

Diary Dates

- **Monday 6th January**
Return to school.
After school multisports starts
- **Tuesday 7th January**
Y5 Swimming.
Nursery New Starters join
- **Thursday 9th January**
Apply for Teacher Led after school clubs 7pm
- **Tuesday 14th January**
KS1 Phonics Workshop 9am.
- **Wednesday 15th January**
EYFS Dinosaur Workshop
Y6 SATs Workshop 3.25pm
Deadline for Reception Applications.
- **Thursday 16th January**
Teacher Led clubs re-start
- **Friday 17th January**
School Nurse Drop-In sessions (AM)
- **Friday 24th January**
Y3 class assembly
- **Friday 14th February**
Y2 class assembly
School Closes
- **Monday 24th February**
School Closed (INSET DAY)
- **Tuesday 25th February**
Return to School.



Message from Mr.B

What an amazing year and I have really enjoyed celebrating the Xmas productions with Early Years and Key stage 1; they made me very proud. The quality of singing has continued to improve and the enormous number of parents and grand parents at the carol concert were treated to a fabulous performance. I am really happy that our attendance has improved by nearly 1 percent on this time last year; well done to our year 2 children as they achieved the best attendance again this year. Also, a huge well done to the 65 children who have achieved 100% attendance this year. Unfortunately there is still an issue with term time unauthorised holidays and I need to remind parents of the change in legislation. The fixed penalty notice of £80 per parent per child applies to the first unauthorised holiday. If there is a second unauthorised holiday within a 3 year period then the charge rises to £160 per parent per child and if there is a third within that time frame parents will be prosecuted by the Magistrates Court. Please support us by not booking term time holidays.

Our school improvement work this term has been focussing on deepening our understanding of how children learn and retain knowledge. We have been using Deans for Impact research (science of learning) to identify aspects that we do well and those we need to improve. This work has run alongside developing our strategies for adaptive teaching to ensure no child is left behind and everyone is included. This work has been moderated by our Local Authority school improvement partner as part of her annual inspection and her comments were extremely complimentary. A report will be produced for Governors in the New Year. Our new phonics scheme is working really well and the children are enjoying the new actions and songs. Miss Lobley and one of our Governors did lesson observations and spoke to the children and were pleased with outcomes and the consistency of practice from Nursery to Year 2. Further training will take place next year to maintain the momentum we have developed since September.

Our building work over the holiday will be deep cleaning the school and decoration of the kitchen area. We will also complete the Upper KS2 bay area with an interactive TV to give the children working there wider access to resources and lesson notes.

It has been a truly fantastic year and I would like to thank all my colleagues for their dedication and commitment to making Torkington such a special place to be. I would like to thank and congratulate Mr Bethell and Mrs Hollinshead for their hard work in achieving HLTA status—a qualification which enables them to cover classes. Happy Xmas everyone—have a wonderful time.

Christmas fun at Torkington

To commence our Christmas celebrations this year the children and staff enjoyed the fantastic Pantomime of Jack and The Beanstalk. As always, the hall was filled with smiles and laughter. Plans are being put in place already for next years show.

Later in the day, we held our very successful Christmas Fair run by our PTA. It was a great event, that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Christmas dinner was a wonderful occasion, with the whole school coming together and eating in the school hall at the same time whilst singing along to Christmas music. Thank you to the catering staff of Taylor Shaw for the fantastic feast and to Mrs Millington and her team for the wonderful festive set-up

Now after weeks of superb nativities, festive carol concerts and a final week of class parties and treats we hope everyone is ready to relax and enjoy their own celebrations at home with friends and families. We look forward to hearing what you have all been up to when we return in 2025. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Year 3 Remembers



This November, year 3 learnt all about Remembrance Day.

"We went to the War Memorial to remember the people who fought in the war, we looked at the names of the soldiers. We had to be really quiet to show our respect." - Eddie

There are lots of different ways to celebrate Remembrance Day and remember the soldiers from the First World War. In Year 3, we remembered by reading poetry about Remembrance Day, making our own poppies and attending the War Memorial in Hazel Grove for the 2-minute silence. These ceremonies have grown to remember all people who have died in wars, including World War Two and the Iraq wars, not just World War One.

