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

Newsletter 2 - October 24

How are we already in October? The term is passing quickly already and the children have been so busy!

KS1 Football festival

Some of our Year 1 and Year 2 children attended a football festival at Goals in Norwich. The event started working on some teamwork skills and then they worked through 4 different football activities.

They practised dribbling, passing and then finished with a match!

All of the children thoroughly enjoyed being outside, active and developing their football skills, and had smiles on their faces all day! For many, it was their first time playing in a football match and they have all said they would like to play again.

One child received the 'respect' certificate and sticker as he supported the other members of a different school during the football game too!

Well done to everyone that took part! The children enjoyed a well-deserved rest at the end of the morning! See some photos and further information on our website here.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/autumn-1-2024-ks1-football-festival/>

Year 3 Egyptian Day

On Monday 16th September, Year 3 had a visitor from Portals to the Past to develop our understanding of Ancient Egypt. The visitor brought many resources with him that enabled us to visualise and use some of the objects in the same way as the Egyptians!

Firstly, the whole year group had an introductory talk about Ancient Egyptians and their everyday life. We discovered how Lower and Upper Egypt were united and all about the demise of Cleopatra - the last Pharaoh and how the Romans conquered the territory. Afterwards, we had a number of activities (artefacts, quiz boards and an Ancient Egyptian game) that each group explored throughout the morning.

From the exploration of the artefacts, the children discovered how enormous the ear piercings were for Ancient Egyptians and the stone decorative studs that they wore, as well as the make-up palettes and the reason the Egyptians wore black make up under their eyes - Ancient Egyptian's answer to sunglasses! The children were able to give plausible explanations about what they thought the objects were for by considering the clues given e.g. A make-up palette for mixing make up on, a small pot used to hold kohl, amulets and versions of alabaster pottery.

For further info and photos see our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-3/year-3-autumn-2024-ancient-egyptian-day/>

Active Kids Festival

On Thursday 26th September, 12 children from year 4 went to Taverham High School for an Active Kids Festival. The children were able to try a range of activities involving throwing, catching, running and moving in different ways. The children worked independently, in pairs and in small groups working on their team work skills. They listened well to the Sports Leaders and loved trying the activities with them. Everyone got stuck in and had a fantastic time, despite the weather!

One child commented that they especially liked being able to either make the activity a little harder or a little easier depending on their skill level. Another said it was the best school trip they'd been on!

See photos and full details on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/pe-events/26-9-24-active-kids-festival/>

Toftwood Federation Art Exhibition at Dereham Windmill

Once again we have been asked to provide an art exhibition at Dereham Windmill and it is now open on Fridays and Saturdays 10-3. Please do pop along and see the fantastic art work the children have produced. Many thanks to all of them for their hard work and also to Mrs Traferrri and Miss Degning for their work in putting it up out of school hours.

Sensory Circuits and Fleece Blankets

As part of our provision we run sensory circuits for children that need them each day. To help support us with this, if you have any clean fleece blankets in good condition that we can use, we would be most grateful for any donations!

Junior Gardening Club Mascots

Mrs Harvey-Parsons is hard at work with Gardening Club already this term.

In her efforts to motivate the children in the thankless task of weeding, she has some gardening club mascots. Each week, she will announce who has been 'Gardener of the Week'. They can choose from either Cordelia the cauliflower, Cameron the carrot, Benny the bean or Sally the strawberry. These can then be displayed in their classroom and return it the following week.



Science Technicians at Juniors

Miss Jacobs has been busy appointing Science Technicians from each year group. They have a sheet with a list of resources needed for Science lessons and collect them from the Science club and then deliver them to the classroom.

We are so pleased to have children who take on Federation responsibilities to help everyone.

Well done on your appointments:

Oliver, Alfie, Mason P, Izzy W, Tabitha from Year 6

Henri, Olivia T, Samuel, Evie C, Elena, Avery, Elijah, George W and Logan from Year 5.

I think you will all do a great job.

Online Safety

As part of our commitment to supporting families with keeping their children safe online, there is a presentation for parents and carers which you can watch to help support you. This is directly from the company we work with for our online safety newsletter.

Please be aware this is not specific to our school, but is there for general support and advice. We hope you find it useful.

<http://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/parent-online-safety-presentations/>

The password is Parents2024!

We also have a link to another video on Android Parental Controls which may be useful for you.

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

Earrings and PE - a reminder

Earrings present a hazard to both the wearer and other children taking part in sports activities. ·

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including pierced earrings, during PE lessons. ·

Teachers are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves. It would therefore be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days. · Children are responsible for their own earrings if they are taken out at school. ·

Taping of earrings is not allowed. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) issued advice and it supports our policy that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'.

There have been several incidences in schools where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape. The fundamental reason not to wear earrings (or any jewellery) is that it can lead to injury for the wearer and for others in the class. Wearing earrings can result in both tearing of the ear lobe, but also the post of the earring going into the neck.

Computing Update

Take a look at our website to see the excellent work taking place across the Federation in Computing!

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/curriculum/computing/>

Check out the work on stop animation movies in Year 2 and much more!

PE Award

Many thanks to Mr Barnard and all the staff and children for working so hard to be awarded the Norfolk PE KS2 Sporting Stars award, highlighting our fabulous PE provision!

Northgate Winner!

Congratulations to Tabitha R and Charlie F for guessing how many books in the jar at the Northgate open evening. You have won a prize of some books that are heading your way!

SRB update

The plans for our SEMH SRB are underway. We have a meeting shortly with the planners, and there will be a pre-planning exhibition after school at the Juniors on Tuesday 3rd December between 3:30pm and 5:30pm.

Parking and Driving

Thank you to everyone who parks sensibly and drives and safely for the school run.

You may have seen traffic wardens outside the schools trying to support us with this. We have had some reports from concerned parents/carers about driving recently which have been noted.

If you witness what you feel is dangerous parking or driving you can report this either online via the form through 101 (police) or through

Parkingoperation.co.uk

To do the latter you visit the website, go to enforcement then select enforcement requests.

You then put in the details required.

We all support safer parking and driving around our children and the schools, but the best way to do this is through official channels such as those above or reporting it to us. The Dereham Community Facebook Page is not the place to report it nor will it solve any issues or concerns.

Year 5/6 Lunchtime Jobs

Thankyou to all of the Year 5 and 6 children who have applied to take on responsibilities at Infants at lunch, in order to support our school community and make lunchtimes a safe and happy place for all of our children.

We have had good feedback form the staff at infants about the children helping out, and we know it will give them a sense of pride and responsibility for making a difference to all those children.

Have a lovely weekend! We look forward to updating you all with more news and excitement soon!