

Diary Dates

- **Monday 28th October**
Return to school
- **Wednesday 30th October**
Year 1 Toy Workshop
- **Friday 1st November**
Halloween Disco 4.15pm - 5.30pm
- **Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th Nov**
Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- **Monday 11th November**
Year 3 & Year 4 walk to Hazel Grove Cenotaph for Remembrance day
- **Wednesday 13th November**
Individual school photos
- **Friday 22nd November**
Year 4 Assembly 9am
Year 4 Roman Workshop
- **Friday 29th November**
Non-Uniform Day
- **Wednesday 4th December**
KS1 Christmas Performance AM & PM
- **Thursday 5th December**
Reception Height & Weight Screening
- **Friday 6th December**
Non-Uniform — Christmas jumper day
Pantomime
Christmas Fair 3.30pm
- **Tuesday 10th December**
EYFS Christmas Performance AM & PM
- **Wednesday 11th December**
Christmas Dinner Day
- **Friday 13th December**
KS2 Christmas Carol Concert 2.45pm
- **Monday 16th December**
EYFS Christmas Party
- **Tuesday 17th December**
Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
- **Wednesday 18th December**
Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party
- **Thursday 19th December**
Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party
School Closes @ 3.25pm
- **Monday 6th January**
Return to school

Message from Mr.B

How quickly time flies; as you can read, the children have done some amazing things this half term. I am particularly proud of the way our new Nursery and Reception children have settled into school. Our curriculum focus this half term has been on science and in particular investigations and experiments. Next half term we will be linking the skills the children have developed and applying them to Design and technology. We have implemented our new phonics scheme "super sonic phonics" and the children have really enjoyed learning new actions and rhymes. We will be inviting EYFS and KS1 parents in to classes to see the teaching—this will build on the information session we shared with you this half term. Miss Lobley has researched additional reading interventions and will be trialling some new ideas in lower KS2 next half term; this is designed to develop key knowledge to enable the children to deepen their understanding of decoding strategies. We are refocussing our attention onto celebrating all the positive aspects of our society and we will be using Picture News to explore the key British values. This work will start with an assembly each week and use a current affairs picture to explore each of the values.

Our multi gym has been a huge success with the children and we are really grateful to the PTA for their support. Please support the Halloween disco on the first Friday back so we can raise money for the next project. Our Honey Money came in at £260 which we will use to support the bees through the winter. Our buildings work over the holiday will be on the main infrastructure of the school. The boiler will be refitted and serviced; the upper school girls toilets are having an overhaul. We are also planning to have KS1 and Lower KS2 bay areas painted and freshened up. Mr Marshall will be replacing the logs on the main climbing frame which will enable the children to access it all again. We have had 2 kitchen inspections this half term and passed them both with 5 star ratings—huge congratulations to Emma our cook and her team. The local authority will be inspecting our fire alarm system over the holiday in preparation for installing a completely new system.

During the first week back we will be sending out nominations to become a parent Governor. Please consider the applying for the role; school governors are a vital support in supporting our school. It is a real opportunity to become involved in the life of the school.

Finally, a huge thank you for the increased attendance figures, especially with all the bugs going around; this is much more reflective of what we need. The main cause of the drop last year was unauthorised term time holidays. Please avoid booking them.

Harvest Festival 2024

It was lovely to see you all at our annual Harvest Assembly this half term. We hope you enjoyed hearing the children singing together – they have been working hard all half term practicing their songs and poems. Hazel Grove Foodbank were overwhelmed with all of your kind donations and have asked us to pass on their thanks to you all, it will all make a big difference!
Thank You



PTA News!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has shown an interest and joined our PTA. The PTA does a wonderful job in raising additional funds for the school by holding exciting events for both children and parents to enjoy. So much has already been set up just within a few weeks and they are already hard at work planning the Halloween disco and the wonderful Christmas Fair on the 6th December. It's going to be amazing!

Plus, lots of exciting ideas are being put together for more exciting fundraising events! Keep your eyes peeled. Last year we managed to raise £5000, which was enough money to purchase the new gym equipment. It will be exciting to see what we can all achieve together over the next 12 months.

A big thank you to all children and parents that continuously show us a big support at these events, it is always appreciated. Tickets are now on sale for the **HALLOWEEN DISCO** which is on Friday 1st November via ParentPay: £4per child. Tickets must be purchased by 12pm Wednesday 31st October to gain entry. Fancy dress is optional. ENJOY!

A Super Start Reception!

We have had a brilliant first half term in Reception. The teaching team are so proud of the amazing start reception class have had. The children have adapted to school beautifully, taking on all the learning opportunities they have been offered, whilst demonstrating a developing growth mindset ethos to their learning.

