



TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Thursday 6th April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Events in the Academy this week

CHOIR VISIT TO YORK

Last week a group of children attended the Headteachers' conference in York to perform with EOCT choir. Ms Helliwell took some pictures of the children at the event. The children were very well behaved and a credit to the academy - well done all!



“SHOWSTOPPERS” – ACADEMY SINGING COMPETITION

This year’s class choir competition was amazing. The Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield joined Mr Walker as the panel of judges. It was incredibly difficult to decide on winners, due to the outstanding quality of performance and effort that the children and staff had put into their entries. The final decision was:

- **Overall winners – Year 3 (The Sound of Music)**
- **Runner up – Year 1 Atkinson (The Lion King)**
- **Outstanding Effort – Year 5 (High School Musical)**

You will be able to see these performances on Wednesday 26th April at 1 pm at our “Last Choir Standing” event which takes place at Ossett Town Hall. All single initial tickets must be requested by Friday 7th April and they will be issued by this day too - **please do not lose this ticket as entry will not be permitted without it due to the strict numbers we must adhere to.**

Leftover tickets will be available to purchase from Monday 24th April from 3 pm onwards at the school office.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday, the school council wrote and led an Easter assembly for children in school. Thank you as always to the outstanding role models of the school council for organising this; it gives the other children in the academy something to aspire to when they see you undertaking leadership roles such as these.

PARENTS’ EVENINGS

We have held these this week. Some parents have not attended their appointments; if you need to see teachers and have been unable to attend please do let your child’s teacher know so we can arrange a meeting. We hope you’ve found these useful, if you have any further questions please don’t hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher.

EOCT BOOK AWARDS

Three children from a year 1 class attended the EOCT Children’s Picture Book Awards shortlisting event at Holy Trinity School on Thursday. The winner will be announced at the EOCT Book Awards final on Friday 16th June at Highfields School.



MONEY TO SCHOOL

As of Monday 24th April it would be preferable for all trips and school dinner money to be paid via the online system.

However, if you need to pay by cash or cheque, such as in the case of afterschool clubs, this must be brought in person to the school office preferably in a sealed envelope with your child's name along with what the money is for written clearly on the front of the envelope.

If you require your account details to log on to this, please contact the school office.

Staff in classrooms will no longer accept money from parent/carers or children and you will be directed to the school office, this enables them to start their tasks straight away in class and the school office can then provide you a receipt immediately. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Friday 7 th April	Celebration assembly – Trophies for “pupils of the term” will be awarded; children can bring in their Easter eggs and Easter Bonnets for prizes. Mad Hatter's Tea party – Ms Oldroyd has organised this for a treat for the last day of term. Break up for the holidays.
Monday 24 th April	Return from holidays
Wednesday 26 th April	Town Hall “Show stoppers” concert with Gawthorpe Community Academy. Children can dress up for this as indicated below. KS2 parents - please remember to send your child with a packed lunch on this day, unless you have already ordered a sandwich as outlined in the initial letter. If your child is entitled to free/universal free school meals they will be provided with a grab-bag unless you prefer to send a lunch from home.

Themes for each class:

Adventurers & Explorers	Jeans & White T-Shirt – Cowboy/Woody theme – cowboy hat & neckerchief if possible
Y1	Black bottoms/leggings Black t-shirt Animal print scarf
Y1-2	Black bottoms/leggings Black t-shirt Animal print scarf
Y2	Any plain coloured t-shirt and black bottoms/leggings
Y3	Black or denim knee high shorts Smart white polo or white shirt
Y4	Boys – white shirt, black trousers with braces Girls – white shirt & bright coloured skirt, small umbrella
Y5	White or Red shorts (Miss Oldroyd to provide a top) Sweatbands for heads and wrists

	White Long Socks Red ribbons for girls hair
Y6	Girls- large bows for hair and 50s “puffy” style dresses/skirts (not tight) Boys – any colour shirt and smart trousers – 50s style again

RESULTS OF THE PARENTAL SURVEY (MARCH 2017)

Thank you to the parents who completed and returned the survey. We received 74 in total. Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive comments – it gives a big boost to our incredibly hard working staff to know that they are so valued by the community they serve. I will arrange for these to be displayed on the Academy website when we return from the holidays. Individual concerns raised will be followed up by staff where appropriate.

