

Torfield News

A newsletter for Parents and Carers of Pupils at Torfield School Edition 11 Spring 2016

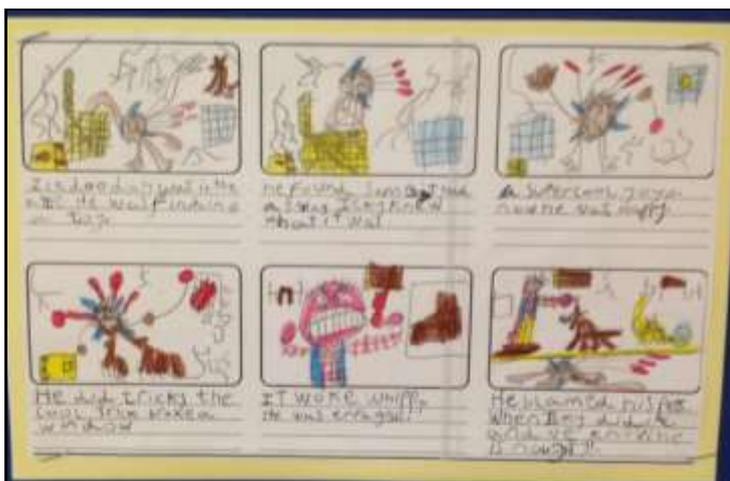
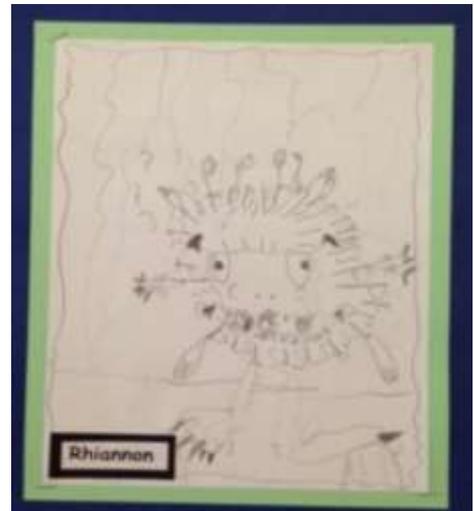
A Week of Reading and Books

The Torfield Book Week has been another huge success this year; thank you to everyone who made it so memorable for the children. As usual each class chose a book to focus on during the week; these ranged from What Ever Next, The Gruffalo and Giraffes Can't Dance to The Day the Crayons left and Mr Magnolia.

We also dressed up as our favourite character and each class chose someone who had made the most effort to be their winner; well done to all our winners: Emily (2W), Rhiannon (2M), Rosie (2H) and Tadi (2N). Each winner was allowed to choose a book for themselves as their prize.

An extra special treat this year was a visit from an author and illustrator. Simon Murray, author and illustrator of the series of books Icky Doo Dah came to school to share his stories with the Key Stage 2 classes. He explained how he became an author and even showed us how he drew his amazing character. Then he spent an hour in each class completing a differentiated workshop. Next time you are in school pop into the hall where there is a huge display of all the fantastic work the children have produced.

Not to be left out the Key Stage 1, Early Years and Additional Facility classes were treated to a Multi-sensory story telling session. All the children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed this and benefitted from it greatly. We hope to do this again in the future.



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy our spring Newsletter. As the Easter break has fallen early this year, it doesn't quite feel we have shaken winter off yet, but, hopefully when we return on the 11th April, it will be a little warmer and brighter! I do hope you enjoy reading about and seeing just some of the excellent activities and learning opportunities our pupils have experienced over the last two terms. Although each term since Christmas has been fairly short, I think you will agree that a lot of high quality learning has been packed into them.

As we approach the summer terms, many of our pupils and their families will be thinking ahead: For our year 6 pupils, this is a very important time. Our staff will be doing their very best to prepare them for assessments and of course the transition to life beyond Torfield. Please support us by making sure they get plenty of sleep and a good breakfast every day. If you are a parent or carer of a Year 6 pupil, please do contact our teachers if you would like any advice or information about how to help your child prepare: We take pride in being able to support our pupils and their families well, particularly at times of transition.

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. Once again, parental feedback has been highly positive. Unfortunately we are still not seeing as many parents / carers as we would hope to and we are aiming for this to improve. We will be writing to some parents / carers about this: It is vital that we are able to work in partnership to support our pupils.

