



TOWNGATE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Chief Executive Officer:
Mrs Sue Vickerman
Principal:
Mr Steven Walker

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Thursday 30th March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Events in the Academy this week

Red Nose Day

On Friday, we held our annual red nose day events. The children raised £208.92 for good causes, which was fantastic. Well done and thanks to everyone who took part.

Children's visit to the York Conference

On Thursday, as part of the EOCT choir, four singers were chosen to attend the York Conference to perform for education specialists, head teachers and senior leaders from across the region. Ms Helliwell accompanied them with the other children from across the local area. Well done to all the children who took part in this.

Upcoming events in the Academy

Friday 31 st March	Year 5 coffee morning after Assembly (approx. 9.30 am)
Monday 3 rd April & Thursday 6 th April	Parents' evenings. Please ensure you have made your appointments. Please note that unless exceptional circumstances we cannot usually offer separate appointments for separated parents due to time constraints. Please contact your child's class teacher to discuss this further.
Monday 3 rd April – Showstoppers competition	On Monday afternoon, we will be holding our annual choral singing competition. This year's theme is "Showstoppers". This will be in the school hall for the children to watch and parents will be invited to see the official show at Ossett Town Hall on the 26 th April (see separate correspondence which will be sent home on Friday)
Tuesday 4 th April	The School Nurse will be in to see children in F2 born between January and March.
Friday 7 th April	Assembly will be our termly "trophy assembly" for pupils of the term. Children can bring decorated eggs and bonnets to win a prize. There will also be a "Mad Hatters Tea Party" throughout the day organised by Miss Oldroyd and Miss Eke that children can attend to celebrate the day. Break up for the end of term holidays
Monday 24 th April	Children return to school for the start of the Summer Term

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.

Read all about it! - Towngate Tells All

Our fantastic school newspaper has had its first edition. It has been created by a talented team of journalists within the student body, and it is a very interesting read. Copies are available in school, and children can bring in 50p to purchase a copy. All proceeds are going back into the newspaper to purchase essential items for the running of the next edition.

Values Learning Newsletter

Please see letter and attachment from Miss Oldroyd at the end of this newsletter regarding the value of the month – Tolerance.

School Gardening

We have set up a couple of mini-greenhouses around school, to encourage children to make further use of our gardening facilities. If anyone would like to donate seeds, old pots, cuttings / plants or compost to the Academy for our children to use it would be really appreciated by staff and children. In addition, if you know of anyone who would like to come in and volunteer to do some gardening on a regular basis with the children please ask them to contact the school office (subject to DBS clearance).

Tempest – Class Photographs

Your child should have bought a proof home of their class photograph, please ensure orders are received by Friday 7th April with payment in the sealed envelopes provided which should be fully completed.

School Dinners

We have slightly amended the schools dinner weeks for our return after Easter for the rest of the academic term. This is available on the school website and the Cash Office system for your information and a copy will be with the class teacher if required.

Any meals your child has at school should be paid on or before the meal is taken. If there are any arrears over £10.25 you will be expected to provide your child with a school lunch until this is cleared.

You have two ways to pay:

1. Via your account on School Cash Office.
2. Send money or cheque into school in a sealed named envelope.

The cost of a school meal is £2.05 per day = £10.25 per week. The cost of school meals for the half term upon our return after Easter will be £49.20 per child.

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals please contact the school office and they can arrange for the relevant forms to be sent home with your child.

School Crossing Patrol

We have received a request for support from Southdale School for their school crossing patrol. There is currently a crossing patrol on Station Road. I have informed the school that we would only consider this if there was substantial evidence that children from our Academy Community used this crossing. If you child uses the crossing on a regular basis, please could you email admin@towngateacademy.co.uk to confirm this, or call the Academy office to let us know. Should we find a large number of our children use this crossing I will discuss the matter further with School Governors.

We have also been advised that should any of our children use the school crossing patrol on Station Road, from April 2017 to March 2018 the service will be on a reduced basis, and will be for 30 minutes on a morning between 8.30 am until 9 am, and for 30 minutes on an afternoon from 3.20 pm until 3.50 pm.

