

Torfield News

A newsletter for Parents and Carers of Pupils at Torfield School Edition 7 Autumn 2014

London Theatre Visit

In November our Year 5 and 6 pupils went on a very special visit to the New London Theatre in Drury Lane to see the live production of WarHorse. This visit ties in with their work in History about the First World War. We were so proud of all of the pupils for their excellent behaviour and attitude. They thoroughly enjoyed the performance and asked really interesting questions, remembering what they had learnt in class. They got back to school at 9.00pm; it was along but very successful day. Each year we aim to take the Upper Key Stage 2 group to see an example of outstanding theatre. On the Gallery page you will see some examples of work done following this visit.



Successful Accreditation by the National Autistic Society

**AUTISM
ACCREDITATION**



We were delighted to hear this term that we have once again been recognised by the National Autistic Society as a school that meets their very high standards. During the review which took place in October, we spent a lot of time talking in detail to the team about how we support pupils and it was really useful to get their feedback. We were lucky to have two very experienced and senior members of the society making up the review team. They were impressed with many aspects of the school and especially impressed by the way the children came into school in the mornings in a calm and independent manner, handing their travel toys in at the desk and making their way to their classrooms. We were very proud of the way the children behaved throughout the review. In terms of strengths, the team noted the school's strong multi agency work and how this ensures the welfare and progress of all pupils is regularly monitored. They also identified our Talking Together sessions, planned by the Speech and Language therapy team and delivered by the school staff, as a strength of the school. Other strengths they identified were around the work of the inclusion service in supporting mainstream schools, the support the school provides to families through training sessions and the work of the Parents Information Contact, Judith Taylor, in providing very valuable support and information to individual parents and carers. They thought the displays across the school enhanced pupils learning and understanding. Through discussions we identified areas where the school could further develop good practice and these included curriculum development and personalised learning through Individual Education Plans and Curriculum



Access Plans. The school is developing a curriculum that provides daily opportunities to practice speech and language skills, fine motor skills, generalisation of skills and supports pupils with sensory needs and the team fully supported our approach in achieving this.



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. Over the autumn term, life has been very busy at Torfield and the children have had an exciting range of opportunities to learn, both within and outside of their classrooms. One of the highlights for me was hearing about the Key Stage 2 trip to London to the theatrical production of Warhorse – I know that the children who took part had an amazing experience. In addition to this, all the children have had the opportunity to take part in regular out of school trips, which really is a valuable way to support learning and bring the curriculum to life.

It was great to see so many parents and carers in school for parent consultation evening. We also asked for formal feedback through our questionnaire and I am extremely pleased to have seen so much positive feedback, it is great to hear how pleased so many parents and carers are with the provision made at Torfield. Of course, we always welcome comments – if you do have any problems or concerns, please let either your class teacher or the school office know in the first instance. One theme came up several times in the feedback is that parents and carers seem to be keen to receive letters and information via email – please do make sure we have email addresses that are up to date so that we can include as many people as possible in this method of communication.

Another important event during the autumn was the visit from the National Autistic Society. We were hoping to achieve their accreditation, as we had not been assessed for some years. I am pleased to say that the process went very well and although at the time of writing we have not received the final feedback, we are very pleased with the informal feedback received so far.

Although we have not yet been affected by snow, I would ask you to ensure that the school office has your most up to date contact details, including mobile phone number and email address. Remember if there is adverse weather, please check the East Sussex County Council website for the latest information on school closures and listen to local radio stations such as Heart. We will also text all parents and carers and put any closure information on www.torfield-saxonmount.com as early as possible.

I would like to thank so many of you for making our Christmas fair such a success this year, it was a really enjoyable occasion and we raised a lot of money which will be used towards our minibus replacement programme as well as supporting further out of school learning opportunities.

Finally the term ends on 19th December and Term 3 begins on 5th January and finishes on 13th February. There is a school INSET day on Monday 9th February.

In the meantime I would like to thank staff and pupils for all their hard work this year and wish everybody a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Mr Preece



2N started Term 1 looking at Africa. We read lots of books based in Africa and used adjectives (describing words) to think about the characters and settings for the books. We linked this with our art work and painted African sunsets and made African masks.



Term 2 has seen us commemorate 100 years since the start of World War 1. 2N and 2D joined other schools nation-wide to take part in a schools assembly which was broadcast from The Tower of London. The 2 classes also went into Hastings town centre for the 2 minute silence on 11th November. All the children were very respectful and a credit to themselves. Staying with the WW1 theme the children collaged individual poppies, with a beautiful effect and have collaged a WW1 scene for a display outside the classroom.

We have finished the topic of WW1 by pretending to be soldiers in the trenches. The children have written diaries, letters home and newspaper articles all from the perspective for a WW1 soldier. Here is Joe's beautiful poppy.





This term we have been thinking about celebrations.

Here the children created a class display using a variety of shiny sparkly and bright materials.



