

Diary Dates

- **Monday 2nd November**
INSET Day
- **Tuesday 3rd November**
School opens
- **Monday 9th to Wednesday 11th November**
Parents' Evening 3.35pm - 5.30pm
- **Wednesday 11th November**
Year 3 Cenotaph Visit
- **Thursday 12th November**
No Teacher Led Clubs
- **Tuesday 17th November**
Individual school photos
- **Friday 20th November**
Non-Uniform Day
Year 4 Assembly 9am
- **Monday 23rd November**
SCFC Football Tournament
- **Friday 27th November**
Year 6 Crucial Crew Trip
Year 4 Trip to The Lowry
- **Wednesday 2nd December**
KS1 Christmas Performance
9.15am & 2.30pm
Choir Concert at St. George's Church 7pm
- **Friday 4th December**
Non-Uniform Day
Pantomime
Christmas Fair 3.30pm
- **Tuesday 8th December**
EYFS Christmas Performance
9.15am & 2.45pm
- **Wednesday 9th December**
Christmas Dinner Day
- **Friday 11th December**
KS2 Christmas Carol Concert 3pm
- **Tuesday 15th December**
EYFS Christmas Party
- **Wednesday 16th December**
Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
- **Thursday 17th December**
Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party
- **Friday 18th December**
Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party
School Closes @ 3.25pm
- **Monday 4th January**
Return to school

Message from Miss Astall

It has been an incredibly busy, vibrant, and rewarding start to the year, filled with fantastic learning, wonderful events, and huge achievements across the whole school.

First, I must say a massive well done to our Year 6 pupils following their recent residential trip. They were an absolute credit to Torkington Primary School throughout, demonstrating brilliant resilience, teamwork, and exemplary behaviour. We are all so proud of how they represented our school community!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest Festival celebrations. The turnout from parents and carers was wonderful to see, and the children were simply amazing with their singing and performances—thank you for your continued support and generous contributions to our local community. Year 5 also blew us all away with their brilliant assembly on 'The Great Science Mess-Up!'—it was fantastic to see their enthusiasm, confidence, and scientific curiosity on display.

Our newly elected School Council has already been hard at work! Members took part in the Picture News Pioneers Leadership training and are now ready to take the lead in delivering our Key Stage 2 assemblies. Following much thoughtful deliberation, the council has chosen our new school charity: The Donkey Sanctuary in Derbyshire. They are very excited to start raising money and supporting this wonderful local cause, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming fundraising events—more details to follow soon! We are also really excited about our brand-new hall displays coming soon, which will beautifully illustrate our core values here at Torkington!

As part of our ongoing commitment to our School Development Plan, our Teaching Assistants have completed training with Kickstart to further enhance their active support and enrichment during PE and outdoor activities. To ensure our safeguarding practices remain as robust as possible, Mrs Dobbin has completed her Designated Safeguarding Lead training, and Mrs Pietrzak has completed the Operation Encompass Delegate training. Investing in our team's training means we can keep giving our children the very best support, care and opportunities every single day.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Harvest Festival 2026

We hope that you all enjoyed our Harvest Assembly, the children were fantastic and performed amazingly.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our harvest festival collection this year! Our local foodbank were overwhelmed by your kindness. The collection weighed 176.1kg, which equated to 419 meals! Your donations will truly make a difference to the people living in poverty in our local community.



New Season, New Kits: Football Update!

Our new girls' and boys' football teams are fully up and running for the season! The boys' team has already gotten off to a fantastic start, putting in great performances in their first two matches.



A massive **THANK YOU** to our new sponsor, **Tiso Digital Marketing**, for generously funding brand-new kits for both teams. We are thrilled to have their support and can't wait to share photos of the players in their new kits soon!

Year 2 Step Outside!

Our Year 2 pupils had a brilliant time putting their road safety skills into practice during our **Step Outside Road Safety** sessions!

Accompanied by qualified road safety officers and school staff, the children headed out into the local area around the school to learn how to navigate pavements and crossings safely in real-time. They were incredibly attentive, enthusiastic, and showed great judgment while out and about.



What we covered during our walk:

Finding safe crossing spots: Spotting pedestrian crossings, traffic islands, and learning why it's tricky to cross between parked cars.

The Green Cross Code in action: Practicing "Stop, Look, Listen, and Think" before stepping anywhere near the curb.

Spotting hidden hazards: Looking out for reversing cars in driveways and staying aware of background traffic noise.

