

Diary Dates

- **Monday 4th September**
INSET DAY
- **Tuesday 5th September**
Return to school - Yr1 to Yr6.
- **Wednesday 6th September**
Reception children start school.
Nursery children have individual start dates.
- **Thursday 14th September**
Residential Meeting 3.30
- **Friday 15th September**
Yr 4 swimming starts
- **Tuesday 19th September**
Teacher-led clubs start
- **Wednesday 27th September**
Phonics Workshop 9.00am
- **Tuesday 3rd October**
Yr6 Height & Weight Screening
- **Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th October**
Yr6 Residential
- **Monday 9th October - all week**
Yr5 Bikeability
- **Friday 13th October**
Harvest Festival Assembly 9.00am
- **Thursday 19th October**
Yr5 Assembly 9.00am
- **Friday 20th October**
Nasal Flu Vaccinations 9am
- **Friday 20th October**
School closes.
- **Monday 23rd October**
Half Term Holidays.
- **Monday 30th October**
Return to school.
- **Tuesday 31st October**
Deadline for Secondary School Applications.

Message from Mr.B

As you will read we have had an incredibly busy half term and the children have had the opportunity to participate in such a wide range of activities. This year our school has been assessed by every organisation that judges schools performance. We had a Local Authority moderation visit to assess our KS1 practice to go alongside our OFSTED in March. We were accredited with the Eco school award again, this time achieving distinction. The Proud Trust assessed our work and awarded our Rainbow Flag for the second time. We have passed our Health and Safety and Financial Audits with flying colours! I am incredibly proud of all our achievements this year and really grateful to my colleagues, the children and you for the dedication and hard work that goes into these achievements. It's a real Torkington team effort!!

Our school improvement work next term will be to implement the new history, geography and art schemes we have been trialling. We plan to appoint a Governor to work alongside Mr Waugh and Mrs Pietrzak to ensure we cover these subjects in greater depth. We will evaluate our school improvement plan and set the new one in the Autumn term and this will form the basis of our work next year.

We have been busy refurbishing the annex; it has been deep cleaned, painted and a new fence installed ready for the new after school/ day care provider. Our Groundsman is also building bespoke new furniture for EYFS outdoor provision and this will be ready for the children in September. Our caretaker is continuing the decoration programme and years 3 and 4 will be painted over the summer holiday.

Miss Bridge has decided to pursue a career outside of teaching and resigned from her position last week. Mrs Pietrzak and Mrs Hollingshead will take the Reception class next year and Mrs Guggiari and Miss Warburton will lead the Year 1 class. I apologise for the short notification but we had little notice. Mrs Owen will also leave us this year to take up a role as a post person. Mrs Owen has worked in school for 17 years as a teaching assistant and specialised in nurturing our children's talent for art and design. Mrs Bennett will also be leaving us to take up her career in teaching at a special school. Mrs Bennett has worked tirelessly in school to develop pupil voice through the 3 school councils, Eco, Learning and Protected Rights. She has also been responsible for the beautiful displays throughout school. It has been an amazing privilege to have worked with such outstanding colleagues and I wish them all the very best for their futures. Finally, a huge well done and good luck to our Y6 children as they move on to their new adventures. They have been amazing! Have a great holiday.



Message from The PTA

Thanks to everyone for coming to the Summer Fair, we raised an amazing £1469.56!!! Our total raised this year is £3715.76 with thanks to each and everyone of you.
All the main roles of the PTA committee are stepping down so we need some volunteers to step up and run the PTA.
If you would like any further information then please email torkington.pta@gmail.com
We hope everyone has a great summer.

Year 1's Great Gruff Day Out!

Year 1 had the pleasure of visiting Gruff Outdoor Learning, it was so much fun and a unique experience. Year 1 were particularly enthusiastic when learning about farming life and the countryside environment. We had lots of opportunities to learn through exploration, creativity and 'free play' in a meaningful environment.

