

### Message from Mr.B

#### Diary Dates

- **Monday 19th February**  
Return to school
- **Tuesday 20th February**  
Y5 & Y6 Mindfulness Workshops
- **Friday 1st March**  
Secondary School Offer Day
- **Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th March**  
Parents' Evening 3.20 - 5.30pm
- **Thursday 7th March**  
World Book Day
- **Tuesday 12th March**  
Lovely Ladies—EYFS & KS1
- **Wednesday 20th March**  
Year 1 Assembly
- **Monday 25th March**  
Enterprise Week
- **Tuesday 26th March**  
Y1 & Y2 Singaround Trip
- **Wednesday 27th March**  
Y3 & Y4 Singaround Trip
- **Thursday 28th March**  
Enterprise Fair & Easter Event
- School Closes
- **Sunday 31st March**  
Closing Date for Nursery Applications
- **Monday 15th April**  
Return to school

A really short half term but as you will read, the children have worked incredibly hard and there is so much positive learning to share with you. Our school improvement has focussed on supporting our knowledge rich curriculum in the Foundation subjects, particularly in history and geography. Miss Lobley has also done an extensive piece of work on developing a new phonics scheme with the support from our school improvement partner. We have allocated money to purchase the new scheme and books and we will begin training for a September launch. Our new intervention in maths and literacy have really worked well and this is evidenced by the children's performance in their recent summative assessments. The results are really positive across all year groups and reflect the effort and hard work from the children and adults alike. We will analyse the data and plan for the remainder of the year after half but I am very pleased with the progress and attainment at the half way point. Well done all! After half term we will continue our work to improve the Art, Design and technology provision as well as implementing the research, approaches that Miss Roberts has done in her Science STEM professional development opportunities.

We have a lot of building work for the holidays and into next half term. As you may be aware, we are replacing all the old lighting in school and upgrading to LED lights on a rolling program. The offices entrance hall and rainbow room were completed earlier this week and year 5 and 6 classrooms have now been completed. A huge thank you to the children and my admin colleagues for their flexibility. The rest of the school will be done after the holidays and each class will only encounter 1 day disruption, projects have already been planned into mitigate this disruption. The new lighting is far better and will be cheaper in energy costs in the long run. The offices will be repainted over the holidays and the back door at the top of the ramp is being remodelled which will cut down on the significant drafts which we are experiencing currently. We have started work on our final wild flower meadow which will be planted shortly; our Eco council have submitted a bid to Stockport Hydro to hopefully fund this meadow and we will find out if we are successful after half term. Looking ahead we are investigating cost effective ways to repair the growing number of pot holes on the driveway.

We are developing the work to support our well being and health agenda next half term. Alongside the sessions Joanna does on Thursday and Alex from the NHS does on Tuesday we have arranged for our school nurse to have a drop in session from 9 am—10 am or an appointment slot between 10 am and 12 pm. These sessions are available for you to share or discuss any health issues or advice relating to your child. Rachel would love to meet you.

Mrs Guggiari is pregnant and will commence her maternity cover at May half term and we wish her all the very best. We have begun the search for cover and have already had a number of positive enquiries; there will be a 2 week crossover to ensure the new colleague can work alongside Mrs Guggiari and Mrs George to become familiar with the class and our routines. I will inform Year 1 parents when we appoint a replacement.

Have a great holiday and enjoy the doughnuts!!

#### Tasty Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Krispy Kreme Doughnut as an end of term treat to help raise funds for the school. We didn't realise how much the children and parents of Torkington Primary School love a doughnut. We sold an amazing 331 Doughnuts which make a total of £279 profit. This is fantastic! Thank You all so much for your support and we hope that you all enjoyed your sweet treat.

We are always looking at ways to raise additional funds for the school to help make improvements. If anyone would like to help support the school with fundraising ideas then we would love to hear from you. Just pop into the office or send an email to [admin@torkington.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torkington.stockport.sch.uk). Thank You

## Stomp, stomp, roar, roar. Here come the dinosaurs!

It may have only been a short half term, but what fun and learning reception have managed to achieve in this time. They began by exploring different stories by the author Julia Donaldson, they created a cunning plan and map just like the burglars Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh from the story. They also loved going on a sound walk with their very own little ladybird, to discover what the ladybird could hear at school.

