



TORKINGTON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Torkington News



nurturing potential,  
inspiring excellence

## Spring 2nd Half Term 2023/2024

### Diary Dates

- **Monday 15th April**  
Return to school.
- **Tuesday 23rd April**  
Year 3 Swimming Lessons  
Start
- **Monday 29th April**  
Year 3 Visit to Hindu Temple
- **Thursday 2nd May**  
INSET DAY—School closed  
(Local Elections)
- **Monday 6th May**  
May Day Bank Holiday—  
School Closed
- **Wednesday 8th May**  
Reception Sing around trip  
AM.  
School Nurse parent drop-in  
sessions AM
- **Friday 10th May**  
Reception Class Assembly AM
- **Monday 13th May**  
Year 6 SATSs start (All week)
- **Monday 20th May**  
World Bee Day  
Start of Walk to School Week
- **Tuesday 21st May**  
Reception Height & Weight  
Screening AM
- **Wednesday 22nd May**  
Class Photos
- **Thursday 23rd May**  
Reception Class Trip
- **Friday 24th May**  
School Closes
- **Monday 10th June**  
Return to School

### Message from Mr.B

The children have some fantastic experiences to share with you this half term and they have been really busy. Our school improvement work has been focussed on assessment in the foundation subjects and working with our partner from the local authority we have standardised the approach across those subjects apart from Maths and English. We will continue this work into the summer term and work with our Governors to monitor and evaluate our improvements. Our performance was recognised by the department for Education and we were all incredibly proud to receive our letter from the minister for Education, Damian Hinds, informing us we were in the top 1% of schools Nationally for attainment for our Key Stage 2 children. As important as these results are, we are also keen to ensure our children have access to a rich and balanced curriculum. The Enterprise week to end this term has been a great success and it has been fantastic to see the children working together and applying their creative skills to design, make and sell their products at the trade fair today. Our Y1,2,3 & 4 children have all been out of school singing with One Education at the Gallery Space, Manchester Recording Studios and the remaining classes will all perform next term in Manchester.

Our buildings work is on hold for the Easter break and our caretaking and cleaning staff will be taking a well earned holiday. The lighting installation is complete and all the classes and shared areas are now fitted with new LED lights and it makes a huge difference! The corridors and entrance areas have all been painted and they look fresh and welcoming. This redecoration programme will continue next term with KS1, EYF and the bay areas all being redecorated. Similarly we will be painting the outside of the school when the weather improves. We are also at the initial stages of planning a new Astro turf project at the bottom of the school field. The developers are currently producing plans which we can then submit to the council to hopefully get planning permission. Mr Allen, one of our parents has kindly volunteered to support school as he has extensive experience in project managing and we welcome his support. I will know more next term.

We have managed to appoint a new teacher for our Year 1 class to cover Mrs Guggiar's maternity leave; Mrs Calandra will work alongside our Y1 team for the last 2 weeks of next half term ready to take up post on our return after the Whit holiday.

Finally, I would like to thank our Office team; we recently undertook an extensive internal audit with the local authority. It was a huge amount of work and they assessed every aspect of the school's administration and financial systems. The auditors were incredibly impressed and very complimentary about what we were doing. Well done Mrs Thompson and Mrs Perkins. Have a great Easter!!



### Easter Raffle

Thank You to everyone that purchased raffle tickets to enter into our Easter Raffle. The winners have been drawn and they all are over the moon with their prizes. We raised an amazing £300, which is in the School PTA fund ready for school improvements.

After the Easter break all plans will start being put into place for the Summer Fair, which is taking place after school on Friday 5th July. Any support with these kind of events is always welcome. If you are interested in having a stall at the event or you would like to donate a raffle prize then please pop in or contact the school office.

Thank You

## Springing into Space with Reception



Receptions learning has been 'out of this world' as they have travelled through space. Their learning has focused on astronauts, rockets, aliens, planets and stars. Reception enjoyed an extra 'Muddy Faces' session, beginning with a game of VANISH, then they made aliens out of natural materials and finally they turned our parachute into Torki planet. The children loved celebrating World Book Day and inviting their lovely ladies into school for the morning. They became super investigators on science day, exploring jiggling jellies and making marvellous moths that had to adapt and camouflage to their surroundings. Finally, Reception have learnt about different religions and their celebrations, starting with Ramadan, then the Iranian and Persian New Year called Nowruz and Easter. The children have discussed the importance of this learning and how we need to be respectful and kind to everyone, because its exciting that we are all unique. To finish off another busy half term, Reception made Easter cards and had fun on their Easter egg hunt.

