass on. You can find more details on our school website and on www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/thebigshakespearebookhunt

The book is a version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, retold by Marcia Williams. The idea is that someone will find it, read it, and release it again in a new public place for someone else to find. It may be left in a park, playground, bus shelter, supermarket, leisure centre or museum anywhere. It is in a waterproof packet with instructions enclosed. There are only 154 of these books distributed to schools and libraries across the whole country, so we were lucky to be chosen to receive one and we were very pleased to be invited to do a live interview with Wally Webb from Radio Norfolk on Monday 12th March about it. It will be great to see how far the book can travel, and if it will be found in unusual places. You may be able to follow its progress on Twitter @Shakespeareweek #Shpassiton. You could also let Mrs Reeve or Mrs Sutterby know if you spot it and pass it on so that we can send updates to everyone via our website and newsletter. Happy hunting and shhhh.... Pass it on!

Apples and Orchards Project

Gardening club have begun a new season outside with an interesting planting project from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project. This is a charity that helps to preserve local species of orchard fruit trees, and provides the trees free of charge to schools. We have extended our little orchard area by adding five apple varieties called Look East, Norfolk Dumpling, Red Falstaff, St Magdalen, and Pine Apple Russet, and 2 pear trees called Robin and Conference. We are looking after them carefully and hope to have a harvest in a year or so!

Lent Event!

As part of our RE learning we have been teaching children about the importance of Lent as preparation for the celebration of Easter. We have once again taken part in the Lent Event initiative organised by the East Coast Religious Education schools network, with our focus on 'Giving, rather than Giving Up'. The School Council has taken the lead in helping to organise our challenges and the children have taken part in a Smiles and Compliments week, and have discussed ways of "Cleaning Up" by talking about ways to look after our environment. See www.thelentevent.com for more information and photographs of our Lent missions



Cross Country Final

On Wednesday 7th March, our team of 4 cross country finalists attended the Norfolk School Games' Cross Country competition at the new venue, Holkham Hall. We had four runners from the Junior School, who all ran representing West Norfolk and Dereham SSP (School Sports Partnership) as well as representing our federation. After arriving in the drizzly rain, we walked the course to help familiarise us with the route ready for our races.

The distances were as follows:

Year 3 boys and girls - 1000m

Year 4 boys and girls -1200m

Year 5 boys and girls - 1400m

Year 6 boys and girls - 1600m

Finishing places were: Year 4 - 27th

Year 5 - 42nd

Year 5 - 48th

Year 6 - 58th

Congratulations to our runners, with around 90 schools taking part and an average of 80 children in each race, these results are something to be proud of! Everybody conducted themselves brilliantly and proved to have great sportsmanship by cheering their fellow team mates on in their races.



Tag Rugby

On Tuesday 20th March, 10 pupils from Years 1 and 2, went to the West Norwich and Dereham Schools Partnership, KS1 Tag Rugby Festival. The festival was focused on learning skills needed to play tag rugby, run by pupils from the Taverham High School. This included completing an obstacle course, working as a team and throwing and catching a rugby ball. The children really enjoyed the morning as they were able to learn new skills and they all said it was really fun!



Football Festival

12 children from the Junior school went to FDC Bowthorpe for a football festival run by schools sports partnership, where they enjoyed a morning of coaching and skills development and took part in friendly games in the afternoon. All the children selected do not take part in any football coaching or teams outside of school, so this was a great opportunity for them.

Thank you to Mr Barnes for arranging the team and Mrs Bond for accompanying them. The children all had a great day!



Science Week

British Science Week was another great success across the federation. The children enjoyed learning about new areas of science through investigations and practical experiments. We also had several different visitors whose work or interests are related to science. This included Seth, a Science PhD student from the UEA, Jeff and Roger from Norwich Astronomical Society and Anita from the NHS Oral Health team. We were also pleased to work with students and teachers from both Northgate and Neatherd High Schools who planned and ran workshops across the federation. The week gave many inspirational activities for the children, and some have said that they would now like to be a scientist or go to university.

A huge thanks to Mrs Ponder who organised the visitors and visits for the week and to all of the staff who contributed to making it such a success for the children.



Norwich Astronomical Society

On the 9th June there is an Astronomy & Space event for young people at Seething Observatory. It is aimed at children aged 7 year upwards this event is especially catered for children with inquisitive minds and an interest in science. Doors open from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. There will be activities throughout the day for children to participate in, view the observatory during the day and solar viewing with special solar scopes too. Please see the website for more information:

<http://www.norwichastro.org.uk/events/astronomy-for-young-people-at-seething-observatory>



Messy Church

The next Messy Church session will be at St. Nicholas Church, Dereham, on Good Friday 30th March, 10am-11.30am. Come along and join in with games, crafts and worship. There will be refreshments available also. All Free!! If you'd like further details please call Evelyn Speed on 01362 681339.



