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# Torre Times – September 2016

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

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Dear Families

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely summer. I would like to say a very special welcome to all our new Nursery and Reception children and families. I have enjoyed meeting some of you at the gate in the mornings.

The children have all settled well into their new classes and we are looking forward to an exciting term.

Mrs Thomas has now left us for a while to have her baby. We all wish you well and can't wait to meet your new daughter when she arrives.

Mrs Julyan

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## **Trips, visits and experiences**

### *Living Coasts*

Key Stage 1 have already enjoyed their first school trip of the year. All ninety of them visited Living Coasts. A great time was had by all. The boys and girls enjoyed meeting the penguins and learning all about different sea-life.

### *River Dart Country Park*

All of the children in Key Stage 2 had a visit to the River Dart Country Park. The purpose of the trip was to enable our new classes to bond and also for the children to get to know their new teachers. Excellent team work was displayed by the children and it was great to see how the children have grown up over the summer.

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## **Torre C of E Academy**

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **13<sup>th</sup> October**

Harvest Festival in church

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Parents' evening (late)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Parents' evening (early)

#### **6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December**

EYFS Nativity

#### **13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December (TBC)**

KS1 Nativity

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

KS2 Carol Concert (6pm at Church)

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### **Message from Father Peter**

**Thank you!**

***A big thank you to everyone who has made me, and my family, welcome since we moved to Torquay in the summer. It's been great to meet people, and I look forward to getting to know you as we work together with the School to serve this community.***

***This time in the year is when people gather for Harvest Festivals, to give thanks for food and all the gifts God gives. The School will be coming to Church in October for their Harvest Festival, and we give thanks for this and look forward to welcoming everyone.***

***Being thankful for what we have is a good habit to develop, because when we pause for a moment to give thanks we start to realise all that we have to be thankful for. These may not be big things, but the little things that make daily life possible and more pleasant. Saying "thank you" makes a big difference to the people we are, to those who we share our lives with, and to our whole community.***

**Thank you! Fr Peter. Psalm 117**

Fr Peter

Psalm 117

## Welcome to Father Peter

We wish to welcome the new vicar to All Saints' Torre. Father Peter has moved to the parish from Exeter with his young family and we would like to extend our welcome to them all. Father Peter has already attended his first Governors' meeting, ethos group meeting, led a Eucharist and also some collective worships.

He is planning, in conjunction with our ethos group, to start a lunch-time prayer group, to which you are all warmly welcomed. Keep an eye on the website for more information about this.

## Ethos Group

Torre's Ethos Group was formed in September of this year. The group is made up of a parent Governor, parent representatives, Fr. Peter, Mrs Julyan and Mrs Newton. The group aims to meet once every half term to discuss some of the following points:

- To support the school in developing our Christian distinctiveness
- To promote our Christian Values
- We report to our governors on what we have thought about, discussed and initiated
- To develop spirituality within our school

Our first meeting was a great success and we are excited about the impact it will have throughout the school.

*Mrs E Newton*

## Meeting for new Reception Parents about Phonics and Reading

Many thanks to the parents who attended the phonics and reading meeting. I hope you found it useful and that you now feel more confident in supporting your children at home. For those who couldn't come, the slides are available on the school website.

## 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.

## Charities

We would like to request donations of tinned and packet foods to be sent in with your child for our harvest festival. These goods will be donated to our local charity Anode.

## Key Dates

Parents' Evening: 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October

### PTA

### Santa Walk

The provisional date for one of our favourite events is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please pop it in your diaries!

### AGM

Please come along to find out what we are all about on 17<sup>th</sup> October at school at 7pm

### 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

### Church and RE

### Harvest Festival

KS1 & KS2 - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2pm at All Saints' Church

EYFS – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at school

### Prayer Board

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

### Eucharist

20<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> November

## **Democracy at Torre**

I am sure you are all aware that Torre is used as a polling station, but last Wednesday there was another very important election being held here. The children voted for their school council representatives, learning about the Fundamental British Values of democracy, whilst taking part. Within the new curriculum there is a high emphasis placed on children becoming citizens for the future. Mrs Wain has explained that, "We wanted to give the children an authentic experience of what it feels like to be part of a democratic community. Our school council is going to be involved in improving many areas of our school as pupil voice is a very important aspect of our improvement. We would like to thank Torbay council for lending us the voting booths to make the experience so real for our children."

## **Parent Pay**

Please ensure that all payments are made via ParentPay online before the child attends the trip, takes the meal, attends breakfast club or Torrenadoz. 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.

## **Stay and Learn**

Thanks to all of you who supported our first 'Stay and Learn' sessions in Key Stages 1 and 2. I know from the feedback, that those who were able to attend have found this input useful. We plan to invite you into our classrooms every month and appreciate your support and interest. For more information about these sessions, keep an eye on the school website.

**Something to think about** – I found this and it resonated with me, so I thought I would share:

### **You can't harvest if you don't plant seeds.**

Nothing grows without a seed. So in order for something to grow, you have to plant a seed. Then you need a little time for the seed to sprout and begin growing. Often we don't take the time to consciously think about which seeds we are planting in our lives. We jump in feet first without stepping back to consider the big picture. Most people skip over the planning process rather than taking the time to make conscious decisions that will lead them where they want to go.

### **Be grateful for the harvest.**

Sometimes the results of the harvest are out of our control. In any year the weather might not cooperate giving too much or not enough rain. Some things are also out of our control in our lives. Circumstances sometimes create challenges. It's what we do with those challenges that counts. Whatever has happened this past year, be grateful. Learn from the challenges. Embrace the opportunities. Decide which seeds to plant next.

*What do you need to give thanks for?*

## Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- Eleanor and Lauren Tanton: earned medals from Torquay library for the 'Big Friendly Read' – well done!
- Lauren Tanton: danced in Miss Jenny's 'Happy Feet 9' show at the Palace Theatre – fabulous!
- Eleanor Tanton, Lauren Tanton, Callum Cliff and Enzo Kirby: Helped to rescue an injured racing pigeon – a lovely caring thing to do.
- Ewan Morpew: gained a merit for Grade 3 piano – super achievement!
- Rhianna Morpew: won four gold medals in her first ever swimming gala – fantastic effort Rhianna!
- Alice Singleton-Green: completed and was awarded her level 2 bikeability and also her Stage 1 swimming. Well done Alice – all that hard work has paid off!
- Grace Gibbings: gained a distinction in her primary ballet exam – amazing!
- Daisy Gibbings: Achieved a silver medal for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Novice Modern section at the Plymouth Dance Festival out of 24 dancers! Super!
- Daisy Mai Driver: Gained a Level 4 Proficiency Award for gymnastics – brilliant!
- Ella-Jaie Cox: got 3<sup>rd</sup> place in her modern and ballet solos at Plymouth festival. She also gained a distinction in her ballet exam. Brilliant!

**Well done!**