We began our visits with a welcome and story in the Gruff shed. Then we visited the animals, such as Alpacas, Shetland sheep, ducks and hens that the children loved to feed and search for their eggs. We really enjoyed trying their homemade, delicious drink of apple juice. The children demonstrated their creative skills when they made three different crafts to take home. We had some terrific clay trolls, bearded billy goats and fantastic flowers made from real petals. We spent the remaining time engaging in imaginative, free play in the Gruff garden.

Year 1 were so well-behaved and all said that it was the best day ever!



Our Reception Superheros

We have been learning all about superheroes, pirates and under the sea this half term. The children have especially enjoyed creating their own superheroes and discussing what their powers would be! We got to pretend to be superheroes by wearing capes and masks and ran our superhero support centre.

We have completed lots of activities including saving animals from a polluted beach and creating paper plate jelly fish. We have also enjoyed learning about how to keep our oceans and beaches clean by taking our rubbish with us when we leave.



Year 2 - Gruffs and Bugs

Year 2 have enjoyed taking their learning outside this half term! They had an amazing time on our class trip to Gruff Outdoor Learning, where they fed chickens and observed goats and alpacas. They loved trying some of the fresh apple juice made by the owner of the farm! They have become explorers in our Science lessons, learning about a variety of habitats, including micro-habitats. They were able to work together to design their own Bug Hotel. Following this they collected the resources they needed to fill our very own Bug Hotel in the new woods.

It was so much fun at the farm, even though it rained it didn't stop us from having fun. We listened to a story outside and then had a huge game of frisbee in the field. We searched for chickens and were all given some food to give to them. It was really fun!" Jacob -Year 2

"We first went into the woods in our groups and collected sticks and leaves to fill one of the compartments in the Bug Hotel. Then, we worked as a team to fill each compartment. We wanted to make sure that minibeasts had a mixture of habitats to live in." Keira A

"I'm going to make sure it's always kept filled because I am in the Eco Council." Joshua R.



Donuts for Dads

This half term, for Father's Day, Early years and KS1 children celebrated the important gentlemen in their lives by inviting them into school for our 'Doughnuts for Dads' event. They enjoyed taking part in craft activities, building imaginative structures out of Lego and of course enjoying a sweet treat or two.

"It was really fun having my Dad visit our classroom, we had a biscuit together and then did a special performance of Down by the Bay. My dad really enjoyed." Melody – Yr 2.



The Torkington Open

As part of an update to our PE Curriculum, students in Year 5 have been learning how to play golf this half term! The children have had the opportunity to develop their skills with new golf equipment, using both a putter and a wedge to hone their new talents. Over the 'course' of the half term, Year 5 have practiced techniques including striking, chipping, putting and playing the short and long game.

"We have learnt how to chip the ball and get loft on it using the new wedges, and we also got to create our own courses using different coloured cones" – Arthur W

"I sometimes play golf in my spare time, I really enjoyed getting to practice and improve my technique at school as well. I enjoyed making my own targets to aim at." – Jack H

Clubs

From September we have a new sports provider who will be taking care of our PE provision and after school sports club. The after-school sports club will start back during **week commencing 11th September** as below. Information will be sent home during the first week back on how to sign up.

Mondays - Y5 & Y6
Wednesdays - Y1 & Y2
Thursdays - Y3 & Y4

Teacher-led clubs will be on **Tuesdays commencing 19th September**. Details will be sent home after the holidays and will go live on ParentPay from 7pm on Tuesday 12th September.

School Meals

The cost for school meals for junior children is £2.40 per day.

Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments. School receives funding to cover the cost of meals for infant children.

For children who normally have sandwiches, we offer the option of 'Fishy Fridays' which means just having a school meal on a Friday.

