



TORKINGTON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Torkington News



nurturing potential,  
inspiring excellence

## Summer 1st Half Term 2022/2023

### Diary Dates

- **Monday 12th June**  
Return to school
- **Tuesday 13th June**  
Year 3 start swimming
- **Friday 16th June**  
'Doughnuts with Dads' 9:00am - 9:45am
- **Wednesday 21st June**  
Sports Day AM 9.30 - 11.30 (N to Y6)
- **Monday 26th June**  
New Reception Parents' Info Meeting 9am & 3.00
- **Thursday 29th June**  
Torkington Careers Fair  
Y1 Trip to Gruff Learning
- **Friday 30th June**  
Y2 Trip to Gruff Learning  
Choir to visit Fernlea Nursing Home
- **Monday 3rd July**  
Yr6 Crime Prevention Day
- **Wednesday 5th July**  
New Reception class first visit 1.30pm-2.30pm
- **Thursday 6th July**  
Nursery Pirate Workshop
- **Friday 7th July**  
PTA Summer Fair
- **Wednesday 12th July**  
New Reception class second visit 1.30pm-2.30pm
- **Friday 14th July**  
Music & Art Showcase 2.30pm
- **Tuesday 18th July**  
Class swap day (Including new reception children)
- **Thursday 20th July**  
Y6 Leavers' Disco
- **Wednesday 26th July**  
Yr6 Leavers Performance & Garden Party School closes for Summer
- **Thursday 27th July**  
Inset Day.
- **Monday 4th September**  
Inset Day
- **Tuesday 5th September**  
Return to school - Y1 to Y6.  
Nursery children have individual start dates.
- **Wednesday 6th September**  
Reception children start school.

### Message from Mr.B

This half term has been all about assessment and the children have been amazing in approaching their end of year tests. Our Year 6 children worked incredibly hard and showed such maturity and resilience in the face of some of the most challenging tests ever. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to celebrating their achievement in early July. Our year 2 children can be very proud of themselves as they too took their SATs and they coped remarkably well in their first formal test conditions. The assessments all the children will form the basis of next terms work; we will consolidate and support the areas they need to work on and extend those they are confident with. This will help them to really push on in September. The work we did in science was celebrated with our science week and the children really enjoyed moving round the school engaging in a wide range of scientific experiences.

Next half term our school improvement work will concentrate on history and geography; Mr Waugh will lead on this and we are very excited to improve the depth of the childrens' understanding in these areas. Our learning councils have been hard at work this half term; they have been preparing for the 2 assessments next term. One is to renew our accreditation for the Rainbow flag award and the other is to re assess for our Eco Green Flag award. Mrs Bennet is very confident that we will pass each award as the children have worked so hard.

Our building work will continue to focus on decoration and our caretaker Mr Borges will be decorating the year 5 classroom and the school hall. Mr Marshall, our groundman will be building a fence around the annex in preparation for the new wrap round school care starting in September. The annex will continue to be used as the before and after school club but will be used as a day care facility during the day, generating much needed revenue for then school.

As you may be aware the current provider for pre/post childcare has let us down and ceased trading today. This put us in a very difficult position as parents need this facility and some had paid in advance. I would like to express my thanks and immense gratitude to my colleagues and Hayley (the current manager) for stepping up and covering the club until September. I also appreciate the additional work Mrs Thompson and Mrs Perkins, our office team have undertaken to ensure we can run the club.

As you can see from the dates, we have a lot going on so please mark your diaries so we can celebrate these events with the children.

Finally, could I please remind you that mobile phones and smart watches that take pictures and videos are not allowed in school. We have had incidents where they have been used to take pictures and videos of children and staff. This contravenes safeguarding, privacy and acceptable user policies. As promised, we will discuss mobile phones at Full Governing body meeting in July; I will inform you of the outcome. Have a wonderful holiday!



### A Warm Welcome to all our new Torkington Children and Families

We have emailed information this week about our information meetings for parents and transition arrangements for new Nursery and Reception children. The dates are all included in our 'Diary Dates' above and we are all looking forward to meeting you.

## Reception get Musical Pirate style

Reception attended the EYFS Musical Celebration this half term, where they had a fantastic morning of singing, playing and performing at Stoller Hall.

This music celebration was pirate themed and the children made fantastic pirate hats to wear for this occasion! Reception behaved exceptionally well and were a credit to the school. They went on a super pirate adventure and got to sing some of their favourite songs from their music lessons, including 'Hey Mr Pirate'.



