

Towngate Primary Academy

Headteacher:
Mrs Annabel Berry

Chair of Governors:
Mrs Joanne Crook

Safeguarding Officers:
Mrs A Berry; Miss L Eke; Miss S Brown; Miss S Lockett



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11.01.19

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to welcome all pupils, staff and parents/carers back to Towngate Primary Academy after our Christmas holidays. It has been a wonderful week back in school, where the children have excelled themselves in their learning and have started 2019 with maximum effort and determination! Welcome back everybody!

Mrs Manners

We would like to take this opportunity to inform all parents/carers and pupils that Mrs Manners' time at Towngate Primary Academy has sadly come to an end. On behalf of all staff and pupils, I am sure you will join us in sending your best wishes and thanks to Mrs Manners for her ongoing commitment, care and consideration for all the staff, pupils and community of our school.

Finalised Homework Findings

As you will be aware, the SLT sourced the views about homework from the parents and carers of our academy. Please see the outcome of this below:

- Some parents expressed that they felt as though the projects that were set during holidays were often difficult to complete in the time given. As a result, more time will be allocated for pupils to complete their topic projects after the holidays to ensure sufficient time is given.
- Reading is an integral skill to all pupils within the academy – at all ages. We will continue to ask that children read regularly at home and evidence this in their reading records.
- Maths homework will be sent out to all pupils in classes Y1 – Y6. This homework will consist of key calculations / times tables to ensure that age-appropriate calculation skills are embedded across all classes. This homework will be marked.
- Spellings will continue to be sent home to children in the academy.
- Some parents expressed they would like more homework to be available. With this in mind, we will be relaunching our Times Table Rockstars for maths and Treasure House activities (English) for pupils to use on a computer or portable device.

Items for the homeless

As the days and nights are continuing to feel colder, we would like to ask for your support in providing items for the homeless. Items such as: coats, blankets, sleeping bags, clothes and shoes would be welcomed. Additionally, any toiletries or sanitary products and food parcels are very much appreciated. Should you wish to donate, please bring any items to the school office and we will pass these on to the homeless project.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Annabel Berry
Headteacher

Miss Laura Eke
Deputy Headteacher



Events in our academy this week:

To view more photographs of events happening within our academy, take a look at our Twitter account @TowngatePA

Early Years

We have had a very busy start to our new term. F1 and F2 are thinking about space. We have been busy talking about the names of different planets and thinking of questions we would like to answer. F2 have also been solving number problems and we have been using and exploring magnets through our provision.

Mrs Kimbley

Key Stage One

Welcome back KSI!

All the staff in KSI are proud of how well you have returned to school and how hard you have worked during our first week back. This week we have been learning all about tigers and are fascinated by all the interesting facts we have learnt.

We had a fantastic time with GB athlete Leah, she inspired us to be more active and chase our dreams. Following her visit we have been learning in Science about how to ensure we live a healthy lifestyle and discussed the different food types we eat.

Miss Lockett

Key Stage Two

Across Key Stage Two this week, we have been working hard to develop our reading areas on the corridors - we are excited to spend time enjoying books with our friends! Each class were also lucky enough to have spent time with Leah Barrow, an 800m athlete who put us through our paces in an athletics workshop! She inspired us with her story to create a growth mindset and work hard to maintain our positivity.

In Year 6 this week, we have worked incredibly hard with our decimals in Maths: we have continued to impress Miss Eke and Mrs Schofield with our problem solving skills! Well done everyone! Year 5 have launched their topic on the Rainforest this week. Year 4 have been lucky enough to take part in a specialist French workshop this afternoon, they are enjoying learning new vocabulary alongside speaking skills.

Year 3 have enjoyed sharing their volcano models with their peers, which they made as part of their holiday homework. This week, Mr Hellam's class have welcomed Shelly and are enjoying taking care of him!

Miss Atkinson





Special Mentions



Celebration Assembly Star of the Week

Here are our Star of the Week children for this week:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Foundation Stage | Joshua & Max |
| Year 1 | Darcy & Eva |
| Year 1 / 2 | Billy & Isabelle |
| Year 2 | George & Lydia |
| Year 3 | Skyla & Edith |
| Year 3 / 4 | Eliza & Isabelle |
| Year 4 | Ruby & Brandon |
| Year 5 | Jensen & Lexie |
| Year 6 | Alfie & Jessica |
| Miss Brown's award | Loren & Aaron |

Marble Winners

We celebrate excellent team work in our academy by awarding class marbles during learning time, transition time, playtime and lunchtime. Here are our marble winners this week:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st Place | Year 4: 175 |
| 2 nd Place | Year 6: 128 |
| 3 rd Place | Year 3: 120 F2: 120 |

School Attendance

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Whole School: this week | 94.89% |
| Nursery | 93.56% |
| Foundation Stage | 85.16% |
| Year 1 | 95.42% |
| Year 1 / 2 | 95.4% |
| Year 2 | 97.32% |
| Year 3 | 100% |
| Year 3 / 4 | 98.52% |
| Year 4 | 95% |
| Year 5 | 95.74% |
| Year 6 | 90.48% |

Our whole school attendance target is 97%.

To date, our attendance currently sits at 97.08% – we are only marginally above our target.

Whilst we appreciate that illnesses do occur, please can we remind all parents and carers of the importance of ensuring good attendance for your children.

Congratulations to Year 3 who have achieved 100% attendance this week!



Towngate Primary Academy - Times Table Challenge

The National Curriculum states that by Year 4, children are required to know their times tables up to 12x12. To help with this, we are introducing a new Times Table Challenge to help children know and recall their times tables quickly and accurately. We hope this will give children a distinctive advantage by the end of Key Stage 2.

Alongside learning their times tables, once a week children will be given the opportunity to take a Times Table Challenge quiz which is appropriate for their level of learning. To progress through the stages, children are required to complete a timed challenge and should answer 20 randomly ordered multiplication and division questions correctly. Children will progress through Bronze, Silver and Gold (receiving a badge at the end of each stage). Once children have completed the final quiz (a mixture of times tables) they will receive a certificate in achievement assembly.

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|------|---------|
| Bronze badge | 2 x | 5 x | 10 x | Mixture |
| Silver badge | 4x | 8x | 3x | Mixture |
| Gold badge | 6x 7x | 9x 11x | 12x | Mixture |



What's in the news this week?



Picture News

at Home

14th January 2019

What's going on this week?



14th - 20th January

Should our Leaders make key decisions, or should we all have a say?

Britain is expected to leave the EU on the 29th March this year following a referendum in June 2016. This week, over two hundred Members of Parliament have signed a letter to the Prime Minister asking her to rule out a no-deal Brexit, to try to protect jobs and manufacturing. A no-deal Brexit means the UK would leave the European Union (EU) immediately on 29 March 2019, and there would be no agreements in place about what their relationship would be like in future.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🍏 Talk about what you know about Brexit already.
- 🍏 Deciding whether we stay in the European Union or if we leave it, is a huge decision. Do you think it should have been made by our leaders, the government, or do you think it was right for the public to vote?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...



One of our academy parents, Mrs Hancox, has been working hard to organise a Ladies Fashion Show and pop-up shop. Please find the details of this event shared below.

**Ladies Fashion Show
AND Pop-up Shop!**

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS
AT 50% OFF OR MORE!**

Colours.
[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS

**Saturday 2nd February 2019
Wakefield Gym Club**

Woodkirk Valley Country Club, Leeds Country Way, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF12 7JL

Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7pm
Tickets: £5
Tickets to be purchased in advance.

Charity raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!
For tickets and more information please contact:
chlbehancox@hotmail.co.uk or 07972717120