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).

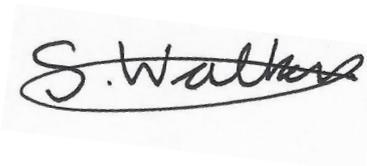
- A nine week parenting programme for parents/carers with children/young people aged 5-12 years.
- Examines feelings and behaviours children and young people can display and how to handle them.
- Each week builds on the previous by expanding techniques and advice given.

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.

Donation to the Academy

Many thanks to the grandparents of two of our children who has very kindly donated a substantial sum of money which will be put towards school books for the library for all the children to enjoy. On behalf of all our children and staff, thank you!

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



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Dear parents/carers,

At Towngate Primary Academy, we believe that children should be taught a range of different values in order to develop self-confidence and self-assurance. In order to promote these positive values for learning, every month at Towngate we will have a 'Value of the month'; children will have the opportunity to explore these values in their classes to understand what they mean to us here at Towngate.

Our Values-based learning underpins our work to actively promote fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those from all faiths, backgrounds and cultures. A well-rounded programme of assemblies and events promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, enabling them to develop their own moral and ethical compass to guide what is right and what is wrong.

Staff within school are encouraged to model these values daily and to give time within the classroom for reflective practices and time for discussions and sharing ideas; we believe that this empowers individuals to be effective learners and good citizens. To enable parents and carers to become involved with our 'Values Based Learning', our school website will be updated monthly to reflect the children's learning. The children have been working extremely hard this month learning about what 'tolerance' means to them. Evidence of the pupil's ideas can be found on our school website.

Please find attached a copy of this month's 'Values newsletter' and a story to share with your children at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Miss Oldroyd

PSHCE and British Values Co-ordinator

Towngate's Value of the month

Definition

Tolerance is being open-minded, understanding and knowing we are all different.

What does tolerance look like?

People who show tolerance:

- Accept themselves and others.
- Understand that we are all different.
- Have an open-mind.
- Listen to other people's opinions and beliefs.

People who show tolerance realise:

- Everybody's opinions and beliefs are valuable.
- We are all different and no one is more important than anyone else is.
- We must accept ourselves and others.
- The world is made up of different opinions, beliefs and cultural practices, which may be different from one's own.

People show tolerance to others by:

- Taking an interest in other's opinions and beliefs.
- Being non-judgemental and open-minded.
- Accepting others and ourselves.

Related words or phrases:

accept

acknowledge

tolerate

understand

respect

open-mindedness

A story about Tolerance

“The Monster in the Wardrobe”

There was once a boy, who was afraid of the dark. He thought that when it was dark his bedroom filled up with monsters. But there came a time when he was too old to be allowed to keep sleeping with the light on.

That first night he was paralysed with fear, his mind full of monsters. So much so, that he went over to his wardrobe to get a torch. But when he opened the wardrobe door he came face to face with a monster, and he let out the loudest scream in the world. The monster took a step backwards, grabbed its multi-coloured hair with its tentacles and... started crying! The monster cried for so long that the boy's shock and fear subsided. He calmed the monster as much as he could, and started talking to him, asking him why he was crying, and what he was doing there. The monster told him he lived in the wardrobe, but almost never went out, because he was afraid of the boy. When the boy asked him why, the monster told him the boy's face seemed to him the most horrible thing he'd ever seen with eyes, ears and a nose. The boy felt exactly the same way about the monster, who had an enormous head full of mouths and hair.

The two of them talked so much that they became quite friendly, and they realised that both of them had been afraid of the same thing: the unknown. To lose their fear all they had to do was get to know each other. Together they travelled the world, seeing lions, tigers, crocodiles, dragons... It was the first time either of them had seen such creatures, but they made the effort to get to know them, and ended up dispelling their fear, and becoming friends. Although his parents weren't too happy, because they thought he was too old to still believe in monsters, the truth of it was that all kinds of creatures visited the boy's bedroom each night. Now instead of fearing them he had learned to get to know them and befriend them.