



# TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



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16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## Events in the academy this week:

### Stardome Planetarium

On Monday, we were visited by the Stardome planetarium, and classes took turns to enter the dome and see the wonders of the universe! This was a really exciting way to learn about the stars and planets, and both children and staff really got a lot from it.



### Chick Update

Miss Pollitt and the children have been looking after the chicks since they hatched last week. They are all doing great and growing fast! Throughout this week, the children in school have had the opportunity to visit the chicks. Children and staff have really enjoyed the experience and the chicks will be missed when they leave us on Friday for their new homes.



## Y2 – Bracelet Making

Jade Wilkes from Shanks education centre came into school yesterday. She worked with Miss Pollitt and Year 2. They made beads out of magazines and wrapping paper then they made them in to bracelets.



## Y4 boy's Football Tournament

On Monday, boys from Y4 took part in a football tournament organised by our staff in school. The teams worked well together, and the final scores were 2-0 to Gawthorpe on both games, but the boys did have a great time and put all their effort into it!



## Fittest School Challenge

On Wednesday, children from years 5 and 6 competed in a fittest school challenge against other schools. They had to complete a series of time limited challenges, including 4 x 100m runs, 10 burpees, 20 sit ups and 20 speed bounces. An external assessor took the times and worked out the average. We will keep you updated with how the children did just before Easter. 2500 children are taking part in this challenge over 60 schools across the region.





### Upcoming Events:

Date	Event
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9.00 – assembly. Children will share their outcomes from Science week with parents.  After assembly, F2 Explorers will be hosting a coffee morning for parents in the library. All welcome to attend. You can also meet our new Behaviour and Attendance officer, Miss Higgins.
<b>Week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Shakespeare week</b> – as part of national Shakespeare week Ms Oldroyd is launching a series of exciting events and curriculum innovations across the academy. Photographs will be in next week’s newsletter.
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>EOCT choir concert</b> – Children from the choir will be performing at Holy Trinity church at 1.30 pm and two tickets have been issued to each member of the choir for their guests.
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Red Nose day</b> - children can wear non-uniform or fancy dress in aid of comic relief in return for a donation via class teacher.

### Parents’ Evenings

If you’ve not yet booked an appointment for parents’ evening (Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April) please do so. If you need a replacement appointment letter please contact the Academy Office.

### Easter

A reminder that children are welcome to enter our annual Easter Bonnet and Easter egg decoration competition. In our assembly on the last day of term (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April) entries will be displayed and winners will be announced. There will be prizes! The School Council will also be having a Mad Hatters Tea Party for the children during the school day. There will be a raffle ticket sale where more prizes can be won!

### Outdoor Learning – Key Stage 1

We are very excited to be able to let parents of Key stage one children know that we will be commencing some external building work outside of Key stage one over the Easter Holidays. This is to erect a large canopy over the playground area outside of the three classrooms. The plan is then use this space during day to day lesson time to allow for outdoor maths, english and topic learning, in addition to our indoor learning. Our key stage one staff will be visiting another “Outstanding” school in the Multi Academy Trust who use their outdoor learning to obtain very high standards, and working with these staff to look at curriculum development. This will represent a substantial investment in the curriculum for our key stage one children, and allow us to utilise a currently under-utilised space.

### New Staffing:

**Behaviour & Attendance Officer** – we have appointed a Behaviour and Attendance officer – Miss Higgins, to start after the Easter holidays. She will be coming into school on Friday and you can meet her during the coffee morning. Miss Higgins will be managing our attendance systems in school during the morning, working closely with Mrs Brown and Ms Black. Miss Higgins has many years of experience as a youth worker, working with children and families. She will work

over lunch and at breaktime, developing our team of lunchtime supervisors and prefects to set up exciting, creative activities for the children and to help investigate any incidents / accidents. In the afternoons, Miss Higgins will be focussing on supporting groups of children and individual children, developing leadership skills and group working to develop good behaviour habits in all children.

**New Teaching Assistant** – Ms Watters will be starting after the Easter holidays, and will be based initially in year 4 while Ms Manners is absent. Ms Watters is an experienced teaching assistant who has worked with children of a variety of different age groups.

### **Parking Issues**

We continue to receive complaints from concerned parents and also residents in the area surrounding us regarding parking issues including parking on the zig-zag lines, double parking and resident's driveways being blocked. Please adhere to parking restrictions in place and park considerately at all times. Thank you.

### **School Times & Registration Process**

#### **Nursery**

Morning = 9.00am – 12.00 noon - doors open for collection at 11.45 am

Afternoon = 12.30pm - 3.30pm - doors open for collection at 3.15 pm

#### **All other classes - 8.50am - 3.15pm**

The door opens at 8.50 am, morning registration begins at 8.50 am and closes at 8.55 am, children who are not registered in class by 8.55 am will be marked as late in the register.

To help parents who have children in different Key Stages, Key Stage 2 staff will be on the junior playground from 8.45 am where juniors can line up ready to go in.

**Any children who are dropped off by parents at school late must be brought into school by a parent so they can be signed in. This is to ensure that accurate reasons for lateness are recorded, and also to ensure that children arrive safely in school.**

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 faint, light-colored rectangular border.

Mr S Walker  
**Principal**