

Diary Dates

- **Monday 9th June**
Return to school
- **Wednesday 11th June**
Y2 Trip to Reddish Vale Farm
- **Friday 13th June**
Doughnuts 4 Dads 9.00-9.45
- **Wednesday 18th June**
Sports Day—All Day
- **Monday 23rd June**
Y5 & Y6 Big Sing Trip AM
- **Tuesday 24th June**
Y4 Trip to The Lowry
- **Friday 27th June**
Non-Uniform Day (Childrens tombola)
Reception class assembly AM
- **Thursday 3rd July**
Y6 Common Induction Day at High School
- **Friday 4th July**
Non-Uniform Day (adult tombola)
Summer Fair 3.30-5.30
- **Thursday 10th July**
Y1 Trip to The Fire Museum
Last After School Teacher-led club
- **Friday 11th July**
Y3,4 and 5 Music & Art Showcase 2.45pm
- **Tuesday 15th July**
Y3 Last Swimming
- **Wednesday 16th July**
Class Swap Day
- **Thursday 17th July**
Y6 Leavers' Disco
- **Friday 25th July**
Y6 Leavers' Assembly & Garden Party 9am
School Closes
- **Monday 1st September**
Inset Day
- **Tuesday 2nd September**
Return to school - Y1 to Y6.
- **Wednesday 3rd September**
Reception children start school.
Nursery children have individual start dates.

Message from Mr.B

A very short half term but as you will read we have a lot to celebrate and be proud of! Our Year 6 children have been amazing in the approach to their SATs test – I could not be more proud of the effort and hard work the showed during the week. They showed a superb Growth Mindset—well done! Our school football team remains unbeaten and we are through to a semi final in one competition and won our league. We have done a lot of work with our STEM partners (Science, Technology, Engineering Maths) and our Year 6 children took part in a National Challenge and won! In a separate challenge year 6 entered a sustainability Eco invention challenge which Abigail and Dayana won and we will receive £1200 to purchase much needed STEM resources. We have also showcased our writing curriculum and hosted a visit from the Literacy coordinator for Manchester High School for Girls who was amazed at the quality and quantity of our work. We have audited our Foundation curriculum and we are happy with the progression of these subjects throughout school; next half term we will focus on our History curriculum.

Over the holiday our caretaker will be taking a weeks well deserved rest but on his return he will be painting the front gates, weather permitting and repainting the impact rooms. Those classrooms with carpets will have them deep cleaned and all the toilets will be stripped and varnished. Due to the amazing success of one of our bee hives we have had to have an early harvest as the frames were getting too heavy to lift! We have collected 36 jars of honey!! We will store this until the main harvest at the end of September when we will arrange for you to purchase it. A fantastic effort by the bee keepers (staff and pupils).

There have been some staffing changes; Mrs Southern worked in Year 1 covering maternity leave and was an excellent addition to our team while she was here and we wish her all the success in the future. Mrs Guggiari has returned from maternity leave and is back with Year 1. Mrs Pietrzak has returned from Jury service and I am grateful to the team that supported Reception in her absence. I am delighted to share with you that Mrs Roberts in Year 2 got married over the Easter holidays and will adopt her new married name Mead in September. We are currently in the process of working out our staffing structure for next year and I will share this with you early in the next half term.

World Bee Day Celebrations



We raised over £200! This will help fund the essential equipment that is needed to care for our honeybees.
Thank you for your generosity.



A Warm Welcome to all our new Torkington Children and Families

We have emailed details 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.

Year 6 Imperial War Museum Visit (written by Arthur & Rebecca)

Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum in Manchester, which coincided with their History topic on 20th Century Conflict. In our history lesson we've looked at the First and Second World Wars and the reasons and repercussions from both conflicts.

We arrived at the museum and were given free time to explore - looking at lots of interesting exhibits including old war vehicles like tanks and a fire truck. We were told about people who became famous for their actions in WW2. We also saw and learned about old weapons and battles used in different conflicts and how they evolved and improved. There was even a large balloon hanging from the ceiling and old wartime uniforms. There were many repurposed artefacts used as memorials, which had been created during the WW2 from things like downed aircraft.

We also enjoyed an Easter competition which was put on by the museum and we watched powerful videos about animals in war and a poem written and performed by Tony Walsh 'Mightier than War'.

We enjoyed playing a war like game which simulated what it was like in a tank. It was very interesting and getting to study primary sources was really interesting.



A 'Bog Baby Hunt' in Year 2



Year 2 started the half term with a very exciting mystery note that they discovered in the classroom! It led them on a hunt, following a glitter trail around the school grounds until they found a book hidden by the Bog Baby! They have then used that book and the 'Bog Baby hunt' as inspiration to write a recount and design their own version of Bog Baby in literacy, creating a setting and character description.

"We found a clue and we had to follow the glitter on the ramp. Bog Baby hid a book for us!" - Luca

"I made a Lava Baby who lives in a volcano. He always goes in a boiling lava bath." - Riley

Year 3 visit The Mandir Temple

Year 3 visited a Hindu Mandir to explore the key beliefs and practices of the faith. We had a guided tour around the Temple, where we were encouraged to ask questions as we went. The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha we visited works to preserve Indian culture and promote the Hindu values of faith, unity, and selfless service in communities worldwide. From the moment the bus arrived in the car park, the impressive building captivated Year 3.

The children were particularly intrigued when they entered the Temple's prayer area and even more so after hearing our host share stories, especially about Lord Swaminarayan. As part of their RE lessons, Year 3 has been learning about different religious places, and they truly enjoyed this hands-on experience!



A 'Bee'rrilant Start for our Year 5 Beekeepers!

