

# Torfield News

A newsletter for Parents and Carers of Pupils at Torfield School Edition 10 Autumn 2015

## Golden Tickets for Torfield Pupils



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 22 very excited children from 2N and 2H and 9 staff boarded a coach to travel to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London to watch Charlie and the Chocolate Factory the Musical. Despite a very long journey the children were very well behaved, chatting excitedly or playing with their toys they had bought along.

Once in London the children watched out for any landmarks that they might see including the Shard and the Thames. Eventually, the coach pulled up right outside the theatre where we all enjoyed our lunch before heading inside. Inside the theatre the children recognised the features that we had seen on our pre-visit information. We then made our way up lots of stairs to the Grand Circle where our seats were in the front 2 rows.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show with lots of fears being overcome. For a lot of children this was a first ever visit to a London Theatre and the noise and vast space inside the theatre was not to be taken lightly.

My favourite part was seeing the children get their golden tickets - George

It was fantastic - Emiko

The most amazing thing about Charlie and the Chocolate factory, the musical was actually seeing Willy Wonka - Tadi

It was amazing to see Violet Beauregarde grow big, turn purple and then explode - Adam

This trip was a culmination of a whole term's English work which involved reading the book, looking carefully at the main characters, thinking about why the children behaved in the way they did, trying to understand how it might feel to be in the chocolate factory and watching parts of the film to compare it the book. On returning from seeing the musical more work ensued. 2H worked in pairs to create 3D examples of their favourite scene, whilst 2N created their own sweets, Wonka Bars and Golden Tickets.

This was a magical trip for everyone and we hope the children will remember it for a long time. The staff were very impressed with the behaviour of all the children on what was a very long day. They were a credit to themselves, the school and their parents / carers, well done.



Dear Parents and Carers

As another year draws to a close, it is rewarding to look back and reflect on some of the significant events and achievements of our children. Some of the highlights for me have been seeing some of our youngest children thoroughly enjoying our superb new play facilities and outdoor learning environment at the Early Years Centre, as well as the reorganised and redecorated class areas. One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is overseeing the school experience of pupils from Reception, through primary school at Torfield and then all the way through to Post-16 at Saxon Mount. I am truly proud of the facilities we are developing for the children at each school.

The learning opportunities for our children are excellent: The Key Stage 2 trip to London to the theatrical production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a great example of this – I know that the children who took part had an amazing experience. In addition to this, most of the children have had the opportunity to take part in regular school trips, which really is a meaningful way to support learning and bring the curriculum to life.

It was pleasing to see so many parents and carers take part in our 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.

Although we have not yet been affected by snow, please ensure that the school office has your most up to date contact details, including mobile phone number and email address (this is also helpful because we are now sending more letters to parents via email and text). 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](http://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 festive 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.

Term ends on 18th December and Term 3 begins on 5th January and finishes on 12th February. There is a school INSET day on Monday 8th February.

For now though, I would like to thank staff and pupils for all their hard work this year and wish everybody a very safe and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Preece  
Executive Headteacher



# MacMillan Cake Sale

This year Torfield joined in with the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The morning was a great success with all the children and staff buying cakes or biscuits for their snack, raising a total of £184 for the MacMillan Cancer charity.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who supported the morning.



# Learning through play



The new equipment at the EYC is a big hit with all the pupils. They have three all weather play areas including one with a canopy and lights. This allows the youngest pupils in the school to have access to indoor and outdoor learning opportunities throughout the day. The new equipment, which was installed during the summer holidays, was selected to provide great opportunities for physical development and social interaction. Future plans include the installation of wall panels to challenge problem solving skills and encourage investigation.





Our educational visits last term in 2M had a strong focus on animals, as this was our topic in Geography and Science. The visits the children most enjoyed were our trips to Raystede Animal Welfare Centre and Drusillas Zoo. During both trips we learnt a great deal about animals, both where they live and how to look after them. At Raystede the children had a one-to-one session with a puppy and learnt how to approach a dog and its owner. We also learnt the right way to feed horses and what their favourite food is, these ones loved carrots! We learnt a lot about habitats and where animals live at Drusillas, we were able to dress as animals to understand how they have adapted to cold or hot climates. The children enjoyed feeling the textures of the bear fur, tortoise shells, as well as stroking a snake and a chinchilla.



In Science this term we have been exploring magnets and magnetic materials. In our lessons we have been focusing on working with others to find answers. All of the children have been working well with partners and enjoying investigating with magnets. We were trying to make a paper car move around a racetrack without touching it. 2M began investigating the problem in pairs and talked to each other to help work out the problem.



