

Diary Dates

- **Monday 2nd September**
INSET DAY
- **Tuesday 3rd September**
Return to school - Yr1 to Yr6.
- **Wednesday 4th September**
Reception children start school.
Nursery children have individual start dates.
- **Thursday 12th September**
Residential Meeting 3.30
- **Tuesday 17th September**
Yr4 swimming starts
- **Wednesday 18th September**
Yr6 Height & Weight Screening
- **Thursday 19th September**
Teacher-led clubs start
- **Tuesday 24th September**
Phonics info meeting
- **Wednesday 25th September**
Nasal Flu Vaccinations 9am
- **Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th October**
Yr6 Residential
- **Wednesday 9th October**
School nurse drop-in session 9am - 12am
- **Friday 11th October**
Harvest Festival Assembly 9.00am
- **Friday 18th October**
Yr5 Assembly 9.00am
School closes.
- **Monday 21st October**
Half Term Holidays.
- **Monday 28th October**
Return to school.
- **Thursday 31st October**
Deadline for Secondary School Applications.

Message from Mr.B

As we draw to a close I think it is worth reflecting on a fantastic year for our children. We received a letter from the Minister for Education for being in the top 1% of schools nationally and were in the MEN for being in the top 10 for schools across all of Greater Manchester—these accolades reflect the hard work and dedication of our teaching teams and the special relationship they have with the children they support. I am so proud of all their hard work. Our office team are brilliant; Mrs Thompson and Mrs Perkins have faced major challenges this year and completed them with efficiency and professionalism. The financial audits, Health and Safety inspection outcomes reflect that our school is effectively run and managed. Our Groundsman, Ian Marshal and our caretaking team, Nuno and Diogo have ensured that our learning environment in and out of school is of the highest standard. Our new cook Emma and her assistant Kirsty have improved the school lunch provision and we are really pleased with the start the new team have made. Our Governors are all volunteers who work really hard to support our school and ensure we continue to provide the best education for our children. These colleagues that work behind the scenes are vital for the efficient running of our school and I am really grateful for the care and attention they show every day to support our children.

Much of our school improvement has been developing the foundation subjects and how and what we are teaching and how we assess progress. The local Authority has moderated this work and we will continue to build on this for next year. Our work has been influenced by the Alex Bedford approach and next term we will be developing key vocabulary linked to each subject in each year group to ensure knowledge is built on sequentially. Next year we will roll out our new phonics scheme—Super sonic phonics will be taught in Early years and Key Stage 1 and we will hold parent workshops for you early next term. A key focus for our school improvement will be Science and Design and Technology—a particular focus will be on experimentation and prediction.

Our building work will continue over the summer with the sills and main gate being painted. There will be a total deep clean of school, including the kitchen by a specialist cleaning team. New shelving equipment is on order and will be ready for September. Through the fantastic efforts of the office team and the PTA we have purchased an 8 station outdoor multi gym which will be placed behind the existing trim trail. We have submitted plans for the 4G pitch and we are incredibly grateful to Mr Allen for his work pulling this proposal together.

This year we have a number of families leaving school, many of whom I have worked with almost all my time here. I am so grateful for the trust and support they have shown the school and wish our superb Year 6 children all the very best for their next steps in high school. Have a great summer.

Best Performing Primary Schools in Manchester

We were thrilled to read the MEN article which listed Torkington as one of the 13 best performing Primary Schools in Manchester, with at least 90% of pupils achieving expected standards. Link to the article below.

https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/13-best-performing-primary-schools-29523961?utm_source=mynewsassistant.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=embedded_search_item_desktop

School Fundraising

A Big Thank You to everyone that came to the Summer Fair, we raised an amazing £1400!! Our total raised this year is an outstanding £4700. We have put this money towards a new activity for the children to enjoy outside at playtimes. Keep your eyes peeled for its arrival very soon.

We are in desperate need of putting a new PTA together to ensure that events like the Christmas and Summer Fair can continue and to raise funds to go towards school equipment etc. If you are interested in being a part of the PTA team then please get in touch with the school office. Your help makes a huge difference.

Thank You

One Big Adventure in Reception...