The children have also been thinking and learning about what happens at Autumn time.

Our topic for terms 1 & 2 have been 'Ourselves and other Animals', 'Light Inventors' and 'The Importance of Christmas'. To support these areas 2S have been following these key objectives which are to recognise, name and compare body parts of humans and other animals, to understand ways in which they move about and their respective life cycles. Core skills are paramount and the children really enjoyed making shapes with Playdoh and with their hands in our Maths lessons.

Throughout term 2 we have been learning about electricity and have developed a greater understanding of equipment that can be used. In addition to this we have explored the consequences for light and dark and identified sources of light. Whilst investigating these areas of the curriculum we have researched famous inventors and inventions relating to these topic headings. We have enjoyed lots of cross curricular Christmas activities including our whole school celebration at the church. All of our learning objectives are personalised and linked across the broader curriculum. Our photographs show how much the children have all enjoyed their experiences.

This term we said Good Bye to Fraser Kent who has been teaching at the school for nearly ten years. Fraser is leaving to go travelling. We wish him good luck in his new ventures and thank him for his contribution to our school



Christmas at Torfield



Our topic for terms 1 and 2 have been 'Ourselves and other Animals', 'Light Inventors' and 'The Importance of Christmas', with daily sessions to focus on the core skills including phonics and numeracy. As always there is particular focus on the correct orientation of all letters.

Through the course of term 1 the focus for our religious education was to investigate other respective faiths and beliefs and to learn about their different celebrations. For example we learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali (Festival of Lights) and the children were able to make clay models of the Diva lamps.

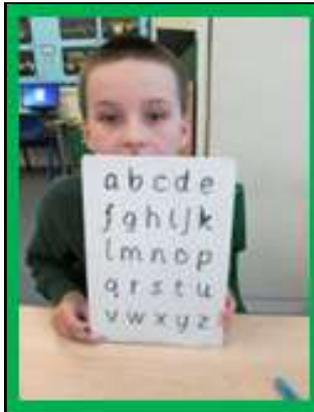
Throughout term 2 we have been learning about the importance of Christmas which is differentiated and included across the curriculum including our whole school celebration at the church.

2K thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Paradise Park where we looking at and reading simple maps and following routes and also observing a range of plants and living things.



School Council News

This term the Torfield School Council joined up with the Saxon Mount School Council to have a tour of Saxon Mount and share a council meeting. It was a great opportunity for our pupils to see a bit of life at Saxon Mount and learn about how meetings are run. Back at school next term our school councillors will be talking about playtimes and the tuck shop. They have carried out a survey to find out what snacks are the most popular.



In 2W we have been busy cooking and eating. We made mince pies and a Christmas tree shaped cake to sell at the Christmas fair. We are pleased to say that all our cakes sold and were very much enjoyed. As we had left over jam it was a good excuse to make jam tarts for class snack time which went down very nicely. These learning activities incorporated many curriculum areas such as maths, language, science and social skills with some going shopping to buy the ingredients.

In Term 1 we focused on the story of 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. The children really enjoyed the story and were able to retell parts of it and use drama skills to act out different events in the story. We also used hot seating to support the children when understanding the different characters.

Some excellent descriptive writing and was produced. Eg: - Writing a disgusting recipe, creating a nasty trick for one of the characters to play on the others and describing the horrible character of Mr Twit. The children also used charcoal and collage to create pictures of Mr Twit to go with their writing.



In Term 2 we have been learning about World War 1. We were lucky enough to go to London to watch War Horse with class 2N. It was an amazing show and everyone really enjoyed themselves. The children were also able to use events in the story to support their own diary writing back at school.



Another trip that we went on was to Hastings museum. At the museum we were attended a very informative and interesting workshop about WW1.

Family Learning

This term we have had some great family learning sessions where lots of parents and carers have got together to learn about autism, how to support communication, how to use visual supports and how to understand and manage challenging behaviour. These very popular sessions are free of charge and run on Wednesday mornings between 9.30 and 12.00—12.30. It's a great way to meet other people who may be experiencing the same difficulties as you are so please look out for the fliers that come home with your child advertising future events. Next term there is a four week Makaton course led by Jackie Powell. This course has limited spaces but if you are interested contact Jackie on the usual school office number.

14.1.15	9.30-12.30	Makaton	Jackie Powell Sarah Hogan
21.1.15	9.30-12.30	Makaton	Jackie Powell Sarah Hogan
28.1.15	9.30-12.30	Makaton	Jackie Powell Sarah Hogan
4.2.15	9.30-12.30	Makaton	Jackie Powell Sarah Hogan

Home Learning



Log on via the VLE over the holidays and have a go on some of the great activities found in Espresso and Mathletics.

School Uniform

School uniform can now be ordered directly from our supplier **logo-n-stitch**. Contact them on 01424 444601, by e-mail at info@logo-n-stitch.co.uk or visit their website www.logo-n-stitch.co.uk.