Brass Band

Dereham Brass Training Band came to Junior School last week and performed for the children. They are always looking for new members. All welcome from age 7 upwards. They rehearse in Dereham every Thursday between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. For more information visit www.dereham-band.co.uk or the school website. Tuition is available as well as the loan of an instrument.



Well Done!

We just wanted to share that we have been told that a short time ago, two of our children, Achilles and Justin, in Year 6 went to the assistance of a neighbour who had fallen over near her home. The boys went to help her and stayed with her until help came. It is always good to hear of children being kind and helpful in the community. Well done!



Holt Hall

Last week 81 children from Y6 attended Holt Hall for their residential trip away. This was a big thing for many of the children as some had never been away from home before and most of them had not been away in such a large group! They learnt map and compass work for orienteering, using microscopes for their freshwater pond dipping and creating large scale art work for environmental art. The favourite activity was building and lighting fires and then cooking apples and gutted fish on them.

They also learnt to work with each other in new and challenging situations. They worked together to keep their rooms tidy and did really well with each room inspection. There's now no excuse not to do it at home!

In the evenings they all had time to relax and play and work together, on night walks and on quiz night too. Evenings were finished with a cup of hot chocolate and shared stories.

A huge thank you to all of the staff who went on the residential trip, especially those staff who went for the whole week. Thank you to Mrs Macqueen, Miss Yeoman, Mrs King, Miss Connors, Mrs Williams, Mr Hardy, Mrs Saunders who went for two nights and to Mrs Brown, Mrs Shaw and Miss Ward who went for the whole week. Thank you also to Mrs Barnard who went on the changeover day to help on the coach.

I went over to visit both groups on two separate evenings with Mrs Flynn and Mrs Thompson and it was lovely to see them enjoying their time away and developing independence and confidence in a new situation. They were also supportive of each other and if anyone needed any help they were happy to give it. It was a great opportunity for all of the children and we hope they enjoyed it.

The team at Holt Hall wanted us to pass on that the children were a real credit to the school. We all had an amazing time, full of happy memories. We will have some photos and a write up on the web site soon, along with some work the children have completed since the visit.

We are already looking into a residential for next year's Year six, and if we are to run one we would need to be sure that parents are willing to support it financially as the school does not have funds to subsidise it. A huge thank you to all of our Year 6 parents who supported the visit and enabled it to go ahead.



Norfolk Young Writers

On Friday 30 children across year 5 were attended a free writers' workshop, offered to us by "The National Centre for Writing" based in Dragon Hall, Norwich. Firstly, we explored "free writing" where the children were encouraged to keep their pen moving for 4 minutes, to encourage capturing their ideas, freely.

We looked at the idea of "translating" ideas from the fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel" into our own versions, after establishing the basic framework of the story. Lewis, who ran the workshop, encouraged us saying "let your imagination run wild within the framework."

At the end of the session, he listened to some of our stories. "I don't mind if it's not finished, it's left us wondering...." He encouraged.

He chose Kailan, Ashleigh and Ava to record their stories which will be edited and woven into a pod cast, with children from other schools who have taken part. He will also add music to their recordings.

As he finished, Lewis told the children that, "your lives are interesting...your stories are important...I've given you some ways of telling them."

When this project is finished, it can be found on the "Writers' Centre" website. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to be inspired to write and we enjoyed seeing them working so well and with such enthusiasm.



Head Lice

Children of this age are very sociable and it is highly likely that they will catch head lice at some time! We can help stop the spread of head lice by ensuring that **all** parents check their child's hair at least weekly and treat if required. Children should not be sent to school if they have head lice, as it is uncomfortable for them, but should be treated at home and sent back once they are clear. They do not need a whole day's absence, and preferably should be checked and treated in the evening. If you need any advice on this, please ask.



New School Packed Lunch Options at Juniors

After Easter we will be having an improved selection of food for the 'school packed' option at juniors. The children will choose five items from a pick and mix selection as shown to the children in assembly on Monday. There will be sandwiches/wraps/pasta pots, salad option, such as veg sticks, fruit selection and a sweet treat with a drink to choose from, with one item from each section. The price remains the same as it is currently.