This half term we have been exploring lots of different traditional fairy tale stories, including the 'The Billy Goats Gruff', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Through these stories we have experienced making and eating yummy gingerbread men, finding giant footprints with golden coins and planting magic beans!

Reception have embraced our new phonic scheme, showing the adults how to do the super actions. This has had a positive impact on the children's reading and writing skills and enjoyment.

Reception have been outstanding role models on Thursday mornings with our nursery friends. In our 'Messy Faces', sessions our EYFS chefs have made hedgehog bread, delicious porridge for the 3 bears and fruity treat linked to 'Handa's Surprise'. During 'Muddy Faces', the children have demonstrated teamwork and perseverance, they loved playing VANISH hide and seek, going on a scavenger hunt, building a bridge to help the Billy Goats escape the cheeky troll and den building!

Archie- 'Something happened in our class! The giant came and he had huge footprints. He left us golden chocolate coins'.

Arabella- 'I loved baking and eating the yummy gingerbread men. He was cheeky in the story'.



Fabulous times in Year 1

What a wonderful first half term we have had! In English we have explored lots of different fairy tales which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

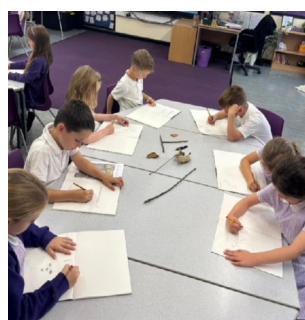
Our focus has been on the story of Little Red Riding Hood and innovating this with our own new characters. The children have had lots of fun participating in role-play activities, hot seating and exploring the woods to create setting descriptions before completing their first hot write. To finish the topic they created water colour illustrations and blew us all away with their fabulous drawing and painting skills.



Year 2 are Scientists!

The children have had a wonderful start to Year 2! They have done lots of active learning both in and out of the classroom. They have enjoyed working with their friends to create pieces of drama in our PSHE lessons to explore the link between our actions and consequences, become Scientists through conducting a range of experiments in our Science lessons and worked hard to learn their song for Harvest, which they performed beautifully during our assembly! They have particularly enjoyed exploring the woods to find inspiration for their Art topic this half term!

"In Science I liked going on a hunt in the woods to find natural and man-made objects that we put in groups" Margot



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be held on Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th November between 3:30pm & 5.30pm for all classes.

The booking system will go live at 7pm on Monday 28th October. Please ensure that you can log on to the booking system prior to this date

<https://torkington.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Outdoor Shoes

As we are coming into the winter months, We will still continue to utilise our outdoor space to its full potential. This is for the health and wellbeing of the children. Physical education, playtimes and other outdoor learning activities are all essential aspects of the school day.

Please ensure that children have appropriate footwear in school to change into - wellies or old trainers.

School Meals

The cost for school meals for junior children is £2.60 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments at least one week in advance.

A new menu is starting after Half Term and is available on Dojo. It is also on our Website.

Please note that we require 1 week's notice to change lunchtime arrangements.

Please let us know if your child has any special dietary requirements.

Attendance for This Half-Term

- Reception 98.5%
- Year 1 96.3%
- Year 2 97.8%
- Year 3 98.4%
- Year 4 97.2%
- Year 5 98.0%
- Year 6 98.1%
- **Overall 97.8%**

WOW! Congratulations to Reception

for achieving the highest % attendance and to Y3, Y5 & Y6 who have all exceeded our very ambitious target.

School Target : 98%

We are very proud of our excellent attendance at Torkington and ask everyone to help us keep attendance levels as high as possible.

Please try to avoid appointments during the school day whenever possible and avoid booking term time holidays. If unavoidable, proof of all appointments must be provided.

Year 3 Creativity

We have been getting creative in Year 3 this half term! In art, we have explored the work of Laura McKendry who uses charcoal to make large gestural drawings of dogs. We explored using the charcoal to create lines, shape and tone and thought about how charcoal can be used to represent light and dark. Inspired by historic images of cave art, we then used the techniques we had practiced to explore gestural cave paintings. We all had a fantastic time!

"I loved learning how to smudge to charcoal and draw pictures of animals in our Stone Age cave paintings, I also loved making our classroom into a cave!" – Beau

"I really liked when we were in the hall and did giant cave paintings using lots of different charcoal on a big sheet of paper that we stuck to the floor. I had lots of fun." – Fred H



Torkington Beekeepers!



It has been another successful year of beekeeping. 3 years on and the hives get bigger & better each year. Our current Year 6 children did a great job in caring for the bees over spring and summer. They were all naturals. In September they got to see how all of their hard work had paid off when they took part in extracting the honey from the hives. Well Done Year 6! Thank you to everyone who purchased some honey, we hope you enjoyed it! The money made from the sale is being reinvested back into caring for the bees.



