

Diary Dates

- **Monday 10th June**
Return to school
- **Tuesday 11th June**
Year 3 start swimming
- **Friday 14th June**
Doughnuts 4 Dads 9.00-9.45
- **Wednesday 19th June**
Sports Day AM 9.30 - 11.30
- **Friday 21st June**
Non-Uniform Day (children's tombola)
- **Tuesday 25th June**
Y3 & Y4 Trip to Martin Mere
- **Thursday 27th June**
Y1 & Y2 Trip to Cockfields Farm
- **Friday 28th June**
Y5 & Y6 to Big Sing.AM
- **Thursday 4th July**
Y6 Common Induction Day at High School
- **Friday 5th July**
Non-Uniform Day (adult tombola)
Summer Fair 3.30-5.30
- **Tuesday 9th July**
Last After School Teacher-led club
- **Friday 12th July**
Y3,4 and 5 Music & Art Showcase 2.45pm
- **Tuesday 16th July**
Y3 Last Swimming
Class Swap Day.
- **Wednesday 17th July**
PSHE Workshop 3.15 - 4.15 - All parents welcome
- **Thursday 18th July**
Y6 Leavers' Disco
- **Friday 26th July**
Y6 Leavers' Assembly & Garden Party 9am
School Closes for summer
- **Monday 29th & Tues 30th July**
Inset Days.
- **Monday 2nd September**
Inset Day
- **Tuesday 3rd September**
Return to school - Y1 to Y6.
- **Wednesday 4th September**
Reception children start school.
Nursery children have individual start dates.

Details of trips will be sent home after half term

Message from Mr.B

A special mention to our Year 6 children for the fantastic way they approached their SATs exams; I was so proud of their positive attitude and resilience during a very challenging week. They have worked incredibly hard and were supported by a fantastic team. Well done! Next half term it will be the turn of our Year1 children to take their phonics screening test and Year 4 to take their multiplication tests.

Our school improvement work has centred around assessments in the Foundation subjects and we have used a support tool created by Alex Bedford to categorise and grade each subject; doing this has enabled us to identify the areas we need to improve to enhance the learning for our children. The progress we have made in history and Geography will be assessed by our school improvement partner next half term. We have been selected for Y6 writing moderation by the local authority and Miss Astall will be presenting our childrens' graded work to the moderators at the end of June. Next half term we will be trailing the new phonics scheme (Super Sonic Phonics) in Early Years and KS1; colleagues will work with some children to test the materials and gain confidence in the new scheme and planning. Throughout next half term our Teaching Assistants will be trained and we will be ready to start the whole school approach in September. We will be holding parental workshops next year so you will become aware of the new techniques. We are in the process of purchasing new books to support our existing book binding and this will further stimulate the love of reading so many of our children have. To support our online safety work we will be hosting a session led by Tanya Cross to support with helping your child access the internet, games and Whatsapp safely.

Our building work over the holiday and into next half term will continue to focus on redecoration of school. We are planning to have the staff room and Rainbow room painted and if the weather permits the outside sills all round school. During the term we will hopefully get all the bays painted and by next September we will have completed the whole school. Our office team have worked incredibly hard and we passed our annual Health and Safety Audit with flying colours with only minor recommendations. A fantastic effort by Mrs Perkins and Mrs Thompson. In addition to this they again successfully completed the financial value standard and submitted it to the local authority.

As you will read, the children have lots of opportunities to do some fantastic activities and they are currently preparing for the topics they will cover next half term. Unfortunately a significant number of our children are being disadvantaged due to unauthorised term time holidays. This is a growing concern, especially in Early Years and KS1. There is significant research which clearly states how detrimental this is to children and more alarming is that these holidays are now taken near half term breaks. To date we have lost 237 days to unauthorised holidays-significantly higher than last year. Please support our children by not taking them on term time holidays.

A Warm Welcome to all our new Torkington Children and Families

We have emailed details this week about our information meetings for parents and transition arrangements for new Nursery and Reception children. Please contact the school office if you require any further details.
We look forward to meeting you.

Reception News

Reception have had a great half term, learning all about plants and animals. They enjoyed taking part in a minibeast hunt, experimenting with plants to discover if they would still grow if they removed certain conditions. They planted fruit and vegetables in their very own green house and we are hopeful for a yummy harvest in summer 2. Reception have taken great care of their minibeast visitors such as snails, caterpillars and even a cheeky frog!

