

Torfield News

A newsletter for Parents and Carers of Pupils at Torfield School Edition 5 Spring 2014

Successful OFSTED for Torfield

January 2014 saw the publication of the full report from OFSTED stating that in all areas Torfield School is good. We are delighted by the outcome of this inspection which is due to the hard work of all members of the staff and the support given to pupils by parents and carers. Together we ensure that pupils are able to reach their full potential. One of the areas for development was to ensure we use all the available technology to support parents and carers to build on learning at home. Inside this newsletter is some information about ways to develop learning outside of the school day. We welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we can help you to support your child at home.



At Torfield School 'All pupils achieve well and make good or outstanding progress.' Ofsted December 2013.

Tuesday Curriculum Clubs Science Week

In term 5 we hope to launch our Tuesday Club. Thank you to all the parents and Carers of KS2 pupils who filled in our questionnaire. We had a great response to this and are now making arrangements to start as soon as possible. If your child is in year 4, 5 or 6 you will be getting a letter with this newsletter. Priority for places will go to year 6 pupils as they have only two more terms at Torfield. The clubs will be fun but educational and will support pupils to improve their skills.

Initially we will run just one club and as the most popular choice was swimming we will start with this. Next year we will be hoping to offer a greater choice. Please return your reply slip promptly.



Some pictures from 2P's visit to Knockhatch earlier this year.



Can you help us? We need some clean and empty plastic bottles of all different sizes. Please send any plastic bottles in with your child next term.

Science week comes to Torfield next term. We will be visited by Zoolab who will bring their collection of small animals and minibeasts for the pupils to handle. There will be lots of hands on activities for pupils to get involved with. Every class will be going out on a science visit.



Some lovely Mother's Day cards made by Early Years pupils.



Good Bye and Good Luck to Sandra

At the very end of Term 2 we said goodbye to a long serving member of staff who will be known to many of you. Sandra Bloe has worked at the school for 10 years as a TA. More recently Sandra took on the role of Parent Information Contact offering support and useful resources to many parents. For personal reasons Sandra has decided to leave Torfield and focus on her own new ventures. We wish her good luck and good health in the future.





Pupils Support Sports Relief

All pupils at Torfield took part in a BIG BOUNCE in aid of Sports Relief. The challenge was to do the most bounces in one minute. The winner was Ben in 2K . Many pupils came dressed as sportspeople. The best costume prize went to Archie in 2S. We raised £70 and the pupils burned off lots of energy. Thank you to Gavin Davison for organising the event.



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy reading about what the pupils have been doing in this term's newsletter. They have been working very hard and have produced some lovely work. A highlight of everyone's week is the Friday assembly when the pupils come out to get their certificates and prizes for hard work. We have had a big focus on PE since January and have some fantastic new equipment for the summer terms. We just need some fantastic weather to go with it. Earlier this term we held a Zumba day and found out we have some very good dancers in school. It was a very enjoyable day for everyone involved. A big thank you goes to Katy for her energy and enthusiasm and for making sure all the pupils were included. In the last full week of term 6 we shall be having an Activities Week where pupils will have the chance to try a whole range of different indoor and outdoor creative activities. There will also be Sport's Day to look forward to. There is lots to look forward to in terms 5 and 6.

With Best Wishes

Natalie Shuttleworth

Head of School



School Council News

Torfield School Council meets once a term and provides a chance for the pupils to have a voice in the running of the school community.

Each class elects a councillor to represent them at the council meetings and it is a good opportunity to involve pupils in the democratic processes of making choices and decision making.

School Councillors are encouraged to bring ideas and suggestions from their classes to share with other council members, as well as help make decisions about a wide range of issues.

This year some of the discussions that the council has had have included:

- Transition arrangements for year 6 pupils moving on to Saxon Mount.
- Ideas for information books about the federation.
- After school clubs and what should be offered at these clubs.
- Rewards and appropriate sanctions.
- Rules for appropriate behaviour on the taxis.
- Healthy snack options.
- Fundraising ideas for external charities as well as raising money for the school.

