

### Diary Dates

- **Monday 5th January**  
Return to school.  
After school boxercise/  
multisport starts this week
- **Tuesday 6th January**  
Y5 Swimming.
- **Thursday 8th January**  
Apply for Teacher Led after  
school clubs 7pm
- **Tuesday 13th January**  
KS1 Phonics Workshop  
9am.
- **Wednesday 14h January**  
Y6 SATs Workshop  
3.25pm
- **Thursday 15th January**  
Teacher Led clubs re-start  
Deadline for Reception  
Applications.
- **Friday 30th January**  
Y3 class assembly
- **Friday 13th February**  
Y2 class assembly  
School Closes
- **Monday 23rd February**  
School Closed (INSET  
DAY)
- **Tuesday 24th February**  
Return to School.



### Message from Mr.B

What a super term packed full of reasons to be cheerful! The performances from the children in their Nativity and Concerts were amazing and got us all in the festive mood. The children have been amazing all term and I am really proud of them. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our 2 new parent Governors, Emma Bennett and Kimberley Bennett to the board. Thank you to all who voted and took part in the election process. I am really looking forward to working with them. Thanks to all the other Governors supporting the school over the past year; their support and guidance is extremely important in our continued success. Congratulations to Mrs Dobbin, Mr Waugh and Miss Kempton who all passed their National qualifications for senior leadership (NPQSL) last week and best wishes to Mrs Pietrzak who commenced her National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). Our commitment to our own adult learning ensures we keep up to date with the latest research and methodologies to continue to improve our teaching.

Our school Improvement work has focused on deepening our understanding of the new inspection framework and its implications for school. The new style OFSTED report card is far more comprehensive and requires a set of judgements across 7 aspects of the school; Inclusion, curriculum and teaching, achievement, attendance and behaviour, personal development and wellbeing, early years and leadership and governance. Although there are no single word judgements on a school the process is extremely robust and will now be carried out by 2 inspectors over 2 days. We are approximately 18 months away from our next inspection but I consider we would meet the expected standard requirements already. After half term we will be devoting significant time developing our new Oracy project based on Stockport speaks; this is an exciting project that will give the children confidence in a range on speaking contexts and enable them to then improve their writing skills.

Our building work this half term has been as a response to the fire safety audit; doors have been resealed, windows fixed and a number of taps and minor plumbing works have been carried out. As soon as the weather permits we will replace the fascia boards above the lower junior entrance and all the fascia boards will then be repainted. The wild flower meadows have been prepared ready for the Spring.

I would like to thank my colleagues for all their hard work and dedication this term and throughout the year; they are an incredibly talented team and we are really lucky. Have a wonderful Christmas and thank you for your support this year.



### Christmas fun at Torkington



To commence our Christmas celebrations this year the children and staff enjoyed the fantastic Pantomime of Dick Whittington. As always, the hall was filled with smiles and laughter. Later in the day, we held our very successful Christmas Fair. It was a great event, that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Christmas dinner was a wonderful occasion, with the whole school coming together and eating in the school hall at the same time whilst singing along to Christmas music. Thank you to the catering staff of Taylor Shaw for the fantastic feast and to Mrs Millington and her team for the wonderful festive set-up

Now after weeks of superb nativities, festive carol concerts and a final week of class parties and treats we hope everyone is ready to relax and enjoy their own celebrations at home with friends and families. We look forward to hearing what you have all been up to when we return in 2026. Merry Christmas Everyone!

## Year 6 Pupils Become Safety Experts at Crucial Crew!

Our Year 6 recently had a valuable and engaging experience attending the Stockport Crucial Crew Child Safety Event.

The day raised awareness of threats and dangers in a fun and interactive way, preparing them for the greater independence that comes with moving to Secondary school.

Year 6 spent the morning rotating through various scenarios delivered by representatives from the Emergency Services and local agencies. This hands-on approach was fantastic for helping the children learn how to keep themselves and others safe.

Year 6 demonstrated wonderful focus and maturity, participating enthusiastically throughout the morning.

'We learnt a lot about keeping safe and how to make the right choices if we are in danger.' Cameron



## Festivals & Celebrations in Reception

This half term, Reception class have continued to impress us with their work both in and outside of school. They have loved sharing their learning and adventures with their friends. Thank you for the continued support you provide at home!

We have enjoyed learning about and exploring festivals and celebrations from different cultures. We began by discussing important historical events such as the Gunpowder Plot and the World Wars, linking these to Remembrance through Bonfire Night fun and wearing poppies. The children particularly enjoyed making edible sparklers!

Next, we explored wedding ceremonies, which culminated in a delightful pretend wedding and yummy cake. We also learned about birthdays and how different people celebrate them.

As we moved into the Christmas season, the children had a fantastic time walking to the post-box to send their letters to Santa, attending the pantomime, sharing Christmas dinner with friends, and making delicious festive treats alongside their wonderful Christmas crafts. They were absolute super stars in their performance of 'Miracle in Town' for the whole school and many grown-ups too!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026!



## Year 3 Remember

Our visit to the Cenotaph was a crucial part of our learning about Remembrance Day and why we commemorate it every year. Year 3 learned about the significance of the Cenotaph as a memorial to those who served and sacrificed their lives in conflicts. We discussed the poppy and how it became the international symbol of remembrance. Each child understood the solemn meaning behind wearing a poppy.

The children were prepared and behaved with the utmost respect throughout the entire ceremony. Everyone chosen for their excellent conduct and understanding of the topic, had the solemn honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Year 3 and the entire school. Their quiet and respectful presence was noted by members of the community who attended the service.



### Governor Election Results

Congratulations to Kimberley Bennett and Emma Bennett who were elected as Parents Governors following our recent ballot.

Thank you to all the candidates for showing an interest in this crucial school role.

### Kickstart Sports Clubs

After school sports clubs will re-start the first week back after Christmas (week commencing 5th January) and will run until the week commencing 10th February 2026.

\*New\* Boxercise for Years 4,5, & 6  
Multiskills for Year 1,2, & 3

Information on how to book is on each class Dojo page.

### Online Applications for School and Nursery

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

Please note the essential deadlines:

**Reception— Thursday 15th January**

**Nursery— Tuesday 31st March**



## Attendance for The Autumn Term

- Reception 96.8%
- Year 1 97.1%
- Year 2 96.1%
- Year 3 97.3%
- Year 4 97.1%
- Year 5 96.3%
- Year 6 96.8%
- **Overall 96.8%**

Congratulations to Yr 3 for achieving the highest % attendance.

**School Target :  
98%**

Well Done to the 61 children who achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term!

We are very proud of our excellent attendance at Torkington and ask everyone to help us keep attendance levels as high as possible, by avoiding term time holidays and appointment during the school day.

## Toys and Tunes in Year 1

We have had a fantastic half term starting off with our Toy museum workshop, Ali the toy curator really captured the children's imaginations and they all produced fabulous recounts of the experience afterwards, showing off all the fantastic writing skills they have been practising. We couldn't have been prouder! We have really loved learning all about changes in children's toys through time in our history lessons.

The highlight of this half term has been our Christmas show, the children sang their hearts out and I'm sure you will agree they did a fabulous job! See you in the New Year, Year 1



## Year 5's Christmas Story Trail!

What a fantastic and memorable morning Year 5 had at the Baptist Church!

They took part in an incredible interactive Christmas trail which brought the Nativity story to life. They travelled through beautifully set-up scenes (as you can see in the photo!) and met various characters who helped them to explore and understand the traditional Christmas Story.

It was a brilliant way for everyone to learn and reflect. Year 5 were fully engaged and showed great listening skills throughout.

Thank you to the church staff and volunteers for hosting such a wonderful and immersive experience!

"It was very fun at the Baptist Church, the people were very creative and the adventure was great!" – Keira A

"I really enjoyed it because the lady could tell us the story in so much detail and had really cool props!" - Sophia



## Year 2's Pizza and Plays

Year 2 have been busy this half term! They have enjoyed designing, making and evaluating their own pizzas in DT. They tested different breads and toppings to design their perfect healthy pizza, which they then made and took home to taste test. They were very yummy!

Year 2 also worked so hard learning their lines and songs for our Christmas Show, 'Santa's Hat! We were blown away by their performance! Thank you to parents and carers for all your support in preparing the children.



### Punctuality

Please can all parents/ carers ensure that children arrive on time for school.

In bad weather, leave extra time for your journey. Children are disadvantaged when they arrive feeling stressed and uncomfortable.

Late children must enter by the main entrance.

### Teacher Led After School clubs.

Teacher Led after school clubs will be on Thursday 15th January until Thursday 12th February

Details will be shared during the first week of January giving details of the clubs available. Clubs will then go live on ParentPay at 7pm on Thursday 8th January.

**NOTE: After February Half Term clubs will be on a Tuesday commencing 25th**

### School Meals

The cost for school meals for junior children is £2.60 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments.

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

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

## Nursery News!

Over the past few weeks, the children have been busy exploring *festivals and family celebrations*. We began by learning about the different special days that people enjoy throughout the year, including birthdays, Halloween, and Diwali. The children loved sharing their own experiences and learning how families around the world celebrate in different ways.

As December arrived, excitement filled the nursery as we began our preparations for Christmas. The children worked incredibly hard to put on a wonderful nativity performance, sharing songs and acting with such confidence—well done to everyone who took part!

Our creative talents didn't stop there. We have been very busy making lots of Christmas treats, from sparkling crafts to festive creations to take home. One of the favourite activities was making reindeer food to help guide Santa's sleigh to our homes on Christmas Eve. The children carefully measured, mixed, and sprinkled their magical ingredients, ready for the big night!

We also enjoyed a lovely winter walk to the local post box, where the children proudly posted their Christmas wish lists to Santa. It was a magical moment watching each envelope disappear into the post box and imagining them making their way to the North Pole.

It has been a joyful, festive few weeks full of learning, creativity, and excitement. We are very proud of all the children and look forward to more adventures in the new year!



## Year 4 Studying a Christmas Carol

This half term, Year 4 English lessons revolved around the study of Charles Dickens' famous Victorian tale; *A Christmas Carol*.

We explored the character of Ebenezer Scrooge, a famously miserable old man, by using rich vocabulary to describe his cold nature and dramatic transformation. We studied the Victorian setting and the story's powerful message about kindness.

Our learning culminated in our class performance of the tale, with a slight inspiration from *The Muppet's Christmas Carol*! This project allowed us to bring the story to life and practise our performance skills.

"Bringing the story to life for the assembly was the best part! I loved wearing my costume and getting to act on the stage. It made the story feel so real." Sara

"I really enjoyed describing Scrooge. We had to think of very powerful adjectives to best describe what he looked like and how he acted." It was fun to pretend to be so grumpy!" Francis



## ECO COUNCIL NEWS

In November our school participated in 'Switch Off Fortnight', an initiative designed to encourage children to reduce screen time, lower their carbon footprint and enjoy the world around them. During the week, pupils were encouraged to turn off devices and lights in the classroom and at home when they are not being used. Switch Off Monitors were assigned to make sure devices and lights were turned off, even small changes can have a big impact!



## PTA News

Wow! What a busy and successful half term it's been for the Torkington PTA.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of our events or supported our efforts. Our small team of minimal volunteers has worked wonders, and we couldn't have achieved this without our supportive school community!

Here are the highlights:

**Christmas Fair:** We raised an amazing £1600 at the fair! Plus, a special shout out to Barclays Bank for their incredibly generous £1000 match-funding, making our grand total an amazing **£2600**

**Santa Float:** The Santa Float around the Racecourse Estate was great fun! Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who popped out to wave hello to Santa.

**Christmas Cards:** The annual Christmas Card campaign brought in £160. We hope all the children (and parents!) are loving their finished products.

We can safely say the children are loving the new Chromebooks already purchased with previous funds. In 2026, keep your eyes peeled for new fundraising events to help us buy even more resources!

Want to get involved? We always need help! Please email us at [torkington.pta@gmail.com](mailto:torkington.pta@gmail.com)

Thank You!