## Year 5 Beekeepers

This half term, we're excited to share that we've been taking care of two full hives of bees, and they're thriving!



"Every week, we get to inspect the hives, which is a unique and special experience," said Elias.

"They are very cute and hardworking," added Ella.

"In the yellow hive, they are making lots of honey, and in the white hive, there's even more because it's their second year of being in there," explained Jack.

Lily B chimed in, saying, "I really enjoy beekeeping and have been surprised to learn that there are about 100,000 bees."



## EYFS Learn All About Insects and Animal Life Cycles

This half term the Nursery children have been learning about Animals and their lifecycles. We discussed pets, farm Animals and then finally Jungle Animals. We learnt about mothers and their young and explored the different habitats that animals live in in order to survive.

Our favourite part of this topic was having the opportunity to experience first-hand the transformation of a Caterpillar into the beautiful painted lady Butterflies.

"First the Caterpillars went in their jar and eat up all the food. Then they went in their cocoon for two weeks and became a Butterfly and then they fly away."  
- Amy



## The Kings Coronation Celebrations

The coronation of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as king and queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, took place on 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. To celebrate this special occasion we did a variety of activities, creating a time capsule to bury in our grounds, Royal and British themed art projects and even 'Royal' maths!

We enjoyed a Coronation themed tea-party lunch and thank Mrs Millington and the lunch time team for the wonderfully decorated hall. Everyone had a 'Right Royal Knees Up!'



### Supervision of Children at the start and end of the school day

We remind everyone that appropriate supervision of the children is required whilst waiting in the playground at the start and end of the school day.

For the safety of everyone, children should not use the play equipment or ride bikes and scooters on school grounds.

During school hours, parents are not permitted to park within school without prior agreement due to exceptional circumstances.

### Stockport County Football Clubs

SCFC clubs will start during the first week back after Half Term (week commencing 12th June) – Please follow the links on Dojo to complete the application form and send payments to the school office on the first week back to school.

### Message from the PTA

Thank You to everyone that came along to the School Disco. We made a amazing £532.66!!!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21st June at 7.30pm in The Bulls Head where we will be organising the Summer Fair. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see some new faces

We are in need of raffle prizes & vouchers for the Summer Fair which will be on Friday 7th July. Please drop any kind donations into the school office. Thank You.

## Attendance for Year to Date

- Reception 95.2%
- Year 1 95.5%
- Year 2 96.1%
- Year 3 96.9%
- Year 4 96.6%
- Year 5 96.0%
- Year 6 95.8%
- **Overall 96 %**

### **Congratulations to Y3**

for achieving the highest % attendance.

**School Target :  
98%**

We are proud of our attendance record at Torkington but it has dropped over recent years due to Covid and other illnesses. It is also lower due to the increased number of unauthorised holidays that some families continue to take.

**Let's try our best next half term and see if we can bring it closer to our target for the whole academic year.**

## **NSPCC Workshops**



Year 5 and 6 took part in the NSPCC's Speak out, Stay safe, programme. The Speak out, Stay safe session helped us understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. We were taught to speak out if we are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

We had great fun and learnt a lot doing this in group discussions and sharing our ideas.- Jacob and Seth



## **Year Three Temple Time**

Year 3 went to visit a Hindu Mandir and learnt about the common beliefs and practices in the faith. We took a tour around the Temple and were encouraged to ask questions as we looked around. The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha we visited aim to preserve Indian culture and the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service in diverse communities around the world. The vast building captivated Year 3 from the moment the bus pulled into the car park.

Year 3 were fascinated when they stepped inside the prayer area of the Temple and even more so after listening to the stories our host told, particularly about Lord Swaminarayan. The children have been learning about different religious places in our RE lessons and thoroughly enjoyed this experience!

"I really enjoyed how peaceful it was in the temple. It was amazing that it was open all the time for anyone that wanted to pray." – Holly

"The designs on the pillars outside the building were incredible!" – Lizzie

"I loved that the community look after each other, there were food and clothes free for anyone that needed them." - Alexis



## **Virtual Author Visits Year 2**

This half term year 2 children had a virtual author visit from Stockport Book Award nominee Kate Read. She shared her fabulous book 'Boo' with the class and along with other schools we got to ask her lots of questions.