## Sponsored Walk for School Dinners

This year for harvest festival we decided to do something different. 2H and 2N learnt about a charity called Mary's Meals. The Charity provides meals for children in educational settings in countries across the world. This means children are getting an education and a hot meal; sometimes this is the only hot meal the children get each day. The children in 2H and 2N found that some children have to walk 5KM to get to school and decided to walk 5Km to see how that feels. The children all agreed that it would be exhausting to walk that far every day. In the process they raised a £288 for the charity. This means Torfield have provided enough money to feed 47 children for a whole school year.



We have been very busy in Class 2P:

Some of the children have been working with their PECs books to help with communication. We hope to start sending PECs books home soon.

We have all been exploring shapes and have made lots of exciting models and patterns. Parents could help look for shapes at home and when out and about.

Some of us have enjoyed using reading eggs on the computers to help with our reading. If you don't know the Reading Eggs password speak to Jim.

We have been to lots of interesting places for our Friday visits including; Middle Farm, Collington Woods, Pevensey Castle, Bedgebury and Rye Harbour.

We have been trying very hard to share and take turns. Parents could help by playing simple turn taking games at home.

A big thank you to all of our Parents for your continued support.



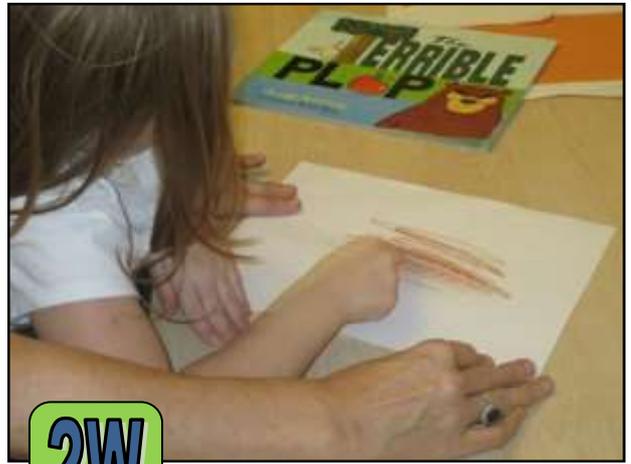
## Good bye and Good luck

We would like to say many thanks to Claire and Ashlie for all their hard work over the years they have been at Torfield. They have supported pupils of all ages and have most recently been working with the youngest pupils at the EYC. Good luck in the future.



# Christmas at Torfield





2W



The children in 2W continue to benefit from off-site learning, this term studying the changing seasons. Our recent visit to Battle Great Wood encouraged good communication and speaking skills as well as developing understanding of the changes occurring.

***Look up at the trees. You just do not know what you might see.***

As always our learning continued back in class which included using magnifying glasses to study leaves and making some crayon rubbings of them.

There continues to be regular updates of our learning on 2W's VLE homepage as well as some homework opportunities if you wish for your child to participate.

## **Torfield outreach service**

This last term has been a busy and productive one for the outreach service, particularly with the move of location from the early years building to the Croft Road site. We are very pleased with the new training room and courses have already begun taking place with excellent feedback!

Many parents are taking up the opportunity to attend family learning training at Torfield on a Wednesday morning. I sent a booklet home during term 1 for every pupil outlining the courses available to you as parents/carers and you are always very welcome to bring along other family members with you. If you have not seen the family learning training brochure or would like another copy then please contact the school for another copy to be sent home. These training sessions are not only great for gaining knowledge and strategies in order to support your child at home, but will be an opportunity for you to network with other parents within the school too.

The outreach team have also been out and about supporting children to be successful in their local mainstream school. We receive excellent feedback from schools about the service that Torfield provide and we are very proud of this. Our support packages are tailored to individuals and staff in schools are supported on the job and invited to training that takes place at Torfield school for professionals. This support package is also open to children who are ready to move on to their local mainstream school from Torfield and we are currently supporting several children through this process.

The outreach team consists of Kay Al-Ghani, Sue Jones & Sarah Hogan.

Alison Love leads the outreach provision and family learning training programme.

# Health Schools Week at Torfield

As part of PSHE we held a healthy schools week to get pupils thinking about healthy lifestyles. We wanted to encourage pupils to bring in healthy packed lunches and had extra fruit at lunchtimes for everyone to try. In classes we looked at healthy foods and made up menus of some delicious food. We tried to encourage as many pupils as possible to try something new and healthy. We had 5 different challenges for each class to try, these included;

Have a healthy breakfast  
Have 5 A Day  
Drink plenty  
Get active  
Try something new

We invited Chartwells into the school and had some fun pizza making workshops. We also had a visit from Mr Broccoli who made a healthy stir fry for all of us to taste. We would like to say a big thank you to Brenda, Celia, Drin and Vernon for helping us make healthy choices.