We were so proud of their performance in their first-class assembly, they performed with confidence and joy. They represented Torkington at the One Education music event, where they demonstrated wonderful behaviours and really enjoyed singing and playing along to the professional musicians.

Finally, we ended our half term with a trip to Gruff Outdoor Learning Centre. They had great fun sampling their homemade apple juice, meeting the goats and chickens and exploring the fantastic outdoor provisions on offer.



Wow! What a fantastic half term in Year 1

This half term's learning has focused on stories from other cultures, we have enjoyed looking at 'We All Went On Safari' and 'Handa's Surprise' especially. We created story maps and used masks to act them out before researching other African animals using the iPad and reinventing the story to write our own. 'Our teachers were amazed by our work'

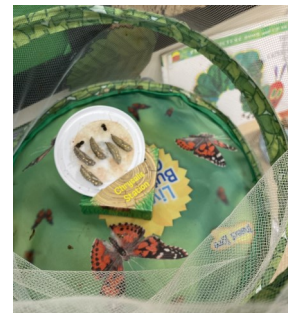
We have looked at plants in Science and have been out exploring our lovely school grounds to see what we could find. We visited the bee's and learnt all about them to create fact files. We also enjoyed investigating where our food comes from in Geography looking at the production of foods such as bananas, potatoes and sugar as well as tasting all the foods from Handa's surprise and having a Teddy bears picnic!



Wild Animals in Nursery



This half term the Nursery children have been learning about Animals and their lifecycles. We started the topic looking at Minibeasts and the lifecycle of a caterpillar. We were excited to have the opportunity to experience first-hand the transformation of a Caterpillar into a beautiful painted lady Butterfly. Our caterpillars are currently in their chrysalis and we hope to see the transformation before we break for the holidays.



We then discussed farm and jungle Animals. We learnt about mothers and their young and explored the different habitats that animals live in, exploring how they survive the wild. We enjoyed creating jungle print art and discussed the different patterns we could see.

Year 2 Superstars!

Year 2 have worked so hard this half term preparing for their SATS Tests! They have shown great resilience and determination to succeed throughout the whole school year, and this has shown as they have applied their learning to the quizzes. Their positivity and enthusiasm has shone through as they have encountered new topics and challenges. We've also done lots of fun things this half term, including collecting sticks from the woods and turning them into stick people, going on a Bog Baby Hunt and creating Save the Bee Posters for World Bee Day. Well Done Year 2!



SUMMER FAIR

Don't forget that our Summer Fair is taking place on Friday 5th July 3.30-5.30pm. We have got some exciting stalls and activities lined up. More details will follow after the half term break

We are still on the look out for volunteers on the day and raffle prizes. If you can help in any way then please get in touch with the school office. Thank You

Attendance for Year to Date

- Reception 93.8%
- Year 1 95.1%
- Year 2 94.9%
- Year 3 95.8%
- Year 4 96.8%
- Year 5 93.7%
- Year 6 97.2%
- **Overall 95.3 %**

**Congratulations to
Y6**
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 the
increased number of
unauthorised holidays
that some families
continue to take.**

**Days lost to
unauthorised holidays so
far this year:**

- **Reception 67**
- **Year 1 37**
- **Year 2 26**
- **Year 3 53**
- **Year 4 8**
- **Year 5 26**
- **Year 6 20**
- **Total 237 days**

Absences from school

We ask parents to try to avoid appointments during school hours, but, if your child does need to attend an appointment, please inform us in advance. Proof of appointment will be required. **For all other absences, an Absence Request Form must be completed** which can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our Website.

Year 3 Hindu Mandir Visit

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 Shri Swaminarayan 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 enjoyed taking part in the Hindu worship while we were at the Mandir. We clapped along to a song while the Priest thanked the Gods by waving a candle near them' Poppy

'We went into the classroom area after visiting the Shrine and asked lots of questions to the teacher there. He told us lots about the Mandir and showed us videos of other Mandirs around the world.' Keira A

'Looking at the Shrine of the Gods was magnificent! I loved spotting the Gods we have learnt about in RE, like Hanuman and Ganesh.' Austyn

Electrical Fun in Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about circuits and conductors. We investigated what is a conductor and an insulator. We found out that metals make the best conductors and we were surprised when the pencil lead conducted electricity. Finally, we applied our knowledge we had learnt to make a steady hand game. We used foil to make the loops and a hook. If we were successful the buzzer would buzz!

