

Toftwood Infant School  
School Lane  
Toftwood  
Dereham  
Norfolk  
NR19 1LS

01362 692612

infantreception@toftwoodfederation.co.uk



Toftwood Junior School  
Westfield Road  
Toftwood  
Dereham  
Norfolk  
NR19 1JB

01362 694919

juniorreception@toftwoodfederation.co.uk

Website: [www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk](http://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk)

Follow us on twitter - @ToftwoodFedera1

**Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation**  
**Executive Headteacher - Mrs Joanna Pedlow**

**Newsletter February 2022**

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme for this year is 'Growing Together'. Children across the Federation have focused on this in class as well as in assemblies and they've completed activities to support positive wellbeing. We also created a Federation Mandala today, which celebrates all of the children being a unique part of a united community.

### **Federation Book Fair**

We're pleased to confirm each class had the opportunity to visit the Federation Book Fair last week. We hope children who purchased books to enjoy at home will enjoy these over time and we're pleased to announce that your purchases helped us earn £1500 of new books for us to use in school.

Thank you to everyone who was able to support the Book Fair and a special thank you to Miss Clarke who coordinated the whole event.

### **What's Been Going On?**

Here's a snapshot of what's been going on across the Federation. Please also keep checking the Federation website for updates from our year group teams and subject leaders.

#### **Reception**

This half term the children in Reception classes have based their learning on 'Fantasy'. This has included learning and writing linked to a surprise visit from a fairy, creativity around witches and potions and an unannounced visit from an alien!

#### **Year 1**

The children in Year 1 have been learning about the Weather as part of their Weather Experts learning. They have also spent time learning about the Jewish holiday of Purim, which included making Hamantaschen biscuits this week.

#### **Year 2**

In Year 2 the children have been learning about Air, Land and Sea, including learning about and producing a holiday brochure for Hawaii as a destination. Children also completed research on volcanoes and wrote a newspaper report about the Icelandic volcano that erupted last year. In Design and Technology, each child also created their own small collage representing air, land or sea and these have been put together to create one large textile for the year group which is proudly on display in the Year 2 corridor.

#### **Year 3**

In Year 3 the children have been learning about the Stone Age and have used many non-fiction texts to support this. In Music, children have continued to learn to play the Ukulele in class groups, including singing along with some pieces. It has been an absolute pleasure to hear the children playing and singing together in these lessons, especially after the period of no singing in school due to the pandemic.

#### **Year 4**

Year 4 children have been learning about mountains and mountain formation in Geography and this culminated with some class presentations at the end of the half term. In Music, the children have also been developing their music knowledge and singing skills with a focus on a new hoe-down song.

The year group also took part in a Road Safety session delivered by the Local Authority. The session covered many aspects of road safety, including taking care when using handheld devices when near moving traffic.

#### **Year 5**

In Year 5, children have used Art lessons to learn about pop art and artists linked to this movement. They have also produced their own pop art pieces. RE lessons have been based on different aspects of Christianity, including specific learning about stained glass windows and sculptures. Geography lessons have included learning about South America, where the text Journey To The River Sea was used to bring the learning to life.

#### **Year 6**

Year 6 have been learning about Inheritance and Adaption in Science and this will continue after the half term break. In Geography, learning has focused on North America and this will progress to Fair Trade in Spring 2. English lessons have focused on writing about an imaginary creature that would live on Pandora following watching a Pandora video. This has really given everyone the opportunity to develop their creative writing skills and the children have risen to this challenge extremely well.

#### **Accelerated Reading Word Millionaires**

Congratulations to Emily in AR6 for becoming a world millionaire and to Wren in LW5 for being a three time millionaire. What great achievements!

We hope to see some more children achieving world millionaire status after the half term break.

#### **World Book Day**

On Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Book Day by inviting all children and staff to dress up as a favourite book character.

We hope this will be a fun event, which will stimulate lots of conversations about favourite books and characters. Of course, if your child would rather not take part they can also come into school wearing their Federation uniform as usual.

There is no need to purchase any special costumes or accessories for the day. There are plenty of book characters to consider using clothing items you will already have at home. If you have specific questions please feel free to contact your class teachers, but please remember that all costumes need to be warm enough to wear throughout the school day, practical to wear during learning time as well as at break and lunchtime and with practical footwear to allow us to enjoy the day safely.

#### **History Day**

The first day back after the half term holiday is a dedicated History Day. All children will be learning about the history of our schools and school life over time and our History leads, Mrs Lee and Mrs Sutterby, have ensured each year group will return to a day of applying the skills of historic enquiry whilst considering how our local area and school life has changed over time.

#### **Online Safety Reminder**

We all want our children to have a safe half term and this includes being safe online.

We often talk about staying safe and online safety in school and we know this is also a focus for parents and carers at home. Half term provides an ideal time for you to talk with your children about their favourite apps, games and other online platforms as part of monitoring their online activity and checking they are staying safe and behaving responsibly as they navigate the internet and digital world around them.

### Junior School Lunch Money Reminder

If you pay for your child to have a school meal please do ensure your SchoolMoney account is kept topped up in advance and ready to cover the cost of meals your child orders and eats. **If you do not have money added to your account please remember to send your child in with a home packed lunch.**

### Absent Contact Reminder

If your child is unwell or unable to come to school for any reason please remember to contact the school office and to leave a message on the absence answering machine. Please include the name of your child, their class and the reason for their absence as this helps our office team confirm all children are safe and well, even when they are not in school. The messages left on the absence answering machine are used to help us confirm this, and we have a dedicated team of office staff who complete the registers each morning and they are not able to check all office@ and reception@ emails as well as teacher dojo message accounts whilst completing this task. Thank you for your support.

### MSAs

We are still looking for some lunch time supervisors.

If you would like to apply please contact Mr Johnson in the Infant School office. The hours of work are 12.00 - 1.15 daily, term time only. A full enhanced DBS would be required for the successful candidate, as well as two work based references. This is part of our safeguarding commitment. Please note, we cannot accept CVs or testimonials. All applications must be on the required form. If you have any questions, please ring or see myself or Mrs Bell on the playground. Please do share this with anyone you may know who may be interested. Further details on our website and the Norfolk Schools' job site.

### Driving and Parking

As always, we have been asked to remind families about being considerate when parking and driving near school.

- Please do not block the driveways of local residents, particularly their garages on Neville Close.
- Please do not stop, park or let your child out of the car on the zig zag lines outside of school. It is illegal and dangerous.
- Please drive slowly around the schools and do not mount the pavements or turn in the school car parks.

Thank you to the majority of parents and carers who are considerate and careful in their driving and parking. Unfortunately it only takes one person to cause an accident, injury or death. Keep our children safe.

### Diary Dates

Here are some important dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	School opens at 8.40 am for children Federation History Day for all children
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Author Julia Edwards visiting for Year 4. You can visit her website and look at her books here: <a href="https://www.scargatherer.co.uk/">https://www.scargatherer.co.uk/</a> There will be an opportunity for those who wish to pay and pre order
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day Children invited to come to school dressed as a favourite book character.
Week beginning 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 residential
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Bookings open for online parent consultations at 7pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Bookings close for online parent consultations at 12 noon
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Online parent consultations 4 -7
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Online parent consultations 4 -7

<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Last day in school before the Easter holidays
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	School reopens at 8.40am for the Summer term

**Best wishes  
Amanda Bell**