Our final half term in Reception has been fun! Reception started off by being amazing superheroes, and attended superhero training school to test out their speed, agility and teamwork skills. Reception then linked their learning about fictional superheroes to real-life heroes such as parents, police officers and they really enjoyed learning about the importance of farmers and the lifeboat workers. They were so focused on the police crime scene and produced some fantastic writing when recording their daily evidence to try and catch the culprits.

Reception really enjoyed taking part in Sports Day, showing skill and super teamwork, we were really proud of how they supported each other. It was lovely to host the 'Doughnut's for Dads event. The children enjoyed becoming superheroes with their special guests, eating yummy treats and having fun taking part in the areas across the classroom. Reception had a great time learning about pirates and the sea. They made brilliant messages in a bottle, boats that could float and an amazing pirate ship in the outdoor construction area! They were super excited to receive a letter and a treasure map leading them to a treasure basket full of pirate jigsaws and sweets.

What a fantastic year it has been. Well done Reception, you are more than ready for your new adventure in Year 1!



Year 3 Water Safety



Year 3 took part in Water Safety Week as part of our swimming lessons this half term. The children loved swimming in their clothes and learnt different ways to keep themselves safe in the water.

'I enjoyed looking at the dirty water from Bramhall Park and talking about whether we would swim in there or not' – Sophia

'We wore our pyjamas because it was water safety week and it helped us to feel what it would be like if we fell into open water. We really enjoyed this because it was something different' Issy & Keira A

'We made waves by jumping up and down in the water and then we had to try and do a star float in them, it was harder than when the water was still' Matilda

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 flautists. Our children were thrilled to see so many smiling faces looking back at them and loved sharing their skills with the audience. We loved sharing our musical talents and showing how we develop our voices throughout the juniors. Thank you to all those who were able to attend, a great time was had by all.

'I enjoyed performing the songs we practised in class and introducing the songs to our grown ups' – Keira A

'I liked showing our parents all the hard work we have been doing this year and listening to the songs the other year groups performed' – Aurora R Yr3

'My favourite song to perform was Ain't No Mountain High Enough because I liked doing the sign language in front of my parents.' – Sophia Yr3



1st Aid Training for Year 5 and 6

This half-term, our Year 5 and 6 pupils had the invaluable opportunity to receive first aid training from Millie's Trust. The sessions were highly educational and equipped the children with essential life-saving skills.

During the training, the pupils learned how to put someone in need into the recovery position and the correct way to contact emergency services while communicating clearly and effectively. They also practiced conducting CPR on a practice dummy, gaining confidence in performing this crucial technique. Additionally, the children had a hands-on experience using a defibrillator, understanding its importance, functionality and location in the school. "Learning how to do CPR was really interesting. I feel more confident now that I know what to do in an emergency," Ellis Yr5

"I was surprised how straightforward it was to use a defibrillator. It made me realise how important these skills are and how I can help someone if they need it," Stan Yr5.

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 16th September** as below. Information will be sent home when we return back on how to sign up.

Mondays - Y4, Y5 & Y6
Tuesdays - Y1, Y2 & Y3

Please Note: Teacher-led clubs will now be on **Thursdays, commencing on 19th September**. Details will be sent home after the holidays and will go live on ParentPay from 7pm on Thursday 12th September.

PHSE Session

This half term, Tanya Cross from the Local Authority ran a very successful Internet Safety workshop for the parents of children in Year 5 and 6. She gave lots of helpful hints and tips on how to stay safe online. Feedback from parents can be found below:

- It was a very informative and engaging session. It is great to know that school is teaching about online safety. Thank you for organising.
- I learnt a lot from this session and the information will help me to make informed decisions and keep my child safe online.

Attendance for the whole year

- Reception 93.9%
- Year 1 95.3%
- Year 2 95.1%
- Year 3 95.5%
- Year 4 96.5%
- Year 5 93.5%
- Year 6 96.9%
-
- **Overall 95.2%**

Congratulations to
Yr 6
for achieving the
highest % attendance.

Huge congratulations to
the 11 children who have
100% attendance for the
whole year. Such an
amazing achievement!

School Target : 98%

The rules regarding term
time absences are
changing from September
2024. The government is
strengthening the rules
around Education Penalty
Notices, where 10 or
more sessions (5 days) of
unauthorised absence
take place. Please see
the school website for
more details.