Year 5's Great Science Mess Up

This half term Year 5 have been learning all about materials in science. They have explored states of matter and revised their knowledge and understanding of solids liquids and gases. They have compared material properties such as hardness, solubility and conductivity. They have put their investigative skills to the test separating mixtures using filtering, sieving and evaporation. They really enjoyed separating sand and salt from water and observing the changes over time. They have identified if changes of states are reversible or irreversible. This has allowed them to use their scientific enquiry skills such as making predictions, fair testing, analysing data and exploring further tests they would like to explore from their results.

To complete the science topic this half term, Year 5 finished with a fantastic assembly all about materials! All the children were amazing, they worked so hard to learn their lines, bring in costumes and inform everyone about materials and their singing and rapping was a great success! Well done Year 5! A super successful half term!



Year 3 Journey into Prehistoric Britain!

Year 3 have had an action-packed term exploring the ancient past! In History, the children have been uncovering the secrets of prehistoric Britain, tracking how life transformed across thousands of years. This linked perfectly with their **Guided Reading** sessions, where they delved into fascinating texts spanning all the way from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

Meanwhile, in **Science**, our young learners put on their scientist hats to investigate rocks and fossils, learning how earth materials form over millions of years and what fossils reveal about ancient life.

To bring their learning to life, Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic interactive workshop with a guest storyteller! During the session, pupils stepped into the shoes of real-life archaeologists by carefully excavating "fossils" and artefacts—delicately using tools to dig chocolate chips out of cookies! They also channelled their inner prehistoric craftspeople by sculpting their own traditional model pots out of plasticine during a workshop led by a wonderful storyteller.

It has been a truly memorable topic, and Year 3's enthusiasm and curiosity have shone through every step of the way. Well done, Year 3!



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be held on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November between 3:35pm & 5.30pm for all classes.

The booking system will go live at 6pm on Monday 2nd November. Please ensure that you can log on to the booking system prior to this date

<https://parents-booking.co.uk/torkingtonprimary>

Outdoor Shoes

As we are coming into the winter months, We will still continue to utilise our outdoor space to its full potential. This is for the health and wellbeing of the children. Physical education, playtimes and other outdoor learning activities are all essential aspects of the school day.

Please ensure that children have appropriate footwear in school to change into - wellies or old trainers.

School Meals

The cost for school meals for Nursery and Junior children is £2.60 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 available on Dojo. It is also 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 97.4%
- Year 1 95.0%
- Year 2 97.7%
- Year 3 96.9%
- Year 4 97.7%
- Year 5 97.0%
- Year 6 98.0%
- **Overall 97.1%**

Congratulations to Year 6
for achieving the
highest % attendance and
also, for achieving 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.

A Visit from the Local Fire Service for Year 4!

Year 4 had an exciting and educational visit from our local Fire Service this week! As Bonfire Night approaches, the firefighters spoke to the children about crucial fire safety tips, reminding everyone how to stay safe around bonfires and fireworks.

The highlight of the session was definitely getting outside to see the fire engine up close. Every child had the opportunity to take aim and shoot water high across the playground using the powerful fire hose! It was a fantastic experience that combined essential life skills with plenty of fun. A huge thank you to the crew for visiting us!



Year 1's WW2 Experience

We have had a fabulous first half-term in Year 1! The children have settled in really well and have been really impressing us in all areas of their learning. One of our highlights was Freshwater Theatre Company's workshop on Queen Elizabeth's reign during World War Two. It was an engaging, imaginative experience. We discussed what evacuees might pack in their small suitcases, including a cherished teddy bear and warm blanket and used drama to pretend to pack our own.

Through discussion, we explored how frightened, brave, and homesick evacuees might feel when leaving their families for the countryside. The highlight was creating dramatic freeze frames where children posed as land girls, mechanics and factory workers to show important wartime jobs. We even learnt that Queen Elizabeth didn't need a driving licence as the queen and is the only person in the whole country who can legally drive without one!



Nursery News – A Wonderful First Half Term!

What a fantastic first half term we have had in Nursery! The children have settled into school so well and have enjoyed exploring their new environment, making friends and taking part in lots of exciting learning experiences.

This half term, we have been exploring some much-loved traditional tales, including *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children have enjoyed listening to the stories, joining in with familiar phrases, acting out characters and bringing the tales to life through their play and creative activities.

