

### Message from Mr.B

#### Diary Dates

- **Monday 24th February**  
INSET Day
- **Tuesday 25th February**  
Return to School
- **Friday 3rd March**  
Secondary School Offer Day
- **Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th March**  
Parents' Evening 3.20 - 5.30pm
- **Thursday 6th March**  
World Book Day
- **Tuesday 11th March**  
Reception Vision Screening
- **Wednesday 19th March**  
Year 1 Assembly
- **Thursday 20th March**  
Nursery/Reception Airport Trip
- **Friday 28th March**  
Lovely Ladies EYFS & KS1
- **Monday 31st March**  
Closing Date for Nursery Applications
- **Tuesday 26th March**  
Y1 & Y2 Singaround Trip
- **Monday 7th April**  
Enterprise Week
- **Thursday 10th April**  
Enterprise Fair
- **Friday 11th April**  
School Closes

I would like to thank all my colleagues for the fantastic effort running the school for the 2 weeks of my Jury service., much appreciated. There has been lots to celebrate and I would like to thank all the parents and grandparents that supported our year 3 and 2 assemblies this half term. The hall was full and the children really enjoyed sharing their work with you.

We have had a change in curricular leadership; Mr Waugh will now lead science, Miss Kempton will take over Geography and Miss Roberts will head up history. Colleagues have been working hard to interpret their new subjects and we will develop this further on our INSET day a week on Monday. We will also be working on the displays in school, particularly in the hall to ensure the childrens' work in all subjects is celebrated. A key focus for next half term will be developing the role of the subject coordinator to ensure the experience our children have in the core subjects is replicated in the Foundation subjects (history, Art etc). We will be guided in this work by our School Improvement Partner and the consultancy support from Mary Myatt, a renowned educational specialist. Our audit from the adaptive teaching work was really pleasing and the strategies and techniques to include all of our children in their learning are working well. We conducted pupil voice exercises in Maths , English and SEND and the results are positive but also the children have highlighted areas we can improve. They have really appreciated the improved challenge elements that we worked on from September.

Our building work over the half term will involve getting the meadows ready for spring. Several posts have rotted and the ropes need fixing as well as the old vegetation being cut back ready for the new growth. We are also planning to paint our Year 1 and 2 classrooms. The bulk of the week will be spent deep cleaning the classrooms and shared spaces. The children have been brilliant in changing their shoes and using the new upper school shoe racks, it has really helped keep the mud at bay. Please can you ensure your child has a change of shoe after the holiday. We will be having a cleaning audit next half term in the light of the increase in the various viruses and bugs that are affecting all schools. We want our school to be as clean as possible and we are emphasising the use of hand sanitiser and regular hand washing.

We are continuing to explore the road safety issues around parking outside school and on the pavements. We have had planning permission delayed to have fences and other measures to improve the safety of our children. Please avoid parking opposite school on the pavements—parents with buggies and small children are having to use the road to get round cars.

#### PTA Fundraising News

We have had lots of fundraising activities in school over the past few months. Most recently The Sammy Clothes Collection which raised an outstanding £207, The Valentines Disco raised an amazing £324, and a fabulous £446 from the Asda Rewards campaign. The total amount raised so far since the fundraising started again in September is £4072. Thank You to everyone who has made this possible.

Our PTA are currently in discussions on what they are saving for and how the money is going to be spent within school over the next few months.

Keep a look out for more exciting fundraising activities coming up in the future  
If anyone would like to help support the school with fundraising ideas then we would love to hear from you. Just pop into the office or send an email to [admin@torkington.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torkington.stockport.sch.uk).

Thank You

## Here come the dinosaurs in Nursery!

Nursery have had a lot of fun this Half Term. We have especially enjoyed our Dinosaur Topic. We used stories such as Harry and his bucketful of Dinosaurs to inspire our learning. We began the Topic by taking part in a dinosaur workshop provided to us by The Freshwater Theatre Company. During the session the children embarked on an imaginary journey in which the facilitator led the children around the hall to pick up clues from different locations such as the Forest and a cave. Using songs, rhymes and activities, the children helped to create their own Dinosaur story.



