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# Torre Times – January 2018

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**Pray, Praise, Potential, Pride, Persevere**

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*"Our mission at Torre is to create an environment where God's children have the right to grow, learn, feel safe and be happy. We respect and look after each other in the way that God has taught us."*

*We "Live life in all its fullness." John 10:10.*

Dear Families

We have had a busy start to the term with sports festivals, arts' week and all the usual class based learning.

We are aware that there have been all sorts of nasty bugs and illnesses going around and would like to thank you all for communicating reasons for absence to us.

We have had a Challenge Partner Peer Review this week with senior leaders from 3 other schools, plus an Ofsted trained reviewer to help us to ensure that we are continuing to improve as a school. I will share the outcome of the review with you all as soon as I have it.

Best wishes,

Mrs Julyan

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## **Trips, visits and experiences**

### *Alternative Curriculum Group*

Ten of our Year 6 children have been enjoying some alternative sessions for the past 4 weeks learning how to do 3D design and modelling on an iPad. They have been taught by one of our parents, Kieran Grayson, how to use an APP for CAD programming. He works for Hypertherm and responded to my plea for help to give some of our pupils something different to learn alongside the usual primary curriculum. The children have loved the sessions and have enjoyed learning some new skills. Thank you Kieran!



**Torre C of E Academy**

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## **Upcoming Events in February**

- Life Education Caravan
- Thrive parent/carer workshop
- KS2 Stay and Learn
- Parent/Carer forum – online safety
- Parents Evening

**For a full list of events and dates, see the website and the final page of the newsletter**

## The 'Be Nice' Bus

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed visiting the bus when it came to Torre and they learned some important lessons about bullying. Thank you to Mrs Wain and Mrs Cowell for organising this for us.

## Tapestry

Parents/Carers of pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) have now all had the opportunity to learn how to access and add to their child's learning experiences using our online learning diaries on Tapestry. Thanks to those of you who are accessing this regularly.

## Y3/4 Torquay Museum Visit

Children in Year 3 and 4 all enjoyed their visit to Torquay museum to find out more about life in Ancient Egypt. Thank you to the Stingray class for sharing some of this learning with the whole school and their parents during their class assembly.

## Harbour Therapy Dogs Visit

The children in Harbour were delighted to meet two dogs from 'Pets as Therapy' - a Lurcher called Spice and a Shih tzu called Jonty. The volunteers talked to the children about the work that they do for 'Pets as Therapy' in hospitals and nursing homes. The children enjoyed meeting the dogs, fed them treats and asked the volunteers some very sensible questions.

## Key Stage 1 Stay and Learn

Parents and carers were invited into school to spend the first hour of the day observing the learning in Key Stage 1. We hope you all found it useful. Please continue to support these sessions when you can.

## Parent/Carer Forum

Mrs Cowell talked to parents about how we teach some aspects of reading and writing. We had around 10 parents attending across the two sessions – thank you for giving up your time. They did film the session and are now in the process of trying to make this footage available to those who were not able to attend via the school website. We will let you know when this is available.

## Allegations against adults

All children and adults have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.

The Governors of **Torre C of E Academy** have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to create and maintain a safe learning environment (section 175 of the Education Act 2002). This school will take all reasonable steps to identify where there are child welfare concerns and will take action to address them, in partnership with other

# PTA

See dates on next page!

## Church and RE

Christingle Workshop at All Saints' Church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 2pm.

Messy Church at All Saints' Church on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February (half-term) from 11am – 1pm. Includes lunch!

Look out for emails with further information...

### Prayer Board

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

organisations where appropriate, and in accordance with the South West Child Protection Procedures (<https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>)

The following procedure will be used in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a member of staff or a volunteer in the school has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; or
- possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

In addition, the procedure also applies if a concern arises about a member of staff in his/her personal life which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children.

### Reporting of allegations

All allegations should be reported to the Headteacher immediately, unless the allegation is about the Headteacher in which case it should be reported to the Chair of Governors or the Vice/Deputy Chair in the Chair of Governors absence.

A written, dated record must be made by the Headteacher/Chair of Governors of the allegations as soon as practicable, but within 24 hours.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be informed of all the allegations that come to the Academy attention as soon as possible so that they can consult the police and Children Services colleagues as appropriate.