Dates for Diary

Monday 16th April
 Wednesday 18th April
 Thursday 19th April
 Friday 27th April
 Monday 30th April
 Tuesday 1st May
 Monday 7th May
 Wednesday 9th May 10.20am
 Monday 14th May - Thursday 17th May
 Monday 14th May 9.15am - 11.30am

Wednesday 23rd May
 Wednesday 23rd May
 Friday 25th May
 Friday 25th May

Monday 4th June
 Monday 4th June
 Tuesday 5th June
 Tuesday 5th June

Wednesday 6th June
 Wednesday 6th June

Thursday 7th June

For the sessions in **school hours** it is ONE adult per child and NO YOUNGER CHILDREN. Younger children may join you for the after school session on Wednesday but they remain YOUR RESPONSIBILITY at all times. You must supervise them carefully at all times. Thank you.

Friday 8th June
 Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th June
 Monday 11th June
 Monday 11th June
 Thursday 14th June
 Monday 18th June
 Tuesday 19th June
 Tuesday 19th June
 Wednesday 20th June 10.20am
 Wednesday 20th June 1:45pm
 Thursday 21st June 9am - 12pm
 Friday 22nd June
 Monday 25th June
 Tuesday 26th June 2pm - 3pm
 Wednesday 27th June
 Thursday 28th June
 Thursday 28th June 7pm
 Wednesday 4th July 10.20am
 Monday 9th July

Tuesday 10th July
 Tuesday 10th July 3pm - 5.30pm
 Wednesday 11th July 1.45 pm

School re-opens for children 8.45 am
 Reception trip
 KS1 Cross Country Competition
 Year One Planetarium Visit in school
 KS1 Tri Golf festival
 Nursery Parent Session
Bank Holiday. School closed.
 Mrs Ponder's Class Assembly
 Year Six SATs
 Nursery and Pre School activity morning. Children in our Nursery are automatically included, as are children from William Cowper, Toftwood Nursery Pre School and Little Owls. If you have a child due to start school September attending another setting who would like to attend, please phone the office.
 Year Six - Dog's Trust Workshop
 Mrs Bessent/Miss Gold Class assembly
 Year One Wedding
 Schools close at 3.15 pm (Infant) and 3.25pm (Juniors) for half term

Half Term

Schools open at 8.45 pm
 Hearing & Vision checks Reception children
 Hearing & Vision check for Reception Children
 Parents invited for a family learning session with their child 1.45 - 3.00 (Not nursery)
 KS1 Quad Kids
 Parents invited for a family learning session with their child 3.30-4.30 (All welcome, parents must stay)
 Parents invited for a family learning session with their child 9.15 - 10.30 (Nursery 11.15-12)

Year 3 trip
 Year 4 trip (Provisional date, one class per day)
 Mini Monsters to Year Two
 Nursery trip
 Children's University Graduation at Junior School
 Miss Clarke's class trip
 Mrs Adams' class trip
 Year One trip
 Miss Clarke's Class assembly
 Toftwood Tate art exhibition - Year Two parents
 Toftwood Tate art exhibition - Community
 Mrs Harrison's trip
 KS1 Football festival
 Nursery Welcome Session
 Team day Infants - Children only sports event
 Pre School Sports Morning
 New Reception Parents' Evening - **adults only please.**
 Miss Hooper Class assembly
Race Day for Junior School
 9.15 Year Three 10.30 Year Four
 1.15 Year Five 2.20 Year Six
 Year One & EYFS Tennis Festival
 Year Two Leavers' party TBC
 Year Two event for parents

Thursday 12th July 3.25pm - 6.30pm

Friday 13th July 1.30pm - 3.25pm

Tuesday 17th July

Tuesday 17th July

Wednesday 18th July

Wednesday 18th July 9.15 - 11.30am

Wednesday 18th July 9.15 - 11.30am

Tuesday 19th July 9.15am - 1.30 pm

Tuesday 19th July 9.15am - 11.45am

Tuesday 19th July 3.15pm - 4 pm

Tuesday 19th July 7.00pm

Tuesday 19th July

Tuesday 24th July

Year Six Leavers' event for children

Year Six Leavers' event for Parents

Last day for Year Two at Infants and Year Six at Juniors (if transferring to a Dereham High School)

Intake Evening at Junior School for current Year Twos going to Year Three in September

Transfer week for Federation

Session for new Reception children plus one parent

Session for new Nursery children plus one parent

Session for new Reception children only

Session for new Nursery children only

Parents of Year One & Two children may come in to see the new classroom of their child

New parents' evening for current Year 6 attending

Neatherd High School in September

New parents' evening for current Year 6 attending

Northgate High School in September (Northgate did not have a time when we contacted them)

Schools close at 3.15 pm (Infant) and 3.25pm (Juniors) for the summer break

Dates are correct at the time of the newsletter going home! If they have to change we will let you know as soon as possible.



Joanna Pedlow

Remember schools close at 3.15 (Infants) and 3.25 (Juniors) on Wednesday 28th March for the Easter break. We return to school on Monday 16th April.

Have a good holiday.