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

Newsletter 15 July 24

New Term, New Dates

We like to try and be as prepared as we can for the new term, with dates etc to give you as much notice as possible for our events.

Below is our Autumn term programme, which could change if necessary but fingers crossed we will not need to! Please do print this off and add to your fridge or wherever you can refer to it.

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Wednesday 4 th September	First day back in school Y1-6	
Wednesday 4 th September	Parent consultations for new Reception parents	
Thursday 5 th September	Reception Group A in school 9:15-1:30	
Friday 6 th September	Reception Group B in school 9:15-1:30	
Monday 9 th September	Reception join full time	
Wednesday 11 th September	History of our Schools Day for all children	
Wednesday 11 th September		National Child Measurement Programme Year 6 Details to follow once received from NHS
Monday 16 th September		Year 3 Egyptian Day Details to follow
	Years 2-4 Active Kids Sports' Event at Taverham High School for Selected Children	
Monday 30 th September	Phonics parent workshop 2-3pm Details to follow	
Monday 30 th September	Federation Sibling Photos	Y3 Individual Photos & Federation Sibling Photos
Thursday October 3 rd	Years 1 and 2 Football Festival at Goals for selected children	
Tuesday 1 st October		Y4, Y5, Y6 Individual Photos
Wednesday October 7 th	Wycombe Farm Visiting Year 1	
Wednesday 9 th October		Accelerated Reader parent workshop 2:15pm Details to follow
Tuesday 15 th October	Reception Harvest Activity Morning 9:15-10:45 One adult per child, no younger children	

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Friday 18 th October	Y1-6 Harvest Activity sessions/open afternoons from 2pm. Opportunities to look at books before parent/carer consultations 1 adult per child, no younger children If you have a younger child and no alternative care, please ring the offices so we can bring your child's books to a different room.	
Monday 21 st October	YR, Y1, Y2 Individual Photos	
Wednesday 23 rd October		Junior Rocksteady Concert for parents/carers 10 am in Junior hall. Information will be sent by Rocksteady.
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Thursday 24 th October	Last day of half term School closes at 3:15/3:25	
HALF TERM 24/10/24 - 3/11/24		
Monday 4 th October	School re opens following half term at 8.40 am	
Monday 4 th October	Parent/Carer consultation appointment booking opens at 4pm	
Wednesday 6 th November	Flu Vaccinations Further information to follow once received from NHS	
Monday 11 th November		Year 4 Roman Day
Monday 11 th November	Parent Consultations Online 4-7pm	
Thursday 21 st November	Parent Consultations Online 4-7pm	
Friday 22 nd November		Year 5 Viking Day Details to follow
Monday 25 th November	Pre-school Activity morning 9:15-11:30 For those children due to start Reception classes in September 2025	
Wednesday 27 th November	Flu Vaccinations Further information to follow once received from NHS	
Wednesday 4 th December	Christmas Lunch booking form emailed to all parents/carers Please complete and return it before the deadline of Wednesday 11 th December	
Monday 9 th December	Year 1 Christmas performance 9:15-10:15 at Junior School	
Tuesday 10 th December	Year 2 Christmas performance 9:15-10:15 at Junior School	
Tuesday 10 th December	Reception classes vision and hearing checks Information will follow once we have it from the NHS	
Wednesday 11 th December		Year 3 Christmas Performance 9:15-10:15
Wednesday 11 th December	Deadline to order Christmas Lunch for ALL children	
Thursday 12 th December		Year 4 Christmas Performance 9:15-10:15
Friday 13 th December		Year 5 Christmas Performance 9:15-10:15
Monday 16 th December	Year 2 Christmas Party pm	Year 6 Christmas Performance 9:15-10:15 Years 3 & 6 Christmas Parties pm
Tuesday 17 th December	Reception Christmas Activity session 9:15 5-10:30 One adult per child, no younger children Reception Christmas Party pm	
Tuesday 17 th December	Year 1 Christmas Party pm	Years 4 & 5 Christmas Parties pm
Wednesday 18 th December		Junior Rocksteady concert Rocksteady contact parents/carers directly
Wednesday 18 th December	Federation Christmas Lunch - Pre booked orders only	
Thursday 19 th December		
Thursday 19 th December	Junior Rocksteady concert Rocksteady contact parents/carers directly	
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term Schools close at 3:15/3:25	

For Christmas performances please be aware that it will be two adults per child, and no younger siblings.

PE Days for the New Term

Here are the planned PE days for the new term.

Class	PE days
CSR	Friday
ICR	Friday
OGR	Friday
EB1	Tuesday & Thursday
CM1	Monday & Wednesday
GT1	Wednesday & Thursday
RP2	Monday & Friday
KD2	Monday & Wednesday
KP2	Tuesday & Thursday
SW3	Monday & Wednesday
CT3	Tuesday & Wednesday
LM3	Monday & Friday
HP4	Tuesday & Thursday
MM4	Tuesday & Wednesday
SW4	Wednesday & Thursday
LJ5	Monday & Thursday
RL5	Monday (Swimming) & Friday
EW5	Monday & Thursday
GH6	Monday & Friday
GB6	Tuesday & Friday
BR6	Monday & Thursday

Please remember:

Reception children come in their uniform and get changed for PE to support with independence and dressing skills.