What an amazing start we have had to the new beekeeping season! The majority of the Year 5 children have now had at least one chance to put on a bee suit and take part in a full hive inspection. We have been so pleased with the enthusiasm and positivity that all these children have shown. They have all been willing to get properly involved with the checks and have been confident to hold the frames that have at least 2000 bees in each one of them! They have asked many questions about how the hive works and are showing a real curiosity.

The yellow hive has been a particular success so far this season (it currently contains around 75,000 bees!) that we have done an early extraction which the children have taken part in and the honey will be on sale next half term.

The children will continue to carry out the inspections throughout the whole of next half term and we hope they will share all of their knowledge and experience with you at home.

"I find Beekeeping lots of fun, because you get to experience bees in their natural environment and get a close-up look on how honey is made. Going out to the beehives this half-term made me feel like an actual bee with how close to them I was able to get!" Holly

"I really enjoyed beekeeping this half-term because I learnt a lot about bees from Alan, the beekeeper. I found what we learnt really interesting and I feel confident I can share what I now know about bees with others who are afraid of them!" Louis



Attendance for Year to Date

- Reception 97.1%
- Year 1 95.6%
- Year 2 97.2%
- Year 3 97.3%
- Year 4 95.8%
- Year 5 97.6%
- Year 6 96.9%
- **Overall 96.8 %**

**Congratulations to
Y5**
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.**

Swimming in Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic time swimming for the first time! Their excitement was clear from the moment they arrived at the pool, with everyone eager to jump in.

Some children were a little nervous at first, but they quickly overcame their fears with the support of their friends. By the end of the session, Year 3 were all confidently swimming, splashing, and having a blast! We can't wait to swim again!



Year 4 Climate Change Champions

In Year 4 this half term we have been learning all about the world's natural resources and how they are at threat through global warming. We have come up with our own ideas of how we can protect the planet and use renewable energy sources.

In our literacy we conducted a mini parliament style debate to argue if climate change is a costly issue. We had great fun and there are definitely some budding members of parliaments within Year 4.



Music & Honey in Reception

Reception had a lovely afternoon attending the One Education music celebration. They loved getting on the double decker bus! They were impressed with the beautiful Stollar Hall theatre, with their VIP front row seats. The children were so enthusiastic, singing and performing all the actions to the space themed songs. Their favourites were definitely 'I want to be an astronaut' and 'Zoom, zoom to the Moon'. Some of the children were even chosen to perform on the stage with Mrs Buckler, were they represented our school amazingly!

To complete our half term, we celebrated World Bee Day, discovering why bees are so important. We were allowed to try on a real bee keeper suit, were excited to see and explore real bees wax, honeycomb and honey from inside our Torkington bee hives. We also enjoyed tasting some honey and making delicious honey joy cakes too.



Walk to School Week

We hope everyone enjoyed participating in the Space themed Walk to School week. The 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

Sports Day— WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE 2025

This Year sports day is being run by our sports provider, Kickstart. Please find below times of when your child's Sports Day session will be held

EYFS 9.15—10.15am
KS1 10.45—11.45am
KS2 Y3 & Y4 1.00—2.00pm
KS2 Y5 & Y6 2.05—3.05pm

Parents/carers are welcome to come and spectate on the day.

2025 - 2026 Holidays

Inset days for next year have been agreed:

Monday 1st September 2025
Thursday 23rd October 2025
Friday 24th October 2025
Monday 23rd February 2026
Monday 27th July 2026

Please refer to term dates on our Website before booking holidays. Unauthorised absence may result in fines from the local authority.

'Surprises' 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.

There has been a strong food theme running throughout our learning this half term; we have looked at plants in Science and have been out exploring our lovely school grounds to see what we could find. We also enjoyed investigating where our food comes from in Geography and looking at the production of foods such as bananas and potatoes. And to support our learning on stories from other cultures we took part in a fruit tasting session to experience and help us to describe some of the fruits from the story *Handa's Surprise!*



Animals in Nursery

This half term the Nursery children have been learning about Animals and their lifecycles. We started the topic looking at Minibeasts with a particular focus on the lifecycle of a caterpillar. We enjoyed watching time lapse videos of the transformation and then used a variety of materials to sequence the cycle.

When exploring jungle and farm animals we learnt about mothers and their young.

We discussed the different habitats that animals live in, exploring how they survive the wild. We also enjoyed creating jungle print art, discussing the different patterns we could see and taking on the role of a Vet in the role play area.

"I was checking the Giraffe and listening to his beats and made him feel better." Ivy H

"I can dress up like a Vet and make the animals better." – Etta



Celebrating Our Year 6 Stars!

Our fantastic Year 6's have recently completed their SATs, and we are bursting with pride at the incredible dedication and positive spirit they have shown throughout this period.

What has truly impressed us all is their amazing embrace of Growth Mindsets. We have witnessed them approach challenges with real determination, a willingness to persevere, and a fantastic belief in their ability to learn and develop. This understanding that effort and practice lead to improvement is a wonderful quality that will serve them well in all their future endeavours.

The focus and commitment they have demonstrated have been truly commendable. Well done, Year 6, for your hard work and for showcasing such brilliant attitudes to your learning. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you!



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

A reminder 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 the school grounds.

A Request for Books

If you have any good quality books that you are looking to get rid of, we would be more than grateful to receive them to replenish our library. Please bring any donations into the school office after the half term holidays. Thanks

After School Clubs

After School Football clubs will start back during the first week back after Half Term (week commencing 9th June) and will finish on the week commencing 14th July

Teacher-Led clubs on a Thursday will start back straight after Half Term and finish on Thursday 10th July

SUMMER FAIR

Don't forget that our Summer Fair is taking place on Friday 4th 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