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

Mr Preece
Executive Headteacher



GOVERNORS UPDATE

As usual, governors have been active during the spring terms. As well as our regular meeting schedule and External Advisor programme, which this term focussed on teaching, learning and assessment as well as pupil development, behaviour and wellbeing, governors have participated in E- safety training, visits to the Early Years Centre, meetings with our senior staff to find out about our assessment arrangements and to hear about Saxon Mount's preparations for National Autistic Society re-accreditation.

Goodbye and Good Luck

This term we said Goodbye to Debbie Woods who has worked in the school office for many years. Debbie is moving on to a new job and we wish her well and send her our best wishes and thank her for her contribution to Torfield School.



Fund Raising at Torfield

Torfield pupils have taken part in two fund raising events since January. Sign to Sing involved all the children learning the signs for a song and performing it in the hall. For Sports Relief we constructed an obstacle course in the hall and invited everyone to dress up. We raised £25 for Sign to Sing and £58 for Sports Relief.



Welcome to Torfield

We are very pleased to welcome a new full time teacher to the staff team at Torfield School. From the beginning of term 5 Miss Eleanor Galloway will be based at the Early Years Centre. She comes to us from an outstanding special school and we are looking forward to working with her. Miss Galloway will be our Learning Leader for Early Development across the school.

Dear Parents and Carers

We come to the end of another very busy time at Torfield. The pupils are working very hard and I have regular visitors to my office with completed smiley face charts. It is great to hear the children talking about the work and behaviour they are proud of. Our Friday assemblies are truly times to celebrate all the achievements of the week.

We hope you are enjoying using the new reading programme Reading Eggs . We are very pleased to tell you that we will soon be giving you home access to Clicker 7. This is a programme that supports writing, reading and is cross curricular. Your child will be able to use Clicker 7 to complete homework tasks too. We will be offering some further training for families in using home learning programmes in the summer.

Next term we are looking forward to the good weather so we can be out and about on outdoor educational visits supporting learning in all areas. We have some exciting visits planned. Once again we thank you for supporting off site learning through your regular contributions. We continue to subsidise visits so that classes can have a wide range of experiences.

We hope to see as many of you as possible during the summer at sports day and parents evening. These are great opportunities to see what your child has achieved and share information that helps us to provide the best possible support.

Thank you for supporting us by ensuring your child attends school every day they are able to. We aim to support families to do this and will be in touch if we have concerns about attendance. Well done to all those children—nearly 30—whose attendance was over 97%.

I wish you a very happy holiday with your family and look forward to another successful term at Torfield.

With best wishes

Natalie Shuttleworth



This term in 2M our topic has been Castles. We have visited castles and learnt a lot about soldiers and knights. The children particularly enjoyed our visit to Bodiam Castle where they learnt that it was built by a knight. We found out more about knights and wrote our own adverts, as well as stories about knights and dragons. We enjoyed learning about knights so much that we had an entire day all about them; 2M became knights in training! We wrote an official letter to the Queen telling her why we would be suitable knights; we then made our shields and helmets! Once equipped with these we built our castles, which were superb, the children really thought about what a castle would need and worked in groups to create their perfect one.



2M have been busy keeping brains and bodies active in the classroom, we have been using a program which gets us dancing, stretching, breathing, and relaxing. Spending five minutes doing one of these things can help us to get ready to learn. We have been finding out about sound in science and how it travels, to investigate this we created our own string telephones and thought about how the sound gets from one end of the telephone to the other. A lot of us were quite surprised when they worked!



In 2H we have been having lots of fun in our learning during terms 3 and 4! Last term we learnt about the Tudors and had a fantastic day making and trying Tudor food and making scented pomanders just like the Tudors would have done hundreds of years ago. We learnt about school in Tudor times and about Tudor houses and we also used our photos and designed our own Tudor costumes for ourselves using a range of materials which was



which was

great fun!

In science we learnt about how different animals are adapted to suit the environments they live in. To support this learning we went on a fantastic visit to Drusillas Park where we had great fun in a workshop trying on different clothes to show us how various animals are adapted to their habitats. We learnt about how camels have feet designed especially for walking on the sand and how penguins' feathers enable them to repel water so that they don't get too cold.