We ended the topic by taking part in a volcano science experiment. We watched as the vinegar and bicarbonate of soda created an expanding foam to imitate an eruption and resemble the lava.

"The volcano erupted and it was red so we can think it was real and it exploded." Darcie, W

"It turned into bubbles and it was quick. It was red like lava." Ivy, H



## What a ROARsome half term in Reception!

Reception began by exploring different stories by the author Julia Donaldson, they created a cunning plan at map just like the burglars Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh from the story. They also loved going on a sound walk with their very own little ladybird, to discover what the ladybird could hear at school. They then moved on to under the sea adventures with Tiddler, the children produce some fantastic writing about different sea creatures.

They loved our focus on dinosaurs. They found dinosaur eggs that hatched into small dinosaurs, dinosaurs visited their classroom, they erupted volcanoes, and wrote some fantastic stories and facts about dinosaurs. They experienced a great Dinosaur workshop run by Freshwater Theatre Company, had a visit from Mrs Horne who brought her amazing fossil collection and we also, made yummy TRex toast.

Reception also explored and celebrated Chinese New Year, where the children used their senses to describe Chinese food that they had tasted.

Finally they then explored Saint Valentine's Day, and how they can love themselves and others.

This half term, it has been wonderful to share so much amazing home learning, it is lovely to share they're engagement and enjoyments of their learning at home.

'I liked wearing the masks'- Indigo

'I loved the eggs, because there was a little dinosaur inside it'- Alfie

'I liked learning about herbivore and carnivores. The baby dinosaur was a herbivore!'- Oliver M



### Veg Power Campaign

'Eat Them To Defeat Them' is a campaign to encourage kids to eat more veg whilst making it fun. Last year 77% of parents reported that their child ate more vegetables from taking part. So here at Torkington, we are taking part in this year's campaign. Throughout next half term, we will be working closely with our catering company to learn all about the benefits of eating more vegetables.

Please visit [vegpower.org.uk](http://vegpower.org.uk) to find out more information and tips to encourage your child/children to eat more veg at home too.

### World Book Day 2025 - Thursday 6th March

On Thursday 6th March it is World book day. To celebrate we are asking the children to come in fancy dress as their favourite book character and we have lots of exciting activities planned in school, including Guess The Masked Reader!

Please let the school office know by Wednesday 26th February if your child would like to have the World Book Day theme lunch .. More information can be found on Dojo

## Attendance from September

- Reception 96.8%
- Year 1 95.6%
- Year 2 97.2%
- Year 3 96.9%
- Year 4 95.6%
- Year 5 97.4%
- Year 6 97.1%
- Overall 96.7%

Well done to **Y5** for achieving the highest % attendance!

**School Target : 98%**

## Parents' Evening Appointments Monday 3rd - Wednesday 5th March

Parents' Evening will be held on Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th March between 3:35 pm & 5.30pm for all classes. Appointments can be booked via our new on-line Portal from 5pm on Tuesday 25th February. <https://parents-booking.co.uk/torkingtonprimary>

**Please remember that there will be no Teacher-Led clubs on Thursday 6th March.**

## Torkington Road Use

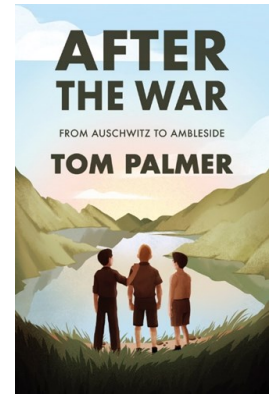
We have received some complaints regarding the parking and driving on Torkington Road outside of school. Please ensure that you park legally, reduce your speed and are considerate to other road users, for both your safety and theirs.

## Year 6 Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity to try and bring communities together to remember our common humanity and to commit to standing up to bigotry, hatred and racism wherever we find it today.

Year 6 have been reading *After The War* and attended a virtual workshop with Tom Palmer and Holocaust survivor, Alfred Garwood to learn about important moments in our shared history and to hear stories from people with different experiences.

