



# TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



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20 October 2016

## Events in school this week

Hallowe'en disco – tonight is our Hallowe'en disco organised by the PTA. The PTA do a fantastic job for the school and raise money to support children's educational opportunities throughout the school. If you would like to join the PTA, please let us know in the office and we will arrange for our chair of PTA to contact you.

Keystage 2 handball – this afternoon children in key stage 2 will be taking part in a handball competition with Gawthorpe Community Academy. We are staggering this event over a couple of weeks to ensure as many children as possible can take part in this sport. We will be using the newly acquired EOCT minibus for transport, which is hopefully going to be a big part of our out of doors curriculum this year.

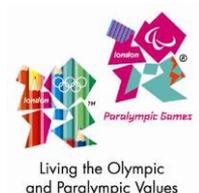
## Upcoming events this week and next

<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Last day of the half term
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Return to school following the holidays
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>3.15 – 7.00</b>	Parent's evenings. We will send out appointment request slips at the start of next half term, but please make a note of these dates.
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>3.15 – 5.00</b>	

## Update on before and after school clubs

I have met with CJ's Playcare, who are interested in setting up a before and after school club on site. We will be sending out a 'needs analysis' form, to ascertain what hours and timings would be helpful for parents which will then enable us to work out if it will be viable to run this or not. A paper copy of this is given to every child today.

Initially it will run for 2 hours a day – this is the maximum that it can run in the first instance until all the OFSTED registration process is complete. At this point we would be able to extend the opening hours substantially.



If you could please complete this and return as soon as possible this will enable us to move forward with this. I do hope that parents will find this on site before and after school club useful and I hope we are able to act quickly to get this organised.

### **New parent governors**

Interested in being a governor? Please see the attached flyer.

### **Friday coffee morning 21/10/2016**

Ms Oldroyd and Ms Cowperthwaite are revamping our school library this Friday therefore we will not be holding a coffee morning this week.

In subsequent weeks, following the success of our year 5 MacMillan coffee morning, the School Council have put forward the suggestion that classes run the coffee mornings after our Friday morning assemblies on alternate weeks, producing buns and cakes etc in their class cooking time. Here is the timetable of 'Class Coffee mornings' for next half term.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Ms Brown's coffee morning

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3 coffee morning

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Ms Brown's coffee morning

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November – year 6 coffee morning

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Ms Brown's coffee morning

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 4 coffee morning

We will schedule further coffee mornings in the new year for the classes in key stage 1 and EYFS.

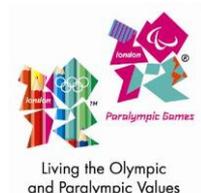
### **Parent monitoring**

A big thank you to parents who have returned monitoring forms into school. If you have not done this yet please would you mind doing so as your views are important to us.

### **Persistent absences**

Please be aware that the government have set the bar at 90% attendance for children to be classed as 'persistent absentees' from education. This has been 85% in previous years. This has led to a spike in Towngate's figures for persistent absence which will therefore need to be a focus for our Academy improvement plans this year. Children classed as Persistent Absentees will be discussed in our 4-weekly attendance meetings and appropriate action taken, which can include involvement with Education Welfare where appropriate.

Please can we stress again how important it is for children to be present in school unless absence is absolutely necessary. 'Permission' for holiday absence will not be granted outside of the conditions set out in our absence policy (see website). In addition please do not request work to be taken away on holiday. It is not possible to replace attendance in school with books, worksheets or other items. In addition, teachers will not usually be able to 'catch up' children who have missed substantial periods of education due to holidays, and gaps in learning will occur. Please take these factors into consideration before booking a holiday.



Yours sincerely



Mr S Walker  
Head of Academy