The LADO should also be informed of any allegations that are made directly to the police or Children Services Social Care.

The Headteacher/Chair of Governors should not investigate the allegation at this stage. However, consideration will need to be given as to whether it is appropriate to suspend the individual concerned.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS POLICY CAN BE FOUND IN FULL ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

### **Attendance**

Please note what your child's attendance means in reality:

90% attendance = half a day missed each week

90% attendance over 1 school year = 4 weeks of lessons missed

90% attendance over 5 school years = ½ a school year missed

Currently, our school attendance is:

- Whole school – 96.18%
- Sharks have the best class attendance
- Number of pupils with 100% is 97

Let's try to keep this up!

*May I please remind you about the procedures and protocol around absence from school:*

1. If your child is going to be absent, please call the office by 9.30am to give the reason why. Please do not just say 'poorly', but specify the illness and symptoms.

2. If we do not hear from you and cannot reach you on any of the contact numbers we have, we will contact the South West Family Values 'door knocking service'. They will then call at your address to establish the reason for your child's absence.
3. If you need to request absence in advance, please use the relevant form and hand in with plenty of notice (definitely before booking and making any travel arrangements). If the request is deemed to be exceptional, this period of absence may be authorised. If it is not authorised, a fixed penalty notice may be issued.
4. If a holiday is taken without requesting permission for in advance, a fixed penalty notice will be issued.

Please also note that the Year 6 SATs week is the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Children may not be absent from school during this testing period.

The full policy can be found on the school website.

## **Charities**

Huge thanks to everyone for your support of the homeless shelter charity. We took all your generous donations to the shelter at Central Church (part of the ToWNS project). Some of our Year 6s have given up an hour on their Saturday evenings over the past few weeks to help the volunteers at the Church to set up the shelter. Thanks to all of them for giving up their time for this very worthy cause.

## **PE and Sport**

### **Futsal**

A group of Year 5 and 6 girls was selected to play Futsal in a tournament. They did brilliantly well and won! This means that they will now go through to the next round. Well done girls!

### **Y3/4 Handball Festival**

The Sports Leaders at Torquay Boys' Grammar School did a fantastic job at running a great handball festival for our Year 3 and 4 children. They boys and girls always love the PE festivals and get a lot out of learning more about a new sport.

### **Football News**

Girls' Team

The girls played against Barton and lost, but the team is improving thanks to all their hard work. They are playing in the President's Cup on Friday, so we will keep our fingers crossed that they have fun and get a good result. Good luck girls!

Miss Irving

**Something to think about** – In Collective Worship, we have been thinking about courage...

*"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

*Joshua 1:5-9*

**I found this reflection written by someone online and wanted to share with you:**

So what is courage? How do we find it? How do we live it? Webster's Dictionary defines it as "That quality of mind which enables one to meet danger and difficulties with firmness, valour." The word is derived from the French word *coeur*, meaning heart, and comes from the ancient idea that our character and the best of our emotions come

from the heart. The movie *Braveheart* tried to portray such a life of courage against all odds. A better film and one that reaches deeper into the word's meaning is *A Man for all Seasons*. This is the story of Sir Thomas Moore, a man of great wisdom and nobility, who refused to bow to the wishes of his king on a matter of principle and lost his life for it.

There is no better passage in Scripture that speaks of courage than Joshua chapter 1. Moses had been the Israelite nation's leader for forty years, and now Joshua was to take over. We find God, knowing his doubt and fears, saying to him three separate times: "Be strong and very courageous" and each time with a different emphasis. First, he promises Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you." The second time, he adds "Be careful to obey my instructions." The third time we see his deep concern for his possibly nervous servant. "Have not I commanded you! Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged. I will be with you wherever you go."

What great lessons we can learn from this passage. Joshua had doubts. So do we. He is the same loving God and Father, and his promises to Joshua apply to us now.

For the Christian, there is every reason to be courageous, no matter how dark the external situation may be. How I need this courage as president of a small, vulnerable company, whose financial future looks bleak, even as I am writing this. But I can look back and know that God is faithful and has provided all that I needed in the past. God promised to be with Joshua in difficult times: "As I was with Moses."

