



Dear Families

Where has this term gone? We seem to have squeezed in ever such a lot into a short space of time! I know that the boys and girls are more than ready for their Easter holidays.

I would like to wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all again in the summer term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Julyan

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## **Trips, visits and experiences**

### *Shelter for the homeless*

Pupils in Year 6 who are working towards the Torbay Civic Award attended Central Church to volunteer their time:

*On the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February, seven helpful and generous children went to Central Church to help the homeless. The children from Torre C of E Academy, Barton Road helped by: making the beds, giving out toothpaste and toothbrushes and by laying the tables.*

*As a whole school, Torre also enjoyed a mufti day to raise money for the homeless. We all brought in a range of donations to support the homeless people who live in Torbay. In addition to this, both pupils and teachers have made a massive effort by giving up their spare time. We hope it has made a real difference!*

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**Torre C of E Academy**

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## **Upcoming Events**

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

School closure for polling day

### **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 1<sup>st</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:

- 18.4.16: 'Self Organised Learning' (SOLE) at Torre
  - 16.5.16: 'Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation Subject Knowledge'
  - 20.6.16: 'Maths Subject Knowledge'
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*Article written by Hannah Milner and Billy Harker (writers in training, aged 10)*

*Here is a quote from Lyla Haggan (a pupil from Torre C of E Academy), "From my experience I found it very enjoyable to be helping the homeless. The most challenging part was laying the table as all the homeless people needed to have exactly the same cutlery!"*

### *Cinema Trip*

Reception enjoyed a trip to the cinema this month to see the film 'The Good Dinosaur'. This was the perfect start to their topic all about dinosaurs. The children also had great fun completing a hunt around the school for dinosaur bones.

### *Performing Arts Group's' Easter Show*

The children in the Performing Arts group with Mrs Irvine have worked incredibly hard to put together an Easter show in a very short space of time. Parents of the children involved came in to enjoy the show and it was a lovely way to remind us all what Easter is about and why Christians celebrate this special time.

### *Member of Parliament Visit*

Our MP, Kevin Foster came in to talk to children from Years 1 to 6 last week. He gave an interesting talk about his role in parliament. The children asked some brilliant questions including:

- Have you ever met the Queen?
- What is the best thing about your job?
- What is David Cameron like?

We talked about democracy and also about how laws are passed in this country. Kevin's visit linked in nicely with our series of Easter assemblies too, as we talked about Maundy Thursday last week and explained about the age old tradition of the Queen or King issuing Maundy gifts at Westminster Abbey. Your children should be able to explain all about this. This will be a good test to see how well they listen to my assemblies!

### *Harbour*

Children in The Harbour are looking forward to their Easter tea party and will be making Easter nests to share with their families. All of the children were adamant that they could not have a party without jelly, so Mrs Vanstone has organized the making of bunny shaped jellies.

One of The Harbour children wanted to try bagels for 'breakfast', so these were purchased for everyone to try.

The Harbour Lights group have produced some collaborative art work, which is proudly displayed on the wall. This art work was also reproduced in the form of Mother's Day cards.

### *Angelfish – Nursery*

The nursery children have been learning the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' this half term. They learnt the story with actions and then shared the story with their families at Stay and Play. They also made three different types of healthy cupcakes to try together. Afterwards we changed our story to 'The Very Hungry Tadpole' looking at the changes from a tadpole to a frog.

The children have also very busy growing lots of seeds for our garden, ready to plant after Easter. They really enjoy being outside in our wonderful outside area and we have spent time looking at the changes in our environment over the seasons.

## Exmoor Challenge

Mrs Crompton has again organised for any Year 6 pupils who want to, to complete the Torbay Civic Award this year. As part of this, Lyla, George, Rory, Jack, Keira, Hannah and Olisi of our pupils are training for the 16 mile Exmoor Challenge walk. On Saturday, the children walked the full route for the first time. Mr Dickinson, our Chair of Governors, accompanied them on the walk and he reports that they did really well! This is a great achievement. We look forward to hearing more about their training again soon.

Here is a quote from one of our parent helpers, "I was able to go along with some of your children, governors and parents to the practise of the Exmoor challenge last Saturday, (I'm Rory's grandad). We had a great but very tiring day and I was struck by the friendliness of the adults and the children. It was a pretty tough ask to walk that distance on a really cold day but I was very pleasantly surprised by the attitude of your children. I walked most of the distance with George and Jack (neither of which I had met before) and Rory. They kept their spirits up and showed a real team ethos in encouraging each other when one of them was at a low point. I was missing the grand slam match of the 6 Nations for this but actually I had such fun that I didn't mind!"

## School Meals

The Easter lunch was a big success with Donna and her team catering for nearly 300 people! The food was delicious and feedback from parents was fabulous. I would like to thank all of the staff involved too for helping to make this event such a success.

