

Message from Mr.B

Diary Dates

- **Monday 23rd February**
INSET Day
- **Tuesday 24th February**
Return to School
- **Monday 2nd March**
Secondary School Offer Day
- **Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th March**
Parents' Evening 3.35pm - 5.30pm
- **Thursday 5th March**
World Book Day
- **Monday 9th March—All Week**
Year 5 Bikeability
- **Friday 13th March**
Lovely Ladies EYFS & KS1
- **Monday 23rd March**
Enterprise Week
- **Wednesday 25th March**
Year 1 Assembly
- **Thursday 26th March**
Enterprise Fair 3.30pm
- **Friday 27th March**
School Closes
- **Monday 13th April**
Return to school

Year 2 treated us to a fantastic class Assembly this morning to round off a brilliant half term. As you will read, the children have packed lots into a short half term and they have really set us up well for the rest of the year. We have some great news to share—yesterday we were assessed for our Dyslexia Friendly school award and I am pleased to say we passed!! The award is the culmination of 18 months work adapting our teaching and learning environments to meet the needs of neuro diverse children. The team were extremely complimentary about our books, classrooms and incredibly strong parental and pupil voice. I am very proud of our team and their constant commitment to improve our inclusive offer. Our Oracy project has been a focus for school improvement work this half term; the children have responded well to the activities to develop their speaking and active listening opportunities. We will continue to develop this on our INSET day on the 23rd February .

Our building work has been running repairs; the play equipment has been fixed and we have received acceptable quotes for repairing the fascia boards outside Year 3 classroom and we plan to repaint them all when the weather permits. We are also repairing the flashing on the roof to hopefully prevent further leaks. During the holiday all the carpets and floors in school will be deep cleaned and polished.

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints and the needs of her own son, we have to say farewell to Joanna. We will still work with Alex on Tuesday and we are developing a talk and draw therapeutic session to support the children Joanna was working with. Mrs Denton and Mrs Hounslow have received their training and we will begin the support early next term. We also say goodbye and best wishes to Miss Rais; she has worked with Year 2 in her final placement and we are thrilled that she has passed her teaching course and will be applying for jobs soon. Last but not least we say goodbye to Miss Dean; she has worked at Torkington for 20 years and has been an amazing colleague who has worked with every child in school and made a real difference. Miss Dean will take up a position in the Nursery at Stockport Grammar school after the holidays. Best wishes!

PTA Fundraising News

The PTA has had a brilliant start to 2026! A huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes to make our **Rainbow Raffle** such a wonderful success, and of course, to everyone who bought a ticket. We are thrilled to announce that an amazing **£491** was raised! These funds are heading straight into the pot for the next exciting project the PTA is currently working on. The hampers are now with the winners, just in time for the half-term break.

Finally, a massive thank you to our PTA members for their tireless support in raising funds for our school and children

To find out more about our PTA then please visit <https://www.torkington.stockport.sch.uk/parents/pta/>

A Roaring Success: Our Half-Term with Julia Donaldson!

What a spectacular half-term we've had in Reception exploring the wonderful world of Julia Donaldson!

Our adventures began as "mini-detectives" inspired by *What the Ladybird Heard*, where we investigated our own unique fingerprints, before diving into the deep blue sea to discover amazing animals with *Tiddler*.

The excitement reached a "roar-some" peak during our dinosaur topic; the children showed wonderful care for Spike the dinosaur's eggs, spotted prehistoric visitors on our daily CCTV, and even witnessed some "explosive" science as we created erupting volcanoes using Coke and Mentos. Alongside a thrilling Freshwater Theatre workshop and a hands-on fossil session, we also baked delicious dinosaur cookies before finally celebrating kindness with *The Smartest Giant in Town*, where we tried on George's clothes and crafted our own magnificent crowns.



It has been a joy to watch the children's imaginations flourish through these stories!

Florence Nightingale visits Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale in English this half term. They have learnt about her amazing life and the important changes she made to the history of nursing. They have watched videos, read books and even had Florence come in to visit them herself!

They took lessons in painting and dancing with a Governess and went on a journey to Scutari Hospital with Florence. They helped to bandage wounded soldiers and cleaned up the hospital by scrubbing the floors and rolling bandages. They have then presented all they have learnt about Florence Nightingale in their Class Assembly! They have worked so hard to learn their lines and songs, well done Year 2!



Dinosaur Days in Nursery

We have had a very exciting half term in nursery!

The children were thrilled to have eggs in the classroom, which sparked lots of curiosity and excitement. They enjoyed carefully observing the eggs, making predictions, and guessing what might hatch. There were some fantastic ideas shared, and the children showed great thinking skills as they discussed their thoughts with friends and adults.

We also had a wonderful workshop with the Freshwater Theatre Company, who took us on an exciting dinosaur adventure. Through drama, movement, and storytelling, the children helped to create their very own dinosaur story. Everyone joined in enthusiastically, using their imagination, listening skills, and creativity.

It has been lovely to see the children so engaged, confident, and eager to share their ideas. We are very proud of their enthusiasm for learning!



Nut Free School Reminder

Due to children having allergies in school can we politely ask that no nut products are in lunch boxes or brought into the school as treats. Thank-you.