"I asked her if she was good at drawing and writing when she was at school. She told us she loved drawing more than writing and that's why she illustrates her own stories." Keira A

"I was interested to know if she wrote and illustrated her books at home or had an office. She told us that she has a little room at home where she hides away when she is making her stories." Jacob



### **Before & After School Club**

Following the news that KidsChildcare will cease trading from Friday 25th May, Hayley has agreed to continue to provide this service, supported by school staff.

**Costs: Before School £6.50  
After School £11.50**

Booking forms are available from the club. We have set up payment items on Parentpay for these.

If you normally pay by childcare voucher these can still be accepted too.

### **School Meals**

The cost for school meals for junior children is increasing to £2.40 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments at least one week in advance.

We require a week's notice to change lunch arrangements.

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

### **Pupil Premium Funding (including Early Years Funding)**

If you are in receipt of benefits, please apply on-line via SMBC's website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

School will then receive additional funding to help your child/children. Additional funding of £300 is also available for 3 and 4 year olds which can help your child if you are receiving benefits. Please let us know at the school office if you are a nursery parent in receipt of benefits so that we can apply for this funding for your child.

## Year 4 Museum of Science & Industry Trip

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the Museum of Science and Industry. We had to test our senses and flex our superpowers in the experiment gallery. We had lots of fun building sturdy bridges and tall towers, making music with our bodies, and getting creative with glow-in-the-dark art. After lunch we had great fun in the multi sensory musical playground. We discovered how music can trigger emotions and memories, whether it can affect what you buy, and even what certain songs taste like.

'My favourite part was listening to the music in the car and finding out robots can make music' Ellis Worsley

'I really enjoyed seeing the loom in action and how cotton was made. I was shocked to discover that children as young as five had to work in a mill.' Zachary Joslin.



## Year 1 had a 'bee'rilliant day celebrating our bees!

Year 1 celebrated national bee day by dressing in yellow and black clothes, they looked great! They started their celebrations by sharing the knowledge they already knew about bees and then posed super questions to research so they could find out even more! The children were able to answer questions such as 'Why do bees make honey?' (Alba) and 'How do bees drink the nectar?' (Rosie) The children produced fantastic bee factfiles sharing their findings with others. Then the children had to decorate a piece of our year 1 honeycomb and then create a bee using yellow and black card. This will form a whole class art piece. Finally, they applied their cooking skills that they have been exploring this half term in design and technology to create 'Honey Joy' crispy cakes. The children measured, stirred and taste tested some of the delicious runny honey.



## A Busy Time in Year 2

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this half term! They have enjoyed exploring micro-habitats outside for Science, as well as designing and making their own Hand Puppets in D&T. They have also enjoyed their Gymnastic lessons each week, which we will continue next half term. The children worked together to write some new lyrics to a song in our Music lessons, and took on different roles to perform the song using instruments and their lovely singing voices!

We are so incredibly proud of their resilience as they have taken part in the KS1 SATS this past week, and they enjoyed having some extra play time on the equipment on Friday as a reward for all their hard work!



## Year 6 SATS

This term Year 6, along with the rest of the country, took part in the SATs. We had prepared really well and were fully up to the challenge. Over the week we completed papers on SPAG, Reading and 3 Maths papers!! On Friday after we had finished the final Reasoning Maths paper we partied! And after school we had the school disco. What a week it was!

We are all very proud of ourselves for the hard work and perseverance we showed!



### Walk to School Week

We hope everyone enjoyed participating in our Walk to School week (15th - 19th May). Children learnt about the benefits of sustainable travel to school - walking, scooting, cycling or Park and Striding.

The benefits to our local environment are clear, as are the improvements to traffic congestion outside school. Please continue to support this initiative.

### Class Photos

Proofs have been sent home this week. All ordering is online where the photos can also be viewed.  
[www.johnhuntphotography.com](http://www.johnhuntphotography.com)

Please note the order deadline of 5th June to receive free delivery to school.

### Outdoor Shoes

We are extremely lucky to have such beautiful grounds and will continue to utilise our outdoor space to its full potential for physical education, playtimes and other learning activities.

Please ensure that children have appropriate footwear in school to change into - wellies or old trainers.

### 2023 - 2024 Holidays

Inset days for next year have been agreed:

**Monday 4th September 2023**  
**Friday 22nd December 2023**  
**Thursday 2nd May 2024**  
**Monday 29th July 2024**  
**Tuesday 30th July 2024**

Please refer to term dates on our Website before booking holidays. Absence in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absence may result in fines from the local authority.