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# Torre Times – October/November 2016

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

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Dear Families

The autumn has well and truly arrived! Please can you ensure that children have a coat and hat in school every day, now that the weather has turned colder.

Christmas is already 'in the air' as children in EYFS, KS1 and Performing Arts begin to learn their Christmas songs. We are delighted to let you know that KS1 will be treading the boards at the Princess Theatre to perform their nativity this year – how exciting!

Best wishes,

Mrs Julyan

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## **Trips, visits and experiences**

### *Heatree*

Year 5 pupils had a fabulous week at Heatree House on their residential visit. It is a while since a whole class has participated, so this was great to see. I visited one evening to lead the evening activities and it was good to see them having such a fabulous time. A big thank you to all the staff who gave up their family time to make this happen.

### *Harvest*

Thanks to those of you who supported both our Early Years Harvest in school and also our KS1 and KS2 Harvest Festival at the Church. The classes all enjoyed preparing and sharing their learning about this special Christian festival and celebration of God's gifts to us. Thank you too for your gifts of donations for the local charity Anode.

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## **Torre C of E Academy**

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **18<sup>th</sup> November:**

Children in Need - muffi

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> (2.30pm) and 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
(9am):

EYFS Nativity

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

KS1 Nativity at the Princess Theatre

#### **14<sup>th</sup> December:**

School Christmas Lunch – wear a Christmas accessory (hat etc.)!

Nursery Christmas party

#### **15<sup>th</sup> December:**

KS2 Carol Concert (6pm at Church)

Christmas party day- bring a party snack and muffi

#### **16<sup>th</sup> December:**

Bring a toy from home day

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### Shakespeare event

Year 6 and some Year 5 pupils enjoyed a visit to Torquay library to watch a Shakespearean performance. It was great to be able to use a local facility, whilst also learning more about Shakespeare. The children all enjoyed this experience.

### Newton Abbot Market

Children in Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed their trip to Newton Abbot Market this week. They have been learning all about the history of markets, so have visited Newton Abbot to compare a modern day market with what they have learned about markets in the past. They interviewed both traders and customers to find out more about what is on offer including local produce. The children will now go on to do some data collection work using the information they have gathered.

### Eco Warrior work in the community

The eco-warriors took part in some gardening with Mr Thomas in partnership with Torre & Upton Community Partnership. Mr Thomas commented, "The children were polite, enthusiastic and well behaved. They were not deterred by the wet weather or the worms!" Well done to the eco-warriors for all their hard work this half-term.

Thank you for taking the children Miss Chew.

### Performance at Torquay Academy

Mrs Irvine organised for a group of pupils to showcase their musical talents at Torquay Academy, where they performed to the students on the stage. Well done to Kayleigh Sandeman, Darbi Faint, Daniel Spear and Hannah Spear. They did a great job!

### Ethos Group

The Ethos group are continuing to work towards ensuring that our mission statement is followed through:

*"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.*

The group is also doing a piece of work around understanding the recently published Church of England Vision for Education, whose aim is for schools to be 'deeply Christian, serving the common good'.

The group aims to meet termly and will be supporting the school in:

- Enabling us to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) through being deeply Christian and serving the common good;
- Promoting our Christian values;

### PTA

#### **Santa Walk**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please pop it in your diaries! Forms are now available on the website and in the office.

#### **Christmas Fayre**

25<sup>th</sup> November 3.15pm

#### **Christmas Discos**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Pantomime at the Princess Theatre**

17<sup>th</sup> December – tickets are now available

#### **Church and RE**

#### **Eucharist**

24<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Prayer Board**

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

- Reporting to our Governors on what we have thought about, discussed and initiated;
- Developing spirituality within our school.

## Open Day

We had our first school open day of the year where two of our newly elected School Councillors took prospective parents on a tour of the school.

## School Meals

Donna and her team have served two special meals over the past few weeks – one to celebrate Harvest and the other in recognition of Bonfire Night. It is great to see lots of children enjoying our nutritious hot meals. I am pleased to let you know that the kitchen served over 120 covers for the hot roast meal last week, which is great! We are keen for as many of our pupils to enjoy school meals as possible. It certainly makes dinner time easier at home when children have already eaten a hot meal that day!

## Charities

Huge thanks to those of you who have supported the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal again this year, by donating items to out into the shoe boxes. Thanks also, to the team of volunteers who came in to help us to sort through the donated items and to pack up the boxes. We have created 60 boxes as a school – amazing!

