
Torre Times – December 2016



Pray, Praise, Potential, Pride, Persevere

Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to wish Mrs Wopling a happy and healthy retirement after being a valued member of Torre staff for the past 20 years! Also, we wish Mrs Cowell well as she starts her maternity leave.

I would also like to thank our amazing team at Torre of staff and volunteers. Our children and families are very lucky and I am grateful to you all for everything that you do.

As the end of term draws upon us, I would like to wish you all glad tidings and a peaceful time over the festive season. Amongst all the fun and celebrations at school, we have continued to remind the children why we celebrate Christmas and I hope that they remember this whilst they are enjoying their gifts on Christmas day.

Thank you for all your support with our many plays, shows, parties and fund raisers. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mrs Julyan

Trips, visits and experiences

Performing Arts Group to Upton Vale Church

Mrs Irvine took the Performing Arts group to Upton Vale Church to sing Christmas songs for the ladies' lunch club. They did a super job and got some great feedback. They also visited a residential home to perform and this was enjoyed by all.



Torre C of E Academy

Upcoming Events

Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 28th February and
Wednesday 1st March.

PTA

Huge thanks for all your support with the Santa Walk, Christmas Disco, Christmas Fayre and 'All My Own Work'. All of these fundraisers have raised over £2000 for the school, which will be going towards a class set of Ipads.

Coming soon...

- Gifts and cards for Mothering Sunday
- Easter bingo
- Easter disco

Important Information

PLEASE park safely and be kind and considerate to our neighbours.

Spelling Bee

Mrs Cowell and Miss Irving took a group of Year 4 and 5 pupils to Torquay Academy to take part in a Spelling Bee. The competition was very tough and our children did really well. Congratulations to Maria Julyan, Henry Allen, Joseph Butterworth and in particular to Ewan Morphew, who made it to the semi-final!

Christingle

Our Reception children had a very successful trip to church to make Christingles. Father Peter was there and he reminded us all what the different parts of the Christingle represent. We loved the Christmas trees too.

Nativities and Carol Concert

We have all been delighted with the children's enthusiasm as they have tackled their special Christmas performances this term. We have had an Early Years Foundations Stage nativity, a Key Stage 1 nativity and Key Stage 2's Carol Concert at the Church. A huge thank you to those of you who have been to watch and support our children and also to all the staff who have dedicated lots of their own time to put these shows together.

It was particularly great to have the KS1 nativity at the Princess Theatre, which was a fabulous opportunity for the children. We hope to be able to do this again next year.

Radicalisation workshop

Pupils in Key Stage 2 enjoyed a musical performance from Rich Cottell. He used his music to educate the children in some very topical and relevant issues from radicalisation and life in modern Britain to homophobia.

Stars in the making!

Congratulations to Jack Devey, Ruby Hurley, Jacob Assaf and Kieron Robinson for being selected to appear in Cadbury's online Christmas advertising campaign. They enjoyed spending the day with the film crew and we are all very proud of them. If you would like to see the advert it is 'Day 3' at #cadvent.

School Meals

The Christmas dinner was a roaring success as always! Most of the children had the traditional roast and enjoyed pulling their crackers and listening to some festive music whilst being waited on by their teachers, teaching assistants and meal time assistants! A big thank you to the parent volunteers, but in particular to Mr Poston, without whom, we may not have been able to have our Christmas dinner this year.

Parent/Carer forum

After several requests, Mrs Crompton spent a lot of time planning a forum about how we teach maths to help parents and carers in supporting their children at home. Sadly, only 10 families were represented at these sessions, which is disappointing in a school with 330 pupils. As a staff, we will be

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

19.1.17

23.2.17

23.3.17

Message from Father Peter

We would like to wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year. With prayers and God's blessings,
Fr Peter and the people at All Saints Church.

Service times at the Church are:

Sunday 18th

3.30 pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

4 pm Family Crib and Christingle Service

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10 am Mass for Christmas Day

discussing with our governors the feasibility of running these sessions in the future, due to poor uptake.

Parent/Carer Survey

This time last year, I was able to give you detailed feedback on the results of the survey. We had over 70 responses last year. This year, we have only had 20 responses! Please can I encourage you to go online and complete this survey? If you are happy with everything, that is great – please let us know. If there is something you are unhappy about, you can let us know this too. I will re send the instructions via email.

Stay and Learn

Thanks to those who have supported the recent stay and learn sessions. Lots of parents and carers supported our first reception session this week, but again, numbers have dropped in Key Stages 1 and 2 since the first sessions back in September. If any of you have any suggestions as to how to make our family support more accessible to parents, please let us know.

Charities

Our amazing Santa Walk was well supported this year with over 100 Santas walking! We all enjoyed chips, hot chocolate and cake kindly provided by Pier Point. The Grosvenor supported us again by providing a start and finish venue. Look out for our photos in the Herald.

All of the money raised will be shared by our own PTA and the charity ANODE.

Thanks also for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal donations.

Family Learning

A big well done to all our parents and carers who have recently completed a Christmas craft course. I have heard how much they enjoyed making Christmas wreaths for their homes.

Attendance

Our school attendance is currently 96.49%. This is very good considering the amount of sickness and bugs we have had over recent weeks. Thank you all for your support with this. The class currently 'topping the charts' is the Turtles class with a whopping 97.7%! Well done Turtles 😊

If your child is not going to be in school, please ensure that you ring the office to let us know the reason for his/her absence.

We currently have 94 pupils with 100% attendance! This is three more than this time last year! Well done and keep it up!

PE and Sport

Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have all participated in sports festivals at TBGS. They had a great time and they behaved beautifully as always.

Year 3 pupils have also braved the rain this week and have taken part in the bikeability programme. Many thanks to all the parents/carers who managed to get bikes into school for this.

Something to think about

Life Is an Advent Season - CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- George Pitts, Oaklie Chancellor and Tayrona Biagott: achieved their Ducklings One swimming award – well done!
- Daniel Spear: took his Grade 3 piano exam – great!
- Hannah Spear: Took her Grade 2 violin exam – fabulous!
- Hannah and Daniel Spear: Both passed their Stage 3 swimming award – great news!
- Emilia Kennedy: played the part of Spring Fairy in the Buckingham School of Dance production of Cinderella at the Princess Theatre – super star!
- Phoebe Kennedy: completed Stage 4 of the Reading Rainbow and her Rainbow swimming award – keep up the good work!
- Tyler Porter: Received his stage 2 swimming award – well done Tyler!
- Isabelle Porter: Received her Puffin swimming certificate and badge – great news!
- Ellie Brownhill: Received her Puffin swimming certificate – superstar!
- Jessica Mitchell: Learned to ride her bike in just a few minutes, by using one of our 6Ps – Perseverance! 😊
- Ella-Jaie: awarded 'most promising girl' at Alison Axford School of Dance. She has also got a part in the Babbacombe Theatre's Summer Show - fabulous news!
- Summer Faulkes: Gained her 4-year attendance award at Stagecoach – well done Summer!

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...