"The war ended on the 11th November 1918 at 11am. We remember on the specific day the war finished." - Francis

"We had a chat with Mr Seager in class and he talked to us about what it is like to be in the army and what weapons they use. He talked to us about the experience of war and how it might make us feel." - Poppy H



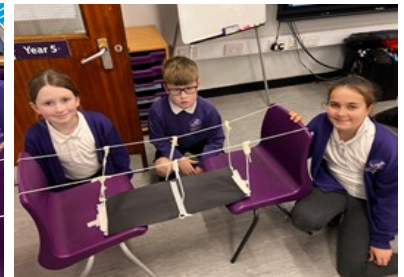
Building Bridges in Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been busy engineers, delving into the world of bridge construction. With a focus on suspension bridges, they have explored the principles of structure, load-bearing, and tension. From sketching designs to constructing models, they have experienced the thrill of seeing their ideas come to life.

"I learned that suspension bridges are really strong because of the way they distribute weight," - Josh

"It was exciting testing our bridges and seeing which ones could hold the most weight!" - Emily

Through this hands-on learning experience, Year 5 have not only developed their understanding of engineering concepts but also fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. Their bridges may not be spanning rivers just yet, but they have certainly built a strong foundation for future engineering endeavours.



Year 1 Toys, Snow & Show!

We have had a fantastic half term starting off with our Toy museum workshop, Ali the toy curator really captured the children's imaginations and they all produced fabulous recounts. We couldn't have been prouder.

We also really enjoyed our first snow day of Year 1 and we were first out in the fresh snow and the children made the most of it!

All our hard work and effort paid off in our Christmas show, the children sang their hearts out and I'm sure you will agree they did a fabulous job! See you in the New Year, Year 1!



Supervision at the start of the school day

All infant children must be supervised by an adult before school.

For the safety of everyone, please always use the footpaths and do not walk down the driveway. Bikes & scooters are not to be used within school grounds.

Remembrance Day

Thank You to everyone who purchased a Poppy or RBL merchandise in the week running up to Remembrance Day. Together we raised over £250 for the Royal British Legion. Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community and without support like this they couldn't do the work that they do.
Thank You!

Multisports Clubs

After school multi-sports clubs will re-start the first week back after Christmas (week commencing 6th January) and will run until the week commencing 7th April 2025.

Information on how to book is on each class Dojo page.

Attendance for The Autumn Term

- Reception 97.4%
- Year 1 94.9%
- Year 2 98.1%
- Year 3 97.8%
- Year 4 96.0%
- Year 5 97.3%
- Year 6 96.7%
- **Overall 96.9%**

Congratulations to Yr 2 for achieving the highest % attendance.

School Target : 98%

Well Done to the 65 children who achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term!

We are very proud of our excellent attendance at Torkington and ask everyone to help us keep attendance levels as high as possible, by avoiding term time holidays and appointment during the school day.

Year 4 Rotten Romans

We have had a great half term learning all about the Romans and their influence in Britain. Year 4 performance an amazing assembly about how the Romans fought in great armies, built beautiful mosaics and had the lasting impact of the roman roads. Then we had Felix the Roman soldier come in with real life artefacts including a real Roman sword! We finished the day with a traditional Roman feast, which had delicacies such as succulent swan and dead door mouse!!



Reception's Celebrations!

We have had another fantastic half term in Reception. We began by exploring different celebrations such as Halloween, weddings and birthdays. We made Halloween potions and spider biscuits, reenacted a wedding ceremony, and had a teddy bear birthday party.

We remembered the fallen soldiers from the war by creating beautiful poppies, and completing work based on the story 'Anzac Ted'. We have also, really enjoyed taking our learning outside, when completing maths challenges on the playground.