Throughout the year Torfield's council also meet up with Saxon Mount's council and this provides further opportunities for shared communication across the federation.



We would like to say a big thank you to following councillors for all their ideas and hard work this year:

Rhianna (2B) Caine (2N) Ben (2K) Nicky (2P)
Ryan (2W) Tommy (2S)

INSET DATES FOR TERM 6

Please note that the school will be closed for pupils on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th June

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for looking at our spring edition of the Torfield newsletter. In this issue you will read about and see pictures of just some of the excellent learning opportunities our young people have been taking part in over the last few months. As our new curriculum develops, it is really impressive to see a wider range of high quality work being produced.

The terms are racing by and at this time of year we begin to think about looking ahead to the future. For our year 6 pupils this is a very important time. Our staff will be doing their very best to prepare them for assessments, moving on from Torfield and the transition to new schools in September. Of course there are also plenty of exciting events for them to look forward to before they leave us! Please support us by making sure they get plenty of sleep and a good breakfast every day. We have an excellent track record of preparing children in moving on, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any worries.

Of course I can't complete my newsletter item without mentioning Ofsted! As you will no doubt be aware both Torfield and Saxon Mount were visited in December and I am delighted to say that both schools were found to be 'Good' in every area inspected – this is no mean feat under the new tougher inspection framework. I extend my thanks and appreciation to all of our staff, pupils and governors who have worked so hard to demonstrate improved provision at Torfield.

Thank you also to all of our parents and carers who have shown their support and enthusiasm for Torfield in recent Annual Reviews and parent evenings; we had a very high attendance and received overwhelmingly positive feedback in our questionnaires.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Easter holiday.

Mr Preece
Executive Headteacher



This term class 2B have been learning about sound. We made our own instruments, drums and shakers and used them to play along with some of our favourite songs. We also visited the beach and the play park to listen for sounds. We heard the sea, walking on pebbles, and seagulls. Some children played rhythms using pebbles as an instrument. We had great fun talking to each other using the special loudspeakers on the seafront and at the play park, which work by having a tube buried underground for the sound to travel.



Information from Your PIC

Judith Taylor is your Parent Information Contact. She is based at the Early Years Centre and is very knowledgeable about support and services available for families. Ring the main office on 01424 428228 to pass a message to Judith. Here are some useful suggestions.

i-Go passport

This gives you reduced rates of entry to activities in East Sussex such as Blue Reef Aquarium, Jerwood Gallery and Smugglers Adventure for children and young people with disabilities or special needs.

For more information look online

www.parentlinksussex.org.uk/i-go

Carers Emergency Alert Card

A card carried by the carer to help identify the needs of the person they care for in the event of an emergency and ensures that that person is supported.

Look online for more details and how to apply.

www.cftc.org.uk



Update from Governors



The governing body have been busy in monitoring the work of both Torfield and Saxon Mount. Recent activities have included visiting the Torfield school council, learning about and monitoring the business management of the schools and monitoring and learning about our safeguarding arrangements. Of course governors were also interviewed by Ofsted inspectors in December and were able to demonstrate how well they know both schools. Perhaps more enjoyably, governors also attended many of the Christmas events at Torfield and Saxon Mount, taking the opportunity to meet pupils, staff and parents!



This term, in History 2K have been learning about the Tudors and what life was like for the majority of people as well as the very wealthy. We took the opportunity to visit Knoke Park in Sevenoaks.

The impressive house was built at the start of the Tudor period, once owned by Henry V111 and we learned that it had 300 rooms! We were shown a variety of very interesting items from the period and after lunching in one of the courtyards, we dressed up in authentic period costumes and toured part of the house. Some of it was quite spooky but we were told it doesn't have any ghosts!