This term our topic is the local environment and we have chosen to look at local piers. We have visited Hastings pier and are working with the pier charity to design bunting that will be put on the pier during its upcoming grand re-opening. We will also be visiting Eastbourne pier to make comparisons between the two and then having a whole pier designing and building day on the last day of term where we will be able to use all of the knowledge we have gained over the course of the term. In science we are learning about electricity and we have had great fun making circuits and exploring how we can make bulbs brighter and dimmer. We also had a fantastic educational visit to the Summerfields Gymnastics Club where we worked with Martin from Active Hastings and had lots of fun exploring the sensory gymnastic equipment! During this term we have also really enjoyed book week! We spent the



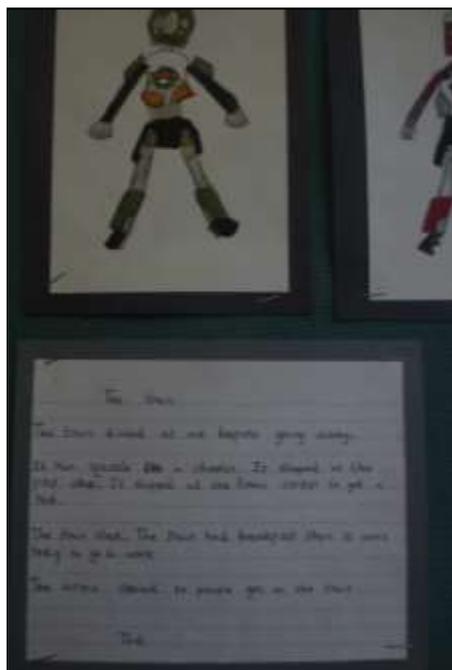
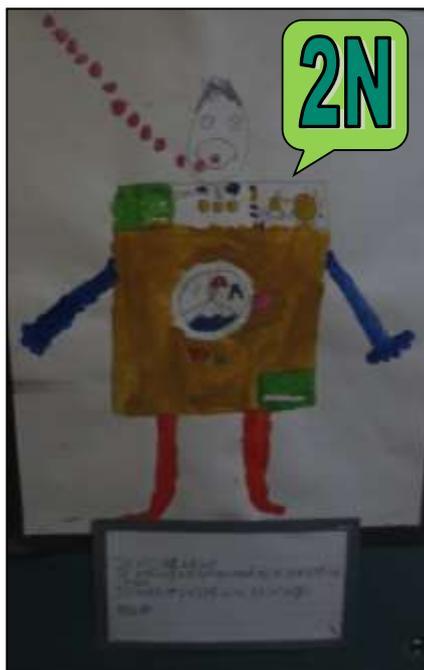
week working on a book called 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and we enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters, especially when the adults in 2H dressed up as the crayons from the book which made us all laugh!



We will also be going on our reward trip this term! We have all worked really hard as a class in our learning and in our behaviour and this helped us to earn all of our marbles which means we were able to choose somewhere we would like to go to celebrate our achievements. We have chosen to go bowling and we are very much looking forward to it!

2N have been very busy, as usual, during Terms 3&4, so we thought we'd share just the highlights with you.

Term 3 started off with a well-deserved reward trip to the Sovereign Centre. All the children had great fun and were very well behaved. Hopefully this is something that we can do again in the Summer Term. During the term the children worked very hard on writing different types of poetry, from Haikus to list poems. However, our favourite poetry was the personification. This is where you take an ordinary object and describe it as if it were human. We were then truly inspired by the John Napier exhibition at the Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, which showed all the costumes he had designed for West End musicals such as Cats and Starlight Express, he made the cats and trains seem as if they were human. On returning to class we wrote our own personification poems and then painted pictures to accompany the poems.

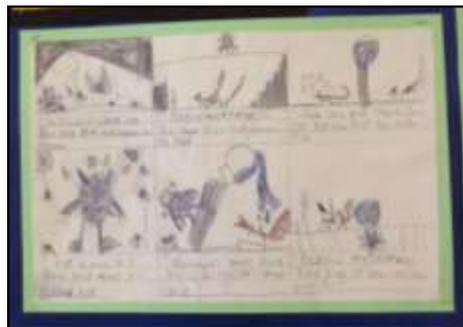


Term 4 has been a short but very busy term. As well as our usual work we have taken part in Book week, where we completed work on some Quentin Blake books – Mr Magnolia and Angelica Sprocket's Pockets. This has produced some amazing rhyming work and Art work. We have also taken part in Shakespeare Week, where we watched a live tour of Shakespeare's home when he was a child and worked on one of his plays The Merchant of Venice. We have also combined our Geography, Art, English and ICT lessons this term and looked at Hastings as a town, focusing our efforts on the new pier. Combining all these lessons has enabled us to understand the history of the pier, produce some fantastic collage work of Hastings Seafront, produce an advert or brochure on why you should visit Hastings, some persuasive writing on whether Hastings Pier should be re-built or not and some persuasive letters asking well known people to contribute to the Hastings Pier fund. We have also designed our own futuristic pier, which we are in the process of building. As these are not yet complete the pictures will be shared with you in the next Newsletter. More work from 2N in our Gallery.





