

Diary Dates

- **Monday 30th October**
Return to school
- **Monday 6th to Wednesday 8th Nov**
Parents' Evening 3.20pm - 5.30pm
- **Wednesday 15th November**
Individual school photos
- **Friday 17th November**
Non-Uniform Day
- **Monday 20th November**
KS1 Norbury Church Trip
- **Friday 24th November**
Year 4 Assembly 9.00am
- **Friday 1st December**
Non-Uniform — Christmas jumper day
Christmas Fair 3.30pm
- **Wednesday 6th December**
KS1 Christmas Performance AM & PM
- **Thursday 7th December**
Pantomime
- **Tuesday 12th December**
EYFS Christmas Performance AM & PM
- **Wednesday 13th December**
Christmas Dinner Day
- **Friday 15th December**
KS2 Christmas Carol Concert 2.30pm
- **Monday 18th December**
EYFS Christmas Party
- **Tuesday 19th December**
Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
- **Wednesday 20th December**
Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party
- **Thursday 21st December**
Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party
School Closes @ 3.15pm
- **Monday 8th January**
Return to school

Message from Mr.B

An excellent start to our new year, the children have come back to school with real positivity and enthusiasm. I am really impressed with the way our new Nurse and Reception children have settled into Torkington and with the resilience and determination showed by our Year 6 children on their residential. Our school improvement work this half term has focussed on developing our reading and phonics strategies, implementing new approaches to history, Art and developing number sense in Reception and KS1. The outcomes have been very positive so far and there is a tighter focus on key learning; our baseline assessments confirm this and we will be sharing this information during parents meetings in November. Our Self evaluation judgement remains "a very strong good" and we will be presenting evidence to support this judgement to Governors and the local authority in November at our annual One Voice moderation meeting. Next half term we will be working on Geography and implementing interventions in KS2 to support and extend the children's learning. Miss Astall has been accepted onto her NPQH, a preparation for future headship qualification and I will commence my NPQEL, an executive head qualification. Both courses will last approximately 18 months and will enable us both to look at improving the strategic leadership of the school.

Our buildings work has focussed on improving the outdoor learning in Early Years. Our groundsman, Mr Marshal has built some fantastic bespoke outdoor play equipment for Nursery and Reception—the children have really enjoyed the areas and the work they have produced has been fantastic! Next half term Mr Marshall will carry out fence repair work and prepare the wild flower meadows for the winter. Over the holiday the school will have a deep clean to prepare for the winter (and the mud) - please ensure your child has outdoor shoes as all the floors will be cleaned, polished and varnished.

We are really pleased with the improvement in our overall attendance figures, especially as we have had lots of bugs going around school. A huge thank you to the vast majority of parents that support our aspirations. Unfortunately there remains a small core of parents that continue to take unauthorised term time holidays. **Last year we recorded 238 lost days and this half term alone we have lost 49 days!** What is even more disappointing is the reasons for absence that parents give are very often different from what the children tell us and their friends. Governors are clear that this pattern must end and we remind parents that school attendance is compulsory and 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days) can lead to a £60 fixed penalty fine per child per parent. **Governors are no longer willing to grant leave for sister services, fire, medical etc and authorised absence will only be permitted under exceptional circumstances.** Appointment cards for all medical appointments will be needed to be presented at the school office.

Harvest Festival



It was lovely to see you all at our Harvest Assembly this half term. We hope you enjoyed hearing the children singing together – they have been working very hard all half term on their songs and poems. The children rehearse the whole school numbers in singing assembly once a week and their individual class pieces within their classrooms. Hazel Grove Baptist Church were overwhelmed with all of your kind donations and have asked us to pass on their Thanks to you all, it will all make a big difference. Thank You



PTA News!

We are extremely saddened to announce that unfortunately, after many years of support, our fantastic current PTA team have decided to step down from their roles. They have tried to recruit new members to replace them however, so far there has been very little uptake.

The PTA does a wonderful job in raising additional funds for the school by holding exciting events for both children and parents to enjoy. Without a PTA, events such as The Christmas and Summer Fair would not be able to take place

If you would like more information or you are interested in being a part of the PTA then please contact the school office.

Thank you

A Fantastic start for Reception

The teachers have been blown away by the amazing start reception class have had. We can't believe how well they have adapted to school, taking on all the learning opportunities they have been offered, whilst demonstrating a developing growth mindset ethos to their learning.

We have loved learning about lots of different traditional fairy tales. Building a jail to capture the big bad wolf. Going on a magic bean hunt and finding giant footprints and magical chocolate coins in our classroom. Reception have been super role models when having fun on Thursday mornings with our nursery friends. In our messy faces sessions inside the classroom our EYFS chefs have made hedgehog bread, teddy bear toast and delicious little red hen biscuits.



