



Dear Families

Welcome back to our new summer term. Hopefully the weather will soon start to reflect the time of year! We would like to hold off on summer uniform until the weather is consistently warmer; we will let you know when the children can begin to wear their summer uniform.

Mrs Kendell has at last finished to begin her well-deserved maternity leave! I would like to thank her for doing such a great job in continuing to be with us for as long as she could!

It is with regret that I have to also let you know that Mr Dolan will not be returning. We will all miss him greatly. Mrs McClymont and Mrs Irvine will continue to teach the Octopus class until the end of the summer term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Julyan

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## **Trips, visits and experiences**

### *Fire station visit*

Pupils in Year 1 and 2 enjoyed their trip to Torquay fire station. They learned all about what happens at the fire station and also got to see what a fire engine looks like inside. This was a great start to their topic all about the 'Great Fire of London'.



## **Torre C of E Academy**

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Advance Notice 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

School closure for polling day

### **20<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day at Torquay Academy**

Reception and KS1 pupils will take part in the morning and KS2 in the afternoon.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016**

School closure for polling day

### **Transition week**

All pupils will spend mornings with their new teacher for the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

### **Meet the new teacher**

During transition week, parents are welcome to pop in and meet the new teacher on either the Monday or Friday morning from 8.30am. More details to follow.

### **20<sup>th</sup> July**

Year 5 and 6 show

### **22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Year 6 leavers' party

### **Parent/Carer Forums**

We are continuing to keep you up to date with any new initiatives and other things that are going on in school.

The sessions planned for this term are:

- 16.5.16: 'Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation Subject Knowledge'
- 20.6.16: 'Maths Subject Knowledge'

### *Eco Warriors community project*

Children in the Eco Warriors club went along with Mrs Thomas and Miss Burt to the Torquay Bus Station. This was in order to take part in a community project with the Torre and Upton Community Partnership. The children worked really hard smartening up the areas of foliage and have been 'booked' to go back for two more sessions. One of the gentleman who organised the project sent the following to school:

"Just wanted to put in writing how gratifying it was to welcome the Eco-Warriors to our little community garden today. The children (and adults he-he) were all very well behaved. They appeared to enjoy the experience and they tackled the planting with relish."

Councillor Colley also sent the following:

"I understand from Chris that the gardening was a huge success and that all of you had a brilliant time. This is one of the projects that Chris and Margaret have been working on for quite a while, we all lent a hand last year digging over the 'garden' so it is so lovely that the 'plan' came together"! Hopefully this has created a conduit for us all to work together for the benefit of the children."

Well done Eco Warriors and keep up the good work!

### *School Art 2016: Showcasing Children's Talents*

Mrs Beard arranged for a collection of our children's fabulous art work to be displayed at the exhibition below: Torre Abbey's annual exhibition of artwork from students across Torbay's schools and colleges. A wonderful opportunity to see two and three dimensional work by Torbay's young talent, on show in the Spanish Barn.



Well done boys and girls; your work looks wonderful!

### *India Day*

As part of our exciting India topic, year 3 and 4 enjoyed an Indian dazzle day. We took part in a range of activities including: Bollywood dancing, painting mehndi patterns on our hands, Indian maths using take away menus and food tasting. We even got to taste chai tea!

Miss Chew

## Warburton's visit

In year 3 and 4 we were treated to a special visit from Warburton's Bread Company. We learnt all about how the bread was made and considered how bread can be part of a balanced diet. We learnt all about the 'Eat Well Plate' and were challenged to make a healthy balanced sandwich.

## Classes next year

Some parents have begun to ask us how we plan to group the children next year. As soon as we have made a decision about this, we will, of course, let you know. It is looking very likely that we will again have three mixed age Year 1/2 classes, three mixed age Year 3/4 classes, one class of year 5 pupils and one class of Year 6 pupils. Please be reassured that we only wish to do what is the best for the children. I understand that some of you would prefer us not to have mixed age classes at all, but unfortunately, because we have a planned admission number of 45 children, straight year group classes just are not possible. Research shows that children in mixed age classes do as well as those in single year groups. In fact, it is the quality of the teaching that makes the most difference to children's progress, not how they are grouped.

## Year 3/4 classrooms

I am delighted to report that the builders will be moving in over the summer holidays, to create three brand new and fabulous, decent sized Year 3 /4 classrooms! We are very excited about this project.

## School Council

The School Council are working with Mrs Milner, one of our Governors to agree what our annual pupil survey should contain. They have also decided, that as well as having a questionnaire, there should also be some focus groups of pupils who will have the opportunity to share their thoughts in greater depth.

## PE and Sport

### Netball:

Good news - we can now offer after school training sessions for YR3 and YR4 children as well as YR5 and YR6. Both groups have been very popular this term. We have been able to recruit lots of very enthusiastic and committed new members!

### Sports' Day

On Monday 20th June 2016 our school Sports' Day will be held at Torquay Academy again this year. The times are as follows:

Reception and KS1 - 10.00am -12.00pm  
KS2 - 1.15pm - 3.00pm

All families are welcome to come and support the children. The children all belong to a colour team. The children will be told which colour t-shirt to wear prior to the day.

## Church and RE

### **Prayer Board**

Please remember to check out the prayer board at All Saints' Church where some of our children's prayers are displayed.