We require a week's notice in writing to change lunch arrangements. The current menu is available on our Website or can be collected from the school office. **Please let us know of any special dietary requirements.**

Attendance for the whole year

- Reception 95.7%
- Year 1 95.7%
- Year 2 95.8%
- Year 3 96.8%
- Year 4 96.7%
- Year 5 96.1%
- Year 6 96.0%
- Overall 96.1%

Congratulations to
Yr 3
for achieving the
highest % attendance.

Huge congratulations to the 15 children who have 100% attendance for the whole year. Such an amazing achievement!

**School Target :
98%**



Nursery become Pirates

The Nursery Children have had a fantastic half term and thoroughly enjoyed our recent topic, Pirates and Under the Sea. We especially enjoyed our Pirate Fun Day where we took part in a Pirate Workshop, delivered by The Freshwater Theatre Company. The children embarked on an imaginary journey on the high seas and by using their senses they were able to pick up clues from

different locations like a seaside, hillside and cave to create their own Pirate Story. We ended the day with a pirate themed Forest school session, where we worked collaboratively to build a shelter for the Pirates and create our own Jolly Roger using all-natural materials. We even got to toast marshmallows by the fire. To end, what has been a wonderful year together we celebrated by having a Pirate Party. We played games and shared some special party food.



Tasty D&T lessons with Year 4

Year 4 have been tasting and making fruit smoothies for our Design and Technology project. We chopped up some different fruits and then blended fruits of our choice to make a delicious smoothie. To finished off our smoothie making we created some persuasive adverts for our smoothie treats.

'I really enjoyed making different smoothies and choosing different fruits to make my own flavours.' Maxwell Davies



Year 3 Swimmers

"This term, Year 3 have been practising their swimming skills! We have taken part in swimming lessons every Tuesday morning and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Each Tuesday, the children jump on the coach to the swimming pool where they are met by Nikki, the swimming teacher at Hazel Grove pool. The children learn all sorts of new skills; from life saving techniques to perfecting strokes. The children have all commented on the confidence going swimming has given them, which is lovely to hear. A firm favourite lesson for the children has been our 'fun swim' session, where the children were able to work in teams to gather various pool toys to soak both Miss Kempton and Mrs Denton with. The children's smiles definitely made our wet hair and clothes worth it!

I am incredibly proud of the resilience our Year 3 children have shown during swimming this term and hope they carry it forward into next year.

2023 Sports Day...

On the 21st June we held our annual Sports Day. The sun shone for us and the children had a wonderful time competing in different events.

It was really funny because mummy's and daddy's took part in a race and they were falling everywhere. My older sister took part, it was so funny. Poppy - Year 2.

We loved running the 400m, it was a great morning and we all worked together as a team. - Corey - Year 6.

Thank you to all who took time out of their busy day to celebrate with us.



Year 3, 4 and 5 Music Showcase

Years 3, 4 and 5 were very excited to share their learning with their grown ups this half term. We listened to a variety of performances, from Musical Theatre to recorders and piano players. Our children were thrilled to see so many smiling faces looking back at them and loved sharing their skills with the audience. Getting the parents to join in with elements of the showcase encouraged the children to take part even if they were nervous. Thank you to all those who were able to attend, a great time was had by all.

"I loved what makes a family, it made me realise that it doesn't matter if your family is different because we are all loved" – Alexis, Year 3

"Sharing what we do in music with everyone was so much fun!" – Erin, Year 3

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, the school day will be extended to 3.25pm from **September 2024**.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Nasal Flu Vaccinations will be available for all children in Reception to Year 6.

Information on how to consent will be emailed nearer the time but the vaccinations will be administered on **Friday 20th October**.

Pupil Premium Funding

If you are in receipt of benefits, please apply on-line via SMBC's website for Free School Meals. School will then receive additional funding to help your child/ children. Please ask at the school office for help and advice in this process.

Term Dates/Year Planner

Next year's term dates are on our website and also the year planner which gives an overview of all events planned for next year. Please refer to these and each half-term's newsletter for all important dates and events.