Lots of Learning in Year 2



The children have had a wonderful start to Year 2! They have done lots of active learning both in and out of the classroom. They enjoyed working in pairs to explore our woodland areas to find microhabitats and uncover the creepy crawlies that lived there.

They were transported back in time to experience what it was like to be in a Victorian Classroom for an afternoon, using chalk to write our class rules and sitting at tables facing the front!

Year 2 also worked hard to create their own Sky Scraper or Mill in DT to support our learning on the history of our local area. They designed their structure and collected the resources they needed independently. What a great half term!



Maths in Year 3

This half term, we have been very busy in our maths lessons. We have developed our skills in addition and subtraction and we are now beginning to exchange 10 ones for 1 ten and 10 tens for 1 hundred. We have been making numbers using base ten and place value charts before applying this knowledge in our maths books.

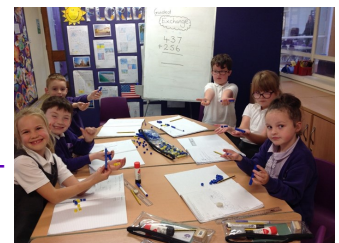
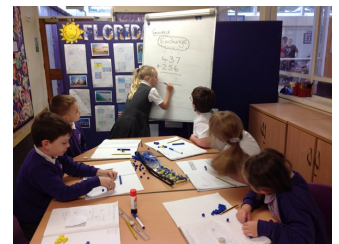
We talked as a class of the importance of using our Growth Mindset skills during tricky lessons, Year 3 all thought it was better to have a go than to not try at all. Miss Kempton is very proud of each and every one of Year 3 for their hard work and determination during this unit of work!

"We have to start at the ones column and then move on to the tens and then the hundreds column last." – Cooper

"Sometimes we need to exchange in our column method, so we have to use our problem-solving skills to work out the answers". – Matilda

"At first I thought this would be really tricky, but now I know how to do the method I find it really easy!" - Aurora T

"I love using Base 10!" – Buddy



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be held on Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November between 3:20pm & 5.30pm for all classes.

The booking system will go live at 7pm on Monday 30th October. Please ensure that you can logon to the booking system prior to this date

<https://torkington.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Nasal Flu Catch-up Session on Tuesday 2nd November

We have arranged a second visit by IntraHealth for Children in Reception to Year 6 who missed the first date.

We have paper consent forms to be completed and returned to school asap. Please ask the school office for a copy.

With so many winter bugs around this year, the vaccine is even more essential than normal.

School Meals

The cost for school meals for junior children is £2.40 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments at least one week in advance.

A new menu is starting after Half Term and is attached to this newsletter. It is also available on our Website.

Please note that we require 1 week's notice to change lunchtime arrangements.

Please let us know if your child has any special dietary requirements.

Attendance for This Half-Term

- Reception 95.2%
- Year 1 98.6%
- Year 2 96.2%
- Year 3 97.6%
- Year 4 98.8%
- Year 5 98.0%
- Year 6 98.7%
- **Overall 97.6%**

Congratulations to Y4 for achieving the highest % attendance and to Y1, Y4, Y5 & Y6 who have all exceeded our very ambitious target.

School Target : 98%

We are very proud of our excellent attendance at Torkington and ask everyone to help us keep attendance levels as high as possible.

Please try to avoid appointments during the school day whenever possible and avoid booking term time holidays.

Water Safety in Year 4

Year 4 have been swimming all half term and had an important lesson about water safety. To demonstrate how dangerous a current is, we had to swim against a pretend whirlpool with our pyjamas on. Then we had to imagine that we were stranded in the water and look around for what we could possibly use to help us get out of the water. We learnt about how to be safe around water and how to protect ourselves if we were ever to find ourselves in a dangerous situation.

"I really enjoyed swimming in PJ's. It was difficult but it made me think what it may feel like in a an emergency!"
Charlie

"It made me think how I might save someone if they were in trouble and there was no help around." Kane



Torkington Beekeepers!

We have continued into our second year of keeping honeybees and are very pleased to have gained an additional hive within the beautiful school grounds.

It's a big job caring for over 30,000 honey bees in each hive. However our Year 5 children took it in their stride and did a fantastic job of carrying out weekly hive inspections over the spring and summer period. Once the children returned back after the summer break they each got a chance to help harvest the honey that our bees had produced. Starting with extracting the honey through to jarring it up ready to sell.



Thank you to everyone who purchased some, we hope you enjoyed it! The money made from the sale is being reinvested back into caring for the bees. Hopefully next year we will have more jars to sell once our second hive have fully settled in top their new home.