Photos from Book Week



Gallery of Work



Should we rebuild Hastings Pier?

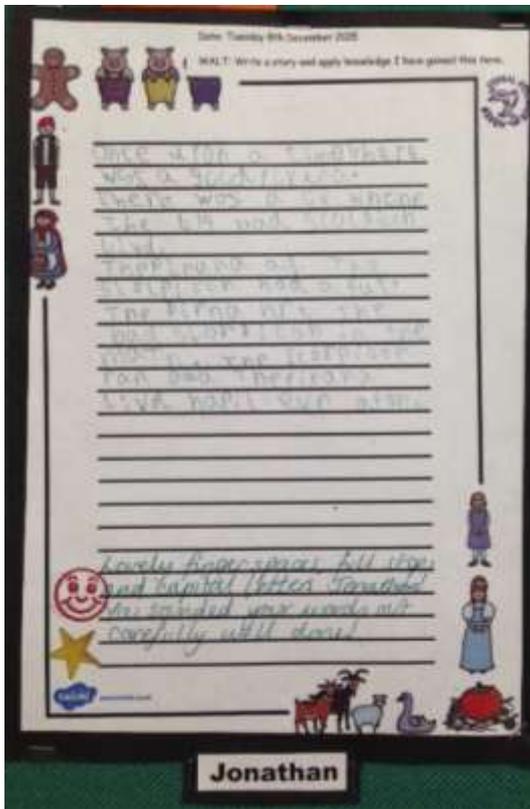
The Pier went on fire a few years ago. The people of Hastings needed to decide if it was good idea to rebuild or not.

If it is rebuilt people will visit the Pier. People come to watch. It will make lots of jobs. People can walk above the sea on a Pier.

Rebuilding the Pier would cost a lot of money. The Pier might go on fire again. People might not want to visit anymore.

In conclusion I don't want The Pier to rebuilt because it might go on fire again and one storm might knock it down. People won't want to visit the Pier if it is dangerous.

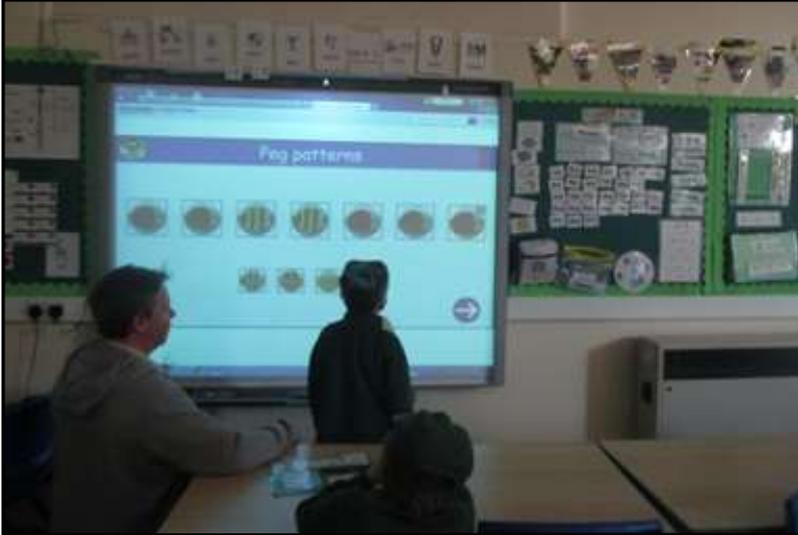
Ryan



Work done by 2N linked to their project about Hastings Pier. Left 2M story writing and below work from Art Club



All of the children in Class 2P have been working well. We have been looking at patterns and sequencing in Maths. Some of the pupils have been using PECS to help communicate. Everyone especially enjoyed the visit from the multi-sensory story teller and everyone joined in with completing the Sports Relief obstacle course in the hall. Next term we are really looking forward to going on a train journey as part of our Geography topic.



Torfield School Council

This year the school council has been thinking about outdoor play spaces and playtimes. We have asked each class how play times could be improved or what types of equipment they would like. We had a good range of ideas including:

Reading areas, playing on the bank and the wildlife garden, bowling, sandpit, slides and swings, giant board games, Frisbees, art equipment, big chalkboard and chalk, bikes and climbing frames.

We also thought about how we could help raise money to help pay for these things and are hoping to organise some fundraising events in the coming year. These may include having a cake or toy sale or having non-uniform days. As always, the council always welcomes suggestions from everyone so please talk with your child about school.