Artistic Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring poetry through art work. We have been reading A Day In Autumn. We had to think of all things associated with the season and tell a story using the words from the poem. We created some illustrations to match and our end product



was a comic strip. We used different mediums of pastels and charcoal to create the desired effects.

"I really enjoyed creating my artwork as I could make it bold using black pen and charcoal." Cooper

"I enjoyed doing my art work using the pastels and making up an autumn colour palette." Poppy

Governor Elections

Mr B. will be sending home information after the half term break. This is an exciting opportunity to become involved in school direction, finance and curriculum Please feel free to ask if you require additional information or guidance on the role of a parent governor

Vehicle Access

For the safety of everyone, please can we remind all parents/carers that no vehicle access to the school grounds is permitted in a morning or before 4.45pm in an evening. Access is for Staff only.

Should you access the car park outside of these hours please still remain mindful of your speed and the safety of others.

Supporting the Royal British Legion

From **Monday 4th November**, we will be accepting donations on behalf of the Royal British Legion for poppies and other small items of memorabilia. Our Y6 Poppy Monitors will be selling items within each class so please send cash donations into school with your child if they wish to make a purchase

Asthma Inhalers and Prescription Medication

At the start of this half term, we updated our list of children who require asthma inhalers. Please let us know immediately if your child is prescribed an inhaler.

Only prescription medication will be administered in school, with the exception of Paracetamol which will be administered with parental consent.

All medicines must be handed directly to the school office with a completed medical form.

Year 5's Medieval Monarchs and 1066 Assembly

This half-term, Year 5 have learnt about the fascinating world of medieval monarchs, focusing on one of the most important events in English history—the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The children explored the events leading up to the battle, comparing leaders, and even created their own version of the Bayeux Tapestry, which was proudly displayed during our class assembly. Through their research, the children discussed the qualities that made a great (or not so great!) medieval monarch, comparing figures such as William the Conqueror and King Richard. They also looked at the lasting impact of the Magna Carta.

"I loved creating the Bayeux Tapestry in art—it really helped me understand the story of the battle." – Erin

"It was fun learning about all the different kings and deciding which ones were good leaders and which weren't!" – Max

Our Class Assembly brought history to life with storytelling and art, and the children relished the opportunity to share their newfound knowledge with the rest of the school. Well done, Year 5!



Nursery's Muddy & Messy Faces



Nursery have had a wonderful first Half Term and have settled beautifully into their new environment and new routines. They have especially enjoyed spending time with the Reception Children getting messy in the Outdoor Classroom! These Muddy Face sessions gave children the opportunity to explore the outdoors through fun activities. They used Natural materials to write their names and build dens and bridges to rescue the three billy goats from the troll.

And, if that wasn't enough, we also took part in messy face sessions that involved baking bread like little red hen, Making and tasting porridge like the three bears and using Handa's fruit to create yummy treats.

"I liked doing muddy faces and playing hide and seek. I hide near the tree." Leo

"I made a bridge with logs for the three billy goats." Lucas

"I liked making bread. I did spikes, it needed cutting with scissors and raisins for eyes." Sienna

Year 6, Residential 2024. Written by Eleanor and Thomas

DAY ONE: When we got there, we were assigned our rooms and unpacked. We then had lunch and were put into 3 groups. After we did three activities (Bouldering, Bush craft and Nightline) in our groups. They were really fun, we even got to start a fire using a steel and flint. We then settled back into our rooms and got ready to have our dinner. We then went to the labyrinth. The labyrinth is a large maze underground that instead of standing up in the maze you had to army crawl around. After about 30 mins we then played hide and seek in groups of our choosing. This was our favorite activity, it was so much fun and we'd never done anything like it before.

DAY TWO: We were woken up at around 7:00 am by loud music which was funny. At 8:00 we had breakfast and at 9:00am we got into waterproof clothes and then were put into our groups and drove to a reservoir and started canoeing. We played lots of different games and got to jump in the water at the end it was freezing! Then we played limb bingo. When we got back we did high ropes and leap of faith. After dinner we watched a movie and drank hot chocolate.

DAY THREE: We woke up the same as normal. We did Fencing, Archery and team building. We then got on the coach and returned to school. **Well Done Year 6!**



Online Applications for School and Nursery

A reminder to parents that all applications for Nursery, Reception and Secondary places must be completed online using the Stockport Council Admissions Website.

Please note the essential deadlines:-

Secondary - **Thursday 31st October**

Reception - **Wednesday 15th January**

Nursery - **Monday 31st March**