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

Newsletter 1 September 2024

Welcome and welcome back!

It is lovely to see all of the children back in school with us, ready to learn. We know it can be a wobbly time for a few after a long holiday, adults and children, but rest assured the staff are always there to help and support.

If your child is a bit wobbly coming in, please just reassure them that their teacher and all the adults in school are looking forward to seeing them and you look forward to hearing about their day when they are picked up. It is best not to say 'be brave' as they will then think there is something to be worried about. We will always check in on them and we can honestly say they tend to settle quickly once in class and are supported to do so. If you are worried at drop off you can always ring us to see how they have settled for your own peace of mind.

Thank you all for ensuring the children have the correct uniform for school. It shows we are all part of one big federation family and allows the children to focus on their learning and not what they have to wear! If you need a reminder about what they can/cannot wear, you can find it on our website.

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

We have been in all of the classes and it is lovely to see how quickly they have settled into their routine. The transition days really support them to be ready for September.

Our new reception children have done so well. It is their first full day today and all of them have been involved in the learning in the classrooms and beyond. They have soon remembered the lunch routine and go and collect their lunches confidently and all sit and eat them together. If your child is having a hot lunch, please do support them to use cutlery and try to cut their own food at home. Where we will always help them if they find something tricky, we definitely can't cut that many meals up in one lunch time.

A few reminders!

Just a few reminders of things we often have to call home about or speak to parents about:

- **Shoes** should be black, flat and suitable for school. Please do not buy shoes with laces if your child cannot tie them. They can have plain black trainers with no visible logos.
- **Hair bands** etc should be functional, eg to keep the hair in a ponytail, and in the school colours. Large bows and large hair decorations should not be worn.
- Children can drink **WATER** only from a bottle during the day. This is the same in other schools. This is for many reasons. Drinking water is the best for hydration and keeping them able to learn, drinks other than water sipped on throughout the day can cause tooth decay and other issues and

if a bottle spills, water causes less damage and does not attract the ants. There are other reasons but water is the healthiest drink. Your child can bring juice or squash separately to drink with their lunch if they wish.

- Please do send your child with a **coat**. We had many children without a coat today so they could not go out. We aim to go outside every day unless there is torrential rain, so please do send them with a coat every day due to the weather being so unpredictable.
- Any **absences** should be left on the answer machine, which is in operation from when we close to when we open. You need to leave your child's name, class and why they are off. Please be clear what the illness is as 'unwell' is not a detailed enough reason for our registers.
- The rules for **holidays in term time** have changed. You will all have received the Government letter about absences and the new rules at the beginning of term which we are legally obliged to send to you, and we are bound to act within these rules.
- If you have **changed your phone number, work number, place of work or emergency contacts**, please do email the office to let them know as we already have tried to ring parents to contact them this term and found they no longer work at the place they have on record. If your child is unwell or there is an emergency, we really want to contact you quickly.
- If there have been a **change in circumstances at home**, you have had a bereavement or things are just a little tricky, please do let us know. It may affect your child and if we know we can support them through it. Every family has a difficult time at some time, so we do want to help. We do have a range of books at school to support families with issues such as bereavement, divorce, separations, illness etc so please do contact **Mrs Bates** our family support worker if you would like a friendly ear or borrow one of the books.
- If your child is at Junior School, please do make sure **you pay for lunches** in advance and there is enough credit on them for the meals your child is taking. It is £2.70 day.
- If you have an **URGENT message** for a member of staff, please do let the office know so they can ensure this is passed on. Staff when teaching will not be able to check dojo or tapestry and staff may not be in on the day you email them. We always aim to see parents/carers as soon as we can, but please be aware that this may not always be on the same day as staff may have other things planned in the calendar or they may not be in school. Absences should always be left on the absence line and not sent via dojo or tapestry please.
- If your child wishes to **cycle to school**, they need a permit. They also must wear a helmet and cycles are left at a parent/carer's own risk as we cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage, however this may happen. There is a link on the website for this. The link is <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/useful-forms/>
- On **collection** of children at Infants, if you have a child at Juniors you need to walk around on the path to collect them. This is because the Junior children are still in lessons at this time and for safeguarding reasons we do not have anyone other than staff walking around the premises in school time. Thank you for your support with this. **You cannot walk across the path to collect.**
- **Please do not let your child play on the play equipment** at the end of the day on collection. This is only for our children in school time under the supervision of a member of staff.
- If you let your child go to the **park next door** after school, please be satisfied they are safe when there. We have no control over what happens in the park, and many incidents happen when children are not under the supervision of a family member.

As always, if you have any questions, please do contact us and we will do our very best to find the right person to help you as quickly as possible.

Term Dates

Any new dates are highlighted yellow.