This term 2W have been thinking about the food we eat. We used pictures of foods to sort and group and we used the same in mathematics to see how many we could fit into varying sized hampers.



We used this learning to encourage peer learning and to develop communication skills as well as making progress in understanding in science and mathematics. As always the children are doing very well as you saw at the recent teachers' consultation evening.



In addition to using pictures of foods we have enjoyed the real thing with an indoor picnic linked to our studies in literature. Of course, that was the best fun.

In Hedgehogs class we have been learning about Winter and Stories in Term 3. We learn through stories, through play and through our senses. We used our number skills to tell the story of The Three Little Pigs. We are learning to use Numicon number plates to help us count.



We liked the story of The Gruffalo. We learned to sing the song and even sand while we were counting the prickles on his back.

In term 4 we have been learning about Space. We have been learning the words, actions and signs for Sky, Up, Rocket, Sun, Moon and Stars. We liked learning the song 'The Sun Comes Up, Up, Up'. We have to hold our hands high up to say 'Up'



EYC Hedgehogs



We have enjoyed swimming, visiting the playgrounds on the Croft Road site and pretending to be astronauts in our sensory space room.

Our topic focus for Term 3 was Winter and Once Upon a Time. The children continued to access all areas of the curriculum through stories such as The Gruffalo and The Three Little Pigs. To meet their individual needs we use a multi-sensory and exploratory approach differentiated accordingly.

EYC Rabbits

We also investigated and celebrated Chinese New Year, which culminated in a Dragon dance by all the children at the Early Years.



Our Term 4 Topics were 'Space' and 'Easter'. The stories we looked at were *Whatever Next?* and *What's Up?* We continue to take a cross curricular approach to access the curriculum and the children were using recycled materials to create a new rocket for baby bear to travel to the moon and we created a Space environment with a moonscape made from bubble wrap and various sensory type materials. The children enjoyed dressing up as aliens and astronauts.



In Terms 3 and 4, Badgers have continued to learn through play, exploration and investigation.

Our topics for Term 3 were Winter and Once Upon a Time. We accessed all areas of the curriculum through stories such as The Gruffalo, The Three Little Pigs and Rainbow Fish. We retold stories with props, ordered characters by size, made Gruffalo crumble and made houses for the pigs using various construction materials.

EYC Badgers



We investigated and celebrated Chinese New Year – telling and retelling the story, making dragon masks and trying different Chinese foods. Our week ended with a Dragon dance by all the children at the Early Years.



Our Term 4 Topics were 'Space' and 'Easter'. The stories we explored were: *Whatever Next?* and *What's Up?*. Again, we took a cross curricular approach to access the curriculum. The children used recycled materials to create a new rocket for baby bear to travel to the moon and we created a Space environment with a moonscape made from bubble wrap and various sensory materials. The children loved dressing up as aliens and astronauts.



We have been exploring different ways of travelling, using positional language and symbols, over an obstacle course. In Term 4 we also enjoyed 3 visits to our Croft Road site where we explored a new environment and were able to use different play equipment.



E-Safety Update

We have been discussing e-safety with parents and carers who attended Parent Evening this term. At Torfield pupils are supported to understand how to keep themselves safe when using the internet. We know from talking to you that many pupils have favourite sites and enjoy using YouTube to watch videos and learn how to play games. Many of you tell us that you have changed your computer settings to prevent your child from accessing unsuitable sites. This is really good to hear. You can also help your child by reminding them of these simple rules. The more they hear these rules the more likely they are to remember them when they come across something they don't like or understand.

There will be a regular update on e-safety in our newsletters. If you need any help or support at any time please contact the school and we will be happy to assist.

Dates for your Diary 2016

Monday 11th April	First day of Term 5
Wednesday 11th May	Family Learning—Thinking and Learning Skills
Thursday 9th June at 2.30	Parent/Carer meeting for Year 6 Residential
9th—12th May	Test week for year 6
Week beginning 23rd May	Science Week
30th May—3rd June	School Holidays
Monday 6th June	First day of Term 6
Thursday 16th June	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Friday 17th June	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Monday 20th June—Friday 24th June	Year 6 Residential to Hindleap Warren
Tuesday 28th June	Parents Evening for Year 6 pupils going to Saxon Mount
Friday 8th July	Reports home
Wednesday 13th July	Parents/Carers Evening
Monday 18th July –Friday 22nd July	Activities Week
Friday 22nd July	Last day of Term 6
Monday 25th July—Friday 2nd September	School Holiday
Monday 5th September	INSET day—school closed for pupils
Tuesday 6th September	First day of term 1