Years 1-6 come in their school PE kit, and in their school shoes and bring trainers in a bag for PE.

Here is a reminder about our PE uniform from the website:

PE kit

Children in Reception bring their PE kit in a drawstring bag for the half term. They will change for PE so they can develop the skills of dressing and undressing independently.

Children in Years 1-6 should come to school in their PE kit on PE days. Please note the following for PE kit requirements:

Plain black OR grey jogging bottoms should be worn. No logos etc. These should be loose and not fitted eg not tight.

Black PE shorts. These should be worn if your child does not want to wear jogging bottoms, but not tight cycling shorts, very short shorts or other shorts. In colder weather, or if preferred, black leggings or black base layers may be worn underneath them

Royal Blue plain PE t shirt OR Royal Blue Sports' shirt. Birds sell the plain t shirt in the correct colour from £3. The sports' shirt is of a different fabric and more expensive but may be preferred by some parents/carers or children. You can buy these with or without logos.

School Royal Blue Sweatshirt. The school sweatshirt or cardigan should be worn on PE days.

Children should come to school in their normal school shoes on PE days.

They should bring **their plain black trainers** in a small drawstring bag and leave them on their peg for PE days.

Earrings. Earrings should be removed on PE days before your child comes to school if they cannot remove them themselves.

All uniform requirements can be found on the website:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

New School Year, New Adventures

It has been an absolute pleasure to see all of the children engaging in their enhanced transition week this week. There was great excitement as teachers were 'revealed' and all of the children were settled in exceptionally quickly. The children know we need to make new friends, we can still play with old friends and we need to be in the right class to learn, which is what we have aimed to do. Thank you to everyone who has positively supported their child with this too, it has made a huge difference.

Please remember, once you have collected your child on **Wednesday** you can call in and see your child's new class. Staff will be in their rooms until 4pm that day for quick hello! The teachers have already had a very detailed handover from the previous teacher, DSLs and Miss Morgans where required, so everything and everyone is ready for them.

We have begun welcoming our newest Reception children to Infants, each group having two half days to further explore the classes and make new friendships and start to build positive relationships with our adults. It has been lovely to see them coming in so independently so they are ready for September!

Goodbye and Hello

So this week we say a sad goodbye, but a good luck for new adventures to:

Mrs Feeke, Mrs Ferreira, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Litwin, Mrs Ratcliffe and Miss Walker. We thank them all for all they have done for our children and wish them all the best for their future.

We also will say hello in September to **Mr Catchpole (joining us as a TA in Reception), Mrs Negus (joining us as an MSA at Juniors), Mrs Playford (joining us as a TA in Year 3), Mrs Searle (joining us as an MSA at Infants) and Miss White (joining us as a teacher in Year 3).**

We look forward to working with them all and are grateful they have been able to join us for some of our transition week to meet the children.

We will also say welcome back to **Mrs Ponder** in September as she returns from her maternity leave to join Year 2.

Congratulations

We say 'congratulations' to **Miss Gilfillan** who is getting married at the beginning of August and comes back in September as **Mrs Harvey** teaching GH6.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

Just a reminder that if your child receives means tested Free School meals they can join the free activities put on by the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun scheme, free of charge.

You book directly with the scheme online and the email is:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun>

Spoiler Alert!

Just to warn you that on the **first day back** we are legally required to send all parents and carers a letter about school attendance, fines and processes. This is not our choice, but something we have to do for all families. We are just the messenger.

Lunch Money

Please make sure that any Junior lunch debts are cleared before the end of the week. Thank you

The price of a school meal will be **increasing** as of 1st September to **£2.70** a day due to increasing costs.

Therefore please be aware of this price increase if your child will be in Years 3-6 in September when you are topping up lunch money on your account.

New Year 3 will have free lunches all this week and then pay from September, unless they receive means tested Free School Meals. Please note the payment system sometimes takes a couple of days to get in line

with the children moving, so you can pay once it has been set up. This is the company doing it, and not our office staff. You will receive a notification email and text once the system is set up.

FOTS

Thank you for the support of those on the Friends of Toftwood Schools' Committee this year. They are very few in number but work exceptionally hard. Some of them do not even have children in our schools, but still dedicate their free time to supporting all of our children.

Particular thanks to them for doing the discos. With such a small committee it is a lot of work to organise, prepare and run these, but we thank them for giving up time with their families to make these happen.

If you enjoyed these or would like to see more, then please do come forward to join the committee as we cannot put on events without those willing to organise and run them. Your help would be very much appreciated.

Traffic Collision

We have had an email from someone involved in a traffic collision last week. If you saw this or can help, please contact us at the Infant Office and we can pass on her email.

A car was involved in a traffic collision on Westfield Lane on 11th July 2024 at approximately 15:10hrs. As it was school run time and lots of parents about, the person in question wondered if anyone had witnessed the accident, specifically, a lady in a white car that was driving towards the school, that flashed her through whilst she was sitting in the road with her indicator on waiting her turn to go. A red Toyota drove into her as she was pulling round the parked car in front of her.