"I have enjoyed learning about the Holocaust and meeting a survivor of the event. It was interesting to hear their story and how touching it was. The book really helped understand how difficult it was for children during the war. I also liked how the book was very realistic to the actual war. It really was an eye-opening day!"  
Thomas F and Ella D, Year 6



## Year 5 & 6 Road to RIAT STEM Glider Challenge

This half term, we took part in the "Road to RIAT" STEM challenge. This competition encourages creative young people with a passion for design and teamwork to design a sustainable plane. By participating, we learned about aerospace and sustainability, and saw our creativity take flight!

Working in pairs, we designed and tested three different gliders. I thought it was an amazing experience, and I'm not alone!

"I think it was very fun and creative," said Emily M.

"The glider challenge was amazing, and I loved making different gliders with my friends and comparing their speed. It was also great finding out how gliders work," said Erin W.

"It was really, really fun, and it was really cool watching other people fly their planes," said Alexis P.



## Year 3 - Living in the Stone Age

Year 3 have had a fantastic time preparing for our class assembly. We took a journey through time back to the Stone Age, where we became cave boys and cave girls! Our assembly looked at the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Eras of the Stone Age and why each era was so important. We sang lots of songs, created dances and used musical instruments to enhance our performance. We even created pieces of live artwork during our assembly! We all had the best time and are glad our families loved watching us.

"I loved learning all the songs and dances!" – Olivia

"It was really fun to create a cave painting while we did our assembly, I felt like a real cave man!" – Freddie A



## Fantastic Year 2

Year 2 have learnt so much this half term in a range of ways including a trip to Norbury Church following our learning about Holy Books in RE, a zoom workshop from the Manta Trust to enrich their learning in Science and working together to make colourful birds for our Dream Garden in Jigsaw. But most of all the children have enjoyed learning about the development of transport in their History lessons. They have worked hard to create their own timeline and present their learning in their wonderful class assembly!

"I liked learning about planes. We learnt that the first plane was made by the Wright brothers!" - Abigail

"My favourite thing about the assembly is holding a picture in the timeline." - Olive



## Year 4 Artists

In Art, the children have had the opportunity to explore pattern and develop a range of technical skills and knowledge through drawing and collage. The children were also introduced to the idea that working with pattern can be a mindful activity, and that as humans we respond to patterns made by other people. Our final pieces were inspired by Rachel Parker, to create a seamless square tile pattern

"I really enjoyed looking at different colours and if they were warm or cool colours" Ava

"I really enjoyed making a sensory drawing using the needle as this was fun!" Ruby



## Year 1 visit Norbury Church

This half term year 1 have really enjoyed learning about holy books and sacred places in R.E. We took a trip to Norbury church where we were able to have a look at the different aspects of the church, for example, we were able to see the font, the altar and play the bells in person. The children really enjoyed this trip and particularly enjoyed having a go at using the puppets to retell some of the bible parables.

"I liked when the teachers played a tune using the bells" Ophelia.

"We learnt how old the church was, it was over 100 years old" Mya

"I really enjoyed using the puppets at the church" Hudson



## Junior Swimming

Water safety is a vital life skill, which is why it is a mandatory part of the curriculum for PE at primary school. The children in Year 3, 4 and 5 all attend Hazel Grove Swimming pool with the aim that by the end of primary school, they all should be able to swim 25 metres unaided and use a range of strokes effectively. Most of them really enjoy the activity, gaining water confidence and improve from the tuition given. Here's what some of the children in Year 5 said about their swimming experiences:

"Swimming is fun! I really like jumping in" Millie "I like swimming, especially backstroke" Kane

"I like it when we swim in one direction and then turn around. The water splashes back at us when we run!" Lily

"It's important that we learn how to be safe in the water" Evie-May.

### Vehicle Access

No vehicle access to the school grounds is permitted for Parents/carers at anytime of the day before 4.45pm. Parking is for Staff only.

Should you access the car park after this time please be mindful of your speed and the safety of others.

### Nursery Deadline - 31st March 2025

Nursery applications must be completed online using the Stockport Council Website. It is essential that parents apply before the deadline. Please pass this information to friends and family with Nursery age children. We are happy to arrange visits for all potential parents. Please note the dates for offers of places for Nursery and Reception to join us in September 2025 are:

**Reception - 16th April 2025**  
**Nursery - 19th May 2025**

### Outdoor Shoes

We will continue to utilise our outdoor space to its full potential 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.