



TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Executive Principal:
Mrs Sue Vickerman
Principal:
Mr Steven Walker

Whitley Spring Road
Ossett
WF5 0QA
Tel: 01924 302865

Website: www.towngateprimary.co.uk
Email: admin@towngateacademy.co.uk
headteacher@towngateacademy.co.uk

15th December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Events in school this week

Christmas Productions:

On Friday, Foundation stage wowed us all with their beautiful retelling of the Christmas story. Fantastic costumes and wonderful singing, well done!



/Continued

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Years 4, 5 and 6 impressed everyone with their Christmas show – Oliver! The children, staff and parents have worked incredibly hard on this show, and their efforts really paid off. What an amazing concert, it was like being in a West End Show!



It has been particularly great to see so many soloists and children taking on the challenge of learning lines and parts; gaining confidence at this age will hopefully help children as they get older. Well done everyone!

On Thursday, four children from Towngate went down to Holy Trinity to set up our ‘Handmade Christmas’ themed tree. These are in display at Holy Trinity church along with trees from other schools. Children from across the Academy have made, painted and sewn decorations for our tree.



EOCT choir

Our choir performed on Friday in the Town Centre in Ossett with school from across the local area. It was a very festive event, and the children sang and behaved beautifully. Well done to all the children in choir.

Upcoming Events:

Friday 16 th December	9.00am – Assembly – Trophies for ‘Pupils of the Term’; the Cellists will be performing a song in assembly and choir will sing a Christmas song for us. After assembly (9.30am) – Year 4 will be hosting a Christmas Coffee morning for parents. Please come along and wish them a merry Christmas! At 3.15pm children will break up for the Christmas holidays.
Tuesday 3 rd January	Children return to school as usual.

Calendar for 2017 - 18

Holidays

Please find attached our academy holidays for 2017/2018. As usual we have the 2 weeks Spring Bank holiday. We know that holidays in the second week of Spring Bank 2nd June to 9th June are often less expensive than in the main holiday period. If you are considering a family break, when prices are a little less expensive, please take the opportunity to book holidays during this time rather than take your child/children out of school during term time.

Multi Academy Trust

We are pleased to inform you that our Inspire Multi Academy Trust is growing. Fitzwilliam Primary School has recently been granted an academy order and will join the Trust in the summer term of 2017. Governors of a sixth school have made the decision to make an application to join our Trust in the New Year.

As a group of 6 schools/academies we are closely working together to share best practice. In turn sharing of good ideas will have a positive impact on the children at Towngate.

We have a new website for the Trust which explains more about our work. This can be accessed at www.ipmat.co.uk

Clubs

Clubs will recommence on the second week of the half term, with the exception of Multi-sports which runs in the first week. Please note that running club will not be going ahead immediately; a letter will go out from our new PE leader about this in the new year.

Smart Art Courses

Please see attached leaflets regarding the FREE Smart Art course for parents/carers, that will be running for 5 weeks, every Thursday, commencing 19th January until 23rd February, from 9.15 until 11.45 am, please contact Mrs Brown if you would like to attend and reserve a place.

Fundraising

We raised £167.76 for 'Save the Children' from the Christmas jumper day. Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to this very worthwhile cause.

Staff appointments

In January we will be commencing with the following appointments:

F1: Ms Taylor will be working in F1 for a term as the teacher to replace Ms Gordon. Parents and children have had the opportunity to meet with Ms Taylor this term, and she is a member of staff who worked as one of our F2 teachers last year. We are very pleased to have been able to secure her for the New Year. Mrs Allen will then teach in F1 for the final term of the year when she returns from maternity leave. Mrs Bunney will continue to work as Nursery Manager throughout the year.

F2: Mrs Kimbley will be taking on the role of Early Years leader across F1 and F2. We are sure parents will be very pleased that a member of staff who has worked so hard and with such expertise over the years is now taking on this important leadership role.

Y4: Ms Phillips will be joining us as the teacher for Year 4. Parents of year 4 have already received a letter about this earlier in the week. Ms Phillips will be coming into the Academy on Thursday and Friday of the last week to spend time with the children. Mrs Cowperthwaite is moving on to a promoted post at Thorpe Primary School.

Y5: Ms Oldroyd will be commencing her Assistant Principal role. In addition to this, she will be leading English across the Academy.

Y6: Ms Eke will be commencing her role as Support Staff Manager. She will also be the new KS2 co-ordinator, leading the team in years 3, 4, 5 and 6, and will be a point of contact for parents who wish to discuss any activities or concerns across Key stage 2.

Across the Academy: Ms Sidebottom, who currently works with the children in years 4, 5 and 6 will be taking on the role of managing our PE provision, across both Gawthorpe and Towngate. Her task will be to develop

a calendar of competitions across the year, develop the play skills of our lunchtime staff and organise the ordering, storage and safe use of PE equipment.

A word about Ms Gordon

This week is the last week that Ms Gordon will be working with us, as she is leaving to become the Headteacher of Lee Brigg Infants School in Altofts. Ms Gordon is an outstanding teacher, a fantastic leader of education and we know will make an amazing Headteacher. The staff and children here at Towngate will miss her so much, but we wish her all the best on the next stage in her career. Ms Gordon is totally dedicated to the wellbeing and education of children, and has made a difference to countless children's future in her work here. Ms Gordon has been a rock of reliability, calm in any situation and always positive with staff, children and parents. On a personal level she has made my first year and a term here a pleasure, and I will miss her a lot! The school will feel very different without her. Good luck and thank you for everything.

Eco-Team!

Next term the Eco-team are entering a competition, to do so they need lots on non-recyclable items. If you have chance over Christmas please could you collect some of the following: bubble wrap, plant pots, crisp packets/tubes (we asked if these could be wiped clean), plastic bottle lids, Christmas cards, coat hangers, tinsel, paint tins, aluminium cans or plastic egg boxes. These can be returned to Miss Pollitt and Miss Atkinson. Thank you in advance.

Water Bottles

This year we have spent a lot of money of lovely new school books. Particularly in F2, we are finding that these are becoming damaged as water bottles are being put into book bags, which can lead to books getting wet and being spoiled for other children. Please do not put water bottles in book bags.

In addition, some teachers have reported that parents are sending children to school with dilute drinks, pop and juice in water bottles. Please ensure that water bottles contain water. If you have any concerns about this please talk to your child's class teacher.

Before / After School club

I met this week with CJ's play care and a representative from the Local Authority about the response to our survey for a before and after school slot. We have now had a good response with around 25 families stating they are interested in some level of before and after school club. CJs will now collate this information in order to calculate whether the running of a club is viable and will contact the Academy in January to discuss the next steps. In the interim, if you are struggling with child care please contact:

Families Information Service

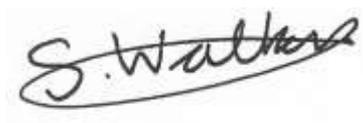
Chesney's Centre
Regent Street
Featherstone
WF7 5EW
fis@wakefield.gov.uk
0800 587 8042

Parking Issues

We continue to receive complaints again from residents in the area surrounding us regarding parking issues including double parking and resident's driveways being blocked. The Governing Body will be discussing the matter in the first week back, with a view to contacting the local council to enquire about enforcement arrangements.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff here at Towngate Primary Academy, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing everybody again in January.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr S Walker
Principal