Thankyou

Thankyou to all of our families for your support this year, we have had a busy year but it has been wonderful to see how the children have developed and progressed, socially and academically.

Thankyou all for your kind words, cards and thoughtful gifts. We never expect them, but we are always appreciative of the recognition of the hard work and commitment of the staff.

Thankyou to all of our staff and Governors who have, as always, gone above and beyond for the children in so many ways.

The biggest thankyou is as always to our children, who have shown what polite, respectful and hardworking individuals they can be, and whose achievements, however big or small, make us so proud.

Please do look at our website and see what they have been up to. It is a wonderful opportunity to talk to them about their learning and experiences this year.

Please do follow us on 'X' as we post helpful advice and information throughout the year, including in the holidays also.

We wish all of our families a restful and peaceful Summer break.

SEN Funding

We recently were informed by the LA that due to an overspend they will be cutting the funding coming to schools to support children with SEN. This is of great concern to all schools and I have a meeting planned for the new term with the LA to discuss this further and have also contacted our MP, George Freeman. To support our children, they deserve to be funded correctly and the reality is we are being asked to do more with less.

The LA has an ambition for 99% of children to be in a mainstream setting also and our ambition is that all children are in the right school at the right time for them.

These are difficult times for everyone, including the LA financially, but we remain committed to doing the right thing for our children.

For transparency, I have added the communication from the LA to this letter for everyone.

Changes to SEND top-up funding (Element 3) – information for Norfolk families

Norfolk County Council is working with the government to improve support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), in a programme called Local First Inclusion. This is funded and brings £70m of investment from the government and £30m from the council.

A key part of the strategy is to support children to go to school in their local communities and stay in mainstream schools wherever possible.

More and more children, both in Norfolk and nationally, need extra support to learn and this is significantly increasing costs for councils everywhere. The budget that the council receives for specialist education isn't currently enough to cover the cost of provision in place and that means that it is overspent. Specialist school places, particularly those in independent schools, are extremely expensive and not always near to children's homes, or their friends. The council wants to reduce the number of children attending these schools by helping mainstream schools to improve the support they offer. To try to achieve this, it has been giving schools more top-up money, from the schools' budget, to support children's needs earlier, at their local school.

The amount being used for this has grown from around £9m in 2020/21 to £35m this year. However, the number of applications from schools for this money has been a lot higher than anyone expected and led to a £12m overspend on the budget. This means the council has no choice but to work with schools to try to bring this spending under control, otherwise the whole SEND programme and schools' budgets will be at significant risk. A condition of the government funding is that we will balance our budget.

The council has decided to cap the budget at £35m so that it does not overspend further. This is a similar level of funding to that spent last year but it does mean that schools will receive a lower rate of funding for the autumn and spring terms, than they received in the summer term. Schools had been expecting to have more money and had made plans for the next academic year based on different rates. The council understands that making this decision mid-year will cause difficulties for some schools and it hasn't taken this decision lightly, but the budget is at its very limit. The council is working with schools to try to reduce the impact on children as much as possible, particularly for those moving from nursery to primary school or from primary school to high school.

Goodbye Year 6

We say 'goodbye and good luck' to our Year 6 as they move off to High School. We have seen them grow and mature over their time with us, and we know they are ready to take on new challenges.

Be kind to each other, support each other, and make sure you give the best first impressions of yourselves when you go. You all have a lot to offer. You've got this! We look forward to hearing all about your adventures.



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FREE TENNIS TASTER SESSIONS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
SUNDAY 21ST JULY, 9.30 - 12.30pm
clubspark.lta.org.uk/ReephamTennisClub



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TENNIS TASTER SESSIONS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
SATURDAY 20th JULY, 2.00 - 5.00pm
<https://www.hellesdoncommunitytennis.org.uk/>



Newsletter



Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, in partnership with Dereham Baptist Church

Five tips for the Summer holidays



- 1) Make a plan. Create a budget and decide how much money you want to spend, find cost effective activities to do
- 2) Check out church and community activities, often free or low cost
- 3) Have a clear out, recycling, reusing or selling unwanted items
- 4) Make the most of the outdoors - parks, beaches, walks or picnics
- 5) Use what you have around the house - den building with cushions and duvets, dressing up for a fashion show



At CAP, we see the balance that many people have to strike between providing for their family and avoiding falling into unmanageable debt, and we know that this is getting increasingly difficult. We have appointments available locally, phone 0800 328 0006 to arrange.

There's a wide range of information and support services to be found online at money_helper.org.uk.

A Money Coaching Course is planned to start in October. Find out more at:
<https://capuk.org/get-help/money-coaching>

Our debt services are free, and available for those living in Dereham and the surrounding villages. There are other centres in Norfolk and across the UK.

For free debt help phone 0800 328 0006. Visit capuk.org for more info



Norfolk
County Council

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing!



With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued **after 19th August 2024**.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

- The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:
- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

- The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.
- Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.