## GOVERNORS UPDATE

Our governors support their role by visiting Torfield and Saxon Mount to find out about the schools' work and to see them in action. Governor visits over the last few months have included the Saxon Mount summer school and after school catch up provision, attending meetings with representatives from the local authority to discuss local priorities for SEN pupils, visiting the Torfield Early Years centre to see our new facilities, meeting with senior staff to hear about new assessment arrangements and attending meetings with our External Advisor to monitor pupils achievement and progress. As a light relief, governors have been pleased to attend the school Xmas fairs and celebrations. Further information about the governing body can be found on the school website.

### **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)  
Tracey Nottage (staff)  
Natalie Shuttleworth (Head of School, Torfield)  
Elaine Gardner (Head of School, Saxon Mount)

## Communication at the Early Years Centre

At Torfield Early Years Centre we have a 'total communication environment', using a mixture of signs, symbols and printed word to support spoken language and aid understanding and expression of the spoken word.

Classes have choosing boards where children can independently choose a photo or symbol of a toy or activity that they want and exchange the picture with an adult for the desired item. The use of visual timetables show the children what to expect in a day. In addition, the use of now and next boards enable staff to reassure children that once they have completed an activity they know what will happen next, therefore, reducing anxiety.

We use Makaton signing, (hand signs used along with the words) to emphasise what is being said and to aid understanding of the words. Signing can be used when talking or singing. The children are encouraged to join in with signing.

There is close liaison between parents and the Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) team. The SALT team write and update programmes for the children with goals that can be addressed in class and worked on in individual sessions.



Staff have had training in the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) from Gwen, one of our Speech and Language Therapists. Children at the Early Years Centre have been having one to one PECS training sessions where they gradually get introduced to the different phases of picture exchange, using desired motivators. The aim of which is that they will eventually, independently choose an item they desire, get an adult's attention and exchange the picture.

All of these tools help give the children the opportunity to have a greater understanding of language and how to get their needs met.



# Maths Week 2015

Maths week took place during the week of 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the focus was on problem solving. The children across the school were given a variety of tasks, activities and games which promoted this skill over the course of the week.



The children really enjoyed investigating the resources and games set up for them in the hall and some great team work was seen as they fully engaged with them.

# Educational Visits



A few great pictures from this term's visits. Thanks for your continued support that helps to make these visits possible.

## 🎄 Christingle at EYC 🎄

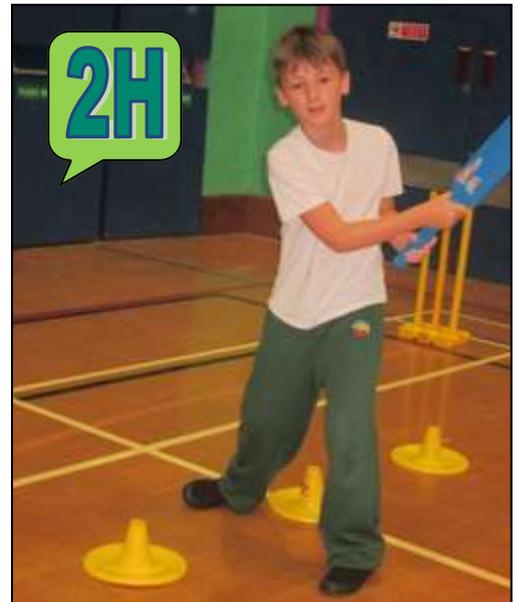


In 2H we have had a fun-packed Term 1 and 2! We learnt about the history of Hastings and focused on the smugglers which was supported by an exciting trip to the Smugglers Adventure. We enjoyed meeting 'Hairy Jack' and seeing what it felt like to be in the stocks! We also learnt about the clever ways that smugglers hid the goods they brought back into Hastings. As part of this learning about the history of our town we also visited St Mary in the Castle and were amazed to discover that it has been built into the rocks! We did some great observational drawings here.

We then visited Herstmonceux Science Centre to support our learning in science on 'light and how we see things'. We explored the whole centre and took part in a 'light' workshop where we used an infra-red camera and saw what we looked like on a screen through thermal imaging! We also went on a tour of the telescopes and couldn't believe how big they were! We watched the telescope towers being opened and talked about how light travels and how this helps us to see the different planets.

We have also been in collaboration with Active Hastings and worked with their inclusive sports team to participate in a multi-sports morning. We learnt lots of skills and played tennis, football, basketball and cricket. This was great fun and is something we are hoping to do again.

This term we have moved on to looking at India and began our topic with an 'Indian Spectacular Day'. We recreated the Indian flag, made our own head dresses, looked at Indian clothing and had a go at dressing up in scarves to replicate Indian saris. We then learnt an Indian dance and made a class film of our performance. In the afternoon we had an Indian feast and tried lots of traditional foods including rice, naan bread, curries and poppadums.