## WOW! What a Fantastic Half Term for Year 1

Year 1 began their half term discovering amazing facts all about 'The Great Fire of London' through looking at newspaper articles and Samuel Pepys' diary. We then shared our knowledge with the rest of the school and our families in our class assembly. We had so much fun singing all the songs and showcasing our fire dance. For World Book Day Year 1 dressed up as their favourite book characters. It was lovely to begin our day of celebrations with our reading buddy partners. The children also enjoyed Lovely Ladies day and sharing their morning with you in school!



We also attended the Singaround event this half term enjoying a morning of music, dance and song. They represented Torkington exceptionally well, we were very proud of their super behaviour and how they joined in with such enthusiasm. Then it was onto Enterprise Week, where the children learnt about raising money for charity. We planned, baked, and decorated biscuits and had so much fun in the process! To celebrate such a FABULOUS half term Year 1 finished off with a super fun Easter egg hunt as the children's class treat and enjoyed eating the treasure they discovered at the end. Time for a rest ready for fun next term super stars!

## Nursery 'Blown Out of this World'



This half term the Nursery children have enjoyed learning about the world around us. I think it's safe to say that it has been their favourite Topic so far! We looked at space, learning about the planets and how the environment in space is different to that on Earth. We took on the role of an Astronaut in the Role Play area and discussed what we would pack for a mission into Space. We also conducted Science experiments which included creating fuel for a Rocket using Coke and Mento's. We even got to create and watch our very own Rocket launch.

"We made fuel by putting mints in the Coke and it went fast out of the bottle." Owen

"Mrs Herbert put some tissue in the bottle and it flew to the moon, it went really high." Rosie

"It blew out in the sky and then it landed on the floor." Alessio



### Teacher-Led Clubs

Teacher-led clubs will begin on Tuesday 23rd April and will continue until Tuesday 9th July. Letters will be emailed home during the first week back with details of the clubs available. Clubs will then go live on ParentPay at 7pm on Thursday 18th April.

### New Menu after Easter

A new menu is starting after Easter. A copy has been emailed to all parents/carers. It is also available to view on our Website or copies are available from the school office. The cost of school meals for junior children is **£2.40 per day**. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments at least one week in advance.

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.**

### After School Football Club

After School Football clubs will start during the first week back after Easter (week commencing 15th April) – Information has been posted onto each relevant year groups DOJO page.



## Attendance from September

- Reception 93.2%
- Year 1 94.6%
- Year 2 94.5%
- Year 3 95.9%
- Year 4 96.5%
- Year 5 93.9%
- Year 6 97.1%
- **Overall 95.1%**

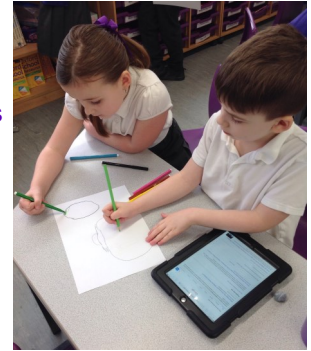
Well done to **Y6** for achieving the highest % attendance

**School Target : 98%**

Attendance has been impacted by chicken pox and vomiting bugs this half term. Hopefully, after the Easter break illness won't be so prevalent and we'll get closer to our target.

## Year 2 Scientists

Year 2 celebrated Science Day by moving around different classrooms across the school participating in different scientific experiments and explorations. In Year 2, they focused on researching the extinction of dinosaurs which was a creative and engaging way for the children to explore scientific inquiry and history. By exploring this topic, they learnt about the theories behind the disappearance of these ancient creatures and developed critical thinking skills through research and discussion. The Science Day events sparked curiosity and excitement about the natural world and inspired a love for science in the young minds participating.



## Year 4 Musical Madness

This half term in Year 4 we have been using our scientific skills to investigate sound. Next, we put our skills to the test by creating a musical instrument out of recyclable materials. Finally, we evaluated our designs against our design brief and ensured our new products had a suitable digital logo. The products that were made were marvellous!



## World Book Day 2024



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March it was World Book Day. It was great to see so many creative costumes within school and share a love of different authors and books. As a school we went into the book café for a biscuit and to find different genres to fit our sampling menu. In class we looked at different poems and poets. We used the examples to write our own! Each class was so creative and produced something different.