Nursery Deadline - 31st March 2026

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 2026 are:
Reception - 16th April 2026
Nursery - 19th May 2026

Outdoor Shoes

Please ensure that children have appropriate footwear in school to change into - wellies or old trainers, so they can continue to use the outside spaces of school to their full potential.

Attendance from September

- Reception 95.1%
- Year 1 95.9%
- Year 2 95.5%
- Year 3 97.2%
- Year 4 97.1%
- Year 5 96.2%
- Year 6 95.5%
- **Overall 96.1%**

Well done to **Y3** for achieving the highest % attendance!

School Target : 98%

Parents' Evening Appointments Monday 3rd - Wednesday 5th March

Parents' Evening will be held between 3:35 pm & 5.30pm for all classes.

Appointments can be booked via the on-line Portal from **6.00pm on Monday 23rd February**.

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

There will be no Teacher-Led clubs on Tuesday 3rd March.

A Journey through history for Year 6

Our Year 6's swapped the classroom for the striking architecture of the Imperial War Museum North in Salford Quays. This trip provided a poignant and immersive opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of our current history topic, exploring the impact of conflict on people and society.

From the moment we arrived at the "shattered globe" building, they were captivated. The unique design of the museum itself—meant to represent a world broken by war—set the tone for a day of discovery and reflection, Stepping Into the Past. During the visit, the pupils explored the Main Exhibition Space, which houses an incredible array of artefacts, from a Harrier Jump Jet suspended from the ceiling to a field gun from the First World War.

One of the highlights was the Big Picture Show, a 360-degree audio-visual experience. They sat in silence as moving images and surround sound brought personal stories of war to life, helping them to empathise with those who lived through such challenging times.

'We learnt so much at the IWM and I especially like learning how animals, such as elephants and pigeons, were amazing and helped save the lives of so many soldiers.' Zach



Year 5 Artists

This half term, we had the pleasure of entering Stockport Grammar School's Art Competition, and wow—the Year 5 children certainly didn't disappoint!

The challenge was all about the self-portrait, and walking through the gallery, it was incredible to see how much personality was packed into every piece. From bold brushstrokes to clever 3D textures, the children managed to capture their likenesses in such imaginative and unique ways. It wasn't just about getting the faces right; you could really see their individual characters shining through the art.

It was such a fun, chatty atmosphere, and the talent of the children was genuinely inspiring. A huge well done to Year 5 for all that hard work—we left feeling very creative ourselves!



Torkington Road Use

We have received further complaints regarding the parking around Torkington Primary School. Please ensure that you park legally, reduce your speed and are considerate to other road users and homeowners for both your safety and theirs.

World Book Day 2026 - Thursday 5th March

To celebrate we are asking the children to come in fancy dress as their favourite book character and they can bring in their favourite books. If you wish to donate any books to our school library we would be very grateful.

Vehicle Access

No vehicle access to the school grounds is permitted for Parents/carers at anytime of the day before 4.45pm.

Should you access the car park after this time please be mindful of your speed and the safety of others.

Years 3's Journey to Ancient Greece!

Our budding historians spent a thrilling day stepping back in time to explore the fierce rivalry between Athens and Sparta. The classroom was transformed into a bustling *agora*, filled with the sounds of intense debate and military drills!

The morning kicked off with high-stakes drama, as students took on roles as Athenian philosophers debating democracy and Spartan warriors practicing disciplined formations. Our young explorers then turned into "History Detectives," handling a variety of artefacts—from heavy hoplite helmets to delicate pottery—to uncover secrets of daily life.

To wrap up the festivities, the children combined their artistic skills with historical knowledge to craft their very own clay coins. Whether they chose the Athenian Owl of wisdom or a Spartan shield, these "Drachmas" represent the incredible legacy of the Hellenic world.



Bee-Bots and Wacky Windmills! In Year 1!

What an electric half-term Year 1 has had! The classroom has been buzzing with excitement—quite literally—as we dove into our Computing modules. Using our friendly Bee-Bots, the children have transformed into marvellous mini-programmers. They have loved exploring directional language and sequencing, learning how to tap in precise algorithms to navigate their robots through tricky challenges.

The creativity continued to flow in Design and Technology with our 'Wacky Windmills' project. The children did a fantastic job designing their own structures, learning exactly how axles and turbines work to capture the wind. It was a joy to watch them build, test, and finally see their colourful creations spin! We are incredibly proud of the problem-solving and engineering skills your children have shown these past few weeks.



Year 4's Midsummer Night's Dream

This week, Year 4 traded their desks for the stage during an immersive workshop centred on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As a brilliant enrichment to our English curriculum, the children explored the play's tangled emotions by sculpting one another into "human statues" and creating vivid freeze-frames of the most iconic scenes.

The session was a masterclass in collaboration, with our young actors showing incredible focus as they brought the magic of the Athenian woods to life.

"I loved being a human statue! It helped me understand how frustrated Hermia felt when everyone was arguing." — Sophia

"Making the freeze-frames was the best part. We had to work as a team to show the magic of the forest without using any words at all." — Louis



ECO COUNCIL NEWS

Eco Council have a lot coming up, with preparations for the Stockport Climate Action Assembly under way. The children have submitted ideas for the debate and will be meeting to consider the 5 actions that were selected, preparing arguments for our Year 6 Eco Councillors to take to the Town Hall for the debates in March.



Water Saving Tip: "Only run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads."