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

Newsletter 4 - 8th November 2024

### A busy week!

We have only been back a week but we have packed so much in already.

Thankyou for bearing with us as we manage the kitchen being out of action at Juniors today and on Monday.

We are waiting for a part to arrive and will let you know about Tuesday as soon as we know.

The menu for Monday will be the same as usual but we will not be able to do jacket potatoes. (The menu will be pizza or Spanish omelette or tuna sandwich)

All of the Junior hot lunch children will eat at infants from their kitchen today and Year 1 and 2 packed lunches at the Junior school so we can make a transition opportunity out of something that does not work! Also thankyou for your support when we have had no internet today at Infants, and make sure you contact the Juniors via email or ring infants if you have an important message. Hopefully that will soon be sorted!

### Competition Winner!

A huge congratulations to Sunny in Year 1 who was a runner up in the Big Tidy Up competition.

The prize is an eco book, some arts and crafts supplies and a certificate and she also won a litter-picking bundle for our schools, which will support the Federation council when they do their litter picking.

Here is her poster.



### **Roast Dinner Day at Neatherd High School**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 8 lucky Year 1 and 2 children went to Neatherd for their Roast Dinner Day. Mr Anderson invited us, and he is a science teacher at Neatherd.

We were picked up in the minibus and taken to the High School, which was very exciting.

When we were there, we were served roast gammon and turkey, roast potatoes, carrots, parsnips, stuffing, sprouts and gravy. The children all thought this was delicious. Harrison even discovered that, having had parsnips when he was 5 and he didn't like them, he enjoyed them today. He thought it was a good idea to try new foods if you didn't like them the first time. His advice is to wait a year and try them again.

The plate of food was huge but they all did their very best to try everything.

For dessert, we had a choice of chocolate brownie and cream or treacle sponge and custard. Both looked equally delicious but Talia and Harrison asked very nicely for brownie and custard. Genius!

The Gardening Club students were very good at looking after us. They got us our drinks and helped us if we needed it. It was lovely to see how our past students had grown and matured. You can see them on the photos!

We then got back on the minibus to come back to school and made thankyou cards for everyone. A huge thankyou to Mr Anderson and Neatherd for organising it, to the kitchen staff for such a wonderful lunch, the lady who drove the bus and picked us up and the pupils who looked after us.



### **Car Parks and Parking**

Please remember our car parks are for staff only. There is no parking there for parents and carers or for dropping off, so please find a suitable and legal space on the road. If you can, please walk! Please also, as always, do not park or drop on the zig zags, it is unsafe for our children and inconsiderate for other road users.

### **Language of the Month**

We are now having a language of the month to recognise the many languages spoken by our children. This will continue every month as we have so many languages we will need to continue next September. There will be a language of the month poster in each class with the name of the language we are focusing on written on it.

Here is our plan:

Toftwood Federation Language of the Month

November - Portuguese  
December - Turkish  
January - Chinese  
February - Malayalam  
March - Polish  
April - Russian  
May - Swedish  
June - Latvian  
July - Romanian  
September - Bengali  
October - Swazi  
November - Tamil  
December - Vietnamese  
January - Igbo  
February - Kurdish  
March - Lithuanian  
April - Welsh  
May - Punjabi

If you think we have left any languages out, please let us know! If you speak any of these languages and want to end in any simple words or phrase when it is the language of the month, we would also be grateful.

### **Gangs and County Lines Sessions for Parents and Carers**

St Giles, on behalf of the NSCP, is running an awareness-raising session for parents and carers on Gangs and County Lines. Its aim is to help parents and carers recognise the signs and indicators that young people are at risk of becoming involved in gangs, exploitation and violence, as well as advice on how to have conversations about these issues and where to seek support.

The **online event will be on Thursday 14 November 2024, 10:00-11:30am.**

If you would like to attend please click on the following link to find out more and reserve a place.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-gangs-and-county-lines-for-parents-and-carers-in-norfolk-tickets-1037754049297>

### **Puzzles!**

Many of our children find it very calming and therapeutic to sit calmly and do a puzzle. If you have any complete puzzles you no longer need, we would gratefully accept them for the children. Anything from 50 pieces to 1000 pieces!

### **Vacancies in the Federation**

There is just over one week left to apply for our pastoral support worker role (30 hours per week) and a TA role (16 hours per week), both from January.

Please see the links for further information.

<https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/job/a492f50e-b47a-4421-8852-b53f2077aad9> (Pastoral Support Worker)

<https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/job/59a58d05-e9a2-4236-9967-dfaa131869a8> (Year 4 TA)

If you know anyone who is suitably qualified and would be interested, please direct them to the adverts or contact the office for more details.