**Clubs continue to run on Tuesdays after school from 3.15 until 4.15 for pupils at Croft Road.** Look out for the letter coming home early next term. The clubs on offer are swimming, computers, art and Lego. We ask for a contribution of £1 per session towards the cost of running the clubs.

## Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another term and make final preparations for our Christmas Celebrations it is really good to look back at all the things that have been achieved since September. As you look through this newsletter you will see photos and read about the things we are proud of and want to celebrate. The pupils of Torfield constantly make us proud by the way they behave and the effort they put in to their work. At Torfield Friday Celebration assembly is always an important time. The children at Croft Road work hard for their smiley faces and enjoy collecting their prizes but they also enjoy seeing their friends doing well and getting their rewards. There is a lovely atmosphere of celebration of everyone's achievements.

At the Early Years Site it has been very pleasing to see how well the new reception children have settled into school and how much all of the children are enjoying their new playgrounds.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have this year attended the parent/carer consultation, annual review and those who were able to attend the Christmas Celebration at the church. Your support is vital and ensures we can share information and be well informed about your child's needs and their progress.

This term we say goodbye and thank you to two teachers who have been at Torfield for some time. Both are leaving to pursue new ventures and we wish both Ashlie Linfield and Claire Keen, who job share, all the best in the future. We welcome Sam Sankey to the Torfield staff; Sam will be taking up a permanent teaching post at the EYC having working in the school for some time. In April we will also be welcoming a new teacher to the teaching team at the EYC.

We look forward to 2016 and the opportunities it will bring. May I wish you a very happy and restful holiday and a successful new year.

With best wishes

Natalie Shuttleworth  
Head of School



Term 1 saw 2N focus lots of their work on the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which you can read about in a separate article. Part of this work also included our DT work where the children designed and created their own sweets. To complete some research for this we took a walk into Hasting Old Town to a sweet shop to buy our own favourite sweets. Also in Term 1 we looked at light in Science, including shadows. As part of this work we visited Hertsmonceux Science Centre where we learnt about how light travels through different shaped glass, how shadows are created and move and how heat and light are related.

Term 2 has seen us start our topic on India, where we started with an Indian day, learning about the country, their festivals and religion and learning an Indian dance which 2N showed the rest of the school in their assembly this term. In science this term we have all been fascinated with the work on how our heart and lungs work, what our blood is made up of and how our digestive system work! We will also be learning some basic first aid when a St John's Ambulance representative comes into school to show us how to look after ourselves.

Our English work this term has seen us study 2 books; Beowulf and Ice Palace. We used Beowulf as part of our work on Traditional Tales, learning how our hero defeated all the monsters and saved the day. Ice Palace is a lovely story to take us up to Christmas and has links to the real story of Father Christmas. Maths in 2N has really been child-led with the children asking to complete more work on angles! They have learnt how to measure them accurately, how to find the missing angle on a straight line and in a triangle. This really is amazing work and all the children have coped with it admirably.



2N with their candy striped bags after visiting the sweet shop.

# Torfield After School, Saturday & Holiday Playscheme

Great news! Torfield Kids Club is now OFSTED registered! This means under 8's can attend a whole day session during the holidays and on a Saturday. Parents and carers can also use childcare vouchers to make payments.

During the holidays we enjoy going out on trips. We have visited local parks, Bedgebury, Knockhatch and had fun visiting the local fire station. We enjoy a range of activities, including sports, cooking and arts and crafts. We are encouraged to make friends. Play scheme is open every half term from 10am-4pm.

At the After School Club this term we have been very busy. We have made firework pictures and Christmas cards. We have been very creative with our paintings and we enjoy playing games in and outside. We have also made use of the sensory room and relaxed in there at the end of the session. The After School Club is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3:15pm to 5:15pm. The After School Club also offers transport home.

Saturday Club is open from 10am to 4pm. We have lots of fun activities, including cooking, arts and crafts and building dens.

For more information please contact Tracy Barnett, Torfield Club Co-ordinator on 07788973773 or Liz Cranham, Torfield Deputy Co-ordinator on 07557480642.



## Dates for your Diary 2016

Tuesday 5th January	First day of Term 3
Monday 8th February	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Friday 12th February	Last day of Term 3
15th—19th February	School Holidays
Monday 22nd February	First day of Term 4
Week beginning 29.2.15	Book week
Wednesday 9th March	Parents and Carers Evening
Thursday 24th March	Last day of Term 4
Friday 25th March—Friday 8th April	School Holiday
Monday 11th April	First day of Term 5