
Torre Times – May 2017



Pray, Praise, Potential, Pride, Persevere

Dear Families

It is lovely to be writing this on a sunny, summer's day!
Let's hope the good weather continues for the rest of the term and at the very least, for the Bank Holiday!

Please make a note of all the dates in your diary – we have a busy few weeks approaching.

Best wishes,

Mrs Julyan

Trips, visits and experiences

Torre Abbey

Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Torre Abbey. The visit, as written by Maisey, Phoebe and William:

When we arrived, we were given an hour to explore the Abbey. We split into groups of four and were each given a clipboard with a questionnaire that was linked to the portraits on walls. The questions got us thinking about how the people in the portraits were feeling and what they were wondering. We also had the opportunity to draw a portrait of our choice.

We were then taken to the art room where we did three different activities:

- *Our first activity was drawing our faces by feeling our facial features; it didn't have to be perfect, but it at least had to look like ourselves. We had to feel the bones in our faces to get the correct shape. We stuck our portraits onto a wall: some of us were very pleased with the final results.*
 - *Our next activity was to draw the person either opposite us, or next to us. We had to get the correct shape of their face and really think about where their eyes were, as we needed to leave room for their forehead. We learned how to draw faces from different angles, so that we could vary how we drew.*
 - *Our last activity was to draw and paint a portrait inspired by pictures on the board. The images on the board were different types of portraits, drawn by different artists.*
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Torre C of E Academy

Upcoming Events

5th June

INSET day – school closed

5th June

Y6 leave for London residential

8th June

School closed for polling day

26th June

Parent/carer forum: School Improvement Planning - your chance to have a say

w/c 3rd July

Transition week (mornings only)

12th July

2.15pm: Year 5/6 show for Y5 parents/carers

13th July

6:00pm: Year 5/6 show for Y6 parents/carers

14th July

Sports Day at TA (EYFS & KS1 morning & KS2 afternoon)

20th July

Party day, muffin, bring a party snack

21st July

Toy day

21st July

2.15pm: Y6 leavers' assembly

PTA Events

16th June

Summer Fayre

23rd June

Woodland's camping weekend

12th July

Summer disco (to be held outside weather permitting)

Every Friday after school – ice pops for sale! All help appreciated thanks.

Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Torre Abbey and would love to go again.

Walk for Wildlife – World Record attempt

Thank you so much for your support and donations enabling us to take part in the world record walk. We luckily managed to dodge all the heavy showers and to complete the challenge. We had 261 children taking part all walking at the same time. Thanks to Mrs Wain and the School Council for organizing this. The money raised will be used to purchase resources to encourage more local wildlife to come into school grounds.

Prayer Meeting

Please don't forget to attend Father Peter and Mrs Sandeman's prayer meeting, which takes place fortnightly on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at lunchtime. We have had great feedback from those attending so far.

PE and Sport

Tennis, Cricket and Swimming is all continuing. We can already see the children improving and all the school staff are benefiting from working with experienced sports coaches to enable them to brush up on and improve their own PE teaching.

Community Partnership

This week, we have hosted a meeting for our neighbours and also for our parents and carers to discuss the tricky parking situation. I have already written to Torbay Council (again!) and Torbay Hospital requesting them to appeal to their staff not to use the spaces outside school. Rob Dickinson (Chair of Governors) will be sending out regular memos detailing cars that have parked unsafely, or are causing an obstruction, so that we can all work together to keep our children safe. Thanks to those who gave their input either by email, or by attending the meeting.

Thanks to those who attended Play Torbay's meeting to help to design the new play park. The following was published in their flyer:

"Great session this afternoon with Play Torbay working with local children to find out their ideas for the play area in Torre Marine Park.

The children got really involved, making animations, creating models of parks, and talking to the diary room. Play Torbay will now analyse all this information to come up with a summary that will be sent off to playground designers.

Good to talk to the parents as well and to have them on board with the future of the park". **Margaret Forbes-Hamilton**

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently 95.31%, which is below the national average. This has gone down further since last month. PLEASE support us in trying to get this up to at least the national average of 96% by the end of the year, otherwise we will be under even more scrutiny from outside.

Church and RE

Eucharist

8th June – (Thursday) – This will be changed due to polling day...

Prayer Board

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

Important Announcements

Please can you ensure that your children DO NOT pick or damage the flowers in the school grounds. It takes a lot of time to maintain the flower beds and we want to keep the school looking nice and tidy.

Thank you for your support with this.

Please do not walk through the school car park. Staff do not expect pedestrians to be walking through.

Message from Father Peter

In October this year, the Bishop will be coming to the Parish for a Confirmation Service. This is when people who have been Baptised/Christened confirm the promises made at their Baptism and receive the Holy Communion for the first time. It marks a really important stage in someone's life and is a reason to celebrate. If you or your children would like to find out more about being Confirmed (or Baptised), please contact Fr Peter on (01803) 312754, or p.j.march@hotmail.co.uk"

Family Fest: 9th-11th June

Camping at River Dart Country Park
Don't forget to book your place!

Something to think about

As we approach Pentecost Sunday on 4th June, I have been looking for ways to explain to children what it is all about. I came across this and thought it might be helpful for parents/carers to share with your children:

Pentecost by *Sharla Guenther*

What is Pentecost? This is a very special time in the Bible when the disciples and other Christians received the Holy Spirit. Before I explain why and how this happened there's a few things you need to know first.