All of our Remembrance Day items were sold to raise money for the British Legion. Many thanks for your support with this and also to the dedicated team of Year 6s who have helped with the sales.

## PE and Sport

Children in Year 5 took part in the Bikeability programme and gained their Level 2. One parent fed back to me about how delighted she was that her son was now able to ride to school on his bike to due becoming more confident. Great news!

One of our netball squads of Year 5 and 6 children played in their first tournament this week over at Paignton Community and Sports Academy.

## Democracy at Torre

The school council has done some research with their peers to find out what changes pupils would like to homework tasks. Their findings have been shared with the teachers, so that improvements can be made to existing homework tasks. Thank you School Council!

## Parent Pay

Please ensure that all payments are made via ParentPay **before** your child attends the trip or takes the meal. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

## Stay and Learn

Our math 'stay and learn' sessions were well supported and much appreciated by parents. Thank you for supporting these events. It is great that you are able to support your children's learning in this way. The next one will be a reading or writing lesson.

## Attendance

We currently have the best attendance record we have had for a long time at 97.28%. It would be fabulous if we could sustain this. Thank you for all your support with this.

The class with the best attendance is the Penguins class at 98.8%. Well done Penguins! We currently have 156 pupils with 100% attendance, which is great.

We have introduced a slightly different reward system for attendance this year, meaning that if a child is poorly for a day or so in the autumn term, but they are then in school for the rest of the year (for example) they will still be rewarded:

### Rewards for good attendance:

- Class attendance will be monitored half termly. At the end of each half term, the class with the best attendance will receive certificates and a class shield.
- At the end of the school year, children with an overall attendance of 100% will be presented with a certificate.
- The attendance notice board displays current attendance achievements in the school hall.
- Bronze certificates will be rewarded for 100% attendance for a full term. Silver certificates will be rewarded for two terms of 100% attendance. Gold certificates will be rewarded for three terms of 100% attendance.
- There is a grand prize draw for attendance at the end of the school year for children with 100% attendance for three terms. A prize draw (for a smaller prize) will also take place for those who have attained 100% for two terms.
- These will be given out at the end of each term.
- Names will be displayed on the Attendance notice board.

Another change to our policy this year, means that if a child is absent from school, and the parent/carer has not telephoned in and we cannot reach the family by telephone, then representatives from South West Family Values will visit the family home as to enquire as to the whereabouts of the child.

### Something to think about – an autumn reflection

Each of the seasons offers a great deal of wisdom for the spiritual journey. Autumn is a season of transition, reminding us that our lives are constantly in flux. Of course change is always with us, but autumn brings us to a deeper awareness that we live in a continual cycle of dying and rising. In the Benedictine tradition, one of the commitments is to conversion. Essentially it means being open to the surprise of God throughout your life and therefore open to change. It means believing that God is far bigger than anything you can ever imagine, and so there will always be more dimensions of the sacred to discover.

The autumn leaves changing colours are actually reverting to their original hue as chlorophyll is gradually blocked. As the trees begin to pull energy inward for the coming hibernation of winter, the chlorophyll in the leaves decreases and the vibrant shades we witness are the tree's true colour. As autumn begins, we are called to reflect where we are being invited to surrender our masks and become more truly who we already are. With fall's energy of release, we are asked to consider the things, habits, beliefs, and attitudes that we are being called to let go of in the coming days.

By Christine Valters Paintner, *Benedictine Oblate and the online Abbess of Abbey of the Arts*

## Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- Evie Bench – achieved the British Gymnastics proficiency award for Level 1 – well done!
- Maya Bench - achieved the British Gymnastics proficiency award for Level 1 – great!
- Katie Pugh – achieved one gold medal and one silver medal in a solo dance competition and has competed in several dance competitions this term. Fabulous Katie!
- Charlotte Birchmore – achieved gymnastics badge 6 and a badge for swimming 25m. Super news!
- Maria Julyan – won tickets to see 'The Wind in the Willows' for winning a writing competition organised by the Children's University. Super!
- Jessica Smith – is already a brown belt in karate, but has now passed her second kyu meaning she is another step closer to her black belt. Amazing!
- Joseph Butterwith – won Haart's colouring competition and received a £40 voucher for his great work. Lovely!