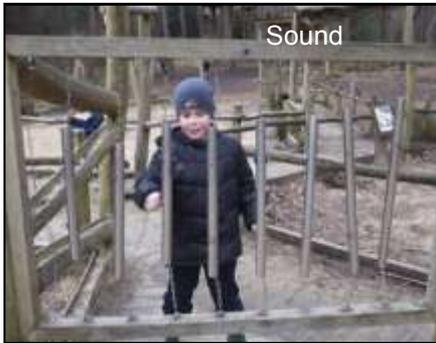


The focus for our Science topic in terms 3 & 4 has been 'Everyday Materials' & we have been able to make strong curricular links to other subjects including Art & Design, Design Technology, RE, IT, English & Maths.

The children were able to identify & categorise different objects by thinking about what material they were made of and how they could be used. Links to other areas were made by sorting, counting, and recognition of initial graphemes & phonemes including 'Buddy Reading' with our year 6 pupils which identifies books as being made of paper.

We have also been making Easter Bonnets & Easter Egg machines which focuses especially on the use of different materials & Religious Education.





Sound



The Water Cycle



Materials



2P

Sound: We went on a sound hunt and tried to record as many different types of sound that we could hear. We learnt that some sounds are natural and that some are man-made. We learnt that all sounds are caused by vibrations.

The Water Cycle: We visited Bowl Water to see where water is stored in a massive man-made lake called a reservoir. We learnt that the water that we drink today is the same water that was once drunk by the dinosaurs!

Materials: We went for a materials hunt on the beach and found a range of natural and man-made materials. We found fishermen's nets, floats, empty cans, dead fish and crabs, shells, cuttlefish and string. We also found a remote control for a sky+ box!

In term 4 we have been learning how to play 'Net Games'. 2W and 2S have been focusing on sending, kicking and throwing balls and beanbags towards specific targets. 2B and 2P have been learning the skills that are needed to play tennis. 2K and 2N have learned the game of badminton. Here are some photos from some of our PE lessons.



"I liked it when we made a circle and danced in the middle. I had a bit of stage fright but it was fun!" Adam
"It was fantastic - I loved it." Rhys



In term 3 the children were learning about dance and movement. This culminated in a 'Zumba day' held on Thursday 6th March run by an experienced instructor - Katy Tatlock. Everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. Here are some pictures and quotes from the children.

PE



Zumba Day



Parent Support Group

In term 3 we ran a Makaton course and a First Aid course. We are currently running a Phonics course to help support children's reading through phonic activities and parents and carers have been making resources to use at home. The focus has been on making learning to read fun using props and stories that motivate children and reinforce the teaching methods used in school. Story bags can be borrowed from the school for a small deposit and exchanged for a different one as many times as you like.

Leaflets detailing future courses will come home in your child's book bag. We look forward to seeing you at the Family Learning courses.

Focus on Phonics



This term the children in 2W have collected items such as leaves, twigs and stones from the local environment to make prints in art.

In addition to these collected items they used sponges, rollers and textured stamps.

The resulting art works show lovely colourful designs.

Once shown the idea the children were left to create their own work so the finished results are very much their own.



This approach of linking outdoor and indoor learning proves successful and the children are able to make links with other curricular areas, which is great.

2W

Music

This term the children were treated to a concert by the Folk Duo Haddo. Will and Nicky Pound performed folk music on a violin, viola, harmonica and melodeon. The children have been learning to listen and appraise, and they impressed our visiting musicians with their listening skills. Haddo performed two concerts, one for the 1L, 1R, 2S and 2W, and another for 2B, 2P, 2K and 2N. They allowed some children to play Will's very expensive melodeon. Rohan correctly guessed how much it cost; £5,000! The children danced to the music, learnt about the instruments and conducted Will to change his tempo. Nicky also demonstrated clog dancing. Some children danced to the music. Will and Nicky complimented the children on their knowledge about music and enjoyed playing for us. If you would like to hear them at home, go to their website www.haddofolk.com.



