

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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Dear parents and carers,

As our final week of autumn term comes to a close, the children and staff are all ready for a well-deserved Christmas break! This week has been full of fun and festivities and we are incredibly grateful for the support we have received throughout this term. On behalf of Miss Eke and I, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the wonderful children in the academy for being a delight to teach; thank you to all staff, students and volunteers, governors and the PTA for your commitment and hard work in our academy. Finally, thank you to each and every one of you – the parents and carers of our pupils here at Towngate.

Christmas Carol Concert

On Friday, all of the pupils from Reception through to Year 6 walked up to Kings Way Church in Ossett to enjoy a Christmas Carol Concert. The pupils walked incredibly sensibly through our community and sang their hearts out in the church! The children spent the morning singing Christmas carols and listening to Christmas stories told by Reverend Mike Jones and his team. We would like to extend our thanks to all at the Kings Way Church – who warmly welcomed all staff and pupils into the church.

Christmas Parties

This week all children were able to enjoy their Christmas parties with their classmates. As you can imagine, during the party there was lots of dancing, party games and food enjoyed by all! This was a perfect way to celebrate Christmas with the children and adults. Thank you to all parents and carers who donated food for all the children to enjoy during their parties!

Whole School Christmas Homework

We are sure all parents and carers will agree that Christmas is time to be spending quality time with family and friends. With this in mind, we will not be sending regular homework home this holiday: we have attached a 'whole school homework' for all children to complete with their families – we hope you enjoy!

Operation Encompass

As of January, we are proud to be going live as an Operation Encompass school. Operation Encompass is an early intervention of a safeguarding partnership between the police and education settings, which supports children who are exposed to domestic abuse by notifying schools of any incident to ensure school can support the child effectively throughout the day. Please find attached a letter explaining the system in greater detail.

Kindest regards,
Mrs Annabel Berry
Headteacher

Miss Laura Eke



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

F1 and F2 have had a very busy week. We all had fun at our Christmas party and we enjoyed meeting our special visitor, Santa. This week F2 have been thinking about the story Stick Man by Julia Donaldson and we have been practising our writing skills. We have also been thinking about solving number problems by adding and subtracting. We are incredibly proud of how hard all the children have worked this term. We would all like to wish you all a very happy Christmas!

Key Stage One

Key Stage One enjoyed their INSPIRE afternoon this week, where they made stick men to conclude their English and DT topics. Thank you to any parents and carers who attended this event.

As Key Stage One Leader, I would like to share how very proud we are in school of all our KSI children: you have all worked extremely hard and we can see you mature and develop every single day!

We wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Key Stage Two

In Lower Key Stage 2 this week, parents and carers were invited into the academy for an INSPIRE afternoon, where children made calendars – in the theme of seasons – to take home this week. Year 6 completed their mathematics learning on fractions and did an outstanding job when tasked with the tricky job of multiplying and dividing! Well done Year 6! Year 5 have enjoyed watching the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe to conclude their English learning.

We would like to say that we wish all children in Key Stage 2 a very 'Merry Christmas!'

You are all a delight to have in our academy and we would like to thank you all for working so hard during autumn term. We hope you all have a wonderful time with your families and friends over the festive period!



Whole School Homework

During the holidays, we would like everyone to have completed some tasks from this list, to share in our first assembly in January!

Photographs are very welcome, but please come back to school ready to share some stories!

- Spend time with your family and friends
- Watch a Christmas movie
- Eat food that you love – and maybe try something new!
- Make somebody laugh and smile
- Do something for somebody else
- Visit one of your favourite places
- Play a board game
- Wrap a present
- Read a book
- Show everyone our value of the month: trust



Operation Encompass

Dear Parent/Carer,

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a new project that will run jointly between schools, Wakefield Council and West Yorkshire Police. The project aims to support children who are living in households where there are incidents of domestic violence and abuse. Witnessing or even hearing domestic abuse is distressing for a child or young person. They may see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or can be physically hurt trying to stop the abuse.

The domestic violence and abuse school notification project has been designed to provide confidential notification to schools on any incidents of domestic violence and abuse which occur within a child's household that might have an impact on a child whilst they are in school.

The project will ensure that a member of the school staff is trained to allow them to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, and ensure that the school is able to make provision and allowances for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic violence or abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is going to be very useful and supportive for all those involved. I believe this project demonstrates our school's commitments to the safety, welfare of pupils and families. In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our key adults in school who are Mrs Annabel Berry or Miss Laura Eke.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Berry
Headteacher



What's in the news this week?



Picture News

at Home

10th December 2018

What's going on this week?



10th-15th December
Should technology
be banned at
mealtimes?

The restaurant chain Frankie and Benny's is hoping to stop customers from using their mobile phones while eating dinner. It believes it is the first large company in the UK to start the scheme and is offering a 'children eat free' bonus to anyone who agrees.

The campaign will run for a week at all of the company's 230 restaurants and may be rolled out permanently depending on its success.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🍎 Do you think there are times that mobile phones and iPads should be allowed when we are having meals? When are these times?
- 🍎 At Frankie and Benny's, they want to put people's phones in a locked box whilst they are eating? Do you think this is a good idea? Why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...