The collated results are shown below:

Question	Agree / strongly agree	Disagree / strongly disagree	Unable to comment
1. My child is happy and enjoys school.	94.6%	5.4%	
2. My child is making good progress because teaching is good at school.	95.9%	2.7%	1.4%
3. I feel that my child is safe and well cared for at school.	97.3%	1.3%	1.3%
4. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	87.7%	6.8%	5.5%
5. There is a happy, welcoming atmosphere when I come into school.	98.6%		1.4%
6. The school staff are approachable, helpful and responsive.	98.6%	1.4%	
7. The school is well led and managed	94.6%	2.7%	2.7%
8. Towngate Primary Academy has high expectations for my child.	92.9%		7.1%
9. Behaviour in school is good and the school’s system of discipline is effective.	86.1%	5.6%	8.3%
10. I am confident that incidents of inappropriate behaviour are dealt with promptly and effectively.	76%	9.5%	14.9%
11. Parents’ evenings and reports provide me with the information I require about my child’s progress and achievement.	95.9%	4.1%	
12. My child feels that there is someone they can go to in school, who will listen to them if they have a problem.	91.7%	2.8%	5.6%
13. Newsletters, general letters, texting to parents and the school website keep me informed regarding what has happened in school and about future events.	97.3%	1.4%	1.4%
14. The school takes account of children’s views	76.7%	4.1	19.2%
15. The school seeks and responds to the views of parents and takes into account their suggestions and concerns.	81.9%	8.3%	9.7%
16. Class trips, residential visits, theme days and visitors into school are worthwhile experiences.	94.5%		5.5%

STAFFING IN FOUNDATION STAGE

A reminder that as per my letter in December 2016, Mrs Allen has returned from maternity leave this week. She will be taking over in Foundation 1 (nursery) for the summer term from Ms Taylor. I am sure parents will join me in welcoming Mrs Allen back, and saying a huge thank you to Ms Taylor for her hard work and dedication to the children, and we wish her luck as she moves on to another supply position.

I would like to remind you that the AM nursery session time changes upon our return after Easter, the morning session will start at 8.50 until 11.50 (doors open at 11.35am). Any questions about this please see Mrs Kimbley.

DANGEROUS SOCIAL MEDIA GAME

The following information has been received from Kirklees regarding a dangerous new game that has hit social media. The information originated from a Police Safer Schools Officer in Leeds. This is being circulated to schools and partner agencies in Wakefield and across West Yorkshire that are in contact with young people.

The Blue Whale game is a dangerous game that is popular at the moment in Russia and spreading across Eastern Europe.

The game is played online and spreads through social media.

Players are appointed a "master/teacher" and these "masters/teachers" challenge the players in stages, to tattoo a Blue Whale somewhere on the body, usually the arm or the leg. As the game goes on the players are encouraged to self-harm and the final challenge is to commit suicide.

All these actions have to be filmed and shared via social media to the so called "master/teacher". The game is being played by children of all ages, some as young as primary age, but predominantly by teenagers.

Apparently this game has been mentioned on the Romanian News due to the seriousness of the consequences.

NEW SCHOOL MEAL MENU

Just a reminder that when we return after the Easter holidays there will be a new revised menu for children to choose from and this is available on the Academy website for you to take a look at (under information/school menu). (Please note we will start on week 3.)

PTA – CINEMA NIGHTS

Letters have been sent home from the PTA regarding details of cinema nights that they are holding on the following dates:

- F2 - Tuesday 25th April
- KS1 - Thursday 27th April
- KS2 – Wednesday 3rd May

Due to these events taking place, please note there will be no multi-sports on our first week back and these sessions will resume the second week back after Easter.

All other extra-curricular activities will run as normal this first week back.

PARENTING COURSE

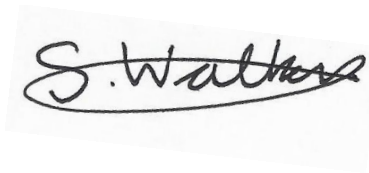
We have received information regarding a parenting program, Family Links, which is a 9 week course starting on 19th May, (venue and times to be confirmed).

- A nine week parenting programme for parents/carers with children/young people aged 5-12 years.
- Examines feelings and behaviours children and young people can display and how to handle them.
- Each week builds on the previous by expanding techniques and advice given.

If we can get a sizeable amount of interest, it may be that the course will be delivered at Towngate Academy. If you would like to take part in the course, or find out any further information, please contact Ms Sarah Brown at the Academy by Friday 28th April 2017.

I hope you all have an enjoyable break over the end of term holidays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Mr S Walker
Principal