Being in difficult times myself, that promise has special meaning to me. God's second admonition, "to obey," is just as applicable. If I walk in obedience and love with my Savior, I can trust that he will give me courage. Thirdly, in spite of all my doubts and fears, God is patient and persistent in his encouragement. He will always be with me wherever I go and whatever I do. Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ. Now is the time for courage!

### Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- Phoebe: started piano lessons and is doing really well – well done!
- Emilia: achieved her learn to swim badge 1 and certificate and she played 'Mum' in the Razzamataz Christmas show – fabulous!
- Alice: achieved her stage 5 in swimming - amazing!
- Ella: learned to ride her bike without her stabilisers – super achievement!
- Kieron: moved up a stage in junior street dance class and received a trophy and medal for his hard work - fantastic effort Kieron!
- Oliver: moved up to Cubs at 10<sup>th</sup> Torbay and achieved his Bronze Award at Beavers (highest award you can get as a Beaver - congratulations!
- Oliver: achieved his level 1 swimming badge – amazing!
- Corah: achieved her Duckling 3 swimming award. Super!
- Summer: Sang with Abba at the Princess Theatre – Wow!
- Charlotte: achieved level 3 in water skills badge and 2 rosettes at a horse-riding gymkhana. Great!
- Kyne: is progressing well with his tennis. Well done Kyne!
- Reuben and Oscar: received certificates of achievement for great skiing. Well done boys!

**Well done!**

### SPRING TERM DATES

Date	Event	Who?	Time
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	Reception Stay and Play/Learn	Reception parents/carers	2.45pm – 3.10pm
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	Nursery Stay and Play	Nursery parents/carers	2.30pm – 3.00pm
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	PTA swimming party at Plainmoor	All families	2.00pm – 4.00pm
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Thrive Parent/Carer workshop	Thrive parents/carers	9.30am – 10.30am
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Life Education Caravan	KS1 & KS2 pupils	During school day
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Life Education Caravan Parent/Carer Visit	KS1 & KS2 parents/carers	2.45pm – 3.10pm
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Eucharist	KS1 & KS2 pupils, parents/carers	9.00am – 9.30am
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	KS2 Stay and Learn	KS1 parents/carers	9.00 – 9.30am
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Break up for half term holiday		
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Back to school		
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Warburton's Bread in to visit	Y3/4 pupils	9.00am – 11.30am
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Parent/Carer forum – Online safety & other information about keeping children safe	KS1 & KS2 parents/carers	9.00am and repeated at 6.00pm
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	PTA Punch and Judy Show	All pupils	3.20pm – 4.15pm
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Minnows Toddler Group	Parents/carers with toddlers	8:50am – 9:50am
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Parent/carer consultation evening (Parents' Evening)	Parents/carers	5:00pm – 7:00pm
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Parent/carer consultation evening (Parents' Evening)	Parents/carers	3:30pm – 5:30pm
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Sports' Festival at Torquay Boys' Grammar School	KS1 pupils	During school day
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	World Book Day Dance Workshops	All pupils	9.00am – 3.00pm
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	World Book Day Dance Workshops	All pupils	9.00am – 12.00pm
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	KS1 Stay and Learn	KS1 parents/carers	9.00am – 9.30am
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	PTA Bags2skool	All families	Drop bags at start of school
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	PTA Mother's Day Shop	All families	Straight after school
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	KS2 Stay and Learn	KS2 parents/carers	2.30pm – 3.00pm
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Eucharist	KS1 & KS2 pupils, parents/carers	9.00am – 9.30am
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Warren Barn Residential	Y3/4 pupils	During school days and overnight
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Parent/Carer forum – Character Education	All parents/carers	6.00pm
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	PTA Easter Bingo	All families	3.10pm
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Parent/Carer forum – Character Education (repeated)	All parents/carers	9.00am
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Easter presentation at Church	KS1 & KS2 pupils, parents/carers	2.00pm – 3.00pm (please collect from Church)
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	PTA Easter Discos	All pupils	Times TBC
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Break up for Easter holidays – return on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April		