



TORKINGTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Torkington News



nurturing potential,
inspiring excellence

Summer 1st Half Term 2025/2026

Diary Dates

- **Monday 8th June**
Return to school
- **Thursday 11th June**
Non-Uniform Day (children's tombola)
- **Friday 12th June**
Y3 Trip to The Mandir Temple
- **Thursday 18th June**
Sports Day—All Day
- **Friday 19th June**
EYFS & KS1 Marvelous Men
9.00-9.45
- **Thursday 25th June**
Y1 Trip to The Fire Museum
Y2 Trip to The Hat Museum
- **Friday 26th June**
Y5 & Y6 Big Sing Trip AM
- **Thursday 2nd July**
Y6 Common Induction Day at High School
- **Friday 3rd July**
Non-Uniform Day (adult tombola)
Summer Fair 3.30-5.30
- **Tuesday 7th July**
Last After School Teacher-led club
- **Friday 10th July**
Y3,4 and 5 Music & Art Showcase
2.45pm
- **Tuesday 14th July**
Y3 Last Swimming
- **Wednesday 15th July**
Y5 Trip to The Peoples History Museum
- **Thursday 16th July**
Y4 Trip to The Manchester Museum
Y6 Leavers' Disco 5.00-6.30
- **Friday 24th July**
Y6 Leavers' Assembly & Celebration 9am
School Closes
- **Tuesday 1st September**
Inset Day
- **Wednesday 2nd September**
Return to school - Y1 to Y6.
- **Thursday 3rd September**
Reception children start school.
Nursery children have individual start dates.

Message from Mr.B

We have had a fantastic half term and the children have worked incredibly hard. No more so than our Year 6 children who sat their SATs exams last week. I am extremely proud of their attitude in the lead up to the exams and in the way they approached the week itself. They were brilliant! Well done! We are in the process of assessing all the children in order to ensure the targets are met next half term. Pupil performance meetings have taken place with each class teacher in order to assess progress to targets; you will be able to celebrate their success when you receive their reports. Our school improvement work this half term has been to match the curriculum to the new OFSTED framework. Miss Astall has met with all the subject leaders and reviewed their action plans and set new objectives for the remainder of the year. Our Governors have been very proactive this half term; each subject area in school has Governors attached to it to provide guidance and accountability. The Governors will meet with their subject leads once per term and support with book scrutiny and pupil voice work.

Our building work this half term has been on the external aspects of the school. New fascia boards have been installed and our care taker is in the process of repainting them all around the top of the school. We are waiting for the installation of brand new aluminium external doors; we were hoping to get this done during the holiday but supply issues means this will be during next half term. The school will be deep cleaned during the holiday with all the floors buffered and varnished.

I would like to thank our playleaders for their outstanding support of our younger children at lunchtime. They have shown real empathy and the games they play have given real structure and improved their experience. We have also purchased 3 new play boxes which we have filled with outdoor toys and games to further enrich lunchtimes and playtimes. I would also like to thank all the parent helpers that have supported the school on visits, hearing readers in school and being the "mystery" reader—we are really grateful for your support and the children benefit hugely. A special mention must go to our football team who remain unbeaten this season; they are top of their league and have won through to the South Area cup final beating much larger schools on the way! The final will be played here at school on Monday 15th June against Moss Hey Primary school.

Thank you to the majority of parents who contribute to the cost of trips and workshops, they are an important part of the enriched curriculum. School has to meet any shortfall in costs and our budget is extremely tight.

Enjoy the half term break.

SUMMER FAIR & PTA News.

Our Summer Fair will be on **Friday 3rd July, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm**. We have lots planned and we will share full details after the half-term break. In the meantime, we are still seeking volunteers to help on the day, stall holders and donations for raffle prizes. Please contact the school office or the PTA directly if you are able to support us.
We sincerely thank you for your continued support of PTA events this year.

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.

Creative Goals and Teamwork in Year 3

Over the past six weeks, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic series of Friday afternoon sessions dedicated to Art and PE, supported by Stockport County. The creative journey began in the classroom, where the pupils explored the work of local artists to inspire their very own "Stockport-themed" pop art pieces. It was wonderful to see them translate familiar local landmarks into vibrant, bold designs, showing great technical skill and artistic flair.