Please note that term-time holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and must be requested using the appropriate form.

Year 5 and 6 Big Sing

This half term Year 5 and 6 took part in the annual 'BIG SING'. We practised the set list in school for weeks, having lots of fun doing so. We joined a number of other schools at The Bridgewater Hall to perform the Motown songs. Everyone was singing and dancing and we even got Mr Buckler to sing and dance. Lots of fun was had by all and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Cole and Chloe Y6



Year 6 Crime Prevention Workshop

This term we learnt about crime prevention in our crime prevention workshop. We learnt about different types of anti-social behaviour (such as arson, graffiti, fly tipping and criminal damage etc) and how someone's actions can lead to consequences, such as a permanent criminal record. We also learnt about different drug classification and how dangerous they are both physically and mentally.



Year 5 and 6 Barclays Online Safety Workshop

This term Year 5 and 6 took part in a Barclays Online Safety Workshop, we joined the zoom call and watched a video clip of 4 gamers talking online. We discussed with workshop leader about mis-information and how we stay safe online. Most of the answers were to do with strong passwords that included numbers, symbols and capital letters. Then we talked about how sharing personal information online can affect real lives and destroy them. The workshop was really helpful and refreshed our knowledge on how to keep ourselves safe online. Max Y6



Year 5 take part in the Stockport Grammar Maths Challenge

Members of Year 5 have risen to the occasion and excelled in the Stockport Grammar Maths Challenge this half term. This event put our students' mathematical prowess, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork skills to the ultimate test, as they navigated through three rounds of tasks, culminating in a maths relay race!

The challenge, which attracted participation from 32 other schools across Greater Manchester, provided an excellent platform for our young mathematicians to showcase their talents and passion for numbers. The tasks required not only raw mathematical skills but also the ability to think critically and collaboratively. Our Year 5 students embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and determination, reflecting their dedication to learning and growing.



COUNCIL NEWS... What a fantastic year our school councils have had, we couldn't be more proud!

We have taken part in many projects this academic year, including our international work with the Human Appeal team and our inclusive work with the Proud Trust. We have had lively discussions with MP's, taken part in climate action debates and have overhauled our Growth Mindset philosophy, to which our Year 5 Learning Council are still working on. Our amazing work has meant that we have recently achieved the very prestigious Eco Green Flag award with the highest accolade, distinction and this week we can celebrate once again as we gained our Rainbow Flag Award.

"I've loved being part of the Protected Rights Council. I have planned for assemblies, delivered a whole school poster competition and it was so good to share all my knowledge with Amy, who was really impressed with how much we had learnt and how confident we were in our work. It has been an experience I won't forget." Elliott - Year 6.

Thank you to all our incredible Councillors for their dedication and hardwork, many of you have given up lunchtimes to finish projects and we couldn't be more proud of you. Thank you to all our parents and grandparents too for all your continued support, its very much appreciated. Keep up the amazing work Council, you are all absolute superstars!

ParentPay

Children joining us in September will receive a letter providing instructions on how to set up a secure online payment account. All payments to school are made using ParentPay. If you require help in setting up your ParentPay account please speak to the school office.

Absences from School

If your child is not in school, please phone us on the first day of absence to explain the reason. For absences of more than a day, we require a note or email when your child returns to school to be able to authorise the absence. Please try to avoid appointments during the school day but, if required, provide evidence of the appointment.

Uniform

Details of our uniform policy are on the Website. Correct uniform must be worn at all times - no trainers or brightly coloured socks/tights.

Naming of Property and Personal Items

Please name all clothing and personal items brought into school. Encourage children to take responsibility for their belongings.

Milk

Milk is free at lunchtime for infant children and all children eligible for Free School Meals. The cost for other junior children is £1 per week which should be paid via ParentPay. Please ensure payment is made by **Monday 4th September** for your child/children to be included on the milk register.