

Diary Dates

- **Monday 8th January**
Return to school.
Kickstart after school football starts
- **Tuesday 9th January**
Y5 start swimming.
- **Thursday 11th January**
Apply for Teacher Led after school clubs 7pm
- **Monday 15th January**
Deadline for Reception Applications.
- **Tuesday 16th January**
Teacher Led clubs re-start
- **Wednesday 17th January**
Y6 SATs Workshop 3.20pm
- **Wednesday 24th January**
KS1 SATs/Phonics Workshop
- **Friday 26th January**
Y3 class assembly
- **Thursday 1st February**
Y5 trip to Jodrell Bank
- **Friday 9th February**
Y2 class assembly
School Closes
- **Monday 19th February**
Return to School.



Message from Mr.B

We have had a truly fantastic year and I am so proud of all our childrens' achievements; they have worked incredibly hard. As you will read, they have had many opportunities to perform and show case their talents. From class assemblies, harvest festival , singing and superb Nativities they have shown the confidence, enthusiasm and positivity at all ages in school.

Through our OFSTED in February and our recent "one voice" Local Authority moderation visit Torkington has been judged as a strong, Good school; I am immensely grateful to all my colleagues for their hard work and dedication to ensuring our children get the very best education we can provide. We are very lucky to have such commitment from all our teaching team. Equally important is our office team; the systems and processes ensure the school runs smoothly and effectively to support the childrens' learning, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Perkins have done an amazing job this year! Our caretaker, Nuno and his team have done a great job redecorating the classrooms and keeping the school as free from mud as possible! Unfortunately Nuno is currently off work with a rare pulmonary embolism which he is receiving treatment I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery—we hope he will be back in the New Year. A huge thank you to our Governors who give up their time voluntarily to support the continued development of our school.

As we look forward to the New Year we are focussing on our own adult learning. Miss Astall and myself have completed the intial stages of Headship and Executive Headship qualifications and have been able to implement new approaches and strategies in school . In January Miss Lobley, Miss Kempton and Mr Waugh will all start their Nationally accredited qualifications in senior leadership (NPQL). Miss Roberts will begin a similarly accredited course in leading teaching with a focus on supporting new teachers and students. It is important that we stay up to date with new thinking and research so that we can continue to improve our provision and approaches to support our children. Our school improvement work next term will focus on Science; Miss Roberts will undertake 2 days specialist training and we will implement this new knowledge into our science curriculum.

Over the holidays we will have a number of building projects taking place. The drains are to be dug up and new pipe work installed . We are also installing 2 "witches cauldrons" in the playground to improve the facilities for the children at playtimes. Have a wonderful Xmas and New Year. Best wishes from us all.



Christmas fun at Torkington



We commenced our Christmas celebrations this year with a very successful Christmas Fair. The whole school came together to ensure that the Christmas Fair went ahead and it certainly was enjoyed by all. It raised an outstanding £1800. Barclays also generously offered to match the first £1000 that was donated so overall £2800 has been raised and will be going towards school improvements in 2024. Thank you to everyone that helped and supported this event. We really do appreciate it.

All the children and staff then enjoyed the fantastic Pantomime of Cinderella. The hall was filled with smiles and laughter and the children are still talking about it now. Christmas dinner was a tremendous occasion as always, with the whole school coming together and eating in the school hall at the same time and 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 2024. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Fantastic Fun in Reception

Another fantastic half term in Reception. We began by exploring different celebrations such as Halloween, weddings and Diwali. We made Halloween potions and spider biscuits, reenacted a wedding ceremony, made salt dough diva lamps and Mrs Shafiq kindly created beautiful henna designs on each of the children's hands.

We have also been really enjoying our science sessions each week. The children have developed their ability to make predictions, ask and discuss questions linked to our weekly explorations. They loved creating foaming potions, exploding coke bottles, lava lamps and Santa's magic milk.

Reception were so well behaved when walking to the postbox to send their amazing letters to Santa, it was such a treat to meet the postman when we arrived and he even let the children put their letters directly into his post sack.

Finally, Reception were absolutely amazing in their Christmas performance of 'Baarmy Bethlehem'. Their singing and acting were out of this world!



Year 5 become Football Directors

This half term, Year 5 have been very fortunate to take part in Stockport County's Numeracy and Finance education program.

Over the course of six weeks, Year 5 have learnt about the numbers side of running a football club! These sessions included areas on football statistics, monthly ticket sales, how player wages are calculated as part of a yearly budget, calculating merchandise discounts on the County club store and finally concluding with the children producing a pitch for how they would expand Edgeley Park stadium!

"I really enjoyed creating a fantasy team using a budget to spend on players! It was tricky trying to choose which 5 County players to include in my team!" Stanley

"I liked working out how much County made each match depending on how many home and away tickets they sold in each game" Bobby



Ruthless Romans in Year 4

What a topic the Ruthless Romans has been! In Year 4 we have learnt about many aspect of Roman life as well as the rise and fall of the Roman empire. We learnt that the Romans invented lots of things we still use today like central heating, roads and some towns are Roman in origin!

Our class assembly was centered around our Roman learning and what great fun we had dressing as Romans. To finish our learning we took part in a Roman banquet and made some famous Roman mosaics.



Kickstart Football Clubs

Kickstart after school football clubs will start during the first week back after Christmas (week commencing 8th January) – Letters were sent out via ParentPay w/c 11/12 with details on how to sign up and make payment. For further information or to book on contact Rob at Kickstart...
kickstartsports@icloud.com

Teacher Led After School clubs.