### **Eucharist**

21.4.16  
9.6.16  
7.7.16

## **Governor up-date**

The government has recently released a 'White Paper' stating that it is their vision for all schools to join or make preparations to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by 2020, but what does this mean? Currently, as an academy, the school is run by a Charitable Trust with the school governors, which are drawn from parents, staff and C of E nominations, most of whom have or have had children at the school, also holding a directorship in this company. Accounts are prepared on an annual basis and lodged at Companies House like any other company. A MAT comprises of two or more schools and a single central Charitable Trust will run the school, preparing a single set of accounts and will have ultimate responsibility and control of its schools, although there are many different models and ways of doing this.

School Governors have, in the past year, both visited and held discussions with other schools and MATs in the locality to try and determine what is the best course of action for our school. There are many options out there, although our Church of England status has to be taken into consideration when entering into any discussions. At this critical time, Governors will listen to the school community and I invite any parent to pass on their views either to myself, the parent governors, or to Mrs Julian.

Mr R Dickinson (Chair of Governors)

## **Reading Rainbow**

The following pupils have achieved their Reading Rainbow award:

Alice Singleton-Green: Stage 1

Lyra Bowstead, Ella-Jaie Cox, Freddie Simpson and Grace Gibbings: Stage 2

Well done and keep reading!

## **Road Safety**

Miss Chew would like to make you aware of the following:

I know at Torre there can be frustration over parking in the mornings and pick up times. However, there is no simple solution of creating more parking spaces. That is why we are encouraging children and parents to 'park and stride.' This involves parking further away from school and walking the rest of the way. Rainbow Fish class have been trialing WOW (Walk once a week).

Rhianna Morphey (Year 3) has commented on this, *"Once every week we have to walk to school and at the end of the month you get a badge if you have walked to school once a week. I park and stride and try to get my dad to park further away from school to earn my badge. We record this on the computer, on a website, as soon as we get to school."*

If this is successful, hopefully we can implement this in other classes.

## **Attendance**

Our school attendance is currently 96.1%. Our target is 97%. It would be great to get up this by the end of the year if we can.

The Octopus class won the award for the best class attendance for the last half term and have been presented with a smart new pencil each. We have 43 pupils currently on 100%. Just before Easter, we completed a draw in each class for all pupils with 100% attendance and the winner was pleased to receive an Easter egg!

## **Family Learning**

The Literacy Family Learning course which is currently running should finish today, but at the parents' request it is running for a further 4 weeks. This is because the parents attending have got a lot out of it and are keen for it to continue. After this course, Mrs Vanstone has arranged for a 'Starting School' course for the current Nursery children. We will keep our Nursery families up-dated about this when we have more information.

## **Parent/Carer Forums**

We had twenty parents attending our most recent forum all about SOLE. Parents attending found it interesting to hear more about how their pupils are taught and also about how, at Torre, we are doing our best to teach our children life-skills, independence and problem solving skills in a fun way, as well as covering the new challenging curriculum.

## **Multi-Academy Trusts**

I am sure you have seen lots in the press about the government's wish for schools to become part of a 'multi-academy trust'. There are many benefits to being in the right trust and this is something that the Governors are having to consider. We have talked to various different schools and have explored a variety of options. Any decisions moving forward will not be taken lightly. Our school ethos is something that we are not prepared to compromise on, I am sure you will all be reassured to hear. We will obviously keep you informed of any relevant developments. PLEASE SEE THE GOVERNOR SECTION IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MATS.

## Something to think about

I have selected some song lyrics which resonated with me this month and really made me reflect on what is happening in schools at the present time. Many of us working in education feel deflated by the ongoing demands of the government, but my faith is what helps me to stay strong and to remember that we are all in the teaching profession for the good of the children. Torre children are the best and we will continue to do our best to ensure that they have a happy time at school and to reach their potential. I hope that some of you are able to identify with the lyrics of this song also:

***Sometimes I feel like throwing  
my hands up in the air  
I know I can count on you  
Sometimes I feel like saying "Lord I just don't care!"  
But you've got the love I need to see me through***

***Sometimes it seems the going is just too rough  
And things go wrong no matter what I do  
Now and then it seems that life is just too much  
But you've got the love I need to see me through***

If I was a natural poet, at this point, I would add in my own verse to describe the children and how they also inspire and motivate me every day. Unfortunately, I am not that talented!

Mrs Julyan

### Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- Oliver Ashman – achieved his stage 5 swimming certificate. Super news.
- Daniel Spear – took his Grade 2 piano and passed! Well done.
- Phoebe Mitchell and Maria Julyan – took their Grade 1 piano and both passed! Well done girls.
- Oliver Keating - took part in the Ivybridge Rugby Tournament with Torquay RFC Under 8's winning 4/5 games they played. Great job!
- Kieron Taylor – came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in his first ever set of BMX races- fabulous!
- Harry Hollomby – Played extremely well in the Devon Rugby festival – great news Harry!
- Maxim Stevens – moved up a stage in swimming – good job!
- Holly Blunt – passed her ABRSM Grade 1 singing exam with merit – super news Holly!
- Cody Morgan – came second in the Decoy BMX Regional Novice Final – good job!
- Niall Gagg's Torquay Academy Under 11s football team won the league cup final – well done Niall! We will look out for you in the Herald Express.

**Well done!**

**What a talented bunch we have at Torre! Well done to each and every one of you and to others who also have achieved special things that we don't know about! I look forward to collating some new achievements ready for the next newsletter...**