Class 2P have been very busy and working hard throughout this term:

We have been thinking about autumn and seasonal changes.

We went for walks in the woods and collected leaves from the ground. We then used these leaves for printing and collage work.

We have been working very hard at sharing and playing together. We have been going up to the MUGA for PE and games sessions and trying to get everyone working together to move the big parachute. We have also visited some play parks and have tried very hard to share the equipment and play together.

We have been looking at light and dark. We have explored our shadows and played with torches under dark tables. We have also had a go at making our own circuits with bulbs and batteries.

We have been learning all about number through number and action songs. We particularly like the BBC and British Council websites.

We have also been learning about cause and effect when using the computers.



Christingle at the Early Years Centre

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another very busy term for Torfield I am very pleased to look back to the start of term 1 and see how much progress the pupils have already made this year. At Torfield we aim to ensure every pupil can achieve their best and to this end we regularly look at progress and barriers to progress. We help the children to know how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve their work and their behaviour. Reading with your child, supporting them to complete homework and using the web based programmes Espresso and Mathletics with your child at home is a great way to be part of this learning. We offer incentives in school to encourage pupils to do homework and there is lots of praise for extra effort with this work.

In the new year we will be offering some Family Support sessions focussed on using ICT at home to support learning. Please come along to these sessions and meet other parents and carers.

We had some very good news at the end of this term from the National Autistic Society (NAS) who have re-accredited the school. This means we have once again met their very high standards of care and support.

Thank you to the huge number of parents and carers who completed the NAS questionnaire. It was really good to hear that you were so pleased with the support your child receives. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if at any time you have a concern or require support.

Just this week we held our special Christmas performance at Emmanuel Church in Hastings. It was a really lovely event and again thank you to the many families who came to support their child. I was very proud to see how happy and confident the children were and how many took part. The singing was lovely. A big thank you to Sian Hayward for working so hard on this event and making it so successful.

Finally I would like to thank you all for your regular contributions to educational visits. They are a fixed part of our timetable and teachers take time when planning them to ensure they are challenging and educational as well as highly enjoyable.

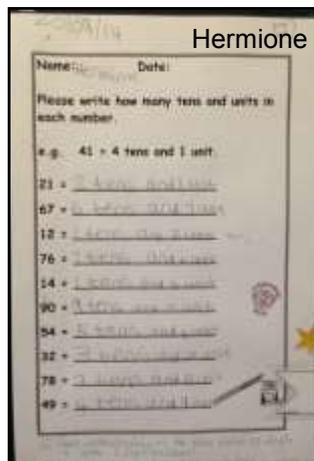
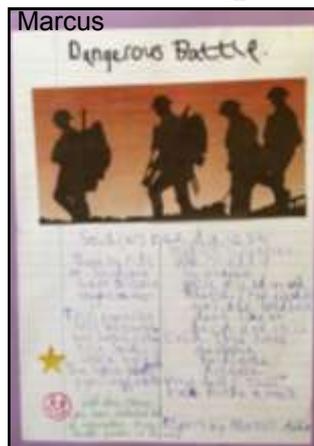
May I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

Natalie Shuttleworth

Head of School



★ Gallery of Special Work ★



Torfield and Saxon Mount Academy Trust

Since October we have been part of the newly created Torfield and Saxon Mount Academy Trust. As a result of this, our governing body has undergone some changes. We now have a board of directors who are the accountable group for Torfield and Saxon Mount. They are supported by an advisory board of governors who help the directors in their work.

The directors of the trust are:

Jenny Smith (Chair)

Richard Preece

Sue Taylor

Mike Saunders

Jean Haigh

Mike Clarke

The advisory board for Torfield and Saxon Mount are:

Sue Taylor (director)

Mike Saunders (director)

Richard Preece (director)

Carina Borg (parent)

David Wharton (parent)

Carol Dobson (staff)

Rachel Roberts (staff)

Natalie Shuttleworth (Head of School, Torfield)

Elaine Gardner (Head of School, Saxon Mount)

Governors have been busy putting new processes into place and they have made a number of visits to both schools over the term to make sure they are well informed in a number of areas including child protection and provision for autism. All visits are carefully planned in line with our school development priorities. Further information about the governing body can be found on the school website.

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 now run Saturday sessions and holiday sessions

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 2015

Monday 5th January

First day of Term 3

Monday 9th February

INSET day—school closed for pupils

Friday 13th February

Last day of Term 3

16th—20th February

School Holidays

Monday 23rd February

First day of Term 4

Wednesday 4th March

Parents and Carers Evening

Thursday 26th March

Sports Day

Friday 27th March

Last day of Term 4

30th March—10th April

School Holiday

Monday 13th April

First day of Term 5

Thursday 18th June

INSET day—school closed for pupils

Friday 19th June

INSET day—school closed for pupils