2N have had another fantastic 2 terms with all the children working incredibly hard and producing some fantastic work. This work has been enriched by our many curriculum trips, from visiting Hastings town centre to collect data for our tally charts which were then converted into graphs, to a visit to the Mohair Centre where we learnt all about dyeing and weaving.



A highlight to end term 3 was to visit Dungeness Power Station where we learnt more about how electricity is made, and had the fantastic opportunity to meet and talk with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. This was a real highlight of the trip for the children.

2N



Our theme running through term 4 has been The Tudors. We started the year by visiting Hastings Town Centre again, this time to

experience first-hand and take our own photographs of Tudor houses. This trip really brought the houses to life for the children and they have now started to build their own Tudor house. Tudors again featured in our main trip of the term – Knole Park. The children were able to dress as Tudors, handle Tudor artefacts, learn how words such as 'chairman' and 'pen knife' came into our vocabulary and explore the detail in the buildings outside.

Torfield Inclusion Support Service

Supporting children in mainstream

Our 'in school' support has varied from advice to Special Needs Co-ordinators, training for individuals and teams, visits by the Inclusion Team to observe and assess the child's needs, resources and programmes provided offering effective strategies and specialist interventions.

Training

During Term 3 and 4 the Inclusion team have delivered 7 training sessions in mainstream schools for teachers and teaching assistants. Positive evaluations were received from the participants.

Support for parents

Our Inclusion Team's Parents' Information and Support Worker has provided support, information on ASD and resources for parents of mainstream children.



1L

Pupils in Early Years have been very busy exploring space this term. They have dressed up in their space suits and made special helmets and rockets. Their class room is decorated with their creations.



1R



Thank You to the Friends of Torfield

After many years supporting Torfield School the Friends group, made up of parents and carers and staff members, has now disbanded. This small group of dedicated helpers has been involved in the organisation of many fundraising events over the years including the very popular Christmas fair, barn dances, and charity balls. They have supported families for many years in small ways by providing Christmas presents, Easter gifts and Year 6 leavers presents. They have also enabled many pupils to attend residential trips by subsidising the cost for our year 6 pupils. In bigger ways they have supported the school to be able to purchase such items as the trampoline, the light and sound system in the swimming pool and resources such as the Lego Mindstorms equipment. Unfortunately, in recent years it has been a challenge to find parents and carers who have enough time to commit to the Friends. Torfield School would like to thank all those people who, over the past years, have helped to raise money to support our pupils. Please be assured the good work of the Friends will continue as events will be planned for future terms and the school welcomes the support of families in helping us to raise money for future projects. These may include the purchase of a new mini bus to support learning out of school.

Torfield After School Club

We are now operating a transport service home from After School Club. The cost for this is a flat rate of £3 per child, irrelevant of where you live. Currently we transport to these local areas only i.e. Hastings, St.Leonards, Bexhill and Battle etc.

Torfield After School Club currently runs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3.15pm -5.15pm at a cost of £6 per session which includes all activities, a healthy snack and a drink.

We currently have some vacancies, so do please get in touch with us.

Should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me:

Office: 01323 466095 / Club Mobile: 07909 000564

Email: nikita.silburn-cooper@eastsussex.gov.uk Nikita Silburn-Cooper Club Coordinator

Dates for your Diary

Monday 7th –Monday 21st April 2014	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd April 2014	Pupils return to school
Monday 5th May 2014	May Bank Holiday School Closed to pupils
Week beginning 12th May 2014	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 19th May 2014	Start of Science Week
Monday 26th May-Friday 30th May 2014	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2nd June 2014	Pupils return to school
Week beginning 16th June 2014	KS1 Phonics screening
Monday 23rd—Wednesday 25th June -	Year 6 Residential at Hindleap Warren
Thursday 26th and Friday 27th June 2014	INSET days—school closed to pupils
Thursday 10th July 2014	Sports Day
Wednesday 9th July	Open Evening—meet your new teacher
Monday 14th July 2014	Start of Activities Week
Wednesday 23rd July 2014	Last day of Term 6