We have also been busy little bakers, making our own bread inspired by *The Little Red Hen*. The children enjoyed getting hands-on with the ingredients and discovering how flour, water and other ingredients can be combined to make delicious bread.



Inspired by *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, we have been growing grass for the goats, giving us a wonderful opportunity to explore nature and learn about how plants grow. The children have loved watching their grass grow and developing their curiosity about the world around them.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into Nursery and how enthusiastically they have embraced their first half term.

Kickstart After School Clubs

Kickstart will be offering their After School Clubs again after half term for children in Year 1 to Year 6.

Mondays—Year 4, 5 & 6
Dodgeball
Tuesdays—Year 1, 2 & 3
Football

Cost of £5 per week. Sign up via their website and enjoy the fun!

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 - Saturday 31st October 2026

Reception - Friday 15th January 2027

Nursery - Wednesday 31st March 2027

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

Here is the link for applications:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/documents/school-admissions>

Supporting the Royal British Legion

From **Tuesday 3rd 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.

A Fairy Tale Start to Reception!

What a magnificent first term we have had in Reception! The children have settled into school life brilliantly, bringing so much energy, curiosity, and laughter to our classroom every single day. We kicked off our very first weeks by meeting our wonderful Reading Buddies, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing stories and building special friendships with their older mentors. In our creative area, our young artists have been hard at work exploring colour mixing and creating marvellous self-portraits to celebrate what makes each of them unique.

Our learning throughout the term has been packed with fairy tale magic, as we explored a variety of classic stories that sparked so much imaginative play. Inspired by these tales, the children had a wonderful time making delicious gingerbread men, and the magic truly came alive when we received a surprise visit from the Giant, who left behind a trail of shiny golden coins! The excitement continued as we searched high and low for magic beans, which miraculously grew into some very yummy treats for everyone to share.

Our budding scientists have been busy putting their inquiry skills to the test through a range of hands-on experiments. They loved growing lush green grass for the Three Billy Goats Gruff, problem-solving how to keep Granny's ice lollies cold and protected from melting, and concocting bubbling potions and colourful lava lamps. Outdoor learning has been equally adventurous, filled with muddy faces, laughter, and endless culinary fun in our mud kitchen. To celebrate such a fantastic start to their school journey, we are ending this busy term with a well-deserved, spooktacular Halloween-themed class treat. Thank you to all our Reception families for your wonderful support, and we wish you all a restful break!



Year 6's Unforgettable Trip!

Year 6 recently enjoyed an unforgettable three-day residential trip to High Adventure, eagerly tackling a range of outdoor challenges including rope climbing, bouldering, and canoeing on the reservoir.

Stepping outside their comfort zones, pupils conquered intimidating heights on the high ropes, through sheer determination and non-stop encouragement from classmates on the ground. Out on the water, canoeing provided a brilliant test of communication, requiring children to synchronise their paddling to navigate the reservoir together.

Beyond the adventurous activities, the residential offered a fantastic opportunity to develop key life skills, personal independence, and resilience away from home. By supporting one another through every new challenge, Year 6 demonstrated wonderful maturity and camaraderie, returning home with lasting memories and newfound confidence!

"I didn't think I'd be able to do the zipline, but everyone cheering me on gave me the confidence to reach the top." – Kyle

"Canoeing on the reservoir was one of my favourite parts, because we had to work together to steer properly!" – Grayden



ECO COUNCIL NEWS

Our Eco Council worked so hard last year, achieving the Green Flag Award with Merit!

We have begun the new year with two new Eco Councillors chosen from our Year 2 class. They are excited to meet with our existing councillors soon to discuss our Action Plan for this year. We will be sharing tips to support nature at home.

Our school grounds are also looking cleaner and greener thanks to the fantastic efforts of our **Eco Club**! Equipped with litter pickers, our dedicated young eco-warriors recently took to the school field and playgrounds for a giant clean up. Working as a team, they hunted down lots of stray pieces of rubbish to help protect our local wildlife and keep our shared spaces beautiful.



Eco Tip: Build a 5-Minute "Bug Hotel" in Your Garden!

Supporting local wildlife at home doesn't require a giant garden or a green thumb—even small spaces like balconies and patios can become thriving habitats for beneficial insects!

How to do it together: On your next outdoor walk or garden potter, have your child collect natural treasures like small sticks, pinecones, dry leaves, and hollow stems. Bundle them tightly together inside an old clay pot, a clean wooden box, or a section of drainpipe, and place it in a quiet, sheltered corner outside.