## Year 3 & Year 4 Singaround

This half term, Years 3 and 4 had a wonderful time singing at the Singarounds in The Gallery, Manchester Recording Studios. The Singarounds have been taking place (with exception of 2020 and 2021) for over 15 years, and they provide an opportunity for children from different schools to come together and sing songs in a city centre venue. This year the children performed in a new location to us, hopefully one we will return to! The children were able to perform songs they had learnt in school and perform these with other children from lots of different schools. They all had a wonderful time and displayed great manners throughout the trip.

"I loved singing the songs we had been learning with other schools, it was so much fun!" – Sophia

"I didn't expect for there to be musical instruments, we got to listen to a man play the piano and the violin!" - Austyn



### Local Elections

This year the local elections are being held on Thursday 2nd May. For the first time in many years, our school hall is being used as a polling station and so we must remind you that school will be CLOSED that day.

We will reopen on Friday 3rd May as normal.

### Reception & Nursery Offers

Please note the offer dates for Nursery and Reception places for September 2024 start are:  
**Reception - 16th April 2024**  
**Nursery - 18th May 2024**

You will find lots of useful information about our Nursery and Reception classes on our Website

Transition visits for new children and information meetings for parents will take place during the last half term. We will contact new parents with these arrangements and all relevant information once they have been confirmed.

## Stockport Hydro Awards

Our school was invited to receive a £300 donation by Stockport hydro community. Every winner was given the opportunity to explain what the money would be used for in our school. There were many schools also claiming their cheque for all their amazing economic achievements. Our school will put our money towards the 4<sup>th</sup> meadow. It is a privilege to be able to build these meadows with the money we have been given by Stockport Hydro Community and it will expand our school's eco-system even more. We will also be helping our bees by expanding their environment with flowers. It was very interesting to go and see the Hydro Plant and to understand how the river can produce green electricity for our community. It was really exciting to go and represent our school in such an important community event. Jessica & Jack (Year 6)



## Eco Council Trip to the Town Hall



Our Year 6 Eco Councillors attended the Climate Action Summit Debates at Stockport Town Hall this half term! They were able to express their thoughts and ideas on the various climate action ideas with confidence and maturity. They represented the school so well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They were able to vote on the action idea they felt was most important, seeing democracy in action.

'The Town Hall was quite good fun to go in and the discussions were very interesting to listen to. I made my own point on vegetarian food but I only got 4 votes. There were many schools there and I had a fun time' Gethin (Year 6)



## EYFS & KS1 Lovely Ladies

Early Years and KS1 hosted their annual 'Lovely Ladies' event. The children invited the special ladies in their lives into school to celebrate how wonderful they are and to show them how much they are appreciated. The ladies were treated to song performances, tasty treats, a variety of crafts, planting sunflowers and even some massage in Reception class. The children, staff and ladies thoroughly enjoyed the event, it was brilliant to have the ladies in school to spend time with the children in our learning environment.



## Year 5 & 6 Mindfulness Session

This half term Year 5 and 6 took part in a mindfulness workshop by Turn the Page Counselling, both classes were split into groups and looked at different techniques to use when dealing with feelings.

We had a spiritual and relaxing time through the whole session. We tensed our muscles and then let go and did lots of different methods including the warm hug and the box method.

"We loved the session and would highly recommend the techniques to anyone!" Isabel and Ali (Year 6)

"I enjoyed how calming and relaxing I felt at the end of the session" Dayana (Year 5)

"I had never done a personal check in before, but using the grounding method will definitely help to calm me down in future!" Caysey (Year 5)



### School walkways

For the health & safety of everyone, Please ensure that you are keeping to the school walkways when coming into school and refrain from walking across the carpark grounds.

Bikes & Scooters should also not be ridden within the school grounds

### Living Streets Walk to School Week 20 - 24th May

As part of our continued drive to become a more Eco Friendly school, we will be participating in Walk to School Week from 20th to 24th May. Lots of interesting information can be found on their website: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school>.

Their aims are to promote healthier children, reduce congestion around schools and improve air quality.

### Water Bottles

Please ensure all children bring a named water bottle every day. It is important for children to drink adequate fluids particularly when the weather improves.

### Mobile Phones

Please remind children that mobile phones are not allowed in school under any circumstances.

### Dates for your Diaries

#### **Doughnuts for Dad's**

Friday 14th June @ 9.00am

#### **Sports Day**

This year's Sports Day will be held on the morning of Wednesday 19th June.

(subject to weather conditions)