Teacher Led after school clubs will start back from Tuesday 16th January.
You will receive a letter on Monday 8th January with the details and then club applications will go live on ParentPay at 7pm on Thursday 11th January.

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. There are no paper applications available. Please note the essential deadlines:
Reception– Monday 15th January
Nursery— Sunday 31st March

Attendance for The Autumn Term

- Reception 93.4%
- Year 1 97.7%
- Year 2 96.1%
- Year 3 95.7%
- Year 4 97.4%
- Year 5 95.6%
- Year 6 96.8%
- **Overall 96.1%**

Congratulations to **Yr 1** for achieving the highest % attendance, closely followed by Yr 4.

**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

KS1 Christmas Performance—The Bethlehem Bake Off

KS1 have worked so hard this half term to get ready for their wonderful performance. It was a fantastic celebration filled with joy and talent. The children put on a delightful performance, showcasing their acting, singing and dancing skills. The festive atmosphere, colourful costumes and catchy songs truly brought the Christmas Spirit to life. It was a wonderful event that left everyone feeling uplifted and ready to celebrate the holiday season.



Year 6 explore Global Food

Year 6 have been learning about Global Food. It has given them the chance to discover the exciting and diverse choice of food available around the world. Initially, we learnt where in the world a variety of ingredients flourish. We then built on our understanding of the eatwell plate, placing different ingredients into the correct food groups. This enabled us to develop a deeper understanding that although food can be extremely varied, it still comes under the same basic food groups.

In DT we used cooking techniques to make rice, salsa and quesadillas from Asia and Mexico. "I particularly enjoyed making the quesadillas because it was really fun to do the prep and it tasted delicious. We cooked these particular foods as they are a big traditional food in their home country. We used basic to advanced skills so we can use them in later life. Everyone has a chance to take part in these activities"- Ruby and Ella.



Year 3 & 4 Mindfulness Workshop



In November, we were very pleased to welcome Bethany Lewis from Turn the Page counselling to school to run mindfulness workshops for our Year 3 and 4 children. Bethany is a trained and highly skilled Integrative therapist and works regularly in schools helping children to appreciate how beneficial mindfulness can be. The children were split into groups of 15 and entered the hall to the most wonderful soothing aromatherapy oils to instantly put them at ease. Bethany talked to the children about the importance of mindfulness and helped them practise techniques that they can use in their daily lives. Evie-May commented that the hall smelt lovely and it was very relaxing. Bethany told us that when you are feeling stressed it is very

important to stay calm and she showed us ways we can do that.

All the children commended that it was a wonderful experience and that they had definitely benefited from the sessions. Bethany will be back in the New Year to run workshops with our Year 5 & 6 children.

Drop Off & Collection of Junior Children

To promote independence and build resilience we ask that all Junior children are left at and collected from the school gate at the beginning and the end of the school day. (unless prior arrangements have been agreed) The playground is supervised by school staff from 8.45 in a morning.

Thank You to everyone who purchased a Poppy or RBL merchandise in the week running up to Remembrance Day.

Together we raised an amazing amount of **£285.80** for the Royal British Legion. Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community and without support like this they couldn't do the work that they do.

Celebration time in Nursery

The Nursery children have had a busy, yet thoroughly enjoyable half term. They've embraced the challenges of each topic book with Mog's Birthday being a firm favourite. We used the book to discuss family traditions and the best bit, throwing him a special birthday party.

More recently, the children have been enjoying our Christmas topic where they worked hard to make their own Christmas cards and decorations to take home! They have also made special Reindeer food to put out on Christmas Eve for Rudolph and his friends!



After all that hard work the children got to enjoy their Christmas party which included a very special zoom call all the way from the North Pole.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Year 3 Remember

This November, year 3 learnt all about Remembrance Day.

"We know that Remembrance Day is to remember and celebrate the people in the war and make sure we remember the sacrifices they gave for us." – Aurora R

There are lots of different ways to celebrate Remembrance Day and remember the soldiers from the First World War. In Year 3, we remembered by reading poetry about Remembrance Day, making our own poppies and laying poppies outside school for the 2-minute silence.

These ceremonies have grown to remember all people who have died in wars, including World War Two and the Iraq wars, not just World War One.

"The war ended on the 11th November 1918 at 11am. Remembrance Day marks this day." - Jacob

"We went to the front of the school and planted our poppies to show respect on Remembrance Day. We did this silently and then talked a lot about the war in class with Mr Seager." – Lois



Year 1 & 2 visit Norbury Church

In November, Year 1 and Year 2 visited Norbury Church as part of our RE learning based around Christianity and different places of worship. We had a fantastic time learning all about the history of the church as well as the weekly running of services and the important part the church plays in our community. We particularly liked the part where we got to explore the church, looking at all the different artefacts we had learned about, and even having a go at playing the church drums and standing in the pulpit!



School Meals

The cost for school meals for junior children is £2.40 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments.

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

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

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.

Parking and Safety of Children

For the safety and wellbeing of all our children, please always take great care when driving and parking near school. Please do not park illegally or dangerously and be courteous at all times.

Supervision at the start of the school day

All infant children must be supervised by an adult before school.

For the safety of everyone, Please always use the footpaths and do not walk down the driveway. Bikes & scooters are not to be used within school grounds