They then moved on to under the sea adventures with Tiddler, the children produce some fantastic writing about different sea creatures. The following 2 weeks focused on dinosaurs, they found dinosaur eggs that hatched into small dinosaurs, they erupted volcanoes, and wrote some fantastic stories and facts about dinosaurs. They experienced a great fossils workshop and made dinosaur biscuit.

The final week of the half term was reserved for two celebrations. The first being Chinese New Year, where the children used their senses to describe the Chinese food that they had tasted. They then explored Saint Valentine's Day, and how we can love ourselves and others.

This half term, it has been wonderful to read lots of different books that the children have brought into school. It is lovely to share they're engagement and enjoyments in reading and follow their interests within our learning school. We can't wait for space fun next half term!



## It's All Greek to Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic half term learning about the Ancient Greeks. We have explored society in ancient Greece and how the ancient Greeks have influenced our lives today. As part of our history work, we produced a fantastic class assembly which showcased our knowledge of ancient Greece! We performed our assembly in a circle, which mimicked a Greek amphitheatre. As a class, we thoroughly enjoyed learning our lines, acting, singing and dancing during our assembly this half term.

"I think I will remember lots about Ancient Greece because of our assembly!" – Ruby

"I loved that we were all in Greek costumes and performed in a circle. It felt like we were in ancient Greece." – Issy

"I really enjoyed learning all the songs and dances, especially The Olympians." – Ava



## New School Website

Over the past few weeks we have been working alongside our website designers to update our school website. Please take a look. <https://www.torkington.stockport.sch.uk/> Keep your eye on here for all the latest school news and information. Any feedback on the site and its content would be greatly appreciated.

### Parents' Evening Appointments Monday 4th - Wednesday 6th March

Parents' Evening appointments will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March between 3:20pm & 5.30pm for all classes.

Appointments can be booked via our on-line Portal from 5pm on Monday 26th February.

**Please remember that there will be no Teacher-Led clubs on Tuesday 5th March.**

### Kickstart Football Clubs

Football clubs will start during the first week back after Half Term (week commencing 19th February) – Please see Class Dojo for the details of how to sign up and make payment for the club.

### World Book Day 2023 - Thursday 7th March

On Thursday 7th March it is World book day. To celebrate we are asking the children to come in fancy dress as their favourite book character and we have lots of exciting activities planned in school.

We are also running the extreme read competition. If you would like to take part upload to your dojo profile a picture of you reading in an unusual place. There will be prizes for the winners! We can't wait to see how creative you can be on this day.

## Attendance from September

- Reception 92.7%
- Year 1 96.8%
- Year 2 95.5%
- Year 3 95.8%
- Year 4 96.8%
- Year 5 94.8%
- Year 6 97.0%
- **Overall 95.6%**

Well done to **Y6** for achieving the highest % attendance!

**School Target : 98%**

## Absences from school

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please ring school on the first day of absence. If your child is absent for more than one day, please send an email or letter when they return.

We ask parents to try to avoid appointments during school hours. If this is not possible, please inform us in advance of any appointments.

For all other absences, an Absence Request Form must be completed

## School Nurse Drop-in

Our school nurse is hosting a drop-in session between 9.00am and 10.00am on **Wednesday 13th March**.

Parents can drop in without an appointment to access help, advice, or support.

## Victorians in Year 2!

Year 2 gave a wonderful performance in their Class Assembly about the Victorians this half term! The children showcased their knowledge of the era through engaging storytelling, impressive singing and enthusiastic acting. It was evident that the children put a lot of effort into their roles, as they portrayed characters from different social classes.

They enjoyed practicing the songs, and were able to talk about what they remembered from our History topic as we prepared for the assembly. Well done Year 2!



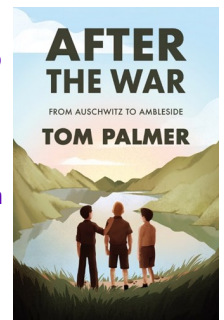
## Year 6 Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity to try and bring communities

together to remember our common humanity and to commit to standing up to bigotry, hatred and racism wherever we find it today.