Following their art session, Year 3 headed out to the pitch for a high-energy transition into PE. Each week featured a blend of communication-based team-building exercises and football skills clinics. These sessions weren't just about scoring goals; they provided a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to strengthen their friendships, improve their coordination, and demonstrate the brilliant sportsmanship we value so highly. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and "County" spirit shown by all of Year 3 throughout this six-week



Year 5 Bikeability

Our Year 5 children traded the classroom for the road this half term as they took part in the Bikeability cycle training program. Under the guidance of professional instructors, the children worked hard to master essential skills, from perfecting their balance and control to understanding the "rules of the road." It was fantastic to see their confidence grow with every pedal stroke as they learned how to navigate junctions safely and signal with clarity. We are incredibly proud of the determination and responsibility shown by all our young cyclists—well done, Year 5, for becoming such savvy road users!



"Bikeability was so much fun! My favourite part was learning the ABC check, each letter stands for something to check for on your bike before you start riding. It's great knowing how to stay safe while having fun on two wheels" - Sophia

"I was a bit excited about cycling on the actual road, and the instructors showed us exactly how to look over our shoulders and signal clearly. We learnt new skills called follow me and pass me." – Esther

Year 2 Bog Babies

Year 2 have been working hard again this half term. They began the half term with a note from the Bog Baby leading to clues which they followed until they found his book hidden in the woods! They then wrote a recount of the hunt and created short stories using their own Bog Baby inspired character.

They have also thoroughly enjoyed their programming unit in computing. They have created their own mats and designed algorithms, testing and debugging them to make sure their programmes ran successfully. In Art, Year 2 have been exploring pieces of work by Xgaoc'o X'are using their drawing skills as well as developing their mono printing skills to create their own pieces of art inspired by Xgaoc'o X'are.



Scientists in Year 4

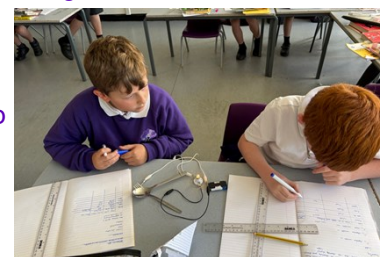
This half term, Year 4 have been busy exploring the world of electricity. We started by learning about the different components needed to make a circuit—including cells, wires, switches, and bulbs—and figured out how to connect them properly to make a loop.

We also explored how to stay safe around electricity. The children discussed potential household dangers, such as overloading extension leads or using appliances near water, and talked about how our knowledge of insulators helps keep us safe at home.

Once we mastered the basics, the children turned into scientific detectives to test which everyday classroom objects were conductors and which were insulators. By breaking their circuits and inserting various items, they discovered that metals (like paperclips and scissors) let electricity flow and lit up the bulb, while plastic rulers and wooden pencils blocked it completely.

"We tested a metal paperclip and the bulb lit up, so it's a conductor. But a plastic ruler did nothing. Now I know why plugs are covered in plastic!" — Leo

"I loved fixing the circuits when the bulb wouldn't light up at first. We found out that metals are the best conductors, which is why wires are made of copper." – Oliver



Attendance for Year to Date

- Reception 95.3%
- Year 1 96.3%
- Year 2 96.3%
- Year 3 97.5%
- Year 4 97.4%
- Year 5 96.3%
- Year 6 92.2%
- **Overall 95.9 %**

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

Reception Superstars!

It has been an absolutely fantastic half term in Reception. We kicked things off by becoming mini-engineers, and watching the children build their junk modelling, space rockets was a real highlight. Their imagination, the way they talked through their designs and their fantastic teamwork were just brilliant to see.

The excitement reached fever pitch when we got a surprise phone call from the farmer in the field behind school. He'd spotted something bright and colourful falling from the sky and needed our help to investigate! We "downed tools" immediately and headed outside to see what was going on. After carefully taping off the area, the children turned into little detectives. The general consensus was that the bright sunshine must have dazzled a pilot, causing a rocket to crash-land right through the trees! Back in class, everyone worked in teams to draw and write about what they thought had happened. The ideas they came up with for why the craft crashed in our playground were so creative and gave us all a good giggle.

