
Torre Times – September 2017



Pray, Praise, Potential, Pride, Persevere

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.

We are already missing Mrs Vanstone, but Mrs Kendell is doing a great job as SENDCo and Mrs Thomas as The Harbour teacher.

I would also like to welcome Mr Cowling, Mrs Smith and Miss Smith to the team.

Mrs Julyan

Trips, visits and experiences

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.

Surfing

Children in Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed learning how to surf safely over the past few weeks. This has been a great opportunity organized by the Sport Partnership.



Torre C of E Academy

Upcoming Events

6th October

Harvest Festival in church at 2pm
(collect from the Church)

11th October

Tiny Torre Harvest Festival in Nursery at 2.30pm

13th October

Reception Harvest Festival at 2.45pm

31st October

Parents' evening (early)

1st November

Parents' evening (late)

To be confirmed

EYFS Nativity

27th November

KS1 Nativity

To be confirmed

KS2 Carol Concert (6pm at Church)

Health and Safety

Please may we kindly request that you do not walk through the staff car park, at any time of the day, even if you do not have your child with you. We teach our children to respect rules and follow instructions, especially when safety is concerned. As adults we need to be setting the right examples for our children. Please support us in keeping your children, and you, safe.

Heatree

Year 5 went off to Heatree really early on in the term, which was great for getting to know those who were in different classes last year. Everyone had a fantastic time – new skills were learned, fears were put to the test and new friendships were made.

A huge thank you to the staff for taking nearly the whole year group of 45 children off for the week. Residentials are exhausting and staff are on duty 24 hours a day. They do not have to do it, so we are very fortunate at Torre to have such a committed and hard-working team. Thank you also to those parents and children who took the time to give words of appreciation to the staff. Heatree is one of those school experiences that children never forget!

Roald Dahl Day

Children in Key Stage 1 spent the day remembering the author Roald Dahl on the anniversary of his birthday. The children learned about some of the books he has written, enjoyed talking about books of his that they have already read and also learned some facts about his life. The children came to school in costume and looked absolutely fabulous! Thanks to all the Mums, Dads, Grannies etc who helped with costumes.

Favourite Clothes Day

The children in reception wore their favourite clothes into school last week. This was part of our autumn topic 'ourselves'. They loved walking down the catwalk and showing off their outfits!

Confirmation Classes

A series of sessions have begun on Mondays after school to prepare some of our pupils for their first Holy Communion. We are delighted to have some former pupils also joining us for these sessions with Father Peter, as well as some people from the Parish of All Saints Torre.

Meeting for new Reception Parents about Phonics and Reading

I hope lots of you are able to come along to our meeting on Monday (9am and 6pm). It should help you to understand how we teach reading at Torre and should enable you to feel more confident in supporting your children at home. For those who can't come, the slides will be 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

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

20th October

AGM

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

Christmas Fayre

1st & 8th December at 3.10pm

Christmas Discos

Thursday 14th December

Pantomime at the Princess Theatre

17th December

Church and RE

Harvest Festival

KS1 & KS2 - Friday 6th October 2pm at All Saints' Church

Nursery – Wednesday 11th at 2.30pm at school

Reception – Friday 13th October at 2.45pm 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

19th October and 23rd November

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

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 a local foodbank.

We are planning to support the Shoebox appeal again this year and will be in touch soon with more information about how you can support us with this very worthy cause.

Peru

In July, the children of year 3 & 4 did a combined project on weather with the children of a similar age in Tupac Amaru in Cusco. Using internationally recognised equipment, the Stingrays made daily measurements of the rainfall, temperature and wind and then shared this via Skype and videos to Peru directly and were able to compare it with the data from the children in Cusco. The children made posters in both Spanish and English and exchanged them via live video link. We also found weather symbols extremely useful as they provided a universal platform for discussing the weather. We made some interesting discoveries, Finley Ashman observed, "In the final 10 days of the weather project, we noticed the temperatures and rainfall collected were the same as in Peru – this was because we had a mini heatwave here in Torquay!"



Democracy at Torre

I am sure you are all aware that Torre is used as a polling station, but earlier this week, 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 PSHE 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 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

Thank you for working with us in using our new systems for booking places in Before School Club and Torrenadoz. It has ensured that we always have an appropriate member of staff to supervise your children in these sessions. We hope to be able to continue to enable you to book a space right up until midnight the night before you require a place.

Stay and Learn

The first 'Stay and Learn' sessions in Key Stages 1 and 2 are about to commence. I know from the feedback from last year, that those who were able to attend have found this input useful. We plan to invite you into our

classrooms every half term and appreciate your support and interest. For more information about these sessions, keep an eye on the school website.

Something to think about – A Harvest prayer or 'foodies' to say and share with your families:

For food, glorious food and those who provide it

Let us praise God

For potatoes and pasta, crumbly cheese and juicy tomatoes

Let us praise God

For the smell of freshly baked bread, for butter and honey, jam and cream

Let us praise God

For colourful carrots and bendy bananas, peppers and peanuts and pears

Let us praise God

For sizzling sausages and bacon butties, for crunchy apples and seedless grapes

Let us praise God

For milk and for juice, for fish and for chips

Let us praise God

For chocolate and for biscuits, for cornflakes and toast

Let us praise God

For food, glorious food and those who provide it

Let us praise God

Personal Achievements

A big well done to the following children:

- Kieron: earned a place on the Under 12s Devon County Badminton Team – well done!
- Paris: got a bronze certificate in badminton – fabulous!
- Kati: had a successful audition for the Christmas panto at the Princess Theatre out of 54 children who auditioned. Amazing!
- Lauren: passed her preliminary tap exam – super achievement!
- Evie and Maya: completed the 5km Bubble Rush for Rowcroft Hospice – fantastic effort girls!
- Alice: completed and was awarded her level 2 bikeability and also her Stage 1 swimming. Well done Alice – all that hard work has paid off!
- Mya: won a competition to be the Princess at Paignton Carnival and enjoyed sitting proudly on the carnival float for the day – amazing!
- Scarlett: has started piano lessons and has already mastered the song 'Hot Cross Buns' after just one lesson! Super!
- Logan: won man of the match this week, the new under 8 team Torquay Academy versus Watcombe. The team have only been together 2 months – super!
- George: learnt to ride his bike without stabilisers and has now passed his bikeability Level 1 in just 4 weeks. Great!
- Leah: completed the Bubble Rush 5km fun run and received a lovely medal. Well done Leah!
- Jessica: achieved her 10m swimming award
- Oliver: achieved his 500m swimming award and reading award.

Well done!