Year 1 Artists



We have had a lovely last half term in Year 1! We have really enjoyed art and last week created collaged minibeasts in the style of Eric Carle. Some of our art work from this topic has been chosen to be displayed in our Year 2 bay as Miss Roberts was so impressed when she saw them! We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Cockfield's farm, as well as our Intrepid Explorers' day. We followed clues to find the treasure whilst learning how to read a compass. We also completed a scavenger hunt, pirate picture and den building activities! The marshmallow treasure we found we then roasted on the fire. We had such a fun morning.



Year 3 & 4 Martin Mere Trip

Year 3 and 4 visited Martin Mere this half term to put their scientific classifying skills into practice. First we went pond dipping in purpose-built raised ponds. Then using the specialist equipment, including electronic microscope and screen, we classified and identified the different pond animals. Next, we explored the causes of climate change and the impact this is having on wetlands. By taking on the role of a leaf we discovered how plants have an important role to play in absorbing carbon dioxide. At the end of our trip we were climate champions campaigning for change!



"I really enjoyed looking around at the different nature that I hadn't seen before." Evelyn B Yr4

"I enjoyed pond dipping and classifying the different pond life." Harry B Yr4

Animal Mad in Year 2

Year 2 had a wonderful time on their trip to Cockfields Farm this half term. After the coach ride to get there, they loved going on the tractor around the farm to see the cows and the sheep. Year 2 learnt so much about so many different animals! They were also able to pet rabbits, feed goats and alpacas and were even brave enough to touch Bob the snake! After eating some lunch they enjoyed a well deserved play before heading back to school.

What a wonderful end to a wonderful year in Year 2!



2024 Sports Day...

On the 19th June we held our annual Sports Day.

Luckily, the rain stayed away for us and all the children had a wonderful time competing in different events. It was a morning of sportsmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish. Thank you to all who took time out of their busy day to celebrate with us.

"I liked the obstacle course because it was the most fun one." - Louis Yr2



"I liked the egg and spoon race because you had to go slow and steady." - Luna Yr2

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

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

Information on how to consent will be communicated nearer the time but the vaccinations will be administered in school on Wednesday 25th September 2024.

School Meals

From September 2024, the cost per school meal for junior children will be £2.60 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments.

We require a week's notice 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.

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 Cricket Workshop with the Cheshire Cricket Board

Our Year 5 pupils had an exciting opportunity this half term to participate in a cricket workshop, delivered by the Cheshire Cricket Board. The workshop focused on teaching the children essential skills such as catching and fielding, with a particular emphasis on teamwork and communication.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the session, showing great enthusiasm and improvement in their cricket abilities. They engaged in various activities that helped them understand the importance of working together as a team and communicating effectively on the field. One of the highlights was a fun game where they hit the ball and ran to collect cones, which brought out their competitive spirit and joy.



- "I loved learning how to catch and field better. It was so much fun working with my friends and improving together!" - Dayana
- "The game where we hit the ball and ran to collect cones was my favourite part. It felt great to score points and cheer for my teammates!" - Francis

We are grateful to the Cheshire Cricket Board for providing this wonderful opportunity, and we look forward to more such engaging activities in the future.



Good luck to our Super 6's

The summer term is always a busy one in Year 6 but we love it!

Year 6 have had a fantastic time, completed their SATs with determination and resilience. Then came the Leavers Disco! Dressed to impress and dancing the evening away! A fantastic way for this amazing group to celebrate the end of their journey here at Torkington.

'We have had an amazing time at Torkington and we finished the year off with good SATS results, good feedback on our writing and an amazing disco where we had so much fun with each other. We also want to say a big thank you to the teachers who have taught us and helped us through the years. We will miss you!' Lily B and Nicole



Nursery are Pirates—AARRR!!

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 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 created ice cream oyster delights, which were delicious.

"We found a shovel and a map and message from a Pirate. We needed to find the treasure." Oliver E

"We had to find the X that marks the spot. We went all the way round school and we found the treasure in the flower beds." Owen

"We found some snap bands in the treasure, in the flower bed." Annabelle

"I liked making tents in Forest School and eating the marshmallows." Emilia

"We made a pretend fire in the tent and a real fire. We put marshmallows on the sticks and then we ate them." Lily D



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.

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 2nd September** for your child/children to be included on the milk register.

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**.