Our class assembly was another proud moment. The children were total superstars, performing with so much confidence as they shared everything they've learned about space with the whole school and their families. But the fun didn't stop at the stars! We also had a visit from the 'Naughty Bus' to learn about transport, which led to some amazing role-play in our outdoor aeroplane and car wash.

On top of all that, we had a wonderful trip to Stoller Hall in Manchester for a music celebration, a visit from the Space Wonderdome, and some lovely chats with people who help us in our community, a huge thank you to our super parents for volunteering their time. It's been such a busy, happy half term full of discovery, and we couldn't be prouder of how hard the children are working.



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 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 making healthy smoothie's in D&T using them. We even practiced our chopping skills too!



After School Clubs

Kickstart's After School Sports clubs will start during the first week back after Half Term (week commencing 8th June) and will finish on the week commencing 13th July

Teacher-Led clubs on a Tuesday will recommence straight after Half Term and finish on Tuesday 7th July.

Sports Day—

Please note the date change... It will now be held on THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2026

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 9.30—10.30am
KS1 10.45—11.45am
KS2 Y3 & Y4 1.15—2.15pm
KS2 Y5 & Y6 2.15—3.15pm

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

2026 - 2027 Holidays

Inset days for next year have been agreed:

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 26th July 2027
Tuesday 27th July 2027
Wednesday 28th July 2027

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

Year 6 Shine in Recent SATs

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 for their fantastic efforts during their SATs. Throughout the week, they showed incredible resilience and a true Growth Mindset.

Effort and Resilience

Year 6 treated every paper as a chance to grow. By embracing the idea that "the more we practice, the stronger our brains become," they tackled tricky problems with determination. They understood that mistakes are just part of the learning journey and stayed focused even when the work was challenging.

More Than a Test

While we celebrate their hard work in English and Maths, we also want to emphasise that these scores are only one part of their story. We are just as proud of their kindness, creativity, and the persistence they show every day. Well done, Year 6—you have shown that with the right attitude, you can achieve anything!



'Bee'rilliant Beekeepers in Year 5!

We've had another fantastic start to the beekeeping season! Most of Year 5 have now completed their first hive inspections, ensuring everything is exactly as it should 'bee.' This group has been incredibly enthusiastic and eager to learn about these vital creatures. It is amazing to realise they are working alongside over 10,000 bees at each check! With the colony expected to grow throughout the summer, we are keeping our fingers crossed for a dry, sunny June. If the weather holds, Year 5 may even get to participate in an early harvest.

We got our beekeeping suits on and the gloves went up to our elbows! We had to tuck our trousers into our wellies so the bees couldn't get up our suits. We had to make sure we were calm so the bees didn't sting you. We lifted the frames to look at the bees and their wax, we had to cut some of it off! The different pollen was all different colours, one had white bits where the babies will be. The longer cells have space for the drones (the men), it was so fun! – Esther

"My favourite part of beekeeping was holding the frames because you got to see the honey and the bees and we got to see the queen. – Austyn

"We found a queen cell at beekeeping, so we had to call the beekeeping man to help us. The bees were buzzing around us. I can't wait to do it again!" – Willow



Nursery News

This term in nursery we have been very busy exploring lots of exciting topics and activities together.

We began the term learning all about space. The children enjoyed talking about planets, stars, rockets, and astronauts, while using their imagination through creative play, artwork, and storytelling activities.

We then moved on to learning about transport, where the children explored different ways people travel by land, air, and sea. They especially enjoyed building vehicles, role play activities, and sharing their own experiences of journeys and holidays.

More recently, we have been learning about "People Who Help Us." The children have loved discovering the important roles people have in our community, including firefighters, doctors, police officers, and mechanics. They particularly enjoyed making firefighter art and using the role play garage to pretend to fix cars and work together as mechanics.

One of the highlights of the term was our wonderful music trip to Stoller Hall. The children had a fantastic time listening to live music, joining in with songs and actions, and experiencing different sounds and instruments. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to explore music in a fun and engaging environment.

We are very proud of all the children and the enthusiasm, creativity, and confidence they have shown throughout the term



ECO COUNCIL NEWS

As we enter the warmer months of the year, conserving water is becoming more and more important! We have begun putting together our application to achieve the Green Flag Award again this year and Eco Council are planning to end the year with a focus on cleaning our school and community environments of litter!



Water Saving Tip:

"Take shorter showers"