

Our school works in partnership with parents by involving you in your child's education and the social life of the school. We think it is very important to have strong links with parents and hope that all parents join us in developing their child's learning and enthusiasm for school. Here are some of the ways that we like to keep you informed and involved.

We keep parents informed by sending home:

- **Regular newsletters** - which inform you about events, dates and news - a copy of the latest version is kept outside the office.
- **Year group curriculum newsletters and 'big picture' topic webs** - These are sent out before each half term and explain what your child will be covering in that year group for the next half term. The big picture topic web gives ideas of how parents can help at home and what activities you could do with your child to help in their learning.
- **Home learning:**
Home learning is about reinforcing what your child has learnt at school, such as:
 - Picture reading books to share at home with a parent.
 - Jolly phonic activities with sounds in to be reinforced at home, which then become words later on in the year.
 - Practical activities or games that involve maths such as cooking, making a model or number rhymes.
 - Practical activities to develop their understanding of that terms topic

Please spend some time doing these with your child, the activities in Reception are all meant to involve you in your child's learning.

Other ways that we keep you informed include:

- **Autumn and Spring term report card**, which informs you of your child's progress in the first two terms they are at school.
- **Consultation evenings** in the Autumn and Spring term, **End of year annual report** - sent out in the summer term
- **School website** - this contains relevant information about the school, plus a section with activities that year groups have completed at school

If you are able to get involved in your child's school:

- **You can become a parent helper:**
 - All parents are welcome to be parent helpers in the school although not within their own child's class.
 - You can volunteer to help with a range of activities - from mathematics to reading, to taking part in practical activities with the children, such as making models.
 - Sometimes we require assistance with specific events such as book week and sports events.
 - In September, we will send out a letter to all new Reception parents asking if you would like to help on a regular basis in school. Please fill in the form sent out if you can help in school.
 - If you feel you may be interested in becoming a parent helper, then you could start the DBS process this term by going to the office and asking the secretary to make an appointment who will then ask you to complete a form online in school. This is a legal requirement. You will be asked to provide a passport or driving licence, birth and marriage certificates and two items, which confirm your address.
- **You can take part as parent volunteers on educational visits. A DBS will also be required for this.**
- **You can be involved in PTA events 'Friends of Toftwood Infant School'** and help raise funds for equipment or activities for the children. In the past, our PTA has been able to fund the purchase of an adventure playground, presents for all children at Christmas time and a new stage to make it easier for you to see your child during performances. We will be looking for new members from September and hope that some of you will join our PTA and help raise money solely for use on children in our school.

Other ways to get involved in your child's learning:

- **Parent workshops** - These are sessions where we provide information on our approach to reading, how we use Jolly Phonics and on how your child learns Literacy and Maths in the Foundation Stage. We have also had sessions on Computing, Esafety and other areas also. There is normally a daytime and evening workshop. Everyone is welcome, there is no test and all questions, no matter how big or small, are welcome.
- **Open mornings/afternoons** - Once per term you are invited into school during a morning or afternoon to see what your child does in school. This is a time for you to share their learning with your child, to look at their work and try out some of the activities on offer.
- **Class assembly/ Christmas play** - These are occasions where we invite parents to celebrate your child's achievements.
- **Family learning sessions.** Once a year you will be invited in to work with your child over 3 different sessions on a range of activities to help you to see what they do in school.

For workshops, family learning sessions and plays we do not allow younger children to attend as they can be disruptive and we often do not have the room for them. We prefer them not to attend class assemblies if possible. Please be aware of this and make arrangements for such occasions. If you have no one to help you, you can often come and watch a dress rehearsal or we can look at how we can help.

We work hard to develop and maintain strong and supportive links with parents, so we hope that you begin to feel part of your child's learning and progress at our school.



Involving parents in their children's learning and keeping them informed