### **Welcome Back**

A huge welcome back to **Mrs Adams** who returned from her maternity leave this week. She will be working on a Thursday and Friday with Year 2 in the mornings, adding additional teaching support for the children in the year group, and then in the afternoon teaching CM1 and EB1 for one afternoon each.

We are pleased to have her back and we are sure she will soon get back into the swing of things.

### **Values**

Our focused value this half term is honesty. This is another vital value for life and one some children can find difficult at times for a variety of reasons. We shall be promoting this and awarding a certificate per class for this at the end of this half term.

### **Parent Consultation Bookings**

Just a reminder that our system for parent/carer consultation bookings for an online appointment is now open. If you have any difficulties accessing the system, please ring the school office for support. The first night is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Assemblies**

In our assemblies, we want to teach our children about empathy and respect, two of our values. We also want them to understand that although we may be different, we are all important and valued. As part of this, in Junior assemblies I have begun to share, at an age appropriate level, about different needs, abilities and medical conditions relevant to the children in our school. This is to promote ad understanding and also an awareness of how they can help the children, emotionally and practically. We have looked at autism and it was so positive to hear this made those who are autistic feel recognised and valued. The video was made by the National Autistic Society, is called Amazing Things Happen and you can see the video by using this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezv85LMFx2E&ab\\_channel=AmazingThingsProject](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezv85LMFx2E&ab_channel=AmazingThingsProject)

We have also talked about epilepsy and watched two videos on this also. We talked about absence seizures and tonic clonic seizures. The children then looked at how you can support someone if they have one of these seizures, and ensured they all know to find an adult if they see this at break or lunch.

Those videos are made by epilepsy action and can be found here:

<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/living/parents-and-children/just-for-kids>

After the last assembly a whole host of children approached me and asked for other conditions to be discussed at assembly time. This included ADHD, Tourettes, Sensory Processing Disorder. I will be making a list and looking for suitable videos to share with the children on this.

If you can revisit these videos at home with your child, it will help develop that understanding and empathy for others.

We will do this with the Infant children at a later date, further into the school year.

### **Lunch Arrears**

Please do ensure that you pay for lunches IN ADVANCE. The money is owed to the catering company and they should not provide a lunch that has not been paid for. We all forget on occasions but ongoing lunch debt is not acceptable.

You can check if you can have free school meals for your child through this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

### **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'. Wearing earrings can result in both tearing of the ear lobe, but also the post of the earring going into the neck.

### **Girls' Football**

Mr Barnard and Mrs Morris took two teams of girls to a football tournament this week. They all showed great collaboration and trust in each other, and played respectfully with all the teams. We are very proud of their achievements and participation.

We did win an award also to show our commitment to football for all. Well done everyone!



### Events next week!

Just a reminder for these events happening next week. Emails have already gone out, so please do check back.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> is Roman day for Year 4

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> is odd socks day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> is Children in Need day

All of next week is maths week, when the children will be taking part in different maths challenges.

### Cold Weather

Please make sure the children come with a warm winter coat as it is turning colder. The wind can whip across the playing fields!

### Sugar for Shelters



The poster features a central image of a decorated Christmas tree with a teddy bear, gifts, and sugar packets. The text is arranged around the image, providing details about the collection event.

**Sugar for Shelters** Christmas School Sugar Collection

Supporting shelters in East Anglia for the homeless and families in crisis

**PLEASE BRING A BAG OF SUGAR INTO SCHOOL BY**

**10AM**

**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DEC 2024**

**For the needy, sugar is instant and vital energy in food and hot drinks**

*Celebrating 30 years of school sugar collection*

BEFA (The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal)  
Registered Charity Number: 1066578

Supported by BRITISH SUGAR

### Family Action

Please the link below to our Norfolk & Waveney Autism and ADHD Support Service newsletter for November. We are focusing this month on Anxiety with the aim of helping parents and carers to understand where it may spring from and how to support children and young people. The newsletter also contains information about our courses, workshops and drop-ins in November.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/vWMiJxL2jBakaqGa?ref=email>

### Rockavox Community Choir



# RockavoX

COMMUNITY CHOIR

PRESENTS

# Winter's Night

A CONCERT TO WARM YOUR HEART!



SATURDAY

**16**

NOVEMBER

**7pm**

**St Nicholas Church**  
Church Street, Dereham

Tickets £10 each / £6 Concessions

Available to purchase from JDT Music Academy  
01362 694817 or online via the QR Code



[www.jdtmusic.co.uk/rockavox](http://www.jdtmusic.co.uk/rockavox)