"I really enjoyed making the game as I had to be steady and it challenged me to be precise" Teddy



World Bee Day



On the 20th of May, the whole school came together to celebrate World Bee Day. The children looked absolutely fantastic dressed in yellow and black! In assembly, the children learnt all about the important role bees play in providing us with the food we rely on, they were astounded to learn that without bees, there would be no apples, cherries, melons or tomatoes! Our current Yr 5 beekeepers demonstrated their bee suits to the whole school and also answered any questions the children had about what it is like to go into the hives and look after our bees. We would like to thank you for your kind donations, we raised £129, which will go towards the upkeep of bees and the honey production in September.



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.

Parents/Carers are not permitted to park within school in the morning or before 4.45pm without prior agreement.

2024 - 2025 Holidays

Inset days for next year have been agreed:

Monday 2nd September 2024

Thursday 2nd January 2025

Friday 3rd January 2025

Monday 24th February

Expected to be Thursday 1st May (Awaiting confirmed date for Polling Day)

Please refer to term dates on our Website before booking holidays. Unauthorised absence may result in fines from the local authority. New rules apply from August 2024—see our website.

Year 5 and 6 - Virtual Author Visit - Tanya Landman

This half-term, our Year 5 and 6 children had the exciting opportunity to participate in a virtual author visit with Tanya Landman, the acclaimed author of *Midwinter Burning*.

During the session, Tanya shared her inspiring journey to becoming a writer, offering the children a glimpse into her creative process and the steps she took to bring *Midwinter Burning* to life.

Tanya's storytelling captivated the children as she detailed how her ideas evolve from initial concepts to fully developed stories. She explained the research and thought that go into her writing, particularly how she crafted the historical and emotional layers of *Midwinter Burning*.

The highlight of the visit was the interactive question and answer session. Our children asked insightful questions about the challenges and joys of being an author. Tanya's responses provided a deep, engaging look into the life of a writer, leaving the children motivated and eager to explore their own creative potentials.

This virtual visit was an invaluable experience, enriching our children's appreciation for literature and the art of storytelling. We are grateful to Tanya Landman for her time and for inspiring the next generation of writers.



Year 6 Mindfulness Workshop

With SAT'S fast approaching, Year 6 took part in a mindfulness session provided by our friends at Turn the Page Counselling. We started off with doing a warm hug breathing technique which is when you breathe in, lifting your arms up, crossing your arms over your chest, then releasing them down as you breathe out. Then we opened an envelope which had a feather in it which is for stroking your nose before SATs to increase dopamine levels. In the rest of the envelope, there was two pieces of card, stickers and some gems. We were able to decorate the cards with the provided stickers and gems to make affirmation cards to read before tests. We all really enjoyed it and would hope to do it again- Ella & Meg :)



Year 6 - A Journey into the Future of Aerospace on 23/04/2024

Year 6 were invited to soar into a world of innovation and creativity with a workshop in conjunction with STEM Learning and the Smallpiece Trust. The day was fuelled with high-flying adventure! Year 6 teamed up to design, build, and test three unique gliders, each a masterpiece of form, shape, and materials.



This was a very exciting activity. We learnt lots about engineering by designing and making our own gliders. We used teamwork very well by communicating to our classmates, pairs and groups if we needed to. Then we were ready for take off! and we timed how long they would stay in the air and evaluated our designs. This was great fun and we would like to do it again next time.



Walk to School Week

We hope everyone enjoyed participating in our Walk to School week (20th - 24th 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.

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.

Amendments to the School Day

For your Information:-

To comply with Government legislation, that schools must deliver a minimum school week of 32.5 hours. Our school day will be extended to finish at 3.25pm from September 2024.

After School Clubs

After School Football clubs will start back during the first week back after Half Term (week commencing 10th June) and will finish on the week commencing 15th July- Information has been posted onto each relevant year groups DOJO page.

Teacher-Led clubs on a Tuesday will start back straight after Half Term and finish on Tuesday 9th July