Year 1 do Autumn Poetry!

Year 1 have been learning all about poetry around the theme of Autumn. We have been on an Autumn walk to gather Autumn objects and generate a word bank of super adjectives we can use in our poems. Then we have listened to some Autumn poems and discussed the features and what we like about them, and we chose our favourite to perform! Then we put all our ideas together to write our very own Fantastic Autumn Poems!



Kickstart Football Clubs

After a first successful half term with our new sports provider, Kickstart after school football will continue during the first week back after Half Term (week commencing 30th October) – Please complete the permission slip which was sent home during the last week of half term and make payment via BACS if your child wishes to take part.

Please contact the school office if you require another booking form

Supporting the Royal British Legion

From **Monday 6th November**, we will be accepting donations on behalf of the Royal British Legion for poppies and other small items of memorabilia. Our Y6 Poppy Monitors will be selling items within each class so please send cash donations into school with your child if they wish to make a purchase

Asthma Inhalers and Prescription Medication

At the start of this half term, we updated our list of children who require asthma inhalers. Please let us know immediately if your child is prescribed an inhaler.

Only prescription medication will be administered in school, with the exception of Paracetamol which will be administered if parent/carer requests.

These must be handed directly to the school office with a completed medical form.

Year 6 Residential!

(By Ella, Elias and Jessica)

We arrived at High Adventure, we were assigned to our rooms, unpacked and we went up to make our beds. We then got introduced to Kieran, our group leader, and he told us what we would be doing that day. In the afternoon we walked right up to Weinman's Pinnacle which sits on the top. Once we finished our long journey up the hill, we did rock weaselling, which was where we had to fit inside of small spaces in the rocks. In the evening we had a campfire, sing song and ate so many smores, they were so good!



The next day we faced our fears and did high ropes - it was amazing because everyone was cheering on their friends. We then had some time in our rooms before we had lunch which we made in the morning. After lunch we had canoeing, playing lots of different team games and half of us jumped in, and Lola lost her wellie! That evening, we went bouldering, which is indoor climbing, and we had to use our muscles. We had archery, which Mr Bethell was the best at, it is a difficult skill, yet so fun.



On our last day we woke up at 7:20 to be introduced to Dan. Dan and Kieran told us to take our bags down to the area, where we would spend our last few hours at High Adventure. We had some fun at the labyrinth, which is an unground maze and played lots of different team games.

Year 5 Gymnastics (photos taken by Hugh and Thomas)

This half term, Year 5 have been developing their gymnastics skills! We have placed a significant focus on learning how to balance, roll, jump and incorporate inverted movements into our gymnastics sequences. We have also been exploring how we can incorporate our talk partners into our performances this half term, where we have developed our ability to use movements in canon, synchronization, matching and mirroring with one another – we've even created routines in groups of 4 and 6 to increase the challenge of our sequence work!

"I have enjoyed working in synchronization with my partner this half term – this means that our movements are performed at the same time!" Ella



"I helped my group by being a conductor when we were moving in canon, because it was tricky to make sure we all moved to a new balance at first!" Toby

Nursery Get Muddy!

Nursery have had a wonderful first Half Term and have settled beautifully into their new environment and new routines. They have especially enjoyed spending time with the Reception Children getting messy in the Outdoor Classroom! These Muddy Face sessions gave children the opportunity to explore the outdoors through fun activities.



They used Natural materials to write their names and complete number challenges. They also used mud and water to create their own works of Outdoor Art.

"I liked painting with the mud. I got the mud and mixed it with water." Owen

"I liked digging up the mud and putting water in the jug. I painting on the logs and I love hide and seek." Arthur



Online Applications for School and Nursery

A reminder to parents that all applications for Nursery, Reception and Secondary places must be completed online using the Stockport Council Admissions Website.

Please note the essential deadlines:-

Secondary - Tuesday 31st October

Reception - Monday 15th January

Nursery - Sunday 31st March

We are happy to arrange visits for any potential new parents - please contact the school office make an appointment.

For Y6 parents, please note that the deadline for Secondary applications falls straight after children return from October break.

Christmas Fair

This year our Christmas Fair is going to be run by School. We will be holding 2 **non-uniform days** to help collect donations towards the adult and children's tombola

Friday 17th November - - Please bring in a donation for the children's tombola (sweets, chocolates, etc)

Friday 1st December - Christmas jumper day - Please bring in a bottle /new gift donation for the adult tombola

If you can volunteer/help in any way at the Christmas Fair or are able to donate a raffle prize then please contact the School Office.

All Donations will be gratefully received—Thank You