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

Newsletter 11 - 27th March 2024

Spring Term

This term has been so busy and full of exciting learning opportunities for the children. Please do check the website if you wish to see what has been happening! From residential to book weeks, Science fairs to Fire engines, there has been so much going on.

Thankyou to all of the staff for all they do, not just every day but 'above and beyond' for the children in our schools. It is much appreciated.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your support this term also, this has a huge positive impact on the children's achievements too.

Thank you also to the children as we have seen some amazing progress and work this term from them.

We return to school on **Monday 15th April**.

Miss Ward

As Miss Ward's class parents and carers know, Miss Ward leaves us today to go to a new school closer to home after half term.

It has been a pleasure to have her with us as she began her career and to see it progress over time. She has played a huge part in the life of the schools, and we will all miss her greatly.

However, we know she will be an asset to her new school who will be lucky to have her.

We have been working on arrangements for the Summer term for LW5, who will now become TL5 with **Mrs Thompson and Mrs Lindsay** taking over the class from April 15th. Both are very experienced teachers, and Mrs Lindsay has been coming into our school for quite some time.

Mrs Thompson will be teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning and Mrs Lindsay for the remainder of the week.

Borrowed Clothes

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have returned borrowed clothing and uniform freshly washed and ready for the next person in need. We have had a few items come back unwashed, so if your child does borrow anything can you please return it clean ready for the next child as we do not have an on site laundry! Thankyou.

Visitors

Year 5 had a visit from the Reverend Laura Parnell about 'What does the resurrection mean to Christians' as part of their RE studies.

You can see a write up and some photos here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-5/reverend-laura-parnell-resurrection-workshop-thursday-21st-march-2024/>

Accelerated Reader News

Congratulations to all of the children who have been working hard on their reading across the schools.

Regular practice at home has such a huge positive impact on their learning.

During the Spring term, the Junior children have worked hard with their reading and passing their Accelerated Reader quizzes.

This term the following classes in each year group scored the most points:

- HP3 - 134.0
- MM4 - 124.0
- RL5 - 127.2
- KH6 - 318.6

Well done to all of the children who have met their termly target - your teachers are very proud of you!

You can see a write up about World Book day on the website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2023-24/world-book-day-2024/>

Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone for supporting Red Nose day!

The children were taught across the school about the importance of Comic Relief and the charity's vision to end poverty across the world. This year, the School Council were tasked with organising several activities to encourage people to take part and raise awareness for Comic Relief.

First, the School Council met to share ideas. There were many wonderful suggestions made by the Councillors across the federation! Once a list had been collated, our Chairperson Szymon and our Secretary Abigail presented the ideas to Mrs Pedlow. When the Red Nose-themed activities were decided upon, the School Council got to work in order to make these happen!

The children made some fantastic red noses, all with different expressions and quirks, to be used in an exciting scavenger hunt! With one based at Infants and one based at Juniors, the School Councillors helped Miss Gold and Miss Makins with organising and running the hunts. We were very proud of how hard the Councillors worked to make the day special for everyone.

Additionally, each class created a Red Nose display to go on their classroom doors. We have included photos of several class doors across the Federation, alongside some of the children in their red clothes and accessories! With some time in class to complete wordsearches, colouring and make some red-nosed masks, the children had an excellent day. Our wonderful, dedicated staff in the school kitchens even baked special red-nosed cookies!

Counted with the help of our Treasurer Lily and Councillors Millie and Alice, the Federation raised a fantastic £450.00! Thank you kindly to everyone who donated. Well done, Toftwood and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success!

You can see a write up with photos on the website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2023-24/red-nose-day-2024/>

World Book day Winners!

Congratulations to ALL of the children who participated in the reading challenge to get 2024 books read in order to win money for their classes.

Each year group now has £150 to spend on books for their reading corners, which will be chosen by the children. The list already has some great book choices on it, we hope the children enjoy them.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a charity that gives free debt help to anyone struggling with unmanageable debt. Thousands of people have already been given hope and a solution by getting in touch with them.

You may think your situation is impossible, but there is hope.

If anyone can help you to find a practical solution to your debts, these people can.

In addition to this you can gain further information for help and support.

Call 0800 328 0006 to book your appointment, or go to capuk.org for more information about their services.

If you don't have problem debt but would like to make your money work harder for you, then maybe the CAP Money Course is for you.

It is a free course that will show you how to get to grips with your finances so you can budget, save and prevent debt. [Click here](#) for more information.

Courses are run throughout the year, both in person and online. Contact catherineweatherill@capuk.org to register your interest.

CAP will help anyone regardless of your age, gender, faith or background.

Computing Club

Year 1 and 2 have been enjoying computing club this half term, exploring using the robots, TTR and much more. See more about this here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/clubs/spring-2024-computing-club/>

Computing club for Juniors starts after half term on a Thursday lunchtime.

Dance Festival

On Friday the 14th of March, a group of 11 children from Year 5 and 6 attended a Dance Festival at The Space in Norwich. The children performed with other schools to the theme of 'Happy, Healthy and Active'. The children dressed up in bright coloured clothes and wore Emojis which helped them to think positive. They were given time to practise their dance on stage with lighting and music. Prior to the show, the children had been rehearsing at school since September and were really excited to participate.