## School Council

The PTA has agreed to match fund whatever is raised at the School Council's table top sale. We will keep you up-dated with details about this event as soon as we have them.

Please see the special section on the website if you would like to read the minutes of their meetings to find out more.

## PE and Sport

The netball team played in a tournament at St Cuthbert Mayne and again did really well, winning 7 out of the 9 games they played. Mrs Cowell is looking forward to taking over as the coach for the Year 5 and 6 squad next term, while Mrs Morphew and her assistant Sophie will be starting up a new squad for children in Year 3 and 4.

Stingrays enjoyed a target skills festival at Torquay Academy.

Both Penguins and Sharks enjoyed a racket skills festival with Shiphay at Torquay Academy.

Photos of the festivals are on the website and there should be a few of the Netball tournament too.

## 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

It has been another busy term for governors with the curriculum committee visiting the school regularly to understand how the teachers are making an impact on your child's learning and ensure that they are making the required progress. The budget brought with it an Education White Paper and this will herald yet more changes in the sector and is something that Governors need to consider how to respond to over the coming months. Finally, it was great to participate on the practice walk for the Exmoor Challenge last Saturday with some of the pupils and parents/grandparents from Year 6.

Mr R Dickinson (Chair of Governors)

### Wrap-around care and school meals

Sadly, we have 62 debts outstanding. Please note that your child will not be able to have a school meal or attend breakfast club or Torrenadoz until debts have been settled.

A text can be sent to your phone when your Parent Pay balance is running low. Please contact the office if you would like help in setting up this notification system.

Meals and services must be paid for in advance.

Many thanks for your support.

## Attendance

Our school attendance is currently 96.61%, which we are pleased about. Please continue to support us by ensuring that your children are in school. We have had some requests for holidays in term time recently and I cannot stress highly enough the negative impact that even just a week can have on a child's progress with such increased expectations from the government.

Fifty-four of our pupils have 100% attendance, which is fabulous news.

## Parent/Carer Forums

We had twenty parents attending our most recent forum all about assessment and new expectations in the curriculum. The feedback from parents was positive and those attending expressed an interest in us leading some sessions for parents in how to support children with maths, grammar and spelling. This will be organized for later in the summer term.

For more information about statutory assessment in Year 2 and Year 6 this year, please see the website under 'Parents' and 'Assessment'.

## Charities

We are pleased to announce that our Christmas shoeboxes were sent to Romania. Thanks to you all for your generous contributions. It is great to hear that they have gone to some well-deserving children.

## Something to think about

'Easter Reflections' is a beautiful poem by Helen Steiner Rice that tells how God blesses us through the enchanting beauty of the spring season. In this poem, the poet muses on the majesty of the Easter season and its splendiferous offerings. Easter is an event that celebrates life and birth and is solemnized during spring, which enralls us with its bounties and beauties. In this poem, the poet raises a toast to the beautiful springtime and its abundance. For the poet, Easter is the time when earth wakes up from a deep slumber and heralds the beginning of new life. Bird's chirps around and vibrant blooms like daffodils, hyacinths and tulips breathe new life and fragrance into nature. However, the bliss of Easter season is not just limited to its natural beauties. In fact, this is a time to feel the real blessings of God and thank him for his eternal gift that he has conferred on us as Easter. This touching poem by Helen Steiner Rice has garnered accolades for its poignant musings and the delicacy with which she brings out the grandeur of the season and exalts the contribution of God. Let's revel in the lyrics of this poem.

## Easter Reflections

With OUR EYES we see  
The beauty of Easter  
as the earth awakens once more...

With OUR EARS we hear  
The birds sing sweetly  
to tell us Spring again is here...

With OUR HANDS we pick  
the golden daffodils  
and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS  
can we feel the MIRACLE of GOD'S LOVE  
which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL  
can we make our 'pilgrimage to God'  
and inherit His Easter Gift of ETERNAL LIFE.

This is one Easter poem that has been appreciated by people from all walks of life. The beauty of spring merged with the grace of God makes this poem a delightful read. Reading this beautiful composition again and again would take you closer to the real essence of the poem and allow you to experience the true grace of Lord.

### **Personal Achievements**

A big well done to the following children:

- Oliver Waring and Harry Gibson - took part in the Trevor Ward rugby tournament at Paignton on Sunday (20th March), representing Torquay under 10 rugby team. They won the tournament for the third year running. Their team is yet to be beaten this season.
- Oliver Ashman – cycled 15 miles with Cubs to raise money for Torbay Hospital's league of Friends.
- Maria Julyan – took her Grade 1 singing exam and sang a solo in a show at the Palace Theatre for the Torbay Acting Factory on the same day!
- Lucas Washbrook - came in first place in his age group in the south west regional BMX competition on Sunday.

**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...**