Reception worked so hard on their letters to Santa, demonstrating their super progress with their phonics, writing and independence. They were so well behaved when walking to the postbox to send their amazing letters to Santa.

Finally, Reception were absolutely amazing in their Christmas performance of 'A Bundle of Joy'. Their singing, resilience and acting were out of this world, and made the whole audience feel the Christmas spirit.



Christmas in Year 2 !

Year 2 have had a busy half term leading up to Christmas! Between learning their lines and songs for our wonderful Christmas Show, to making cards, calendars and sweet treats to share with their friends and family. They have also enjoyed Christmas Dinner Day and their Christmas Party! We were so proud of the determination and positivity that they showed in preparation for their Christmas Show especially. They performed with joy and confidence and should be so pleased with themselves! They really are the Fleece Force!

I liked the party because we played lots of party games." - Evie "
"When we did the show I liked learning my lines" - Charlie H



Teacher Led After School clubs.

Teacher Led after school clubs will be on Thursday 16th January.

Letters will be emailed home during the first week back with details of the clubs available. Clubs will then go live on ParentPay at 7pm on Thursday 9th January.

Online Applications for School and Nursery

A reminder to parents that all applications for Nursery, and Reception must be completed online using the Stockport Council Admissions Website. There are no paper applications available. Please note the essential deadlines:
Reception— Wednesday 15th January
Nursery— Monday 31st March

School Meals

The cost for school meals for junior children is £2.60 per day. Please use ParentPay to make all dinner payments.

Please note that we require a week's notice in writing to change lunchtime arrangements. Please let us know if your child has any special dietary requirements.

Year 6 Crime Workshop

Year 6 were visited by Dennis and his team, as a part of operation Avro, from Stockport Community Justice Service and GMP. The aim of the workshop was to increase awareness of knife crime.

'The police came in and showed us a presentation on knife crime. We looked at the Knife Angel which took 4 years to create and around 10,000 confiscated knives.

At the end of the workshop we played Who Wants to be a Millionaire to test our knowledge on facts such as the age of legal responsibility being age 10.'

Arianna and Zach D



Nursery News!

The Nursery children have had a busy, yet thoroughly enjoyable half term. They've embraced the challenges of each topic book with 'Room on the Broom' being a firm favourite.

We used the book to discuss family traditions and the best bit, dressing up and creating our very own magic potions.

More recently, the children have been enjoying our Christmas topic where they worked hard to make their own Christmas cards and decorations to take home! They have also made special Reindeer food to put out on Christmas Eve for Rudolph and his friends!

After all that hard work the children got to enjoy their Christmas party which included a very special visitor all the way from the North Pole. A magical afternoon of games, dancing and party food was had by all.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back in January.



Choir Trips in the Community

Torkington Choir visited Fernlea Care Home this half term to sing a selection of Christmas songs to the elderly residents. When we arrived, we were thrilled to see the Winter Wonderland Fernlea had been transformed into. After taking in the beautiful display, we performed our songs whilst the residents and nurses clapped and sang along with us.

Afterwards, we spent some time chatting with the residents about their favourite songs, what they loved about Christmas and shared some great stories. All the residents and nurses were lovely and made us feel so welcome. It was a fantastic afternoon and a great experience for our choir. We felt very proud of ourselves and hopefully we brightened up their day, just as they did ours.

We were also, asked to perform for a local business at their office lunch, giving us another chance to shine. All the employees joined us in singing the festive songs and we hope we added something special to their Christmas celebrations.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to perform and look forward to more performances in 2025!



PTA News

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair. It was a wonderful event, raising a whopping £1950. Thanks also, to everyone within the community who donated raffle prizes and special thank you to our local restaurant Mama Flo's who raised over £300 to go towards school improvements. We really appreciate your support. The Christmas Card Campaign was another great success and we hope that this is something that we can repeat next Christmas.

Keep your eyes peeled for how the money is going to be spent in the new year. Following on from the popular Halloween Disco, preparations are taking place for a Valentines Disco in February. More details to follow soon.

A big thank you to all the PTA members and everyone for their continued support.