God didn't just pick any day for this to happen. Like everything God does, he has a specific time, purpose and reason for it and Pentecost was no exception.

Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples and new believers of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that's what Jesus told them would happen. Plus, since Jesus wasn't with them anymore the Holy Spirit would help bring them closer to God.

Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they'd be his witnesses in the whole world (**Acts 1:8**). Even more, he told them much earlier that the counselor (or Holy Spirit) would be sent by the Father, that He would teach them all things and remind them of everything he said to them (**John 14:26**).

So, the Holy Spirit is super helpful to us! He becomes a part of us when we become a Christian and understand that Jesus died and rose for us. When we're ready to try to live a life pleasing to God the Holy Spirit becomes part of us so we have a part of God with us all the time.

The day of Pentecost was a bit different though. People had already become Christians but the Holy Spirit wasn't a part of them yet. This would be the first time everyone who was a Christian would receive the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was a day to celebrate the end of the grain harvest.

The people would offer two loaves of bread they had made from their crops and two lambs were waved before the Lord as a thank offering. This was their special way of thanking God for the weather and for helping them get a crop for that year.

The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. I have a feeling the windows weren't open either!

Next they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. I'm not sure if they could see the tongues of fire or if it's how the people could explain what they felt happening. When the tongues of fire came they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages.

They may have used the words tongues of fire to explain the way they were speaking and the fire was a way to describe the Holy Spirit. Either way, they all got pretty excited and things got a bit noisy.

It says that there were people of many different nationalities staying in Jerusalem from all over and many of them speaking different languages. These people ran over to see what all the noise was about and were surprised to hear their own languages spoken throughout this group. The Bible even lists up to 16 different places people were from and could hear their language spoken!

Things must have sounded crazy! Imagine all these people speaking many different languages at the same time and shouting out praises to God excited that something amazing from God had just happened to them.

It was no surprise that the crowd that had gathered to check out what was happening thought that there wasn't something special happening, after all they weren't there when the Holy Spirit came to them. So some of the crowd started making fun of them and started to think that they had too much wine and it was making them act funny.

When Peter started to hear these rumours he raised his voice and talked to the crowd. He explained that they weren't drinking wine because it was only nine in the morning (people usually drink orange juice or coffee that early in the morning). Plus, the people celebrating Pentecost didn't eat or drink till at least ten in the morning.

He explained that Joel, a messenger of God's word said that this very thing would happen a long time ago. God usually would tell a prophet when something important was going to happen way before it actually happened. Just like the Bible told us a Saviour (Jesus) was going to come and save us long before Jesus was even born.

Peter continued and explained how God brought Jesus to them and that they had crucified him. The crowd understood and felt responsible for doing this and they wanted to know what they could do now.

Peter explained that they should repent (say they're sorry and stop doing bad things) and be baptized so that others would know that they believed in God and were trying to change. Now, because of Jesus death and his resurrection people could be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit from now on.

That means we receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ or become Christians. The word Christian actually means Christ in us. The special thing about having the Holy Spirit is that God never leaves us so we can talk to him or ask for help anytime.

The Holy Spirit actually helps us in many ways, he comforts, teaches, helps us grow in our relationship with God and gives us strength to get rid of the bad habits in our lives. He also gives us power and helps us know when we've done something wrong. Of course, we need to want to grow, learn and change to be more like God for the Holy Spirit to really work with us.

So Pentecost was super special for the disciples and special for us even now because that was the start of us receiving the Holy Spirit and being able to ask for forgiveness.

Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- Maya Bench – Won an award from Torbay Olympic Gymnastics Club for her consistent hard work and excellent attitude. Great!
- Harry Knatt – Took part in his first St George's Day Parade with Beavers on Sunday 23rd April. Fabulous Harry!
- George Evans – Successfully named a tree shrew at Shaldon Zoo. He has won a tree shrew sponsorship. Super news!
- Phoebe Kennedy – Went to Plymouth University for the Children's University Graduation Ceremony for her Gold Certificate for 200 hours. Great.
- Freddie Simpson, Ella Jaie Cox and Darbi Faint – Went to Plymouth University Graduation! – Great ambassadors for Torre.
- Daisy Mai Driver – Achieved water skills stage 1, trampolining level 6, gymnastics level 4, silver medal for individual trampolining routine at a competition. Wow!
- Charlie Driver – Achieved water skills stage 1, gymnastics level 4 and took part in a trampolining competition. Well done Charlie!
- Summer Faulkes – Passed her LAMDA entry level award in communication with merit. Great news!
- Brooke Mawhinney – Brooke has managed 100% attendance in Tiny Torre, Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. She only had one day off in Year 1 for sickness. Wow Brooke! You must really love school!
- George Pitts – Awarded Ducklings 2 swimming badge and his 5 and 10 metres swimming badge. Super George!
- Paul Gao – Awarded Grade 1 piano with merit and performed in the Torbay and South West of England Music Festival. What an achievement!
- Oliver Hamlyn and Thomas Hamlyn – Passed the First Wave sailing qualification. Great!

Well done!