They were lucky enough to watch Legacy (an all-boys dance troop) perform. They were amazed and inspired by the incredible performance. Some felt so driven that they wanted to continue dancing and potentially join a club outside of school.

Later that day, the children wore colourful face paint and took part in two performances in front of their friends and family. For some children, this was a completely new experience and Mrs Harvey-Parsons and Mrs Morton were so proud of them for having the courage to stand up on stage in front of hundreds of people. The adults were really impressed by their non-stop enthusiasm, determination to succeed, excellent teamwork and support they showed their peers.

It was a fantastic day enjoyed by the all children and adults alike!

Well done everyone!

Thank you also to Mrs Harvey-Parsons for running dance club and supporting the children.

MSA Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a midday supervisor at the Infants. Hours preferably are 11.30-1.30 daily or 12 - 1.15 on some days.

If you are interested or know anyone who may be, please ask them to contact the infant office for an application form.

Applicants would need to have 2 references that are work based. If you have ever worked with children, a reference would be required from that setting in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. You would also need to have a full DBS check undertaken.

Turn on the Subtitles!

This is a campaign to improve children's literacy by putting subtitles on TV shows to develop their reading skills. There has been lots of research into it and how much time children spend watching TV and the equivalent number of words they would have read in books! There are resources on the website for teachers and parents which include how to get subtitles on the different channels/streaming platforms.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th February 2024, the children at both the Infant and Junior school celebrated Safer Internet Day. Children at each school had an assembly informing them about the day.

At the Infants the children thought about how technology has changed, and shared examples of what they like to do most on the internet. They then thought about what they can do if they feel unsafe on the internet. Albie in Year 2 said "You can tell a trusted adult" with Addison in Year 1 saying that you could tell "your mum, dad or grandparents" and Jasper said that you can tell a teacher!

Throughout the week in their Computing lessons the children at the Infant listened to the story of 'Mo and Jaz' who were learning to be safe online when watching videos. "I liked how they stopped the video when they were worried" said Mia in Year 2. "I would tell my dad if I saw something I didn't like" said Henry in Year 2. In Reception the children shared the 'Hatch Me Story' and also thought about what to do if you are worried about anything online.

Across the Infant school the children shared the story Chicken Clicking in one of their story slots for the week.

As part of this and to reinforce those messages shared, can we ask all parents to be mindful of checking their child's phone and messages, as there have been exceptionally unkind comments on What's App groups which are unacceptable and should not be happening.

School Meal Charges Increase

Just a reminder that meals for Junior School children will be increasing from the beginning of the Summer term, after Easter.

A school meal for children will cost £2.58 when we return so in the holidays please make sure your account is in credit.

Dojo/Tapestry

We started using dojo in lockdown as a two way communication facility for parents/carers and staff, but continued this afterwards as we know how those little messages and that direct communication can be really helpful to us in delivering the care and education we want for our children.

Thankfully, the majority of parents use this appropriately, but there have recently been a small number who have not been entirely respectful in the messages they send.

Please do treat this in the manner in which it should be used, for meaningful communication, and remember at the end of that message is a person who is doing their very best for everyone, but they are human!

PTA

A huge thankyou to the PTA for organising an Easter egg hunt and a Disco this week! They are a small group of individuals and we appreciate what they do for the children. The Infant children were treated to a visit from the Easter Bunny too!

Supervision after school

Can we just remind you to supervise children closely after school, especially on the Junior playground and ensure they do not go in the bike sheds or on the adventure playground. Thankyou.

Have a lovely Spring break everyone!

Community News

Smart Swim



Baby and toddler lessons
After school lessons

SMART SWIM

Beautiful warm clean pool
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Brilliant professional teachers
Pool hire



Call Julia on 0779510921
www.smartswimschool.co.uk
@smartswimschool

Dinosaur Egg Hunt at the Windmill



EXTRAORDINARY EXTINCT™



DINOSAUR EGG HUNT

Saturday 30th March
10am to 2pm at Dereham Windmill



£3.50 per child, with egg-cellent reward!



SCAN FOR TICKETS

dodoanddinosaur.com/events

FAMILY EASTER TRAIL • CRAFT ACTIVITIES • CAFE

Let's Talk About Loss

talking through the taboo



Our vision is that no young griever grieves alone.

MEET UPS

- We run peer-led meet up groups in over 30 locations across the UK.
- Our meet ups are safe, supportive, open and empowering places for young grievers to talk.
- Each meet up is a relaxed space, with an activity to do as well as time to chat.
- Our Hosts are all trained young grievers who volunteer their time.
- We run meet ups in universities as part of our Students Talk About Loss initiative.

OTHER SUPPORT

- We run a Bereavement Book Club and a Creative Writing About Loss group.
- Our Men Talk About Loss campaign encourages men to talk about grief.
- We sell bereavement cards to help fund our work - no rainy scenes or sad teddy bears in sight!
- Our book Letters from the Grief Club has wisdom and advice from over 50 young grievers.

Contact us on hello@letstalkaboutloss.org
or visit our website: www.letstalkaboutloss.org