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Wednesday 11 th September	History of our Schools' Day for all children	
Wednesday 11 th September		National Child Measurement Programme Year 6
Monday 16 th September		Year 3 Egyptian Day Details to follow
Tuesday 17 th September		Year 3-4 MOTIV8 lunchtime sessions for selected children every Tuesday
Thursday 19 th September		Year 5-6 MOTIV8 lunchtime sessions for selected children every Thursday
Thursday 26 th September	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
Monday October 7 th	Wycombe Farm Visiting Year 1	
Wednesday 9 th October		Accelerated Reader parent workshop 2:15pm Details to follow (Junior parents)
Thursday 10 th October		Y5/6 Rugby festival at Easton College for selected children
Tuesday 15 th October	Reception Harvest Activity Morning 9:15-10:45 One adult per child, no younger children	
Thursday 17 th October	Y1/2 Cross Country at Langley prep for selected children	
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	
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parent café for parents of children with SEND 5.30 - 6.30 Focus on positive behaviour management A booking form will be sent out by Friday 13 th September	
Wednesday 23 rd October		Junior Rocksteady Concert for parents/carers 10 am in Junior hall. Information will be sent by Rocksteady.
Thursday 24 th October	Infant Rocksteady Concert for parents/carers 10 am in Junior hall. Information will be sent by Rocksteady.	
Thursday 24 th October		Y3/4/5/6 cross country for selected children at Langley
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 November	School re opens following half term at 8.40 am	
Monday 4 th November	Parent/Carer consultation online appointment booking opens at 4pm. Details of how to do this will be emailed to you.	
Wednesday 6 th November	Flu Vaccinations Further information to follow once received from NHS	
Thursday 7 th November		Y3/4/5/6 Girls' football at Goals in Norwich
Monday 11 th November		Year 4 Roman Day

Date	Infant School	Junior School
Monday 11 th November	Parent Consultations Online 4-7pm	
Wednesday 20 th November	Y1/2 PE festival at Dereham Leisure Centre for selected children	
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 (Those not seen last time) 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
Tuesday 17 th December	Parent café for parents of children with SEND 2-3pm at Infants Focus to be confirmed	
Wednesday 18 th December		Junior Rocksteady concert at 10am Rocksteady contact parents/carers directly
Wednesday 18 th December	Federation Christmas Lunch - Pre booked orders only	
Thursday 19 th December	Infant Rocksteady concert at 10am Rocksteady contact parents/carers directly	
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term Schools close at 3:15/3:25	
Tuesday 7 th January	School reopens for all children at 8.40 am	

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

PE Days

You have already been informed of your PE days, but if you are not sure please do message your child's teacher.

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/>

Cash Pot at Asda

We are signed up to 'cash Pot' at Asda and for every order you make online, you can opt in our schools to receive money! The best part is it doesn't cost you a penny! It links to your Asda reward card.

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024, every time customers shop with Asda using their Rewards app, they can choose a primary school to receive a percentage of their spend. And that's not all – every time a customer chooses your primary school, Asda will donate £1 to your school's Cashpot, plus a further £50 when your first customer shops.

Asda's Cashpot for Schools initiative allows shoppers to raise money for their chosen primary school, simply by shopping with Asda's loyalty app - Asda Rewards. Customers will simply need to select their primary school of choice within the app and make sure they scan every time they shop - the supermarket will donate 0.5% of the value of their basket to their chosen school. Asda will kickstart each school's Cashpot with £50 once they register for the initiative, and will add an additional £1 to the school pot for every customer who signs up. Asda is anticipating around £500 to be raised for each school taking part.

Behaviour Policy

We have updated our behaviour policy and it is now on our website.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Behaviour-and-Prevention-of-Bullying-Policy-including-exclusion-information-for-Sept-2024.pdf>

The main aim of our policy and procedures is this:

Our Federation will be a place where children and staff can feel safe and learn without disruption. Through application of our behaviour policy, children are supported to ensure this can happen for everyone.

This is a vital part of ensuring everyone can learn, so we ask for your support with this. If we need to talk about any behaviour your child has shown that is preventing this from happening, we would appreciate you working together with us so we can support them to make positive changes for success in the future.

We also have six new Federation values which will be promoted, discussed with the children and referred to in our daily school lives and celebrated when they are seen. These are values for now and for their future.

These are:

Autumn 1 - Respect, Autumn 2 - Honesty, Spring 1 - Resilience, Spring 2 - Collaboration, Summer 1 - Kindness, Summer 2 -Empathy

All values are introduced at the beginning of the academic year and referred back to throughout the year, with a deeper focus each half term on each one.

Why choose a school meal?

There are many benefits to school meals...

- 1 Supporting children's nutrition**
We fully adhere to the School Food Standards so you can be confident that the meals provided at lunchtime are healthy, balanced, and nutritious. 80% of our menus are cooked from scratch every day.
- 2 Tasty and varied menus**
We believe school meals provide a pathway for trying new foods and our menu development team work hard to create menus that cater to all tastes including traditional dishes and popular World cuisines using local-sourced ingredients.
- 3 More convenient than a packed lunch**
Opting for school meals can save you the time and hassle preparing packed lunches every day.
- 4 Fuel children for learning**
Research shows that a healthy, nutritious meal at lunchtime can significantly improve concentration and classroom behaviour.
- 5 Cater for dietary requirements**
We publish an allergen report for our menus and have a robust special diet procedure for children with medically-diagnosed allergies.
- 6 They are completely free**
If you are eligible for Free School Meals or your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1, your child can enjoy a school lunch every day for free. This is the equivalent to over £400 a year.

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Fresh Ideas Feeding Minds

norsecatering.co.uk