Year 6 have been reading *After The War* and attended a virtual workshop with Tom Palmer and Holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich to learn about important moments in our shared history and to hear stories from people with different experiences.

"I have enjoyed learning about the Holocaust and reading the book which was great for helping us learn about this awful time in history. We were very lucky to meet a real-life Holocaust survivor. She talked about how she felt when she found her only living family member and when hopes of freedom fell to rock bottom at the start of the war. She told us about her amazing but hard life, it was truly a privilege to meet her." Lily H and Edward C, Year 6.



## Year 1 Became Earth Explorers!

To kick start our new topic 'Earth Explorers', Year 1 took part in an interactive theatre workshop. The children met their Earth Explorer Leader and began by exploring the weather and seasons. We then warmed up our bodies and voices by becoming different types of weather and learning a super tricky tongue twister.

Then we packed our rucksacks full of everything we might need ready to set off on our adventure around the world. We visited Africa where we met grumpy camels, India where we met thirsty elephants, the Arctic where we met roaming polar bears, before we set off to Antarctica and met the waddling penguins.

The children had such fun flying the Torkington jet and each driver made sure to land their plane safely taking their responsibility very seriously!



## Year 5 visit to Jodrell Bank

In Science this half term, Year 5 have been learning about Earth and Space! To further the children's learning about this exciting topic, Year 5 recently visited Jodrell Bank Observatory in Macclesfield, home to the Lovell Telescope (the third largest telescope in the world!)

During the trip, Year 5 took part in a guided tour of the solar system and discovered the different constellations inside the Space Dome, as well as taking a special trip to the surface of Jupiter! Year 5 also took part in a variety of child-led activities, including learning about how the Lovell Telescope views the universe and exploring how exactly a black hole works!

"My favourite part of the trip to Jodrell Bank was when we took the tour in the spacedome, because it made us feel like we were actually inside a rocket!" Arthur L

"I found the telescope explanation really interesting – Jordan, who led the talk, was very informative and I learned a lot about the Lovell Telescope!" Zachary J

"The whispering dishes were the best because you could hear what was being said from really far away and it was really cool!" Ellis W



## Nursery aren't scared of Dinosaurs

Nursery have had a lot of fun this Half Term. We have especially enjoyed our Dinosaur Topic. We used stories such as Harry and his bucketful of Dinosaurs to inspire our learning. We began the Topic by going on a hunt which led us to discover Dinosaur eggs that had been frozen in time. We worked together to explore ways to hatch these eggs. We discovered that salt and water was best.

We ended the Topic by taking part in a dinosaur workshop provided to us by The Freshwater Theatre Company. During the session the children embarked on an imaginary journey in which the facilitator led the children around the hall to pick up clues from different locations such as the Forest and a cave. Using songs, rhymes and activities, the children helped to create their own Dinosaur story.

"I liked finding things and putting them in the bag. We found Dinosaurs, Binoculars and a river. Some Dinosaurs are Carnivores, that means they are big and strong." Emilia

"We went on a Dinosaur adventure and we found some Dinosaurs. We said we're not scared." Hazel



## What's a matter Year 4 ?

In Science Year 4 have been exploring the topic States of Matter. We have investigated how to turn a solid into a liquid and then reverse the change using chocolate. Also, we have learnt about the water cycle and how condensation works by using ice cubes.

"I learnt that if you add heat to a solid you can change it's state. The change was reversed by cooling down the chocolate again." Kyden

"The water cycle begins by the rain coming down. The scientific name for rain was precipitation. Next the water evaporates and condenses to form clouds. This is repeated to make a cycle." Emily



### Vehicle Access

Between 8.30am and 4.30pm no vehicle access to the school grounds is available for Parents.

Should you access the car park outside of these hours please be mindful of your speed and the safety of others.

### Nursery Deadline - 31st March 2023

Nursery applications must be completed online using the Stockport Council Website. It is essential that parents apply before the deadline. Please pass this information to friends and family with Nursery age children. We are happy to arrange visits for all potential parents. Please note the dates for offers of places for Nursery and Reception to join us in September 2024 are:

**Reception - 16th April 2024**  
**Nursery - 18th May 2024**

### Outdoor Shoes

We will continue to utilise our outdoor space to its full potential 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.