



TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Thursday 9th March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Events in the Academy this week

Year 3 visit to Kingswood

Children from year 3 attended the Kingswood residential centre with Miss Kemshell, Mr Noble, Miss Helliwell, Miss Pollitt and Mr Walker. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The children were a credit to the academy; sensible, enthusiastic and very mature when for many this was their first night away from home. Well done to everyone involved, and a big thank you to staff for giving up their Friday night and Saturday morning to make this happen.



A meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th March at 3.15 pm, where Mr Noble and Ms Kemshell will show parents the photographs and chat about the visit. Parents from year 3 and any from year 2 whose children are attending next year are welcome to attend also.

Road Safety Training

Children across the academy have been having road safety training from the traffic team at Wakefield Council. This is to help children stay safe when they are out and about in the community.

Chicks in School

Our annual delivery of chicks has arrived in preparation for science week – as this letter is being typed eight of the eggs have hatched! Keep an eye on the incubator when you are the Academy to keep up to date with their progress.



Upcoming events in the Academy

Monday 13 th March – science week across the academy	Star Dome planetarium will be visiting the Academy on Monday. Across week, children will be undertaking activities related to science week.
Monday 13 th March – year 4 boys football tournament	Year 4 Boys will be taking part in a football tournament at Gawthorpe Academy and will return for the end of the school day.
Tuesday 14 th March – English drop-in morning CANCELLED	Please note that we are not able to hold the English Drop in morning today – several of our support staff are attending an essential training course for first aid and reading skills. We will reschedule another date in the Summer term for this.
Wednesday 15 th March at 3.15 pm	Y3 Kingswood Meeting - See above for info.
Thursday 16 th March – Class Photos	Class photographs for children across the Academy. Please can all children bring their jumper / cardigan with the Academy Logo on.
Friday 17 th March – science week assembly, F2	In assembly children will talk about their learning from science week.
Explorers’ coffee morning	F2 Explorers will hold a coffee morning in the school library.
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day! Children can wear non-uniform/fancy dress (whatever they want!) and pay a donation to their class teacher.

Parents Survey

Thank you to all the parents who replied to our parent survey. Next week we will be collating all the responses in our senior leadership meeting on Wednesday after school. If there are any remaining surveys please can you ensure that these are returned as soon as possible so they can be considered. The responses have been overwhelmingly positive; where issues have been raised we will of course look at these and seek to address them. Please let the academy office know if you require another copy.

Primary School Progress Measures

Please see attached leaflet issued from the Standards & Testing Agency.

School Spellings

After school today parents have been invited to come into the Academy to look at the new spelling scheme running in school. A couple of queries have been raised by parents who do not have access to the internet at home. Children will still be receiving regular word lists to practice at home. The additional benefit from this scheme is that now children will be able to access some of the spelling lessons and activities that we use in school to help them practice.

Facebook and Social Media

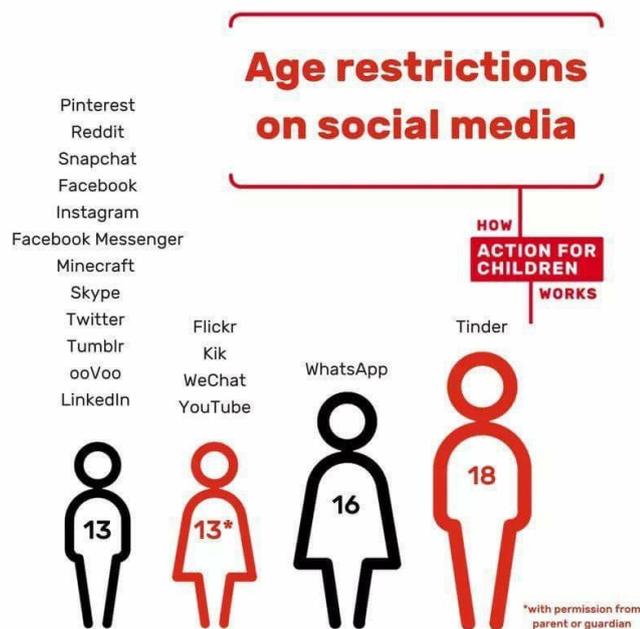
A reminder that we would ask parents to please refrain from using staff member's names on Facebook. If any parents feel the need to talk about the Academy on a public forum such as Facebook please respect staff member's right to privacy and a safe working environment by not using staff names. Where parents do not do this we will always follow this matter up, including seeking police advice where necessary. We do not monitor Facebook regularly as staff time is taken up with provision of education, therefore if there is an issue that needs to be addressed a sensible approach would be to contact the Academy so that we can deal with this. Please see the guidance attached concerning Social Media and children's use of this. Your co-operation in this matter is expected as part of the home-academy relationship.

Police Message:

We know that many children are using social media when 'officially' they are too young to sign up to the sites – we know because they tell us!

Lots of them say that Mums and Dads have signed them up – sometimes years ago. There's nothing illegal in that, but please keep in mind that if you signed your 8 year old up to Facebook five years ago year old on the site saying they were 13 years old – they now appear as an 18 year old on the site.

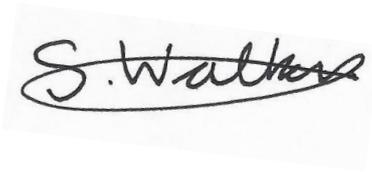
If an adult tries to groom your now 13 year old via social media, they will be able to argue that they thought they were talking to another adult. Remember to update their details, check their privacy settings, and talk to them about which pictures they use for their profile, so they're safe online.



Lunch Time Supervisor position

We have a vacancy for a Lunch Time Supervisor in the academy. Please can you contact the Academy office if you are interested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light grey rectangular box.

Mr S Walker
Principal

