



Dear Families

We hope you enjoyed a restful half term and that you enjoyed the lovely, warm weather. It does look like autumn has now arrived, so please make sure your child has a coat for school every day.

Thank you to those who were patient with us while we implemented a new parents' evening booking system online. Hopefully it will go much more smoothly next time!

Finally, huge congratulations to the children who were confirmed at All Saints' Church, Torre on Sunday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Julyan

Trips, visits and experiences

Year 3/4 Cook-offs

All of the children in Year 3/4 enjoyed taking part in their cook-off. Family members were invited in and they prepared a dish representing their heritage in the school hall. The delights were 'judged' and very worthy winners were selected. Well done to the Year 3/4 team.

Blogging

Children in Octopuses have been adding some of their writing to an online blog. Mr Cowling has shared the successes of this with the rest of the Torre team and more of us are keen to trial this approach to enthuse our children to write. Thanks Mr Cowling!



Torre C of E Academy

Upcoming Events

27th November

KS1 Nativity

6th, 7th, 8th December

EYFS Nativity

14th December

KS2 Carol Concert (6pm at Church)

Bikeability

Pupils in Year 3/4 and Year 5 recently took part in Bikeability training. The children taking part achieved Level 1 or 2. Well done everyone! I hope this means that you will now enjoy more time outside playing on your bikes.

The Harbour Museum Trip

Children in the Harbour enjoyed a visit to Torquay museum. The children were a credit to the school and they learned lots of new and exciting historical facts as well as getting to complete a 'Room on the Broom' trail and do some craft activities.

Alien Day

It was wonderful to see the children in reception dressed in their wacky alien costumes. We loved Mr Vernon's alien head wear too! Thank you to all parents/carers who helped their children with a costume. Lots of the learning in Reception will be based around this theme now.

Important Information regarding safeguarding

Information from the Police and Social care:

Torbay Education Safeguarding Service is a newly developed service working in partnership with schools to promote the welfare of children and young people, and to ensure they are safe from harm.

As part of their work they will receive information from partner agencies, such as the police and social care. If it is considered in the interest of the child or young person, this information will be shared with the school.

If information is shared, this will be in accordance with the key principles of the Data Protection Act and be on a need to know basis, and will only occur to help schools protect and promote the welfare of your son or daughter. When there is any sharing of information, schools should discuss this with you to enable a partnership approach to meeting the needs of your son or daughter.

If you have any questions about the service please ask your school, or telephone the Torbay Education Safeguarding Service 01803 403713

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

Santa Walk

The date for one of our favourite events is Sunday 3rd December. Please pop it in your diaries!

Family Quiz Night with fish & chip supper

Friday 17th November

Emazdad Magic Show

Friday 24th November

Christmas Fayre

1st & 8th December at 3.10pm

Christmas Discos

Wednesday 13th December

Pantomime at the Princess Theatre

17th December

Church and RE

Harvest Festival

Thanks to those of you who attended our Harvest festival and for your kind donations of food. The children did a great job at presenting and thanks to Mrs Irvine for all her hard work in coordinating the festival.

Thanks also to our Nursery parents, whom attended our delightful Tiny Torre Harvest celebrations.

Prayer Board

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

Eucharist

23rd November

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 – 97%
- Penguins have the best class attendance at 98.5%
- Number of pupils with 100% is 186

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.

If a holiday is taken without requesting permission for in advance, a fixed penalty notice will be issued.

The full policy can be found on the school website.

Christmas Tree Festival

"The 15th Annual All Saints Parish Community Christmas Tree Festival"

The annual Christmas Tree Festival will be taking place from 9th-17th December. Would you or someone you know like to sponsor and decorate a tree in aid of a charity, or to promote a local business? Over the years the trees have raised funds and awareness for many charities, and have been an important part of the Christmas celebrations for many people in the community and from across Torbay.

The trees (which are potted live trees) are available for a minimum donation of £20. You can then decorate them and put details about your chosen charity, and a collecting box next to your tree. Alternatively you can put advertising materials about your business next to your tree.

Your tree is your tree, which means that after the Festival you could raffle, auction, or donate it on behalf of your chosen charity.

To sponsor a tree, or to find out more, please contact Fr Peter on (01803) 312754, p.j.march@hotmail.co.uk"

Toddler Group

Our toddler group has started and meets twice a month in the Harbour from 9am until 10.15am. Please do come along if you have a pre-school age child; everyone is welcome.

School Meals

It is great to see all our new children enjoying a school meal. Many pupils are currently selecting the 'packed lunch' option. We would really like to encourage the children to have more hot meals. Most of our food is locally sourced and it is all cooked on the premises by our excellent chef Donna and her team. The meals really are delicious and lots of the staff have them to save cooking at home! It would be great if more children could select this option – especially as we move towards the winter months. Remember - the menu can be viewed on the school website. The hot meal is free for all children from Reception to Year 2 and is only £2.20 for the rest of the school including a pudding. Amazing value!

Charities

On Friday we are hoping to receive some donations to enable us to pack 50 shoeboxes to donate for the shoebox appeal supporting Operation Christmas Child. Thank you in advance for your support of this.

This term we have had Purple Angels – a dementia charity – in school working with staff and pupils. I am proud to say that we are now officially a Purple Angels school helping to raise awareness of dementia. Now that the charity ANODE has sadly folded, we hope to be able to support Purple Angels.

PE and Sport

Boys in Year 5/6 and pupils in Y3/4 are now the proud 'owners' of a fabulous Torre football strip. We now have boys and girls competitive football teams who will be competing in the local league. Mr Cowling and Miss Irving are very busy working with the children, so that they can represent the school well. Keep an eye on Twitter to see how our teams are getting on.

The netball squad is also busy preparing for their first game of the season. Thank you to Mrs Morphew for continuing to organise this for our children.

The whole of Year 5/6 attended a great tag rugby festival at Torquay Boys' Grammar School, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Parent Pay

Please ensure that all payments are made via ParentPay online before the child attends the trip or takes the meal. We already have some debts building to around 40 – 50 people per week. The governors have now asked for a weekly report of debtors. Please can you ensure that you act on any debt text messages that are sent out as soon as possible. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Wrap Around Care

Some parents have still not signed our revised agreement for before school club and Torrenadoz. Please note that, without this, your children will not be able to attend the provisions.

Stay and Learn

Thank you to those who attended our first 'stay and learn' sessions. It was great to receive feedback from some parents. Please note that we do read your feedback and take any suggestions you make into consideration, so please take the time to tell us what you thought. There will be another 'stay and learn' session before Christmas.

Something to think about – a little story I found...

God's Under the Bed

My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed." I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room.

Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in. He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (he's 6'2"), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7 year old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas, and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, returning to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme are laundry days, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05 eager for a day of simple work.

He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays -- oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

I don't think Kevin knows anything exists outside his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. He recognizes no differences in people, treating each person as an equal and a friend. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others.

His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere.

And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God -- to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap -- I am. My obligations, my fears, my pride, my circumstances -- they all become disabilities when I do not submit them to Christ.

Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of the Lord. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed.

Kevin won't be surprised at all. - Author Unknown -